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PCS Special: 10 October 2025

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Shooting stars: The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team showcasing breathtaking manoeuvres in their iconic red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 jets at the Mysuru Dasara Air Show on Tuesday. M.A.SRIRAM

Shooting stars: The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team showcasing breathtaking manoeuvres in their iconic red-and-white
Hawk Mk-132 jets at the Mysuru Dasara Air Show on Tuesday.

László Krasznahorkai wins Nobel Prize in literature

Associated Press
STOCKHOLM

Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai, whose philosophical, bleakly funny novels often unfold in single sentences, won the Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday for his "compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art".

The Nobel judges praised his "artistic gaze which is entirely free of illusion, and which sees through the fragility of the social order combined with his unwavering belief in the power of art," Steve Sem-Sandberg of the Nobel committee said at the announcement.

"László Krasznahorkai is a great epic writer in the Central European tradition that extends through [Franz] Kafka to Thomas Bernhard, and is characterised by absurdism and grotesque excess," the Nobel judges said.

Several works, including his debut, *Satantango*, and *The Melancholy of Resistance* were turned into films by Hungarian director Béla Tarr.

Mr. Krasznahorkai, 71, could not immediately be reached for his reaction. He did not speak at the announcement.

He was born in the southeastern Hungarian city of Gyula, near the border with Romania.

László Krasznahorkai, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature; and some of his books on display in Stockholm. FILE PHOTOS

Political critic
Throughout the 1970s, he studied law at universities in Szeged and Budapest before shifting his focus to literature.

Mr. Krasznahorkai has been a vocal critic of autocratic Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, especially his government's lack of support for Ukraine after the Russian invasion.

But in a post on Facebook, Mr. Orbán was quick to congratulate the writer, saying: "The pride of Hungary, the first Nobel Prize winner from Gyula, László Krasznahorkai. Congratulations!"

In an interview with Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* earlier this year, Mr. Krasznahorkai expressed criticism both of Mr. Orbán's political system and the nationalism present in Hungarian society. "There is no hope left in Hungary today and it is not only because of the Orbán regime," he told the paper. "The problem is not only political, but also social." He also reflected on the fact that he has long been a contender for the Nobel Prize in literature, saying: "I don't want to lie. It would be very interesting to get that prize. But I would be very surprised if I got it."

The Booker judges praised his "extraordinary sentences, sentences of incredible length that go to incredible lengths, their tone switching from solemn to madcap to quizzical to desolate as they go their wayward way."

He also won the National Book Award for Translated Literature in the U.S. in 2019 for *Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming*.

László Krasznahorkai wins Nobel Prize in literature
लास्ज़लो क्रास्नाहोरकाई ने साहित्य में नोबेल पुरस्कार जीता

- Hungarian writer **László Krasznahorkai**, whose philosophical, bleakly funny novels often unfold in single sentences, won the **Nobel Prize in literature** on **Thursday** for his "compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art".
  हंगरी के लेखक **लास्ज़लो क्रास्नाहोरकाई**, जिनके दार्शनिक और उदासी भरे हास्य उपन्यास अक्सर एक ही वाक्य में खुलते हैं, ने **गुरुवार** को अपने "प्रभावशाली और दूरदर्शी रचनाकर्म, जो प्रलयकारी भय के बीच कला की शक्ति की पुनः पुष्टि करता है" के लिए **साहित्य में नोबेल पुरस्कार** जीता।

- The **Nobel judges** praised his "artistic gaze which is entirely free of illusion, and which sees through the fragility of the social order combined with his unwavering belief in the power of art," **Steve Sem-Sandberg** of the **Nobel committee** said at the announcement.
  नोबेल निर्णायकों ने उनकी "ऐसी कलात्मक दृष्टि की सराहना की जो भ्रम से पूरी तरह मुक्त है, और जो सामाजिक व्यवस्था की नाज़ुकता को देखती है, साथ ही कला की शक्ति में उनके अडिग विश्वास को जोड़ती है," यह बात **नोबेल समिति** के **स्टीव सेम-सैंडबर्ग** ने घोषणा के समय कही।

- "**László Krasznahorkai** is a great epic writer in the **Central European tradition** that extends through [Franz] **Kafka** to **Thomas Bernhard**, and is characterised by absurdism and grotesque excess," the **Nobel judges** said.
  "**लास्ज़लो क्रास्नाहोरकाई** मध्य यूरोपीय परंपरा में एक महान महाकाव्य लेखक हैं, जो [फ्रांज़] **काफ्का** से लेकर **थॉमस बर्नहार्ड** तक फैली हुई है, और जिसे असंगतता और विकृत अतिशयोक्ति से पहचाना जाता है," ऐसा **नोबेल निर्णायकों** ने कहा।

- Several works, including his debut, **Satantango**, and **The Melancholy of Resistance** were turned into films by Hungarian director **Béla Tarr**.
  उनके कई कार्य, जिनमें उनकी पहली रचना **सैटेंटैंगो** और **द मेलानकोली ऑफ़ रेसिस्टेंस** शामिल हैं, हंगरी के निर्देशक **बेला टार** द्वारा फिल्मों में रूपांतरित किए गए।

- **Mr. Krasznahorkai**, **71**, could not immediately be reached for his reaction.
  श्री क्रास्नाहोरकाई, **71**, से उनके प्रतिक्रिया के लिए तुरंत संपर्क नहीं किया जा सका।

- He did not speak at the announcement.
  उन्होंने घोषणा के समय कोई बयान नहीं दिया।

- He was born in the southeastern Hungarian city of **Gyula**, near the border with **Romania**.
  उनका जन्म **रोमानिया** की सीमा के पास दक्षिण-पूर्वी हंगरी के शहर **ग्युला** में हुआ था।

Political critic
राजनीतिक आलोचक

- Throughout the **1970s**, he studied **law** at universities in **Szeged** and **Budapest** before shifting his focus to **literature**.

  1970 के दशक में उन्होंने **सेग्ड** और **बुडापेस्ट** के विश्वविद्यालयों में **कानून** की पढ़ाई की, इसके बाद उन्होंने अपना ध्यान **साहित्य** की ओर केंद्रित किया।

- **Mr. Krasznahorkai** has been a vocal critic of autocratic Hungarian **Prime Minister Viktor Orbán**, especially his government's lack of support for **Ukraine** after the **Russian invasion**.

  श्री क्रास्नाहोरकाई हंगरी के सत्तावादी **प्रधानमंत्री विक्टर ऑर्बान** के मुखर आलोचक रहे हैं, विशेषकर **रूसी आक्रमण** के बाद उनकी सरकार के **यूक्रेन** के प्रति समर्थन की कमी पर।

- But in a post on **Facebook**, **Mr. Orbán** was quick to congratulate the writer, saying: "The pride of **Hungary**, the first **Nobel Prize winner** from **Gyula**, **László Krasznahorkai**. Congratulations!"

  लेकिन **फेसबुक** पर एक पोस्ट में, **श्री ऑर्बान** ने लेखक को तुरंत बधाई दी, कहा: "**हंगरी** का गौरव, **ग्युला** से पहला **नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता, लास्ज़लो क्रास्नाहोरकाई**। बधाई हो!"

- In an interview with **Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet** earlier this year, **Mr. Krasznahorkai** expressed criticism of both **Mr. Orbán's political system** and the **nationalism** present in **Hungarian society**.

  इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में **स्वीडिश समाचारपत्र स्वेन्स्का डैगब्लाडेट** के साथ एक साक्षात्कार में, **श्री क्रास्नाहोरकाई** ने **श्री ऑर्बान की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था** और हंगरी समाज में मौजूद **राष्ट्रवाद** दोनों की आलोचना व्यक्त की।

- "There is no hope left in **Hungary** today and it is not only because of the **Orbán regime**," he told the paper. "The problem is not only political, but also social."

  "आज **हंगरी** में कोई आशा नहीं बची है और यह केवल **ऑर्बान शासन** के कारण नहीं है," उन्होंने पत्र को बताया। "समस्या केवल राजनीतिक नहीं बल्कि सामाजिक भी है।"

- He also reflected on the fact that he has long been a contender for the **Nobel Prize in literature**, saying: "I don't want to lie. It would be very interesting to get that prize. But I would be very surprised if I got it."

  उन्होंने इस तथ्य पर भी विचार किया कि वह लंबे समय से **साहित्य में नोबेल पुरस्कार** के दावेदार रहे हैं, कहा: "मैं झूठ नहीं बोलना चाहता। वह पुरस्कार प्राप्त करना बहुत दिलचस्प होगा। लेकिन अगर मुझे वह मिलता है, तो मैं बहुत आश्चर्यचकित होऊंगा।"

- The **Booker judges** praised his "extraordinary sentences, sentences of incredible length that go to incredible lengths, their tone switching from solemn to madcap to quizzical to desolate as they go their wayward way."

  बुकर्स निर्णयकों ने उनकी "असाधारण वाक्य रचनाओं, अविश्वसनीय लंबाई वाले वाक्यों की प्रशंसा की जो गंभीरता से हास्यास्पदता, जिज्ञासुता से निराशा तक अपने असामान्य मार्ग में परिवर्तित होते हैं।"

- He also won the **National Book Award for Translated Literature** in the **U.S. in 2019** for **Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming**.

  उन्होंने **2019** में अमेरिका में **बारन वेन्कहाइम्स होमकमिंग** के लिए **अनूदित साहित्य के लिए नेशनल बुक अवार्ड** भी जीता।

A SPECIAL ONE
Richa goes on a record-breaking spree during stunning innings

Richa Ghosh's 88-run stand with Sneh Rana for the eighth wicket against South Africa in Visakhapatnam is the best for India in ODIs, going past the 76 by Sushma Verma and Pooja Vastrakar. Richa's 94 is the highest by an Indian wicketkeeper in World Cups and the best by a batter at No. 8 or lower in ODIs, bettering Chloe Tryon's 74.

Richa goes on a record-breaking spree during stunning innings
रिचा ने शानदार पारी के दौरान रिकॉर्ड तोड़ प्रदर्शन किया

- **Richa Ghosh's 88-run stand** with Sneh Rana for the eighth wicket against **South Africa** in Visakhapatnam is the best for **India** in ODIs, going past the 76 by Sushma Verma and Pooja Vastrakar.

  रिचा घोष और स्नेह राणा के बीच विजाग में दक्षिण अफ्रीका के खिलाफ आठवें विकेट के लिए **88 रन** की साझेदारी भारत के लिए ODI में सबसे अच्छी है, जो सुषमा वर्मा और पूजा वस्ट्राकर के 76 रन को पार कर गई।

- Richa's **94** is the highest by an **Indian wicketkeeper** in **World Cups** and the best by a batter at **No. 8 or lower** in ODIs, bettering Chloe Tryon's 74.

  रिचा की 94 विश्व कप में किसी भारतीय विकेटकीपर द्वारा सबसे अधिक है

और ODI में No. 8 या उससे नीचे बल्लेबाज के लिए सबसे अच्छी, जो क्लो त्रायोन के 74 को पार करती है।

NEW HIGH
Smriti eclipses Clark's record for most runs in a calendar year

PCS

K.R. DEEPAK

Smriti Mandhana broke the long-standing record for most runs in a calendar year in ODIs during her knock against South Africa in a World Cup match in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The stylish southpaw went past Australia's Belinda Clark's record of 970 set in 1997. Smriti has scored four centuries and three fifties this year.

Smriti eclipses Clark's record for most runs in a calendar year
स्मृति ने कैलेंडर वर्ष में सबसे ज्यादा रन बनाने के लिए क्लार्क का रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा

- **Smriti Mandhana** broke the long-standing record for most runs in a **calendar year** in ODIs during her knock against **South Africa** in a **World Cup** match in Visakhapatnam on Thursday.
स्मृति मंडाना ने विजाग में गुरुवार को विश्व कप मैच में दक्षिण अफ्रीका के खिलाफ अपनी पारी के दौरान ODI में कैलेंडर वर्ष में सबसे ज्यादा रन बनाने का लंबे समय से कायम रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा।

- The stylish **southpaw** went past **Australia's Belinda Clark's record** of 970 set in 1997.
स्टाइलिश लेफ्ट-हैंडर ने 1997 में ऑस्ट्रेलिया की बेलिंडा क्लार्क के 970 रन के रिकॉर्ड को पार किया।

- **Smriti** has scored **four centuries** and **three fifties** this year.
स्मृति ने इस साल चार शतक और तीन अर्धशतक बनाए हैं।

Joy unbound: The Indian players are a happy lot after the victory over Korea. PTI

India assured of a historic medal

PCS

The host outlasts Korea in a nerve-wracking quarterfinal; Rounak's win over Choi turns the match around; faces Indonesia for place in final

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

India defeated Korea to reach the semifinals and assured itself of a maiden medal at the World junior mixed team badminton championships here on Thursday. The host won 44-45, 45-30, 45-33 in a nerve-wracking quarterfinal. India will face Indonesia, which defeated Taiwan 45-35, 45-35 in another quarterfinal, in the semifinals.

Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu went down 5-9 in the first boys' doubles against Cho Hyeong Woo and Lee Hyeong Woo.

The girls' duo of K. Vennala and U. Reshika reduced the deficit by one point by beating Cheon Hye In and Moon In Seo 10-9 before Rounak Chouhan brought the team within one point, defeating Choi Ah Seung 11-9.

However, a 4-9 loss for C. Lalramsanga and Aanya Bisht in the mixed doubles against Lee and Cheon meant that Unnati Hooda had to win 15 points before her opponent Kim Han Bi could reach nine.

Unnati began strongly by taking a 3-0 lead, but Kim managed to draw level at 6-6.

Unnati dug deep and played long rallies to win five straight points, and then went on to draw level at 44-44.

Lalramsanga and Bhargav then gave India a 9-7 win over Cho and Lee, and Vennala and Reshika extended that advantage to six points. By the time Unnati took the court for the second set, India was already leading by nine points and all she had to do was to wrap up the set.

In the third set Lalramsanga and Bhargav gave India a 9-4 lead. But Vennala and Reshika lost to Cheon and Moon, who put their team ahead by two points.

Rounak turned the match in India's favour with a 11-4 victory over Choi to give India a five-point lead. Lalramsanga and Aanya increased that to seven and Unnati then hammered Kim 9-4 to kick-off the celebrations.

India assured of a historic medal
भारत को ऐतिहासिक पदक की गारंटी

- The host outlasts **Korea** in a nerve-wracking quarter-final; **Rounak's win** over Choi turns the match around; faces **Indonesia** for place in final.
  मेजबान ने कोरिया को रोमांचक क्वार्टर-फाइनल में हराया; रौनक की जीत ने मैच का रुख बदला; इंडोनेशिया के खिलाफ फाइनल में जगह के लिए आमना-सामना।
- India defeated Korea to reach the **semi-finals** and assured itself of a maiden medal at the **World junior mixed team badminton championships** here on Thursday.
  भारत ने कोरिया को हराकर सेमी-फाइनल में प्रवेश किया और यहां वर्ल्ड जूनियर मिक्स्ड टीम बैडमिंटन चैंपियनशिप में अपना पहला पदक पक्का किया।

- The host won 44-45, 45-30, 45-33 in a nerve-wracking quarter-final.
  मेजबान ने रोमांचक क्वार्टर-फाइनल में 44-45, 45-30, 45-33 से जीत हासिल की।

- India will face **Indonesia**, which defeated **Taiwan** 45-35, 45-35 in another quarter-final, in the semi-finals.
  भारत का सेमी-फाइनल में सामना इंडोनेशिया से होगा, जिसने दूसरे क्वार्टर-फाइनल में ताइवान को 45-35, 45-35 से हराया।

- Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu went down 5-9 in the first boys' doubles against Cho Hyeong Woo and Lee Hyeong Woo.
  भरगव राम अरिगेला और विस्वा तेज गोब्बुरु पहले बॉयज डबल्स में चो होओंग वू और ली होओंग वू के खिलाफ 5-9 से हार गए।

- The girls' duo of K. Vennala and U. Reshika reduced the deficit by one point by beating Cheon Hye In and Moon In Seo 10-9 before **Rounak Chouhan** brought the team within one point, defeating Choi Ah Seung 11-9.
  लड़कियों की जोड़ी के. वेन्नाला और यू. रेशिका ने चेन हो इन और मून इन सियो को 10-9 से हराकर अंतर घटाया, उसके बाद रौनक चौहान ने टीम को एक अंक के भीतर ला दिया, चोई अह स्यंग को 11-9 से हराकर।

- However, a 4-9 loss for C. Lalramsanga and Aanya Bisht in the mixed doubles against Lee and Cheon meant that **Unnati Hooda** had to win 15 points before her opponent Kim Han Bi could reach nine.
  हालांकि, मिक्स्ड डबल्स में सी. लालरामसांगा और आन्या बिष्ट की ली और चेन के खिलाफ 4-9 हार का मतलब था कि उन्नति हूडा को 15 अंक जीतने थे इससे पहले कि उनकी प्रतिद्वंद्वी किम हान बी नौ तक पहुंचती।

- Unnati began strongly by taking a 3-0 lead, but Kim managed to draw level at 6-6.
  उन्नति ने मजबूत शुरुआत की और 3-0 की बढ़त बनाई, लेकिन किम 6-6 से बराबरी करने में सफल रही।

- Unnati dug deep and played long rallies to win five straight points, and then went on to draw level at 44-44.
  उन्नति ने पूरी मेहनत की और लंबे रैलियों के साथ पांच सीधे अंक जीते, और फिर 44-44 से बराबरी कर ली।

- Lalramsanga and Bhargav then gave India a 9-7 win over Cho and Lee, and Vennala and Reshika extended that advantage to six points.
  लालरामसांगा और भरगव ने फिर चो और ली के खिलाफ भारत को 9-7 की जीत दिलाई, और वेन्नाला और रेशिका ने उस बढ़त को छह अंकों तक बढ़ाया।

- By the time Unnati took the court for the second set, India was already leading by nine points and all she had to do was to wrap up the set.
  जब तक उन्नति दूसरे सेट के लिए कोर्ट में उतरी, भारत पहले ही नौ अंकों की बढ़त में था और उसे बस सेट को पूरा करना था।

- In the third set Lalramsanga and Bhargav gave India a 9-4 lead. But Vennala and Reshika lost to Cheon and Moon, who put their team ahead by two points.
  तीसरे सेट में लालरामसांगा और भरगव ने भारत को 9-4 की बढ़त दी। लेकिन वेन्नाला और रेशिका हार गईं चेन और मून के खिलाफ, जिन्होंने अपनी टीम को दो अंकों की बढ़त दिलाई।

- Rounak turned the match in India's favour with a 11-4 victory over Choi to give India a five-point lead. Lalramsanga and Aanya increased that to seven and Unnati then hammered Kim 9-4 to kick off the celebrations.
  रौनक ने चोई के खिलाफ 11-4 से जीत दर्ज कर मैच को भारत के पक्ष में बदल दिया और भारत को पांच अंकों की बढ़त दिलाई। लालरामसांगा और आन्या ने इसे सात अंकों तक बढ़ाया और उन्नति ने किम को 9-4 से हराकर जश्न की शुरुआत की।

GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography

TOPICS COVERED   10 October 2025

1. **Karnataka approves menstrual leave policy**
   कर्नाटक ने मासिक धर्म अवकाश नीति को मंजूरी दी

2. **Are women deciding Assembly elections?**
   क्या महिलाएँ विधानसभा चुनावों का निर्णय ले रही हैं?

3. **Police and protesters clash in Madagascar Gen Z rally**
   मेडागास्कर में जनरेशन Z रैली में पुलिस और प्रदर्शनकारियों में झड़प

4. **China outlines curbs on exports of rare earths, technology**
   चीन ने रेयर अर्थ और तकनीक के निर्यात पर पाबंदियों का खाका पेश किया

5. **Sudan paramilitary strike on mosque kills 13 in El-Fasher**
   सूडान अर्धसैनिक हमले में एल-फाशर की मस्जिद में 13 की मौत

Feathered assembly

GS I: Mapping

Blush waters: Flamingos forage for food in Sebkhat Sijoumi, Tunis, on Thursday. The lake, which retains water year-round, provides a crucial refuge for thousands of migratory and wintering birds, despite steadily declining water levels. AFP

Blush waters: Flamingos forage for food in Sebkhat Sijoumi, Tunis, on Thursday. The lake, which retains water year-round, provides a
crucial refuge for thousands of migratory and wintering birds, despite steadily declining water levels.

Karnataka approves menstrual leave policy

कर्नाटक ने मासिक धर्म अवकाश नीति को मंजूरी दी

GS I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

- In a landmark decision, the **State Cabinet** on **Thursday** approved the **Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025** that will ensure **one day's paid leave in a month** across **government and private sectors**.

एक ऐतिहासिक निर्णय में, **राज्य मंत्रिमंडल** ने **गुरुवार** को **कर्नाटक मासिक धर्म अवकाश नीति-2025** को मंजूरी दी, जो **सरकारी और निजी क्षेत्रों में महीने में एक दिन का सवेतन अवकाश** सुनिश्चित करेगी।

- With this decision, **Karnataka** becomes the **first State** to cover both the **government and private sectors** in its menstrual leave policy.

इस निर्णय के साथ, **कर्नाटक** अपनी मासिक धर्म अवकाश नीति में **सरकारी और निजी दोनों क्षेत्रों** को शामिल करने वाला **पहला राज्य** बन गया है।

- **Odisha** and **Bihar** have policies for **government employees** while **Kerala** has implemented the policy in **universities**.

ओडिशा और **बिहार** में **सरकारी कर्मचारियों** के लिए यह नीति है जबकि **केरल** ने इसे **विश्वविद्यालयों** में लागू किया है।

In a landmark decision, the State Cabinet on Thursday approved the Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025 that will ensure one day's paid leave in a month across government and private sectors.

With this decision, Karnataka becomes the first State to cover both the government and private sectors in its menstrual leave policy. Odisha and Bihar have policy for government employees while Kerala has implemented the policy in universities.

Are women deciding Assembly elections?

Women cast their votes for the Maharashtra Assembly elections in 2024, at a polling station in Nagpur. ANI

PARLEY

GS I: Society

In the run-up to the Bihar Assembly elections, political parties are rolling out several welfare measures for women. On October 3, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar transferred ₹10,000 to the bank accounts of 25 lakh women under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana. Earlier, on September 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also announced the transfer of ₹7,500 crore under the same scheme to 75 lakh women. This pattern has been seen in other Assembly elections as well. Moreover, the share of women voters has also been steadily increasing over the years. Are women deciding Assembly elections? Rajeshwari Deshpande and Ruhi Tewari discuss this question in a conversation moderated by Joan Sony Cherian. Edited excerpts:

Women are increasingly being targeted as a separate vote bank in India. Do you think this is a cause for celebration?

Rajeshwari Deshpande: There is some cause for celebration because women who were – and even now are – deprived of money within the domestic and public sphere have some income for their own disposal. But at the same time, we need to be apprehensive about the way in which women are projected as labharthis (beneficiaries). There is a constant attempt to build a 'non-political' political constituency of women, which keeps women as marginal players rather than as active citizens. The schemes also still talk about women as sisters, which depicts the idea of keeping women on the sidelines, while the main contestants and decision-makers are their brothers or the men.

Ruhi Tewari: The evolution of women voters as participants in the voting process, in the minds of India's political leaders, is positive. We now have entire manifestos dedicated to women voters. These measures have helped women have a say, have greater agency, which they did not have before. And it isn't just about the cash schemes. In the early 2000s, Mr. Kumar gave free cycles to school girls. The agency derived from such a measure had ripple effects over the years. Attempts to build more toilets for women was never even a conversation earlier; now it is. These are measures in the right direction. However, there is a danger of assuming that all women want are freebies. What women voters are essentially looking for is agency, and measures which will give them dignity. Political parties need to internalise this and not just throw schemes at women to gain votes.

Tamil Nadu's Urimai Thogai scheme, Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Yojana, and Maharashtra's Ladki Bahin Yojana provide direct cash transfers to low- and middle-income women. How successful have these schemes been among women voters? And have they helped the parties?

RT: There has been a lot of enthusiasm among women voters regarding these schemes. The scheme in M.P. certainly helped Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the one in Maharashtra helped the BJP coalition. However, these schemes need to be implemented well. Just announcing them a month before elections comes across as a bribe for votes. There has to be a better approach. For example, if we look at the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme in West Bengal, or even the Ladli Behna in M.P., they come with certain conditional clauses: the woman needs at least a 10th or 12th grade certificate, for instance. These are incentives for parents to educate the girl child.

RD: Women are definitely happy about these schemes, but it will take us some time to understand the actual effects of these schemes and how women respond to them. Some surveys conducted as part of the National Election Studies suggest that, as of now, there is no distinctive women's vote that is emerging as a decisive factor for any party, particularly for the BJP. In fact, in both M.P. and Maharashtra, when we did empirical investigations, we found that women had not voted for the winning coalition on a greater scale than men. While there has historically been a gender gap among the voters of the BJP, when compared to the Congress, this gap is almost non-existent now. And yet, if we see at the regional level the segregation of this gap, women have voted differently.

The way these schemes are implemented also plays a role [in their success]. In Maharashtra, right after the elections, the implementation of the scheme was chaotic. There was increased scrutiny of the beneficiaries, and women

What women voters are essentially looking for is agency, and measures which will give them dignity. Political parties need to internalise this and not just throw schemes at women so to gain their votes.
RUHI TEWARI

wondered whether they should opt for this scheme or the pension scheme.

One also needs to know whether women are able to use the money independently. All this can be gauged only gradually.

Women have become a focus group in electoral politics, just like caste groups and religious minorities. How do these identities play out when women are considered as a monolithic category?

RD: In Indian society, women's gendered identities will always remain enmeshed in their caste, class, and other social identities. It is very difficult to imagine women's vote as a monolith. The long-term effect of this kind of an imagination is that it converts women into a marginal political entity, because we are essentialising women. And by doing so, a clientelist kind of relationship between political parties and women voters as labharthis would become generalised. So, we have to be very cautious about monolithic imaginations.

RT: No voter category is homogeneous. The only thing that distinguishes women from men is that men in society or as voters have never had to confront 'gender' as an identity that causes lack of privilege, or disadvantage. What has caused them disadvantage, if at all, has perhaps been their other identities, such as caste or religion. Women have always been marginalised socially across tribes, religion, castes etc. and that in some ways gives them a bonding factor to become a voting bloc.

During the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Bihar, more women voters were left out of the electoral rolls than men. How do you see this against the fact that political parties are trying to woo women voters?

RT: Women are always going to be at a disadvantage when it comes to such exercises because their documentation is the weakest. We saw the same thing happening during the NRC (National Register of Citizens) exercise in Assam. There were women struggling because some of them had got married and come to Assam and couldn't prove where they had come from. This really flies in the face of political campaigns meant to bring women to the forefront. The biggest strength of women today is being able to go and vote in the same way as men do. If that right is taken away, the biggest instrument of empowerment that women have is taken away. The SIR exercise has thus been callous in its approach. If they wanted to empower women voters, they should have made sure that there was enough time and support for women to come up with proper documents.

RD: I'd like to make two points. First, after the 2015 elections in Bihar, the closing of the gender gap among voters was discussed at the national level as well as in Bihar. During the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, women voters outnumbered men in many constituencies. There were various explanations offered for this same people talked about the empowerment of women, some gave credit to the Election Commission's efforts to actively register women voters, and many academics suggested that one of the main factors, particularly in Bihar, was the large-scale out-migration of men from the State. These questions – of the number of women voters and the closing of the gender gap – must be revisited in the context of the results of the SIR exercise.

Second, women are going to be adversely affected during rigorous exercises which require documentation. And this brings us to a paradox: women, during routine practices of citizenship such as proving eligibility as a voter, lag behind men, but at the same time, they are celebrated as voters and labharthis. This is yet another way in which you celebrate and include women, but also effectively exclude them.

Given the closing of the gender gap, the greater participation of women in elections, and their wooing by parties, would you say women are deciding Assembly elections?

RT: The real importance of women voters today is not that they are deciding elections; it is that they are at par with other voting blocs.

RD: The women's vote remains largely enmeshed in other kinds of identities. But particularly after 2019, we see that women have started voting independently and not essentially in favour of the parties that extend populist welfare schemes. So, we see the arrival of women's agency. But I don't think women will be able to play a decisive role, particularly given that they are deliberately kept on the margins.

Rajeshwari Deshpande
Professor of Political Science at the Savitribai Phule Pune University

Ruhi Tewari
Journalist and author of the upcoming book, 'What Women Want: Understanding the Female Voter in Modern India'

Are women deciding Assembly elections?
क्या महिलाएँ विधानसभा चुनावों का निर्णय ले रही हैं?

- In the run-up to the **Bihar Assembly elections**, political parties are rolling out several **welfare measures** for women.
  Bihar विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले, राजनीतिक पार्टियां महिलाओं के लिए कई **कल्याणकारी उपाय** पेश कर रही हैं।

- On **October 3**, Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** transferred **₹10,000** to the bank accounts of **25 lakh women** under the **Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana**.
  3 अक्टूबर को, बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री **नीतीश कुमार** ने **मुख्यमंत्री महिला रोजगार योजना** के तहत **25 लाख महिलाओं** के बैंक खातों में **₹10,000** ट्रांसफर किए।

- Earlier, on **September 26**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had also announced the transfer of **₹7,500 crore** under the same scheme to **75 lakh women**.
  पहले, **26 सितंबर** को, प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने भी इसी योजना के तहत **75 लाख महिलाओं** को **₹7,500 करोड़** ट्रांसफर करने की घोषणा की थी।

- This pattern has been seen in other **Assembly elections** as well.
  यह पैटर्न अन्य **विधानसभा चुनावों** में भी देखा गया है।

- Moreover, the share of **women voters** has also been steadily increasing over the years.
  इसके अलावा, वर्षों से **महिला मतदाताओं** का हिस्सा भी लगातार बढ़ रहा है।

- Are women deciding **Assembly elections**?
  क्या महिलाएँ **विधानसभा चुनावों** का निर्णय ले रही हैं?

- **Rajeshwari Deshpande** and **Ruhi Tewari** discuss this question in a conversation moderated by **Joan Sony Cherian**.
  राजेश्वरी देशपांडे और **रुही तिवारी** इस प्रश्न पर **जोन सोनी चेरियन** द्वारा संचालित बातचीत में चर्चा करती हैं।

- Edited excerpts:
  संपादित अंश:

- Women are increasingly being targeted as a **separate vote bank** in India. Do you think this is a cause for celebration?
  भारत में महिलाओं को एक **अलग मत बैंक** के रूप में लक्षित किया जा रहा है। क्या आपको लगता है कि यह जश्न मनाने का कारण है?

- **Rajeshwari Deshpande**: There is some cause for celebration because women who were — and even now are — deprived of money within the **domestic** and **public sphere** have some **income** for their own disposal.
  राजेश्वरी देशपांडे: जश्न मनाने का कुछ कारण है क्योंकि महिलाएँ, जो पहले और अभी भी **घरेलू** और **सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र** में पैसे से वंचित थीं, उनके पास अब अपने उपयोग के लिए कुछ **आय** है।

- But at the same time, we need to be apprehensive about the way in which women are projected as **labharthis (beneficiaries)**.
  लेकिन साथ ही, हमें इस बात की चिंता भी करनी चाहिए कि महिलाओं को **लाभार्थी** के रूप में कैसे पेश किया जा रहा है।

- There is a constant attempt to build a '**non-political**' political constituency of women, which keeps women as **marginal players** rather than as **active citizens**.
  महिलाओं के एक '**गैर-राजनीतिक**' राजनीतिक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र बनाने का लगातार प्रयास है, जो महिलाओं को **सक्रिय नागरिक** की बजाय **सीमांत खिलाड़ी** बनाए रखता है।

- The schemes also still talk about women as **sisters**, which depicts the idea of keeping women on the **sidelines**, while the main contestants and decision-makers are their **brothers** or the **men**.
  योजनाएँ अब भी महिलाओं को **बहनों** के रूप में पेश करती हैं, जो महिलाओं को **किनारे पर** रखने का विचार दिखाती हैं, जबकि मुख्य प्रतियोगी और निर्णय निर्माता उनके **भाई** या **पुरुष** होते हैं।

- **Ruhi Tewari**: The evolution of **women voters** as participants in the voting process, in the minds of India's political leaders, is positive.
  रुही तिवारी: भारत के राजनीतिक नेताओं के मन में मतदान प्रक्रिया में **महिला मतदाताओं** के रूप में विकास सकारात्मक है।

- We now have entire **manifestos** dedicated to women voters.
  अब हमारे पास महिला मतदाताओं के लिए पूरी **कार्यक्षेत्रीय घोषणाएँ** हैं।

- These measures have helped women have a say, have greater **agency**, which they did not have before.
  इन उपायों ने महिलाओं को अपनी बात रखने और अधिक **सक्षम होने** में मदद की है, जो पहले उनके पास नहीं थी।

- And it isn't just about the **cash schemes**.
  और यह केवल **नकद योजनाओं** के बारे में नहीं है।

- In the early 2000s, Mr. Kumar gave free **cycles** to school girls.
  2000 के दशक की शुरुआत में, श्री कुमार ने स्कूल की लड़कियों को मुफ्त **साइकिल** दी।

- The **agency** derived from such a measure had ripple effects over the years.
  इस तरह के उपाय से प्राप्त **सक्षमता** वर्षों में **प्रभाव** डालती रही।

- Attempts to build more **toilets** for women was never even a conversation earlier; now it is.
  महिलाओं के लिए अधिक **शौचालय** बनाने के प्रयास पहले कभी चर्चा का विषय नहीं थे; अब यह है।

- These are measures in the right direction.
  ये उपाय सही दिशा में हैं।

- However, there is a danger of assuming that all women want are **freebies**.
  हालांकि, यह मानने का खतरा है कि सभी महिलाएँ केवल **मुफ्त लाभ** चाहती हैं।

- What **women voters** are essentially looking for is **agency**, and measures which will give them **dignity**.
  असल में **महिला मतदाता** जो ढूंढ रही हैं वह है **सक्षमता**, और ऐसे उपाय जो उन्हें **सम्मान** देंगे।

- Political parties need to internalise this and not just throw **schemes** at women to gain votes.
  राजनीतिक पार्टियों को इसे आत्मसात करना चाहिए और केवल वोट पाने के लिए महिलाओं पर **योजनाएँ** नहीं फेंकनी चाहिए।

- **Tamil Nadu's Urimai Thogai scheme**, **Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Yojana**, and **Maharashtra's Ladki Bahin Yojana** provide direct **cash transfers** to low- and middle-income women.
  तमिलनाडु की **उरिमै ठोगई योजना**, मध्य प्रदेश की **लाडली बहना योजना**, और **महाराष्ट्र की लड़की बहिन योजना** निम्न और मध्यम आय वाली महिलाओं को सीधे **नकद हस्तांतरण** प्रदान करती हैं।

- How successful have these schemes been among **women voters**? And have they helped the parties?
  ये योजनाएँ **महिला मतदाताओं** के बीच कितनी सफल रही हैं? और क्या इनसे पार्टियों को मदद मिली है?

- **RT**: There has been a lot of enthusiasm among **women voters** regarding these schemes.
  रुही तिवारी: इन योजनाओं के बारे में **महिला मतदाताओं** में काफी उत्साह रहा है।

- The scheme in **M.P.** certainly helped **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** and the one in **Maharashtra** helped the **BJP coalition**.
  मध्य प्रदेश की योजना ने निश्चित रूप से **शिवराज सिंह चौहान** की मदद की और **महाराष्ट्र** की योजना ने **BJP गठबंधन** की मदद की।

- However, these schemes need to be implemented well.
  हालांकि, इन योजनाओं को अच्छी तरह से लागू करने की आवश्यकता है।

- Just announcing them a month before elections comes across as a **bribe for votes**.
  चुनावों से एक महीने पहले केवल घोषणा करना **वोट के लिए रिश्वत** के रूप में लगता है।

- There has to be a better approach.
  एक बेहतर दृष्टिकोण होना चाहिए।

- For example, if we look at the **Lakshmir Bhandar scheme** in **West Bengal**, or even the **Ladli Behna** in **M.P.**, they come with certain **conditional clauses**: the woman needs at least a 10th or 12th grade **certificate**, for instance.
  उदाहरण के लिए, अगर हम **पश्चिम बंगाल** में **लक्ष्मी बंधार योजना** या म.प्र. में **लाडली बहना** देखें, तो इनमें कुछ **शर्तें** होती हैं: महिला को कम से कम 10वीं या 12वीं **प्रमाणपत्र** होना चाहिए।

- These are incentives for **parents** to educate the **girl child**.
  ये **अभिभावकों** को **लड़की की शिक्षा** देने के लिए प्रोत्साहन हैं।

- **RD**: Women are definitely happy about these schemes, but it will take us some time to understand the actual **effects** of these schemes and how women respond to them.
  राजेश्वरी देशपांडे: महिलाएँ निश्चित रूप से इन योजनाओं से खुश हैं, लेकिन हमें इन योजनाओं के वास्तविक **प्रभाव** और महिलाओं की प्रतिक्रिया को समझने में कुछ समय लगेगा।

- Some surveys conducted as part of the **National Election Studies** suggest that, as of now, there is no distinctive **women's vote** that is emerging as a **decisive factor** for any party,

particularly for the **BJP**.

National Election Studies के हिस्से के रूप में किए गए कुछ सर्वेक्षणों से पता चलता है कि, वर्तमान में, कोई विशिष्ट **महिला वोट** नहीं उभर रहा है जो किसी भी पार्टी, विशेष रूप से **BJP** के लिए **निर्णायक कारक** बन सके।

- In fact, in both **M.P.** and **Maharashtra**, when we did empirical investigations, we found that women had not voted for the winning coalition on a greater scale than men.

  वास्तव में, **म.प्र.** और **महाराष्ट्र** दोनों में, जब हमने अनुभवजन्य जांच की, तो पाया कि महिलाओं ने पुरुषों की तुलना में विजयी गठबंधन को अधिक मतदान नहीं किया।

- While there has historically been a **gender gap** among the voters of the **BJP**, when compared to the **Congress**, this gap is almost **non-existent** now.

  हालांकि ऐतिहासिक रूप से **BJP** के मतदाताओं में **लिंग अंतर** रहा है, **Congress** की तुलना में, यह अंतर अब लगभग **निष्प्रभावी** है।

- And yet, if we see at the **regional level**

- wondered whether they should opt for this scheme or the **pension scheme**.

  सोचा जा रहा था कि उन्हें इस योजना या **पेंशन योजना** में से किसे चुनना चाहिए।

- One also needs to know whether women are able to use the **money independently**. All this can be gauged only gradually.

  यह भी जानना आवश्यक है कि क्या महिलाएँ इस **पैसे का स्वतंत्र रूप से उपयोग** कर सकती हैं। यह सब धीरे-धीरे ही आंका जा सकता है।

- Women have become a **focus group** in electoral politics, just like caste groups and religious minorities. How do these identities play out when women are considered as a **monolithic category**?

  महिलाएँ चुनावी राजनीति में एक **फोकस समूह** बन गई हैं, जैसे जाति समूह और धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यक। जब महिलाओं को एक **एकरूप श्रेणी** माना जाता है, तो ये पहचानें कैसे काम करती हैं?

- **RD**: In Indian society, women's **gendered identities** will always remain enmeshed in their **caste, class, and other social identities**. It is very difficult to imagine women's vote as a **monolith**.

  आरडी: भारतीय समाज में, महिलाओं की **लैंगिक पहचान** हमेशा उनके **जाति, वर्ग और अन्य सामाजिक पहचान** में उलझी रहेगी। महिलाओं के वोट को एक **एकरूप इकाई** के रूप में कल्पना करना बहुत कठिन है।

- The long-term effect of this kind of an imagination is that it converts women into a **marginal political entity**, because we are **essentialising women**.

  इस प्रकार की कल्पना का दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव यह है कि यह महिलाओं को एक **सीमांत राजनीतिक इकाई** में बदल देता है, क्योंकि हम महिलाओं को **सारगर्भित कर रहे हैं**।

- And by doing so, a **clientelist** kind of relationship between political parties and **women voters** as labharthis would become generalised. So, we have to be very cautious about **monolithic imaginations**.

  और ऐसा करके, राजनीतिक पार्टियों और **महिला मतदाताओं** के बीच एक **ग्राहकवादी** प्रकार का संबंध, जिन्हें **लाभार्थी** माना जाता है, सामान्य हो जाएगा। इसलिए, हमें **एकरूप कल्पनाओं** के प्रति बहुत सतर्क रहना होगा।

- **RT**: No voter category is **homogeneous**. The only thing that distinguishes women from men is that men in society or as voters have never had to confront **'gender'** as an identity that causes lack of privilege, or disadvantage.

  आरटी: कोई भी मतदाता वर्ग **समान** नहीं है। महिलाओं और पुरुषों को अलग करने वाली एकमात्र चीज यह है कि समाज में या मतदाता के रूप में पुरुषों को कभी **'लिंग'** की पहचान से जुड़ी असुविधा या नुकसान का सामना नहीं करना पड़ा।

- What has caused them disadvantage, if at all, has perhaps been their other identities, such as **caste** or **religion**.

  जो उन्हें नुकसान पहुँचाता है, वह शायद उनकी अन्य पहचानें होती हैं, जैसे **जाति** या **धर्म**।

- Women have always been **marginalized socially** across **tribes, religion, castes**, etc., and that in some ways gives them a **bonding factor** to become a voting bloc.

  महिलाएँ हमेशा **जातियों, धर्मों, जातियों** आदि में सामाजिक रूप से **सीमांतित** रही हैं, और यह कुछ हद तक उन्हें एक **मतदान ब्लॉक** बनाने का **बंधन कारक** देती है।

- During the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise** in Bihar, more **women voters** were left out of the electoral rolls than men. How do you see this against the fact that political parties are trying to **woo women voters**?

  बिहार में **स्पेशल इंटेंसिव रिविजन (SIR) अभ्यास** के दौरान, पुरुषों की तुलना में अधिक **महिला मतदाता**

मतदाता सूची से बाहर रह गए। आप इसे इस तथ्य के खिलाफ कैसे देखते हैं कि राजनीतिक पार्टियां **महिला मतदाताओं को आकर्षित** करने की कोशिश कर रही हैं?

- **RT**: Women are always going to be at a **disadvantage** when it comes to such exercises because their **documentation** is the weakest.
  आरटी: इस तरह के अभ्यास में महिलाओं को हमेशा **नुकसान** होगा क्योंकि उनका **दस्तावेज़ीकरण** सबसे कमजोर है।

- We saw the same thing happening during the **NRC (National Register of Citizens) exercise** in Assam.
  हमने असम में **NRC (नेशनल रजिस्टर ऑफ सिटिज़न्स) अभ्यास** के दौरान भी यही देखा।

- There were women struggling because some of them had got married and come to Assam and couldn't prove where they had come from.
  कुछ महिलाएँ संघर्ष कर रही थीं क्योंकि उनमें से कुछ ने शादी की थी और असम आ गई थीं और यह साबित नहीं कर पा रही थीं कि वे कहाँ से आई थीं।

- This really flies in the face of **political campaigns** meant to bring women to the forefront.
  यह वास्तव में उन **राजनीतिक अभियानों** के विपरीत है, जिनका उद्देश्य महिलाओं को सामने लाना था।

- The biggest strength of women today is being able to go and **vote** in the same way as men do.
  आज महिलाओं की सबसे बड़ी ताकत यह है कि वे उसी तरह जाकर **मतदान** कर सकती हैं जैसे पुरुष करते हैं।

- If that **right** is taken away, the biggest **instrument of empowerment** that women have is taken away.
  यदि वह **अधिकार** छीन लिया जाता है, तो महिलाओं के पास सबसे बड़ा **सशक्तिकरण उपकरण** छीन लिया जाएगा।

- The **SIR exercise** has thus been **callous** in its approach.
  इसलिए **SIR अभ्यास** अपने दृष्टिकोण में **निर्दयी** रहा है।

- If they wanted to empower **women voters**, they should have made sure that there was enough **time** and **support** for women to come up with proper **documents**.
  यदि वे **महिला मतदाताओं** को सशक्त बनाना चाहते थे, तो उन्हें सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए था कि महिलाओं के पास सही **दस्तावेज़** लाने के लिए पर्याप्त **समय** और **सहायता** हो।

- **RD**: I'd like to make two points. First, after the **2015 elections** in Bihar, the closing of the **gender gap** among voters was discussed at the **national level** as well as in Bihar.
  आरडी: मैं दो बातें करना चाहूंगी। पहले, बिहार में **2015 चुनावों** के बाद, मतदाताओं में **लिंग अंतर** को बंद करने पर **राष्ट्रीय स्तर** और बिहार दोनों में चर्चा हुई।

- During the **2024 Lok Sabha elections**, **women voters** outnumbered men in many constituencies.
  2024 लोकसभा चुनावों के दौरान, कई निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में **महिला मतदाताओं** की संख्या पुरुषों से अधिक थी।

- There were various explanations offered for this: some people talked about the **empowerment** of women, some gave credit to the **Election Commission's efforts** to actively register women voters, and many academics suggested that one of the main factors, particularly in Bihar, was the large-scale **out-migration of men** from the State.
  इसके लिए विभिन्न स्पष्टीकरण दिए गए: कुछ लोगों ने महिलाओं के **सशक्तिकरण** की बात की, कुछ ने सक्रिय रूप से महिला मतदाताओं को पंजीकृत करने के लिए **चुनाव आयोग के प्रयासों** को श्रेय दिया, और कई विद्वानों ने सुझाव दिया कि मुख्य कारकों में से एक, विशेष रूप से बिहार में, राज्य से पुरुषों का बड़े पैमाने पर **प्रवासन** था।

- These questions — of the number of **women voters** and the closing of the **gender gap** — must be revisited in the context of the results of the **SIR exercise**.
  ये प्रश्न — **महिला मतदाताओं** की संख्या और **लिंग अंतर** को बंद करने के — को **SIR अभ्यास** के परिणामों के संदर्भ में फिर से देखना चाहिए।

- Second, women are going to be adversely affected during rigorous exercises which require **documentation**.
  दूसरे, महिलाओं को कठोर अभ्यासों के दौरान, जिनमें **दस्तावेज़ीकरण** की आवश्यकता होती है, नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

- And this brings us to a **paradox**: women, during routine practices of **citizenship** such as proving eligibility as a voter, lag behind men, but at the same time, they are celebrated as **voters** and **labharthis**.
  और यह हमें एक **विरोधाभास** की ओर ले जाता है: महिलाएँ, मतदान के लिए पात्रता साबित करने जैसी

नियमित **नागरिकता** प्रथाओं के दौरान, पुरुषों से पीछे रहती हैं, लेकिन साथ ही, उन्हें **मतदाता** और **लाभार्थी** के रूप में सम्मानित किया जाता है।

- This is yet another way in which you celebrate and include women, but also effectively **exclude** them.
  यह महिलाओं का जश्न मनाने और उन्हें शामिल करने का एक और तरीका है, लेकिन साथ ही उन्हें प्रभावी ढंग से **बहिष्कृत** भी करता है।

- Given the closing of the **gender gap**, the greater participation of **women** in elections, and their **wooing** by parties, would you say women are deciding **Assembly elections**?
  लिंग अंतर के बंद होने, चुनावों में **महिलाओं** की बढ़ती भागीदारी, और पार्टियों द्वारा उनके **आकर्षण** को देखते हुए, क्या आप कहेंगे कि महिलाएँ **विधानसभा चुनावों** का निर्णय ले रही हैं?

- **RT**: The real importance of **women voters** today is not that they are deciding elections; it is that they are at par with other **voting blocs**.
  आरटी: आज **महिला मतदाताओं** का वास्तविक महत्व यह नहीं है कि वे चुनावों का निर्णय ले रही हैं; बल्कि यह है कि वे अन्य **मतदान ब्लॉकों** के बराबर हैं।

- **RD**: The **women's vote** remains largely enmeshed in other kinds of identities. But particularly after **2019**, we see that women have started voting **independently** and not essentially in favour of the parties that extend **populist welfare schemes**.
  आरडी: **महिला वोट** अधिकांशतः अन्य प्रकार की पहचान में उलझा रहता है। लेकिन विशेष रूप से **2019** के बाद, हम देखते हैं कि महिलाओं ने **स्वतंत्र रूप से** मतदान करना शुरू कर दिया है और आवश्यक रूप से उन पार्टियों के पक्ष में नहीं जो **जनतावादी कल्याण योजनाएँ** प्रदान करती हैं।

- So, we see the arrival of **women's agencies**. But I don't think women will be able to play a **decisive role**, particularly given that they are deliberately kept on the **margins**.
  इसलिए, हम **महिलाओं की सक्षमता** का आगमन देखते हैं। लेकिन मुझे नहीं लगता कि महिलाएँ **निर्णायक भूमिका** निभा पाएंगी, विशेष रूप से यह देखते हुए कि उन्हें जानबूझकर **किनारों पर** रखा गया है।

Police and protesters clash in Madagascar Gen Z rally

GS I: Mapping

Agence France-Presse
ANTANANARIVO

Several thousand anti-government demonstrators marched on Thursday through Madagascar's capital, several of them injured when police cracked down on the protest.

The fresh rally came after the Gen Z movement called for a general strike and rejected President Andry Rajoelina's attempts to defuse the tensions rocking the Indian Ocean island.

The President has appointed a new Prime Minister and called for dialogue in a bid to quell the near-daily protests that erupted on September 25. The unrest was sparked by anger over regular and lengthy power and water shortages and evolved into a broader anti-government movement.

Members of the Malagasy Gendarmerie hold a protester arrested during clashes in Antananarivo on Thursday. AFP

Security forces charged at protesters with armoured vehicles, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the initial crowds of about 1,000 that gathered on Thursday near Lake Anosy and started marching towards the Ambohijatovo Gardens.

Street battles later broke out between the police and demonstrators, who responded by throwing stones.

At least four people were injured by rubber bullets and two by projectiles from stun grenades, according to AFP reporters on the ground and two local medical organisations.

A man was left unconscious on the ground after being chased and severely beaten by security forces in the neighbouring district of Anosibe.

Police and protesters clash in Madagascar Gen Z rally
मेडागास्कर में जनरेशन Z रैली में पुलिस और प्रदर्शनकारियों में झड़प

- Several thousand anti-government demonstrators marched on Thursday through **Madagascar's capital**, several of them injured when **police cracked down** on the protest.
  कई हजार विरोधी-सरकारी प्रदर्शनकारियों ने गुरुवार को **मेडागास्कर की राजधानी में मार्च किया, जिनमें से कई घायल हो गए जब **पुलिस ने प्रदर्शन को दबाया।**
- The fresh rally came after the **Gen Z movement** called for a **general strike** and rejected **President Andry Rajoelina's** attempts to defuse the tensions rocking the Indian Ocean island.
  ताजा रैली तब हुई जब जनरेशन Z आंदोलन ने सामान्य हड़ताल की घोषणा की और राष्ट्रपति एंड्री राजोएलिना के तनाव को कम करने के प्रयासों को खारिज कर दिया।

- The President has appointed a new **Prime Minister** and called for dialogue in a bid to quell the near-daily protests that erupted on **September 25**.
  राष्ट्रपति ने एक नया प्रधानमंत्री नियुक्त किया और संवाद के लिए बुलाया ताकि उन लगभग दैनिक प्रदर्शनों को शांत किया जा सके जो 25 सितंबर को भड़क उठे थे।

- The unrest was sparked by anger over regular and lengthy **power and water shortages** and evolved into a broader **anti-government movement**.
  अशांति नियमित और लंबी बिजली और पानी की कमी पर गुस्से से भड़की और यह एक व्यापक विरोधी-सरकारी आंदोलन में बदल गई।

- Security forces charged at protesters with **armoured vehicles**, firing **tear gas and rubber bullets** to disperse the initial crowds of about 1,000 that gathered on Thursday near **Lake Anosy** and started marching towards the **Ambohijatovo Gardens**.
  सुरक्षा बलों ने प्रदर्शनकारियों पर बख्तरबंद वाहन से धावा बोला, और प्रारंभिक भीड़ को इधर-उधर करने के लिए आंसू गैस और रबर की गोलियां चलाई, जो गुरुवार को लगभग 1,000 लोग लेक अनोसी के पास जमा हुए थे और अम्बोहिजातोवो गार्डन की ओर मार्च करना शुरू किया।

- Street battles later broke out between the **police and demonstrators**, who responded by throwing **stones**.
  बाद में सड़कों पर पुलिस और प्रदर्शनकारियों के बीच झड़पें हुईं, जिन्होंने पत्थर फेंककर जवाब दिया।

- At least four people were injured by **rubber bullets** and two by **projectiles from stun grenades**, according to AFP reporters on the ground and two local medical organisations.
  मौके पर AFP रिपोर्टरों और दो स्थानीय चिकित्सा संगठनों के अनुसार, कम से कम चार लोग रबर की गोलियों से और दो लोग स्टन ग्रेनेड से निकले प्रोजेक्टाइल से घायल हुए।

- A man was left unconscious on the ground after being chased and severely beaten by **security forces** in the neighbouring district of **Anosibe**.
  पड़ोसी जिले अनोसिबे में एक व्यक्ति को सुरक्षा बलों द्वारा पीछा कर गंभीर रूप से पीटने के बाद जमीन पर बेहोश छोड़ दिया गया।

China outlines curbs on exports of rare earths, technology

GS I: Natural Resources

Associated Press

HONG KONG

China outlined new curbs on exports of rare earths and related technologies on Thursday, extending controls over use of the elements critical for many products ahead of a meeting later this month between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

The regulations announced by the Ministry of Commerce require foreign companies to get special approval to export items that contain even small traces of rare earths elements sourced from China.

Beijing also will impose permitting requirements on exports of technologies related to rare earths mining, smelting, recycling and magnet-making, it said.

China accounts for nearly 70% of the world's rare earths mining. It also controls roughly 90% of global rare earths processing.

China outlines curbs on exports of rare earths, technology
चीन ने रेयर अर्थ और तकनीक के निर्यात पर पाबंदियों का खाका पेश किया

- China outlined new curbs on exports of **rare earths** and related **technologies** on Thursday, extending controls over use of the elements critical for many products ahead of a meeting later this month between **U.S. President Donald Trump** and Chinese leader **Xi Jinping**.
  चीन ने गुरुवार को रेयर अर्थ और संबंधित तकनीकों के निर्यात पर नई पाबंदियों का खाका पेश किया, कई उत्पादों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण तत्वों के उपयोग पर नियंत्रण बढ़ाते हुए इस महीने के अंत में अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प और चीनी नेता शी जिनपिंग के बीच बैठक से पहले।

- The regulations announced by the **Ministry of Commerce** require foreign companies to get special approval to export items that contain even small traces of **rare earths elements** sourced from China.
  व्यापार मंत्रालय द्वारा घोषित नियमों के अनुसार विदेशी कंपनियों को उन वस्तुओं के निर्यात के लिए विशेष अनुमति लेनी होगी जिनमें चीन से प्राप्त **रेयर अर्थ तत्वों** के छोटे-छोटे निशान भी शामिल हों।**

- Beijing also will impose **permitting requirements** on exports of technologies related to **rare earths mining, smelting, recycling and magnet-making**, it said.
  बीजिंग ने कहा कि वह **रेयर अर्थ खनन, धातु गलाने, पुनर्चक्रण और चुंबक निर्माण** से संबंधित तकनीकों के निर्यात पर भी **अनुमति आवश्यकताओं** को लागू करेगा।**

China accounts for nearly **70% of the world's rare earths mining**. It also controls roughly **90% of global rare earths processing**.
चीन दुनिया के **लगभग 70% रेयर अर्थ खनन** का हिस्सा है। यह वैश्विक **रेयर अर्थ प्रसंस्करण का लगभग 90%** भी नियंत्रित करता है।**

Survivor's fight to protect uncontacted Amazon tribes

GS I: Society

Associated Press

PARIS

Atxu Marima survived the flu that killed his family after a jaguar attack drove them from their Indigenous group in the Amazon – but he cannot return for fear of endangering his people.

Instead he has dedicated himself to campaigning for Brazil's isolated communities to be left alone. Born Atxu among the Hi-Merima people, a nomadic group in the south of Amazonas state, he became Romerito (Little Romero) as a child labourer after fleeing the forest. Until about the age of seven or eight, he lived between the Purus and Jurua rivers as part of one of Brazil's officially recognised "uncontacted" Indigenous communities. The country is home to more such groups than any other, with 114 officially recognised as living with little or no contact with the outside world.

For decades Brazil encouraged contact with these communities, before reversing course in 1987 after recognising the devastation it brought.

Mr. Marima's childhood in the Amazon had been idyllic, until one day a jaguar attacked his father. "My family then decided to make contact with the 'civilised' world," he said. It soon exposed them to diseases for which they had no defences. "Everyone got sick and died," he said.

Mr. Marima and four siblings were the only survivors.

In 1987 Brazil adopted a no-contact policy, allowing interaction only if initiated by the Indigenous people themselves. Today isolated groups fear contact because they are "afraid of being shot, because the 'civilisers' have guns."

Mr. Marima now works with Brazil's National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (Funai), monitoring the Hi-Merima territory, which the government legally recognised in 2005.

Sharing his story, he said, was his way of staying connected while advocating for isolated groups to decide if – and when – they make contact. Until then, "let them live in peace."

Survivor's fight to protect uncontacted Amazon tribes
अमेज़न की अनसंपर्कित जनजातियों की सुरक्षा के लिए उत्तरजीवी की लड़ाई

- Atxu Marima survived the **flu** that killed his family after a **jaguar attack** drove them from their Indigenous group in the Amazon — but he cannot return for fear of endangering his people.

अत्सु मारिमा उस फ्लू से बच गए जिसने उनके परिवार को मार दिया, जब एक जगुआर का हमला उन्हें उनके अमेज़न के आदिवासी समूह से भगाया — लेकिन वह अपने लोगों को खतरे में डालने के डर से लौट नहीं सकते।

- Instead he has dedicated himself to campaigning for **Brazil's isolated communities** to be left alone.

इसके बजाय उन्होंने खुद को ब्राजील की अलग-थलग समुदायों को अकेला छोड़ने के लिए अभियान चलाने के लिए समर्पित कर दिया है।**

- Born Atxu among the **Hi-Merima people**, a nomadic group in the south of Amazonas state, he became **Romerito (Little Romero)** as a child labourer after fleeing the forest.

अमेज़ोनास राज्य के दक्षिण में रहने वाले एक खानाबदोश समूह Hi-Merima लोगों में जन्मे अत्सु, जंगल से भागने के बाद एक बाल श्रमिक के रूप में रोमेरिटो (छोटा रोमेरो) बन गए।

Action for change: Atxu Marima, a former member of the Brazilian indigenous Hi-Merima people. FILE PHOTO

- Until about the age of seven or eight, he lived between the **Purus and Jurua rivers** as part of one of Brazil's officially recognised "**uncontacted**" Indigenous communities.

सात या आठ वर्ष की उम्र तक, उन्होंने ब्राजील की आधिकारिक तौर पर मान्यता प्राप्त "अनसंपर्कित" आदिवासी समुदायों में से एक के हिस्से के रूप में Purus और Jurua नदियों के बीच जीवन व्यतीत किया।

- The country is home to more such groups than any other, with **114 officially**

recognised as living with little or no contact with the outside world.
देश में ऐसी समूहों की संख्या किसी और से अधिक है, जिनमें 114 को आधिकारिक तौर पर मान्यता दी गई है कि वे बाहरी दुनिया के साथ कम या कोई संपर्क नहीं रखते।

- For decades Brazil encouraged contact with these communities, before reversing course in 1987 after recognising the devastation it brought.
दशकों तक ब्राज़ील ने इन समुदायों से संपर्क को प्रोत्साहित किया, लेकिन 1987 में इसके नुकसान को पहचानने के बाद उसने नीति बदल दी।

- Mr. Marima's childhood in the Amazon had been idyllic, until one day a **jaguar attacked his father**. "My family then decided to make contact with the 'civilised' world," he said.
अमेज़न में श्री मारिमा का बचपन शांतिपूर्ण था, जब तक कि एक दिन जगुआर ने उनके पिता पर हमला नहीं किया। उन्होंने कहा, "फिर हमारे परिवार ने 'सभ्य' दुनिया से संपर्क करने का निर्णय लिया।"

- It soon exposed them to **diseases** for which they had no defences. "Everyone got sick and died," he said.
यह जल्दी ही उन्हें उन बीमारियों के संपर्क में ले आया, जिनके लिए उनके पास कोई सुरक्षा नहीं थी। उन्होंने कहा, "सभी बीमार हो गए और मर गए।"

- Mr. Marima and **four siblings** were the only survivors.
श्री मारिमा और उनके चार भाई-बहन ही जीवित बचे।

- In 1987 Brazil adopted a **no-contact policy**, allowing interaction only if initiated by the Indigenous people themselves.
1987 में ब्राज़ील ने कोई-संपर्क नीति अपनाई, जो केवल तभी बातचीत की अनुमति देती थी जब इसे आदिवासी लोग स्वयं शुरू करें।

- Today isolated groups fear contact because they are "afraid of being shot, because the 'civilisers' have guns."
आज अलग-थलग समूह संपर्क से डरते हैं क्योंकि वे "गोलियों से मारे जाने से डरते हैं, क्योंकि 'सभ्य' लोगों के पास बंदूकें हैं।"

- Mr. Marima now works with Brazil's **National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (Funai)**, monitoring the Hi-Merima territory, which the government legally recognised in 2005.
श्री मारिमा अब ब्राज़ील की नेशनल फाउंडेशन फॉर इंडिजिनस पीपल्स (Funai) के साथ काम करते हैं, Hi-Merima क्षेत्र की निगरानी करते हैं, जिसे सरकार ने 2005 में कानूनी मान्यता दी।

- Sharing his story, he said, was his way of staying connected while advocating for isolated groups to decide if — and when — they make contact.
अपनी कहानी साझा करते हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि यह उनका तरीका है जुड़े रहने का, साथ ही अलग-थलग समूहों के लिए यह तय करने की वकालत करना कि वे कब और कैसे संपर्क करें।

Until then, "let them live in peace."
तब तक, "उन्हें शांति से जीने दो।"

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations

TOPICS COVERED   **10 October 2025**

1. **CBFC wants removal of beef biriyani eating and several other scenes from Malayalam movie Haal**
 CBFC ने मलयालम फिल्म हाल से बीफ बिरयानी खाने और कई अन्य दृश्यों को हटाने की मांग की

2. **Judicial officers with seven years' experience in Bar can become District Judges: SC**
 सात वर्ष के बार अनुभव वाले न्यायिक अधिकारी जिला न्यायाधीश बन सकते हैं: सर्वोच्च न्यायालय

3. **Retrospective age limits under surrogacy law violate reproductive autonomy: SC**
 सरोगेसी कानून के तहत पिछली तिथि से आयु सीमा प्रजनन स्वायत्तता का उल्लंघन करती है: सर्वोच्च न्यायालय

4. **EU chief Ursula von der Leyen survives 2 no-confidence motions**
 EU प्रमुख उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन ने 2 अविश्वास प्रस्तावों को पारित किया

CBFC wants removal of beef biriyani eating and several other scenes from Malayalam movie *Haal*

GS II: Polity: FR

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has demanded the makers of the Malayalam film *Haal* to remove several scenes from the films, including the one in which the characters are consuming beef biryani, for the film to be certified for exhibition.

Similar to the case of the film *JSK - Janaki Vs State of Kerala*, the movie *Haal*, starring Shane Nigam and Sakshi Vaidya, was initially cleared by the regional censor office but was held up by the officials at the CBFC headquarters in Mumbai.

The makers of the film *Haal* have postponed the release date twice, first to September 19 and later to October 10. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Filmmaker Veera told *The Hindu* that the producers had submitted the film for certification to the regional office here in the first week of September, with a plan to release it on September 10. Though the regional office conveyed that the film was as good as cleared, the makers were later told that the film had been sent to a revising committee.

Some of the scenes that were asked to be removed included the one in which a character uses a purdah to hide her identity, another in which a few characters wearing a *rakhi* usually used by Sangh Parivar activists on their wrists, a scene where a character says *Dhwaja Pranamam* (a greeting associated with the RSS), and a reference to 'Ganapathi Vattam' (the BJP had demanded that Sulthan Bathery's name be changed to Ganapathi Vattam).

"The CBFC officials made such strange demands, and even told us that they will give only 'A' certificate for the movie even if we make these changes. They are claiming that the film has a hidden agenda. The film stands for the idea of inter-religious marriage, in which the individuals will continue to follow their respective religion without converting," says Veera.

The makers of the film, with a budget of around ₹16 crore, have already postponed the release date twice, first to September 19 and later to October 10.

Moves HC
However, with the CBFC officials delaying the process, they approached the Kerala High Court, which on Thursday directed the Union government's counsel to make clear its stand during the next hearing on October 14.

- The **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** has demanded the makers of the **Malayalam film Haal** to remove several scenes from the films, including the one in which the characters are consuming **beef biryani**, for the film to be certified for exhibition.
  केंद्रीय फिल्म प्रमाणन बोर्ड (CBFC) ने **मलयालम फिल्म हाल** के निर्माताओं से फिल्म में से कई दृश्यों को हटाने की मांग की है, जिनमें वह दृश्य भी शामिल है जिसमें पात्र **बीफ बिरयानी** खाते हुए दिखाए गए हैं, ताकि फिल्म को प्रदर्शन के लिए प्रमाणित किया जा सके।

- Similar to the case of the film **JSK - Janaki Vs State of Kerala**, the movie **Haal**, starring **Shane Nigam** and **Sakshi Vaidya**, was initially cleared by the regional censor office but was held up by the officials at the **CBFC headquarters in Mumbai**.
  फिल्म **JSK - जानकी बनाम केरल राज्य** के मामले की तरह, **शेन निगम** और **साक्षी वैद्य** अभिनीत फिल्म **हाल** को शुरू में **क्षेत्रीय सेंसर कार्यालय** से मंजूरी मिली थी, लेकिन इसे **मुंबई स्थित CBFC मुख्यालय** में अधिकारियों द्वारा रोक दिया गया।

- Filmmaker **Veera** told *The Hindu* that the producers had submitted the film for certification to the **regional office** here in the first week of **September**, with a plan to release it on **September 10**.
  फिल्मकार **वीरा** ने *द हिंदू* को बताया कि निर्माताओं ने फिल्म को **सितंबर के पहले सप्ताह** में यहां के **क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय** में प्रमाणन के लिए जमा किया था, और इसे **10 सितंबर** को रिलीज़ करने की योजना थी।

- Though the regional office conveyed that the film was as good as cleared, the makers were later told that the film had been sent to a **revising committee**.
  हालांकि क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय ने सूचित किया था कि फिल्म लगभग मंजूर हो चुकी है, लेकिन बाद में निर्माताओं को बताया गया कि फिल्म को **संशोधन समिति** के पास भेजा गया है।

- Some of the scenes that were asked to be removed included the one in which a character uses a **purdah** to hide her identity, another in which a few characters wearing a **rakhi** usually used by **Sangh Parivar activists** on their wrists, a scene where a character says **Dhwaja Pranamam** (a greeting associated with the **RSS**), and a reference to **'Ganapathi Vattam'** (the **BJP** had demanded that **Sulthan Bathery's** name be changed to Ganapathi Vattam).
  कुछ ऐसे दृश्य जिन्हें हटाने के लिए कहा गया था, उनमें एक दृश्य शामिल है जिसमें एक पात्र अपनी पहचान छिपाने के लिए **पर्दा** पहनती है, दूसरा जिसमें कुछ पात्र अपनी कलाई पर **संघ परिवार कार्यकर्ताओं** द्वारा उपयोग की जाने वाली **राखी** पहनते हैं, एक दृश्य जिसमें एक पात्र **ध्वज प्रणामम** (जो **RSS** से जुड़ा अभिवादन है) कहता है, और **'गणपति वट्टम'** का संदर्भ है (**BJP** ने मांग की थी कि **सुल्तान बथेरी** का नाम बदलकर गणपति वट्टम किया जाए)।

- "The **CBFC officials** made such strange demands, and even told us that they will give only **'A' certificate** for the movie even if we make these changes. They are claiming that the film has a **hidden agenda**. The film stands for the idea of **inter-religious marriage**, in which the individuals will continue to follow their respective religion without converting," says **Veera**.
  "**CBFC अधिकारियों** ने ऐसी अजीब मांगें कीं, और यहां तक कि हमें बताया कि अगर हम ये बदलाव कर भी लें, तो भी वे फिल्म को केवल **'A' प्रमाणपत्र** देंगे। उनका दावा है कि फिल्म का एक **छिपा हुआ एजेंडा** है। फिल्म **अंतर-धार्मिक विवाह** के विचार का समर्थन करती है, जिसमें व्यक्ति बिना धर्म परिवर्तन किए अपने-अपने धर्म का पालन जारी रखेंगे," **वीरा** ने कहा।

- The makers of the film, with a budget of around **₹16 crore**, have already postponed the release date twice, first to **September 19** and later to **October 10**.
  लगभग **₹16 करोड़** के बजट वाली इस फिल्म के निर्माताओं ने पहले ही रिलीज़ की तारीख दो बार टाल दी है — पहले **19 सितंबर** और बाद में **10 अक्टूबर** तक।

Moves HC
हाई कोर्ट का रुख किया

- However, with the **CBFC officials** delaying the process, they approached the **Kerala High Court**, which on **Thursday** directed the **Union government's counsel** to make clear its stand during the next hearing on **October 14**.
  हालांकि **CBFC अधिकारियों** द्वारा प्रक्रिया में देरी किए जाने पर, वे **केरल उच्च न्यायालय** पहुंचे, जिसने **गुरुवार** को **केंद्र सरकार के वकील** को निर्देश दिया कि वह **14 अक्टूबर** को होने वाली अगली सुनवाई में अपना पक्ष स्पष्ट करे।

Judicial officers with seven years' experience in Bar can become District Judges: SC

GS II: Judiciary

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

In a bid to infuse young talent into the upper echelons of the district judiciary, a Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Thursday held that judicial officers with seven years in the Bar before their recruitment to the subordinate judicial service are entitled to be appointed as District or Additional District Judges.

District Judges are considered for appointment to the High Court. So far, only practising lawyers with seven years' experience were eligible for direct recruitment as District Judges. In-service judicial officers, even with seven years of previous practice as advocates, were not considered, leading to lack of drive, which the court observed may be one of the reasons for pendency in lower courts.

Chief Justice Gavai reasoned that a lawyer does not cease to be one upon joining the judicial service.

The court noted that no eligibility criteria are prescribed under Article 233 (2) for a person already in judicial service of the Union or the State for being appointed as District Judge. "A person who has been or who is in judicial service and has a combined experience of seven years or more as an advocate or a Judicial Officer would be eligible for being considered and appointed as a District Judge/Additional District Judge under Article 233 of the Constitution," the Bench held in its judgment.

Further, the Constitution Bench directed that the minimum age for being considered and appointed as a District Judge or Additional District Judge, both for advocates and judicial officers, would be 35 years as on the date of application.

Judicial officers with seven years' experience in Bar can become District Judges: SC
सात वर्ष के बार अनुभव वाले न्यायिक अधिकारी जिला न्यायाधीश बन सकते हैं: सर्वोच्च न्यायालय

- In a bid to infuse **young talent** into the **upper echelons of the district judiciary**, a **Constitution Bench** headed by **Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai** on **Thursday** held that **judicial officers with seven years in the Bar before their recruitment to the subordinate**

judicial service are entitled to be appointed as **District or Additional District Judges**.

जिला न्यायपालिका के उच्च स्तर में युवा प्रतिभा को शामिल करने के प्रयास में, **भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी. आर. गवई** की अध्यक्षता वाली **संविधान पीठ** ने **गुरुवार** को निर्णय दिया कि **न्यायिक सेवा में भर्ती से पहले बार में सात वर्षों का अनुभव रखने वाले न्यायिक अधिकारी जिला या अतिरिक्त जिला न्यायाधीश** के रूप में नियुक्त किए जाने के पात्र हैं।

- **District Judges** are considered for **appointment to the High Court**. So far, only **practising lawyers with seven years' experience** were eligible for **direct recruitment as District Judges**.

  जिला न्यायाधीशों को **उच्च न्यायालय में नियुक्ति** के लिए विचार किया जाता है। अब तक केवल **सात वर्ष के अनुभव वाले प्रैक्टिसिंग वकील** ही **प्रत्यक्ष भर्ती के माध्यम से जिला न्यायाधीश** बनने के पात्र थे।

- **In-service judicial officers**, even with seven years of previous practice as advocates, were not considered, leading to **lack of drive**, which the court observed may be one of the **reasons for pendency** in lower courts.

  सेवारत न्यायिक अधिकारियों को, भले ही उन्होंने **पहले वकालत में सात वर्ष का अनुभव** प्राप्त किया हो, विचार में नहीं लिया जाता था, जिससे **प्रेरणा की कमी** देखी गई, जिसे न्यायालय ने **निचली अदालतों में लंबित मामलों के एक कारण** के रूप में बताया।

- **Chief Justice Gavai** reasoned that a **lawyer does not cease to be one upon joining the judicial service**.

  मुख्य न्यायाधीश गवई ने तर्क दिया कि **एक वकील न्यायिक सेवा में शामिल होने के बाद भी वकील रहना बंद नहीं करता।**

- The court noted that **no eligibility criteria** are prescribed under **Article 233(2)** for a person already in **judicial service of the Union or the State** for being appointed as **District Judge**.

  न्यायालय ने यह उल्लेख किया कि **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 233(2)** के तहत **संघ या राज्य की न्यायिक सेवा में पहले से कार्यरत व्यक्ति** को **जिला न्यायाधीश** के रूप में नियुक्त करने के लिए **कोई पात्रता मानदंड** निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है।

- "A person who has been or who is in judicial service and has a **combined experience of seven years or more as an advocate or a Judicial Officer** would be eligible for being considered and appointed as a **District Judge/Additional District Judge** under **Article 233 of the Constitution**," the Bench held in its judgment.

  पीठ ने अपने निर्णय में कहा, "**जो व्यक्ति न्यायिक सेवा में रहा है या है और जिसके पास वकील या न्यायिक अधिकारी के रूप में सात वर्ष या उससे अधिक का संयुक्त अनुभव** है, वह **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 233** के तहत **जिला न्यायाधीश/अतिरिक्त जिला न्यायाधीश** के रूप में विचार और नियुक्ति के लिए पात्र होगा।"

- Further, the **Constitution Bench** directed that the **minimum age** for being considered and appointed as a **District Judge or Additional District Judge**, both for advocates and judicial officers, would be **35 years** as on the date of application.

  इसके अतिरिक्त, **संविधान पीठ** ने निर्देश दिया कि **वकीलों और न्यायिक अधिकारियों दोनों** के लिए **जिला न्यायाधीश या अतिरिक्त जिला न्यायाधीश** के रूप में विचार और नियुक्ति के लिए **न्यूनतम आयु आवेदन की तिथि पर 35 वर्ष** होगी।

Retrospective age limits under surrogacy law violate reproductive autonomy: SC

GS II: FR

Aaratrika Bhaumik

NEW DELHI

Observing that concerns over a couple's parenting abilities cannot be invoked retrospectively to restrict their reproductive choice, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the age limits under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, do not apply to couples who had frozen their embryos and initiated the surrogacy process before the law came into force on January 25, 2022.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and K.V. Viswanathan delivered concurring opinions while hearing applications filed by three couples who argued that they had created and preserved embryos long before the enactment of the 2021 law and were the-

Exemption will extend to cases where embryos were frozen before the Act came to effect.

refore, unfairly disqualified by the subsequent age limits.

Under the Act, an intending couple is eligible for surrogacy only if the woman is between 23 and 50 years of age and the man is between 26 and 55 years.

The petitioners contended that these limits

could not retrospectively disqualify those who had already completed the medical procedures culminating in embryo freezing.

Justice Nagarathna observed that the law should not draw a distinction between couples who conceive naturally and those who require medical assistance to do so.

The Bench clarified that it was not "questioning the wisdom of Parliament" in imposing age limits or examining the validity of those restrictions but was confined to the issue of their retrospective application.

It also held that the exemption would extend to cases where embryos were created and frozen before the commencement of the Act, even if implantation in the surrogate's womb had not yet taken place.

Retrospective age limits under surrogacy law violate reproductive autonomy: SC

सरोगेसी कानून के तहत पिछली तिथि से आयु सीमा प्रजनन स्वायत्तता का उल्लंघन करती है: सर्वोच्च न्यायालय

- Observing that concerns over a couple's **parenting abilities** cannot be invoked retrospectively to restrict their **reproductive choice**, the **Supreme Court** on **Thursday** ruled that the **age limits under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021**, do not apply to couples who had **frozen their embryos** and **initiated the surrogacy process** before the law came into force on **January 25, 2022**.

  यह देखते हुए कि किसी दंपति की **पालन-पोषण की क्षमता** से जुड़ी चिंताओं का उपयोग उनकी **प्रजनन पसंद**

को पिछली तिथि से सीमित करने के लिए नहीं किया जा सकता, **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने **गुरुवार** को फैसला सुनाया कि **सरोगेसी (विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2021** के तहत **आयु सीमाएँ** उन दंपतियों पर लागू नहीं होंगी जिन्होंने **अपने भ्रूणों को संरक्षित किया** था और **जनवरी 25, 2022** को कानून लागू होने से पहले **सरोगेसी प्रक्रिया शुरू की** थी।

- A **Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and K.V. Viswanathan** delivered **concurring opinions** while hearing applications filed by **three couples** who argued that they had **created and preserved embryos** long before the enactment of the 2021 law and were therefore, **unfairly disqualified** by the subsequent age limits.
  न्यायमूर्ति बी.वी. नागरत्ना और के.वी. विश्वनाथन की **पीठ** ने **तीन दंपतियों** द्वारा दायर याचिकाओं की सुनवाई करते हुए **समान राय** दी, जिन्होंने तर्क दिया कि उन्होंने **2021 के कानून के लागू होने से बहुत पहले भ्रूण बनाए और संरक्षित किए थे**, और इसलिए बाद में लगाई गई **आयु सीमाओं के कारण अनुचित रूप से अयोग्य घोषित** कर दिए गए।

- Under the Act, an **intending couple** is eligible for **surrogacy** only if the **woman is between 23 and 50 years of age** and the **man is between 26 and 55 years**.
  अधिनियम के तहत, कोई **इच्छुक दंपति** तभी **सरोगेसी** के लिए पात्र है जब **महिला की आयु 23 से 50 वर्ष** और **पुरुष की आयु 26 से 55 वर्ष** के बीच हो।

- The petitioners contended that these limits could not **retrospectively disqualify** those who had already completed the **medical procedures culminating in embryo freezing**.
  याचिकाकर्ताओं ने तर्क दिया कि ये सीमाएँ उन लोगों को **पिछली तिथि से अयोग्य नहीं ठहरा सकतीं** जिन्होंने पहले ही **भ्रूण संरक्षण तक की चिकित्सा प्रक्रियाएँ पूरी कर ली थीं।**

- **Justice Nagarathna** observed that the law should not draw a **distinction between couples** who **conceive naturally** and those who require **medical assistance** to do so.
  न्यायमूर्ति नागरत्ना ने कहा कि कानून को उन **दंपतियों के बीच भेदभाव नहीं करना चाहिए** जो **स्वाभाविक रूप से गर्भधारण करते हैं** और जो इसके लिए **चिकित्सकीय सहायता** की आवश्यकता रखते हैं।

- The **Bench** clarified that it was not "**questioning the wisdom of Parliament**" in imposing age limits or examining the validity of those restrictions but was confined to the issue of their **retrospective application**.
  पीठ ने स्पष्ट किया कि वह **आयु सीमाएँ लगाने में संसद की बुद्धिमत्ता पर सवाल नहीं उठा रही** है या उन प्रतिबंधों की वैधता की जांच नहीं कर रही है, बल्कि केवल उनके **पिछली तिथि से लागू होने के मुद्दे तक सीमित** है।

- It also held that the **exemption** would extend to cases where **embryos were created and frozen before the commencement of the Act**, even if **implantation in the surrogate's womb** had not yet taken place.
  इसने यह भी निर्णय दिया कि यह **छूट** उन मामलों पर भी लागू होगी जहाँ **अधिनियम लागू होने से पहले भ्रूण बनाए और संरक्षित किए गए थे**, भले ही **सरोगेट के गर्भाशय में प्रत्यारोपण** अभी तक नहीं हुआ हो।

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Prioritising mental health during emergencies is essential: experts

Very often, the mental health needs of people are grossly underestimated or misunderstood. This challenge is even worse for those caught in catastrophes or emergencies. At a time when populations and countries are facing multiple disasters and emergencies many brought about by climate change and conflict, experts raise the need to prioritise access to mental health services in emergency response.

This year's World Mental Health Day theme: "Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies" – highlights this urgency. The World Health Organization (WHO) points out: "crises such as natural disasters, conflicts, and public health emergencies cause emotional distress, with one in five individuals experiencing a mental health condition. One in five people (22%) who have experienced war or conflict in the previous 10 years has depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, the WHO said.

Lakshmi Vijayakumar, psychiatrist and founder of the SNEHA suicide prevention centre in Chennai, said there has been some progress in public mental health after crisis situations. "It was after the 2004 tsunami that people realised that once the physical needs of survivors were met, there is mental trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, loss and grief that needs to be addressed. Mental health services were ramped up after this, and integrated into the relief mechanism. A psychological first-aid protocol was developed," she said.

Mental health is an important component of any disaster, she pointed out. The COVID-19 pandemic brought this to the fore, affecting everyone in some way or the other – infected or not. "Isolation, fear, uncertainty and lack of communication affected people deeply and psychologically. It was after COVID-19 that the task force for mental health was formed," she noted.

Dr. Lakshmi emphasised that mental health, once equated with mental illness, is now better understood. It has a greater role in emergencies and crisis situations such as wars and man-made disasters. She also stressed the importance of addressing children's mental health as many may have been exposed to violence and trauma. "Nearly 80% of refugees live in low-and-middle income countries. Relief should include not only physical, but also mental and psychological support. Mental health components should be a part of the initial planning. It should be a package, and not a reactive process or after thought," she insisted.

Government response
P. Poorna Chandrika, professor of psychiatry, Institute of Mental Health (IMH), Chennai, recalled how IMH responded during the Gaja cyclone that hit Tamil Nadu in 2018. "A team from IMH that included psychiatrists and psychologists went to Pudukottai, one of the most affected districts, and identified people in distress and grief. We stayed there for two to three days and followed up with those needing mental health care," she said.

Physical needs such as shelter are met after a disaster, but mental health needs are most often neglected, she said, adding: "People could be in a state of shock, not knowing what to do. They could look for a support system during crisis situations. Along with a general medical team, a mental health support system should be put in place to work in coordination. They should be able to assess and identify persons with acute stress reactions, those requiring grief counselling, and other support," she said.

More efforts needed
Sivabalan Elangovan, consultant psychiatrist in Chennai, said that in crisis situations such as wars or disasters, efforts are first taken to restore all facilities. "Economy, health and stabilisation, in the case of war, are among the focus areas but the mental health of people in these zones is not looked at. The impact of crisis and emergencies on children and adolescents is long-term, and so, mental health services are crucial. Access to mental health services must be created on a priority basis in emergencies and

> In a country like India, decentralising mental health services must be the goal, to ensure availability and easy accessibility

catastrophes," he pointed out.

In a country like India, decentralising mental health services must be the goal, to ensure availability and easy accessibility, he stressed. "Mental health services are assumed to be a luxury, but they are essential." Dr. Sivabalan added.

Addressing accessibility
Being mentally healthy is essential for coping with any catastrophic situation, he said, adding: "We must ensure that mental health services are accessible during any emergency or catastrophe. With rising rates of unhealthy behaviours, substance abuse, violence, and non-communicable diseases, maintaining mental health is crucial. We need to actively promote discussions about mental health across all sectors to help remove stigma."

Dr. Lakshmi also referred to the WHO and Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines for mental health and psychosocial support in emergency settings. "This outlines how to offer psychological help to people during disasters, and it is important to practice them actively," she said.
(serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

Being mentally healthy is essential for coping with any catastrophic situation, say experts. They also highlight the need for accessible mental health services during emergencies or disasters. AP

Prioritising mental health during emergencies is essential: experts
आपातकाल के दौरान मानसिक स्वास्थ्य को प्राथमिकता देना आवश्यक है: विशेषज्ञ

- Very often, the **mental health needs** of people are grossly underestimated or misunderstood. This challenge is even worse for those caught in **catastrophes** or **emergencies**.
  अक्सर, लोगों की **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य आवश्यकताओं** को बहुत कम आंका जाता है या गलत समझा जाता है। यह चुनौती उन लोगों के लिए और भी गंभीर है जो **प्राकृतिक आपदाओं** या **आपातकालीन स्थितियों** में फंस जाते हैं।

- At a time when populations and countries are facing multiple **disasters** and **emergencies** many brought about by **climate change** and conflict, experts raise the need to prioritise access to **mental health services** in **emergency responses**.
  ऐसे समय में जब जनसंख्या और देश कई **आपदाओं** और **आपातकालीन स्थितियों** का सामना कर रहे हैं, जिनमें से कई **जलवायु परिवर्तन** और संघर्ष के कारण हैं, विशेषज्ञ **आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया** में **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** तक पहुंच को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता बताते हैं।

- This year's **World Mental Health Day** theme: "**Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies**" — highlights this urgency.
  इस वर्ष का **विश्व मानसिक स्वास्थ्य दिवस** का विषय: "**सेवाओं तक पहुंच: आपदाओं और आपातकालीन स्थितियों में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य**" — इस आपातकालीन आवश्यकता को उजागर करता है।

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** points out: "**crises** such as natural disasters, conflicts, and public health emergencies cause **emotional distress**, with one in five individuals experiencing a **mental health condition**.
  विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) यह बताता है: "**आपदाएँ** जैसे प्राकृतिक आपदाएं, संघर्ष और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य आपातकाल **भावनात्मक तनाव** उत्पन्न करते हैं, जिसमें हर पांचवें व्यक्ति को **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समस्या** होती है।

- One in five people (22%) who have experienced **war** or conflict in the previous 10 years has **depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder** or **schizophrenia**, the WHO said.
  पिछले 10 वर्षों में जिन्होंने **युद्ध** या संघर्ष का अनुभव किया है, उनमें से हर पांचवें व्यक्ति (22%) में **अवसाद, चिंता, पोस्ट-ट्रॉमेटिक स्ट्रेस डिसऑर्डर, बायपोलर डिसऑर्डर** या **सिज़ोफ्रेनिया** है, WHO ने कहा।

- **Lakshmi Vijayakumar**, psychiatrist and founder of the **SNEHA suicide prevention centre** in Chennai, said there has been some progress in **public mental health** after **crisis situations**.
  लक्ष्मी विजयकुमार, मनोचिकित्सक और चेन्नई में **SNEHA आत्महत्या रोकथाम केंद्र** की संस्थापक, ने कहा कि **संकटपूर्ण स्थितियों** के बाद **सार्वजनिक मानसिक स्वास्थ्य** में कुछ प्रगति हुई है।

- "It was after the **2004 tsunami** that people realised that once the **physical needs** of survivors were met, there is **mental trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, loss and grief** that needs to be addressed. Mental health services were ramped up after this, and integrated into the **relief mechanism**. A **psychological first-aid protocol** was developed," she said.
  "यह **2004 के सुनामी** के बाद था कि लोगों ने महसूस किया कि एक बार जीवित बचे लोगों की **शारीरिक जरूरतों** को पूरा करने के बाद, **मानसिक आघात, पोस्ट-ट्रॉमेटिक स्ट्रेस डिसऑर्डर, हानि और शोक** का समाधान किया जाना चाहिए। इसके बाद मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को बढ़ाया गया और **राहत तंत्र** में एकीकृत किया गया। एक **मनोवैज्ञानिक प्राथमिक चिकित्सा प्रोटोकॉल** विकसित किया गया," उन्होंने कहा।

- Mental health is an important component of any **disaster**, she pointed out. The **COVID-19 pandemic** brought this to the fore, affecting everyone in some way or the other — infected or not.
  उन्होंने बताया कि मानसिक स्वास्थ्य किसी भी **आपदा** का एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक है। **COVID-19 महामारी** ने इसे सामने लाया, जिसने सभी को किसी न किसी रूप में प्रभावित किया — संक्रमित हो या न हों।

- "**Isolation, fear, uncertainty and lack of communication** affected people deeply and psychologically. It was after **COVID-19** that the **task force for mental health** was formed," she noted.
  "**अलगाव, भय, अनिश्चितता और संचार की कमी** ने लोगों को गहराई से और मानसिक रूप से प्रभावित किया। **COVID-19** के बाद ही **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यबल** का गठन किया गया," उन्होंने नोट किया।

- Dr. Lakshmi emphasised that mental health, once equated with **mental illness**, is now better understood. It has a greater role in **emergencies** and **crisis situations** such as wars and **man-made disasters**.
  डॉ. लक्ष्मी ने जोर दिया कि मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, जिसे कभी **मानसिक बीमारी** के साथ समान माना जाता था, अब बेहतर समझा जाता है। इसका **आपातकालीन** और **संकटपूर्ण स्थितियों** जैसे युद्ध और **मानव निर्मित आपदाओं** में अधिक महत्व है।

- She also stressed the importance of addressing **children's mental health** as many may have been exposed to **violence** and **trauma**.
  उन्होंने यह भी जोर दिया कि **बच्चों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य** को संबोधित करना महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि कई लोग **हिंसा** और **आघात** के संपर्क में आए हो सकते हैं।

- "Nearly 80% of **refugees** live in **low-and-middle income countries**. Relief should include not only **physical**, but also **mental and psychological support**. Mental health components should be a part of the **initial planning**. It should be a **package**, and not a **reactive process** or afterthought," she insisted.
  "लगभग 80% **शरणार्थी कम और मध्यम आय वाले देशों** में रहते हैं। राहत में केवल **शारीरिक**, बल्कि **मानसिक और मनोवैज्ञानिक समर्थन** भी शामिल होना चाहिए। मानसिक स्वास्थ्य घटक **प्रारंभिक योजना** का हिस्सा होना चाहिए। यह एक **पैकेज** होना चाहिए, न कि **प्रतिक्रियात्मक प्रक्रिया** या बाद की सोच," उन्होंने जोर दिया।

Government response
सरकारी प्रतिक्रिया

- P. Poorna Chandrika, professor of psychiatry, **Institute of Mental Health (IMH), Chennai**, recalled how **IMH** responded during the **Gaja cyclone** that hit Tamil Nadu in **2018**.
  पी. पूर्णा चंद्रिका, मनोचिकित्सक और **इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मेंटल हेल्थ (IMH), चेन्नई**, ने याद किया कि **2018** में तमिलनाडु में आए **गजा चक्रवात** के दौरान **IMH** ने कैसे प्रतिक्रिया दी।

- "A team from **IMH** that included **psychiatrists** and **psychologists** went to **Pudukottai**, one of the most affected districts, and identified people in **distress and grief**. We stayed there for two to three days and followed up with those needing **mental health care**," she said.
  "**IMH** की एक टीम जिसमें **मनोचिकित्सक** और **मनोवैज्ञानिक** शामिल थे, **पुडुकोट्टई** गई, जो सबसे अधिक प्रभावित जिलों में से एक था, और वहां **संकट और शोक** में लोगों की पहचान की। हम वहां दो से तीन दिन रुके और उन लोगों के साथ फॉलो-अप किया जिन्हें **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल** की आवश्यकता थी," उसने कहा।

- Physical needs such as **shelter** are met after a **disaster**, but **mental health needs** are most often neglected, she said, adding: "People could be in a **state of shock**, not knowing what to do. They could look for a **support system** during **crisis situations**. Along with a **general medical team**, a **mental health support system** should be put in place to work in coordination. They should be able to assess and identify persons with **acute stress reactions**, those requiring **grief counselling**, and other **support**," she said.

उन्होंने कहा कि **आपदा** के बाद **आश्रय** जैसी भौतिक आवश्यकताएं पूरी होती हैं, लेकिन **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य आवश्यकताओं** की अक्सर अनदेखी की जाती है, उन्होंने जोड़ा: "लोग **शॉक की स्थिति** में हो सकते हैं, यह न जानते हुए कि क्या करना है। वे **संकट स्थितियों** में एक **समर्थन प्रणाली** ढूंढ सकते हैं। एक **सामान्य चिकित्सा टीम** के साथ, एक **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समर्थन प्रणाली** स्थापित की जानी चाहिए जो समन्वय में काम करे। उन्हें **तीव्र तनाव प्रतिक्रियाओं** वाले व्यक्तियों, जिन्हें **शोक परामर्श** की आवश्यकता है, और अन्य **समर्थन** की पहचान और मूल्यांकन करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए," उन्होंने कहा।

More efforts needed
अधिक प्रयासों की आवश्यकता

- Sivabalan Elangovan, consultant psychiatrist in Chennai, said that in **crisis situations** such as **wars** or **disasters**, efforts are first taken to restore all **facilities**.
सिवाबालन एलेन्गोवन, चेन्नई में सलाहकार मनोचिकित्सक, ने कहा कि **संकट स्थितियों** जैसे **युद्ध** या **आपदाओं** में, सभी **सुविधाओं** को पुनर्स्थापित करने के लिए पहले प्रयास किए जाते हैं।
- "**Economy, health and stabilisation**, in the case of **war**, are among the focus areas but the **mental health** of people in these zones is not looked into. The impact of **crisis** and **emergencies** on **children and adolescents** is long-term, and so, **mental health services** are crucial. Access to **mental health services** must be created on a **priority basis** in **emergencies** and **catastrophes**," he pointed out.
"**अर्थव्यवस्था, स्वास्थ्य और स्थिरीकरण**, युद्ध के मामले में, ध्यान केंद्रित क्षेत्रों में शामिल हैं लेकिन इन क्षेत्रों में लोगों के **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य** की देखभाल नहीं की जाती। **संकट** और **आपातकालीन स्थितियों** का **बच्चों और किशोरों** पर दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव होता है, इसलिए **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ** महत्वपूर्ण हैं। **आपातकाल** और **आपदाओं** में **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** तक **प्राथमिकता** के आधार पर पहुंच बनाई जानी चाहिए," उन्होंने बताया।
- In a country like India, **decentralising mental health services** must be the goal, to ensure **availability** and easy **accessibility**, he stressed. "**Mental health services** are assumed to be a **luxury**, but they are essential," Dr. Sivabalan added.
भारत जैसे देश में, **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का विकेंद्रीकरण** लक्ष्य होना चाहिए, ताकि **उपलब्धता** और आसान **पहुंच** सुनिश्चित हो सके, उन्होंने जोर दिया। "**मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** को एक **लक्ज़री** माना जाता है, लेकिन वे आवश्यक हैं," डॉ. सिवाबालन ने जोड़ा।

Addressing accessibility
पहुँच को सुनिश्चित करना

- Being **mentally healthy** is essential for coping with any **catastrophic situation**, he said, adding: "We must ensure that **mental health services** are accessible during any **emergency** or **catastrophe**.
किसी भी **आपदा स्थिति** से निपटने के लिए **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य** आवश्यक है, उन्होंने कहा, उन्होंने जोड़ा: "हमें सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए

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What are the various electoral forms?

What is Form 6 used for in the context of electoral rolls? How can Overseas Electors register to vote? Which forms are used to raise objections or request corrections? What should citizens do to ensure their names are correctly included in the electoral rolls?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

The Election Commission (EC) has just concluded the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. It proposes to roll it out in other States in a phased manner.

What is the current significance?
Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act), deals with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. A summary revision is carried out before each general election or by-election in any constituency. The RP Act also authorises the EC to carry out a special revision of the electoral roll at any time.

The EC, through its order dated June 24, had decided to conduct SIR for the entire country. Since the Bihar Assembly elections are due in November, the Commission issued guidelines for the SIR of the Bihar electoral roll, with July 1 as the qualifying date.

The SIR process in Bihar involved submission of enumeration forms by all registered voters, submission of any eligible documents to prove citizenship (for electors registered after 2003), publication of draft electoral rolls based on forms submitted, a period for filing claims and objections, verification and disposal of claims and objections by the Electoral Registration Officers (ERO), and publication of final roll.

The SIR process was challenged in the Supreme Court. In its interim orders, the court had directed the EC to accept Aadhaar as one of the eligible documents to be submitted along with the enumeration forms as proof of identity. The final roll for Bihar was released by the EC on September 30. The Commission proposes to complete the SIR process for the entire country in a phased manner based on the Assembly election schedules

Various forms with respect to electoral rolls as per RER

Form Number	Description
Form 6	Application to be submitted by new voters to be registered as an elector. As per section 13 of the RP Act, the qualifying dates for completion of 18 years of age, are 1st day of January, April, July and October of the year to which the electoral roll is prepared or revised.
Form 6A	Form for inclusion by an Overseas Elector. Non-Resident Indians who have shifted out of India, on account of education, employment or otherwise, can register as an elector in the constituency in which their address as per passport is located.
Form 7	Objection for proposed inclusion/deletion of name from existing roll. This form can be filed by a registered elector in a constituency in respect of any other registered elector or proposed inclusion in roll or for deletion of applicant's own name.
Form 8	Form for shifting residence/correction of entries. This form can be filed by a registered elector for shifting of residence or correction of entries.
Form 9	Notice of publication of draft electoral roll by the ERO.
Form 9	List of applications for inclusion of names received in Form 6.
Form 10	List of applications for objection to inclusion of names received in Form 7.
Form 11	List of objections/applications for correction of entries received in Form 8.
Form 11A	List of applications for shifting of address within the constituency received in Form 8.
Form 11B	List of applications for shifting of address outside the constituency received in Form 8.

*Forms 9 to 11B are prepared and published by the ERO

Field work: A Booth Level Officer checks documents during the special intensive revision of the electoral roll, Araria district, Bihar, on July 8. Shashi Shekhar Kashyap

THE GIST

The Election Commission conducted a special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, starting with Bihar, requiring voters to submit enumeration forms and proof of identity.

Citizens should verify draft rolls, submit the relevant forms if they are new voters or have migrated, and seek assistance from political parties and civil society to ensure clean electoral rolls without compromising the right to vote.

for various States.

What are the various forms?
In the present context, it is important for citizens to be aware of the various forms that deal with electoral rolls. These forms are provided in the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (RER). A brief summary of all the important forms as per RER is provided in the Table given above. It also contains detailed guidelines for filling out the application with respect to each of these forms.

What should citizens do?
There are political arguments both for and against the SIR exercise as carried out in Bihar. However, clean electoral rolls are paramount for the conduct of free and

Citizens should ensure that they verify the published draft rolls. They should fill out the enumeration forms as required. New voters and electors who have migrated to different constituencies should fill out the relevant forms

fair elections, which is essential for our functioning democracy. The EC would hopefully devise a more spread-out schedule in future SIRs that provides adequate time for hassle-free participation by voters. The list of eligible documents is also likely to include Aadhaar as proof of identity, in

subsequent SIRs as per the Supreme Court directive.

Meanwhile, citizens should ensure that they verify the published draft rolls. They should fill out the enumeration forms as required.

New voters and electors who have migrated to different constituencies should fill out the relevant forms. Political parties and civil society groups should assist citizens, especially the most marginalised sections, throughout the process. This would ensure a clean electoral roll without compromising on the right to vote of every eligible citizen.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS academy. Views expressed are personal

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What are the various electoral forms?
विभिन्न निर्वाचन फॉर्म क्या हैं?

What is Form 6 used for in the context of electoral rolls?
निर्वाचन रोल के संदर्भ में फॉर्म 6 का उपयोग किस लिए किया जाता है?
How can Overseas Electors register to vote?
विदेश में रहने वाले मतदाता मतदान के लिए कैसे पंजीकरण कर सकते हैं?
Which forms are used to raise objections or request corrections?
आपत्तियाँ उठाने या सुधार के लिए कौन से फॉर्म उपयोग किए जाते हैं?
What should citizens do to ensure their names are correctly included in the electoral rolls?
नागरिकों को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या करना चाहिए कि उनके नाम सही ढंग से निर्वाचन रोल में शामिल हैं?

- The **Election Commission (EC)** has just concluded the **special intensive revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in Bihar.
  चुनाव आयोग (EC) ने अभी बिहार में निर्वाचन रोल का **विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR)** पूरा किया है।
- It proposes to roll it out in other **States** in a phased manner.
  यह इसे अन्य **राज्यों** में क्रमिक तरीके से लागू करने का प्रस्ताव करता है।
- **What is the current significance?**
  वर्तमान महत्व क्या है?
- Section 21 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act)**, deals with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
  प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 (RP Act) की धारा 21, निर्वाचन रोल की तैयारी और संशोधन से संबंधित है।

- A **summary revision** is carried out before each general election or by-election in any constituency.
  किसी भी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में प्रत्येक आम चुनाव या उपचुनाव से पहले **सारांश संशोधन** किया जाता है।
- The RP Act also authorises the EC to carry out a **special revision** of the electoral roll at any time.
  RP अधिनियम EC को किसी भी समय निर्वाचन रोल का **विशेष संशोधन** करने का अधिकार भी देता है।
- The EC, through its order dated **June 24**, had decided to conduct **SIR** for the entire country.
  EC ने अपनी **24 जून** की आदेश के माध्यम से पूरे देश में **SIR** करने का निर्णय लिया था।
- Since the Bihar Assembly elections are due in **November**, the Commission issued guidelines for the SIR of the Bihar electoral roll, with **July 1** as the qualifying date.
  चूंकि बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव **नवंबर** में होने हैं, आयोग ने बिहार निर्वाचन रोल के SIR के लिए दिशानिर्देश जारी किए, जिसमें **1 जुलाई** को योग्यता की तारीख तय की गई।
- The SIR process in Bihar involved **submission of enumeration forms** by all registered voters, submission of any eligible documents to prove **citizenship** (for electors registered after 2003), publication of **draft electoral rolls** based on forms submitted, a period for **filing claims and objections**, verification and disposal of claims and objections by the **Electoral Registration Officers (ERO)**, and publication of **final roll**.
  बिहार में SIR प्रक्रिया में सभी पंजीकृत मतदाताओं द्वारा **गणना फॉर्म जमा करना**, **नागरिकता** प्रमाणित करने के लिए किसी भी पात्र दस्तावेज़ का जमा करना (2003 के बाद पंजीकृत मतदाताओं के लिए), जमा किए गए फॉर्म के आधार पर **प्रारूप निर्वाचन रोल** प्रकाशित करना, **दावे और आपत्तियाँ दर्ज करने** की अवधि, **चुनाव पंजीकरण अधिकारी (ERO)** द्वारा दावे और आपत्तियों का सत्यापन और निपटान, और **अंतिम रोल** प्रकाशित करना शामिल था।
- The SIR process was challenged in the **Supreme Court**.
  SIR प्रक्रिया को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में चुनौती दी गई थी।
- In its interim orders, the court had directed the EC to accept **Aadhaar** as one of the eligible documents to be submitted along with the **enumeration forms** as proof of **identity**.
  अपने अंतरिम आदेशों में, अदालत ने EC को निर्देश दिया कि वह **गणना फॉर्म** के साथ प्रस्तुत किए जाने वाले पात्र दस्तावेजों में से एक के रूप में **आधार** को पहचान के प्रमाण के रूप में स्वीकार करे।
- The **final roll** for Bihar was released by the EC on **September 30**.
  बिहार के लिए **अंतिम रोल** EC द्वारा **30 सितंबर** को जारी किया गया।
- The Commission proposes to complete the SIR process for the entire country in a phased manner based on the **Assembly election schedules** for various States.
  आयोग विभिन्न राज्यों के **विधानसभा चुनाव कार्यक्रम** के आधार पर पूरे देश में SIR प्रक्रिया को क्रमिक रूप से पूरा करने का प्रस्ताव करता है।

What are the various forms?
विभिन्न फॉर्म कौन से हैं?

- In the present context, it is important for citizens to be aware of the various forms that deal with **electoral rolls**.
  वर्तमान संदर्भ में, नागरिकों के लिए यह जानना महत्वपूर्ण है कि कौन से विभिन्न फॉर्म **निर्वाचन रोल** से संबंधित हैं।
- These forms are provided in the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (RER)**.
  ये फॉर्म **मतदाता पंजीकरण नियम, 1960 (RER)** में दिए गए हैं।
- A brief summary of all the important forms as per RER is provided in the **Table** given above.
  RER के अनुसार सभी महत्वपूर्ण फॉर्म का संक्षिप्त सारांश ऊपर दिए गए **तालिका** में दिया गया है।
- It also contains detailed **guidelines** for filling out the application with respect to each of these forms.
  इसमें प्रत्येक फॉर्म के संबंध में आवेदन भरने के लिए विस्तृत **दिशानिर्देश** भी शामिल हैं।

What should citizens do?
नागरिकों को क्या करना चाहिए?

- There are political arguments both for and against the SIR exercise as carried out in Bihar.
  बिहार में किए गए SIR अभ्यास के पक्ष और विपक्ष में राजनीतिक तर्क हैं।

- However, **clean electoral rolls** are paramount for the conduct of **free and fair elections**, which is essential for our functioning democracy.
  हालांकि, **साफ-सुथरे निर्वाचन रोल मुक्त और निष्पक्ष चुनाव** आयोजित करने के लिए सर्वोपरि हैं, जो हमारे लोकतंत्र के लिए आवश्यक है।

- The EC would hopefully devise a more **spread-out schedule** in future SIRs that provides adequate **time** for hassle-free participation by voters.
  आशा है कि EC भविष्य में SIR में अधिक **विस्तृत कार्यक्रम** तैयार करेगा जो मतदाताओं के लिए आसान भागीदारी के लिए पर्याप्त **समय** प्रदान करेगा।

- The list of eligible **documents** is also likely to include **Aadhaar** as proof of **identity**, in subsequent SIRs as per the **Supreme Court directive**.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश के अनुसार, आगामी SIR में पात्र **दस्तावेज़ों** की सूची में **पहचान प्रमाण** के रूप में **आधार** भी शामिल होने की संभावना है।

- Meanwhile, citizens should ensure that they **verify the published draft rolls**.
  इस बीच, नागरिकों को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि वे **प्रकाशित प्रारूप रोल** की **सत्यापन** करें।

- They should fill out the **enumeration forms** as required.
  उन्हें आवश्यकतानुसार **गणना फॉर्म** भरना चाहिए।

- New voters and electors who have migrated to different **constituencies** should fill out the relevant forms.
  नए मतदाता और मतदाता जो विभिन्न **निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों** में चले गए हैं, उन्हें संबंधित फॉर्म भरने चाहिए।

- Political parties and **civil society groups** should assist citizens, especially the most **marginalised sections**, throughout the process.
  राजनीतिक पार्टियों और **सिविल सोसायटी समूहों** को नागरिकों, विशेष रूप से सबसे **सीमांत वर्गों**, को पूरे प्रक्रिया के दौरान सहायता करनी चाहिए।

- This would ensure a **clean electoral roll** without compromising on the **right to vote** of every eligible citizen.
  यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि हर पात्र नागरिक के **मतदान अधिकार** से समझौता किए बिना **साफ-सुथरे निर्वाचन रोल** हों।

BRUSSELS

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen survives 2 no-confidence motions

GS II: International Groupings

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday survived two no-confidence motions from far-right and left groups, with 378 and 383 votes supporting her. Though the motions stood no real chance of unseating her, some lawmakers said they could expose more general disquiet over her leadership. REUTERS

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen survives 2 no-confidence motions
EU प्रमुख उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन ने 2 अविश्वास प्रस्तावों को पारित किया

- European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** on Thursday survived two **no-confidence motions** from far-right and left groups, with **378 and 383 votes** supporting her.
  यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन ने गुरुवार को दक्षिणपंथी और वामपंथी समूहों के दो अविश्वास प्रस्तावों को पारित किया, जिसमें उनके समर्थन में 378 और 383 वोट आए।

- Though the motions stood no real chance of unseating her, some lawmakers said they could expose more general disquiet over her **leadership**.
  हालांकि इन प्रस्तावों के उनके पद से हटाने की कोई वास्तविक संभावना नहीं थी, कुछ सांसदों का कहना था कि ये उनके नेतृत्व को लेकर व्यापक असंतोष को उजागर कर सकते हैं।

PORT SUDAN

Sudan paramilitary strike on mosque kills 13 in El-Fasher

GS II: IR

An artillery attack by Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) killed 13 people in a mosque where displaced families were sheltering in the besieged city of El-Fasher, two eyewitnesses said on Thursday. The RSF's current assault on El-Fasher is its fiercest since war began with the army in April 2023. AFP

Sudan paramilitary strike on mosque kills 13 in El-Fasher

सूडान अर्धसैनिक हमले में एल-फाशर की मस्जिद में 13 की मौत

- An artillery attack by Sudan's paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** killed **13 people** in a mosque where displaced families were sheltering in the besieged city of **El-Fasher**, two eyewitnesses said on Thursday.

सूडान की अर्धसैनिक रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्सेज (RSF) के एक तोपखाने हमले में 13 लोग मारे गए, जो एल-फाशर के घिरे शहर में एक मस्जिद में शरण ले चुके थे, दो प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों ने गुरुवार को बताया।

- The RSF's current assault on **El-Fasher** is its fiercest since war began with the army in **April 2023**.

RSF का वर्तमान हमला एल-फाशर पर सबसे भयंकर है, तब से जब से सेना के साथ युद्ध अप्रैल 2023 में शुरू हुआ।

GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, &IS

TOPICS COVERED   10_10_2025

1. **India will buy U.K. missiles for £350 mn**
   भारत £350 मिलियन में यू.के. से मिसाइल खरीदेगा
2. **Army inducts 'Saksham' to neutralise aerial threats**
   सेना ने हवाई खतरों को निष्क्रिय करने के लिए 'सक्षम' को शामिल किया
3. **India to launch 'Red List' survey to assess extinction risks to plants and animals**
   भारत पौधों और जानवरों के विलुप्त होने के जोखिम का आकलन करने के लिए 'रेड लिस्ट' सर्वेक्षण शुरू करने जा रहा है
4. **Why we need to change the way we talk about antibiotic resistance**
   हमें एंटीबायोटिक प्रतिरोध के बारे में बात करने का तरीका क्यों बदलना चाहिए
5. **Tusks and tensions**
   दांत और तनाव
6. **Why are T.N. food outlets opting for a new delivery partner?**
   टी.एन. के फूड आउटलेट नए डिलीवरी पार्टनर को क्यों चुन रहे हैं?
7. **The curious history of how quantum mechanics came to be 'seen' in an electrical circuit**
   क्वांटम मैकेनिक्स को एक विद्युत सर्किट में 'देखा' जाने का जिज्ञासु इतिहास

India will buy U.K. missiles for £350 mn

■ The U.K. govt. says as many as 64 Indian firms have committed to invest £1.3 billion in Britain

■ Modi and Keir Starmer agree on a £250-million deal on electric-powered engines for Naval ships

The Universities of Lancaster and Surrey receive approval to open campuses in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has signed a £350-million defence deal with the U.K. to buy missiles for the Indian army, the British government said on Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his U.K. counterpart, Keir Starmer, also agreed to take forward their collaboration on electric-powered engines for Naval ships, worth an initial £250 million.

In a separate release, the U.K. government said 64 Indian companies had so far committed to invest £1.3 billion (or ₹15,430 crore) in the U.K., a sign of the growing business confidence boosted by the India-U.K. trade deal.

U.K. varsities in India
The Indian government has not shared similar data on investment commitments by U.K. companies in India.

However, the U.K. government also said that the University of Lancaster and the University of Surrey had been given approval to open campuses in India to help meet booming demand from Indian students.

The missile deal paves the way for a "broader complex weapons partnership" between the U.K. and India, which is currently under negotiation between the two governments, the U.K. government said in its statement.

"The contract is set to deliver U.K.-manufactured Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM) built in Belfast to the Indian Army, delivering on the Government's Plan for Change in another significant boost for the U.K. defence industry," it said.

"A new milestone has also been reached in the U.K. and India's cooperation on electric-powered engines for naval ships as both countries signed the Implementing Arrangement to advance collaboration to the next stage, worth an initial £250 million," it added.

"Nearly 7,000 brand new jobs will be created in the United Kingdom thanks to a raft of major new deals secured by the Prime Minister during his visit to India this week," the U.K. government said. "As a result, Indian investment will flow into a range of U.K. sectors including engineering, technology and the creative industries, driving jobs across every region of the country - from Basingstoke to Birmingham," it added.

Among the major investment announcements are

'India-U.K. ties an important pillar of global stability'

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who welcomed his U.K. counterpart Keir Starmer on Thursday, said the India-U.K. partnership was an "important pillar of global stability" in the current turbulent global scenario. Both the Prime Ministers also gave a joint call for a "two-state solution" to end the Israel-Palestine conflict. ⏵ PAGE 6

TVS Motor's plan to invest £250 million in Solihull to expand its Norton Motorcycles operations and develop next-generation electric vehicles.

"Engineering company Cyient is investing £100 million to boost innovation in semiconductors, geospatial tech, mobility, clean energy, and digital domains - creating 300 U.K. jobs and strengthening its long-standing presence in the country," the release said.

Muthoot Finance UK Limited, a part of the Muthoot Group, plans to invest £100 million to expand its branch network to 20 locations in the U.K. Hero Motors plans to invest £100 million in the U.K. over the next five years in its e-mobility, e-bicycles and aerospace divisions.

The Hindu has reached out to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for details on investment announcements by U.K. companies in India.

On the first day of Mr. Starmer's visit to India, Rolls-Royce CEO Tufan Erginbilgic said that his company has "deep ambitions to develop India as a home for Rolls-Royce".

Building cooperation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

India will buy U.K. missiles for £350 mn
भारत £350 मिलियन में यू.के. से मिसाइल खरीदेगा

- India has signed a **£350-million defence deal** with the **U.K.** to buy missiles for the Indian army, the British government said on Thursday.

भारत ने **£350 मिलियन का रक्षा समझौता यू.के.** के साथ किया है ताकि भारतीय सेना के लिए मिसाइलें खरीदी जा सकें, यह बात ब्रिटिश सरकार ने गुरुवार को कही।

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his **U.K. counterpart Keir Starmer**, also agreed to take forward their collaboration on **electric-powered engines for Naval ships**, worth an initial **£250 million**.
  प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** और उनके **यू.के. समकक्ष कीर स्टार्मर** ने **नेवल जहाजों के लिए इलेक्ट्रिक-पावर्ड इंजनों** पर अपने सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने पर भी सहमति जताई, जिसकी प्रारंभिक कीमत **£250 मिलियन** है।

- In a separate release, the **U.K. government** said **64 Indian companies** had so far committed to invest **£1.3 billion (or ₹15,430 crore)** in the U.K., a sign of the growing business confidence boosted by the **India-U.K. trade deal**.
  एक अलग विज्ञप्ति में, **यू.के. सरकार** ने कहा कि अब तक **64 भारतीय कंपनियों** ने **£1.3 बिलियन (या ₹15,430 करोड़)** निवेश करने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई है, जो **भारत-यू.के. व्यापार समझौते** से बढ़ते व्यावसायिक विश्वास का संकेत है।

U.K. varsities in India
भारत में यू.के. विश्वविद्यालय

- The Indian government has not shared similar data on investment commitments by **U.K. companies in India**.
  भारतीय सरकार ने **भारत में यू.के. कंपनियों के निवेश प्रतिबद्धताओं** पर इसी तरह का डेटा साझा नहीं किया है।

- However, the **U.K. government** also said that the **University of Lancaster** and the **University of Surrey** had been given approval to open campuses in India to help meet booming demand from **Indian students**.
  हालांकि, **यू.के. सरकार** ने यह भी कहा कि **लैंकेस्टर विश्वविद्यालय** और **सरे विश्वविद्यालय** को भारत में अपने कैंपस खोलने की मंजूरी दी गई है ताकि **भारतीय छात्रों** से बढ़ती मांग को पूरा किया जा सके।

- The missile deal paves the way for a **broader complex weapons partnership** between the **U.K. and India**, which is currently under negotiation between the two governments, the U.K. government said in its statement.
  यह मिसाइल समझौता **यू.के. और भारत** के बीच **व्यापक जटिल हथियार साझेदारी** का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है, जो वर्तमान में दोनों सरकारों के बीच बातचीत में है, ऐसा **यू.के. सरकार** ने अपने बयान में कहा।

- "The contract is set to deliver **U.K.-manufactured Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM)** built in **Belfast** to the **Indian Army**, delivering on the Government's **Plan for Change** in another significant boost for the **U.K. defence industry**," it said.
  "यह अनुबंध **यू.के. निर्मित लाइटवेट मल्टीरोल मिसाइलें (LMM)** जो **बेलफास्ट** में बनाई गई हैं, **भारतीय सेना** को प्रदान करने के लिए तैयार है, जो सरकार की **परिवर्तन योजना** के तहत **यू.के. रक्षा उद्योग** को एक और महत्वपूर्ण प्रोत्साहन देगा," ऐसा कहा गया।

- "A new milestone has also been reached in the **U.K. and India's cooperation** on **electric-powered engines for naval ships** as both countries signed the **Implementing Arrangement** to advance collaboration to the next stage, worth an initial **£250 million**," it added.
  "**यू.के. और भारत के सहयोग** में **नेवल जहाजों के लिए इलेक्ट्रिक-पावर्ड इंजनों** पर भी एक नया मील का पत्थर हासिल किया गया है क्योंकि दोनों देशों ने सहयोग को अगले चरण तक ले जाने के लिए **इम्प्लीमेंटिंग अरेंजमेंट** पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, जिसकी प्रारंभिक कीमत **£250 मिलियन** है," इसमें जोड़ा गया।

- "Nearly **7,000 brand new jobs** will be created in the **United Kingdom** thanks to a raft of major new deals secured by the **Prime Minister** during his visit to India this week," the **U.K. government** said.
  "इस सप्ताह भारत की यात्रा के दौरान **प्रधानमंत्री** द्वारा किए गए प्रमुख नए समझौतों की बदौलत **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** में लगभग **7,000 नए रोजगार** सृजित होंगे," ऐसा **यू.के. सरकार** ने कहा।

- "As a result, **Indian investment** will flow into a range of sectors including **spatial tech, mobility, clean energy, and digital domains** — creating **300 U.K. jobs** and strengthening its long-standing presence in the country," the release said.
  "इसके परिणामस्वरूप, **भारतीय निवेश** कई क्षेत्रों जैसे **स्पैटियल टेक, मोबिलिटी, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, और डिजिटल क्षेत्रों** में प्रवाहित होगा — जिससे **300 यू.के. नौकरियां** बनेंगी और देश में उसकी दीर्घकालिक उपस्थिति मजबूत होगी," विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया।

- **Muthoot Finance UK Limited**, a part of the **Muthoot Group**, plans to invest **£100 million** to expand its branch network to **20 locations** in the U.K. **Hero Motors** plans to invest **£100 million** in the U.K. over the next five years in its **e-mobility, e-bicycles and aerospace divisions**.

  मुथूट ग्रुप का हिस्सा **मुथूट फाइनेंस यू.के. लिमिटेड** अपने शाखा नेटवर्क को **20 स्थानों** तक विस्तारित करने के लिए **£100 मिलियन** का निवेश करने की योजना बना रहा है। **हीरो मोटर्स** अगले पांच वर्षों में अपनी **ई-मोबिलिटी, ई-साइकिल और एयरोस्पेस इकाइयों** में **£100 मिलियन** निवेश करने की योजना बना रहा है।

- The **Hindu** has reached out to the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** for details on investment announcements by **U.K. companies in India**.

  यू.के. कंपनियों के भारत में निवेश घोषणाओं के विवरण के लिए **हिंदू** ने **वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय** से संपर्क किया है।

- On the first day of **Mr. Starmer's visit to India**, **Rolls-Royce CEO Tufan Erginbilgic** said that his company has "deep ambitions to develop India as a home for Rolls-Royce".

  श्री स्टार्मर की भारत यात्रा के पहले दिन, **रोल्स-रॉयस के सीईओ तुफान एरगिनबिलगिक** ने कहा कि उनकी कंपनी की "भारत को रोल्स-रॉयस का घर बनाने की गहरी महत्वाकांक्षाएं हैं।"

- **TVS Motor's** plan to invest **£250 million** in **Solihull** to expand its **Norton Motorcycles operations** and develop **next-generation electric vehicles**.

  टीवीएस मोटर की योजना **सोलिहुल** में **£250 मिलियन** निवेश करने की है ताकि वह अपनी **नॉर्टन मोटरसाइकिल परिचालन** का विस्तार कर सके और **अगली पीढ़ी के इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों** का विकास कर सके।

- "Engineering company **Cyient** is investing **£100 million** to boost innovation in **semiconductors, geospatial tech, and creative industries**, driving growth and creating jobs across every region of the country - from **Basingstoke to Birmingham**," it added.

  "**इंजीनियरिंग कंपनी सियेंट £100 मिलियन** का निवेश कर रही है ताकि **सेमीकंडक्टर, जियोस्पैटियल टेक और रचनात्मक उद्योगों** में नवाचार को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके, जिससे देश के हर क्षेत्र में विकास और रोजगार सृजन होगा - **बेसिंगस्टोक से बर्मिंघम** तक," इसमें जोड़ा गया।

- Among the major investment announcements are

  मुख्य निवेश घोषणाओं में शामिल हैं

Indian investments and collaborations in the U.K.
यू.के. में भारतीय निवेश और सहयोग

- patial tech, mobility, clean energy, and digital domains — creating **300 U.K. jobs** and strengthening its long-standing presence in the country," the release said.

  स्पैटियल टेक, मोबिलिटी, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, और डिजिटल क्षेत्रों में — **300 यू.के. नौकरियां** सृजित करते हुए और देश में अपनी दीर्घकालिक उपस्थिति को मजबूत करते हुए," विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया।

- "Engineering company **Cyient** is investing **£100 million** to boost innovation in **semiconductors, geospatial tech**, and the **creative industries**, driving growth and creating jobs across every region of the country," it added.

  "**इंजीनियरिंग कंपनी सियेंट £100 मिलियन** का निवेश कर रही है ताकि **सेमीकंडक्टर, जियोस्पैटियल टेक** और **रचनात्मक उद्योगों** में नवाचार को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके, जिससे देश के हर क्षेत्र में विकास और रोजगार सृजन हो सके," इसमें जोड़ा गया।

INBRIEF

GS III: Defence

Army inducts 'Saksham' to neutralise aerial threats

The Indian Army has initiated procurement of the indigenously developed 'Saksham' Counter-Unmanned Aerial System Grid System. Developed in collaboration with the Bharat Electronics Limited, Ghaziabad, Saksham, or Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management, is a modular, high-end Command and Control system operating on the secure Army Data Network. The system is designed to detect, track, identify, and neutralise hostile drones and unmanned aerial systems.

Army inducts 'Saksham' to neutralise aerial threats
सेना ने हवाई खतरों को निष्क्रिय करने के लिए 'सक्षम' को शामिल किया

- The **Indian Army** has initiated procurement of the **indigenously developed 'Saksham' Counter-Unmanned Aerial System Grid System**.
  भारतीय सेना ने **स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित 'सक्षम' काउंटर-अनमैन्ड एरियल सिस्टम ग्रिड सिस्टम** की खरीद प्रक्रिया शुरू की है।

- Developed in collaboration with the **Bharat Electronics Limited, Ghaziabad**, **Saksham**, or **Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management**, is a **modular, high-end Command and Control system** operating on the **secure Army Data Network**.
  भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड, गाज़ियाबाद के सहयोग से विकसित **सक्षम**, या **सिचुएशनल अवेयरनेस फॉर काइनेटिक सॉफ्ट एंड हार्ड किल एसेट्स मैनेजमेंट**, एक **मॉड्यूलर, उच्च-स्तरीय कमांड एंड कंट्रोल सिस्टम** है जो **सुरक्षित आर्मी डेटा नेटवर्क** पर संचालित होता है।

- The system is designed to **detect, track, identify, and neutralise hostile drones and unmanned aerial systems**.

यह प्रणाली **शत्रुतापूर्ण ड्रोन और मानव रहित हवाई प्रणालियों का पता लगाने, उनका पीछा करने, पहचान करने और उन्हें निष्क्रिय करने** के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई है।

India to launch 'Red List' survey to assess extinction risks to plants and animals

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India is set to conduct a first-of-its-kind assessment of nearly 11,000 species of plants and animals and assess how vulnerable they are to extinction.

While India already lists endangered animals in various "schedules", this proposed exercise, called the National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna, will, according to officials, give the most accurate assessment of the threats faced and thereby, inform conservation measures. The exercise is expected to go on till 2030.

The methodology adopted for the exercise will be as per that followed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, currently the global standard which lists species worldwide on the basis of the extinction threats.

"The vision of the initiative is to establish a coordinated, science-based red listing system that accurately reflects the conservation status of Indian species. The project's goal is to publish National Red Data Books on flora and fauna by 2030, forming a central resource for conservation planning and threat mitigation. With this, a pool of 300 certified assessors will be created within the country enhancing the capacity and expertise," according to a statement from the Environment Ministry.

The goal of the project is to publish National Red Data Books on flora and fauna by 2030

"To fulfil our commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), India has launched the National Red List Assessment initiative, aligned with IUCN global standards," said Kirtivardhan Singh, Minister of State for Environment.

Mr. Singh was leading an Indian delegation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.

The project will be entirely funded using public funds, Pratyush Mahapatra, Scientist, Zoological Survey of India, told *The Hindu*. The estimated budget is ₹95 crore.

India to launch 'Red List' survey to assess extinction risks to plants and animals
भारत पौधों और जानवरों के विलुप्त होने के जोखिम का आकलन करने के लिए 'रेड लिस्ट' सर्वेक्षण शुरू करने जा रहा है

- India is set to conduct a **first-of-its-kind assessment** of nearly **11,000 species** of **plants and animals** and assess how vulnerable they are to **extinction**.
  भारत लगभग **11,000 प्रजातियों** के **पौधों और जानवरों** का **पहली बार ऐसा आकलन** करने जा रहा है और यह पता लगाएगा कि वे **विलुप्त होने** के कितने जोखिम में हैं।

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- While India already lists **endangered animals** in various "schedules", this proposed exercise, called the **National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna**, will, according to officials, give the most accurate assessment of the threats faced and thereby, inform **conservation measures**.

  हालांकि भारत पहले से ही विभिन्न "सूचियों" में **संकटग्रस्त जानवरों** को सूचीबद्ध करता है, यह प्रस्तावित अभ्यास, जिसे **राष्ट्रीय रेड लिस्ट आकलन भारतीय वनस्पति और जीव-जंतु** कहा जाता है, अधिकारियों के अनुसार, सामने आने वाले खतरों का सबसे **सटीक आकलन** देगा और इसके द्वारा **संरक्षण उपायों** की जानकारी देगा।

- The exercise is expected to go on till **2030**.

  यह अभ्यास **2030** तक चलने की संभावना है।

- The **methodology** adopted for the exercise will be as per that followed by the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List**, currently the global standard which lists species worldwide on the basis of the **extinction threats**.

  इस अभ्यास के लिए अपनाई गई **कार्यप्रणाली इंटरनेशनल यूनियन फॉर द कंज़र्वेशन ऑफ नेचर (IUCN) रेड लिस्ट** के अनुसार होगी, जो वर्तमान में वैश्विक मानक है और **विलुप्त होने के खतरों** के आधार पर दुनिया भर की प्रजातियों को सूचीबद्ध करती है।

- "The vision of the initiative is to establish a **coordinated, science-based red listing system** that accurately reflects the **conservation status of Indian species**. The project's goal is to publish **National Red Data Books** on flora and fauna by 2030, forming a central resource for **conservation planning and threat mitigation**. With this, a pool of **300 certified assessors** will be created within the country enhancing the **capacity and expertise**," according to a statement from the **Environment Ministry**.

  "इस पहल का दृष्टिकोण एक **समन्वित, विज्ञान-आधारित रेड लिस्टिंग सिस्टम** स्थापित करना है जो **भारतीय प्रजातियों की संरक्षण स्थिति** को सटीक रूप से दर्शाए। परियोजना का लक्ष्य **2030 तक** वनस्पति और जीव-जंतुओं पर राष्ट्रीय रेड डेटा बुक प्रकाशित करना है, जो **संरक्षण योजना और खतरे को कम करने** के लिए केंद्रीय संसाधन बने। इसके साथ ही देश में **300 प्रमाणित आकलक** का एक पूल तैयार किया जाएगा, जो **क्षमता और विशेषज्ञता** को बढ़ाएगा," **पर्यावरण मंत्रालय** के बयान के अनुसार।

- "To fulfill our commitments under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** and the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)**, India has launched the **National Red List Assessment initiative**, aligned with **IUCN global standards**," said **Kirtivardhan Singh, Minister of State for Environment**.

  "**बायोलॉजिकल डाइवर्सिटी कन्वेंशन (CBD)** और **कुनमिंग–मॉन्ट्रियल ग्लोबल बायोडायवर्सिटी फ्रेमवर्क (KM-GBF)** के तहत अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने के लिए, भारत ने **राष्ट्रीय रेड लिस्ट आकलन पहल** शुरू की है, जो **IUCN वैश्विक मानकों** के अनुरूप है," **कीर्तिवर्धन सिंह, राज्य मंत्री (पर्यावरण)** ने कहा।

- Mr. Singh was leading an **Indian delegation** at the **IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi**.

  श्री सिंह **अबू धाबी में IUCN विश्व संरक्षण कांग्रेस** में एक **भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल** का नेतृत्व कर रहे थे।

- The project will be entirely funded using **public funds**, Pratyush Mahapatra, Scientist, **Zoological Survey of India**, told *The Hindu*. The estimated **budget** is ₹95 crore.

  परियोजना पूरी तरह से **सार्वजनिक धन** का उपयोग करके वित्त पोषित होगी, यह जानकारी **प्रत्युष महापात्रा, वैज्ञानिक, जूलॉजिकल सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया** ने *द हिंदू* को दी। अनुमानित **बजट ₹95 करोड़** है।

Why we need to change the way we talk about antibiotic resistance

Antimicrobial resistance has become, above all, a communication crisis; instead of talking only about the future collapse of healthcare systems, the focus must be on the present impact on individual bodies; changing the language, bringing in positivity, biology, and human connection, can help keep AMR on the agenda

Abdul Ghafur

In 2010, India woke up to a scientific storm. A research paper published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases described a new enzyme that could make bacteria resistant to nearly all antibiotics, including our last-resort drugs. This enzyme was named New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase, or NDM. Overnight, the gene's name became a political issue. The Indian government argued it unfairly tarnished the nation's reputation, while the British researchers defended it as a standard naming practice. The media seized the story, politicians took positions, and for a short time, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) became front-page news.

This controversy, and the unbiased opinions of many who stated that AMR could push our country into a catastrophic health crisis if not urgently tackled, created a momentum that later paved the way for initiatives such as the Chennai Declaration. Those were years when strong, even frightening, predictions worked. They jolted decision-makers. They made headlines. They opened doors. But what worked in 2010 no longer works today.

For over a decade, we have repeated the same dire forecasts: 10 million deaths every year by 2050, one hundred trillion dollars lost to the global economy, a looming collapse of healthcare. These numbers, taken from the landmark report by British economist Lord Jim O'Neill, once carried weight. They reframed AMR as not just a medical problem, but also an economic and political one. Governments took notice. The G7 and G20 put AMR on their agenda. For a time, the message worked.

But repetition dulls impact. Psychologists call this habituation: the more you hear something, the less you respond. Psychologist Paul Slovic, who has studied how humans perceive risk, calls it psychic numbing: the bigger the numbers, the less we feel. A single patient's suffering moves us; 10 million deaths become an abstraction. As journalist Paul Brodeur wrote, "Statistics are human beings with the tears wiped off." In talking about AMR only in statistics and distant futures, we have wiped off the tears and lost the human connection.

Today, the media is tired of AMR stories. Policymakers are distracted by other crises. Even doctors are weary of hearing the same warnings at conferences. Among the public, AMR barely registers.

This is not because resistance is less dangerous than before. If anything, the problem is worse. The real crisis is that our words no longer move people. AMR has become, above all, a communication crisis.

Making it personal
If the language of catastrophe no longer works, what can? The answer lies in making the story personal. Instead of talking only about the future collapse of healthcare systems, we must talk about the present impact on individual bodies. The focus must shift from statistics to biology.

The human body is not just human. It is microbial. Trillions of bacteria, viruses, and fungi live in and on us, shaping our health in ways we are only beginning to understand. This community, called the microbiome, helps digest food, produces vitamins, trains immunity, and protects our skin. It even communicates with our brain, influencing mood and cognition.

Antibiotics, while life-saving, are not neutral. Even a single dose can disrupt the microbiome for months. In some cases, the balance may never fully recovers. The consequences ripple through what scientists call the "axes" of communication between the gut and the rest of the body. Disturbances in the gut microbiome affect the brain, worsening anxiety or depression. They affect the lungs, increasing the risk of asthma and severe respiratory infections. They alter metabolism, raising the likelihood of obesity and diabetes. They influence the

skin, aggravating conditions like eczema or acne. They reshape the immune system, making allergies and autoimmune diseases more common. These are not distant predictions for 2050. These are impacts on us, on our children, today. For too long, we have told only the story of the bad bugs – the resistant pathogens that kill. But there is another story we must tell: the story of the good bugs. And one of the most surprising, even delightful, examples of their role comes from something as ordinary as perfume.

Why does the same perfume smell different on different people? Perfumers usually say it is because of differences in skin chemistry, in pH or moisture or oiliness. But research is showing another dimension: the microbes on our skin. Bacteria on the skin produce enzymes that interact with fragrance molecules. These enzymes break some molecules down, amplify others, and sometimes even create new scents. That is why a floral perfume may smell fresh on one person but heavy on another. Or why a woody note lingers on one wrist but fades quickly on another. It is not only the perfume; it is the partnership between fragrance molecules and bacterial enzymes on the skin.

This is a reminder that microbes are not only about disease. They are about individuality, diversity, and beauty. They shape our daily experiences in invisible

ways. Bugs are not just enemies. They are part of who we are.

So if we can tell such positive, fascinating stories about microbes, why can't we do the same for AMR? Instead of only warning that antibiotics cause resistance in society, we can say: antibiotics can harm your microbiome. Protect your good bugs – they protect you. This is not a softer message. It is a more effective one, because it connects to people's own lives. It replaces dread with responsibility. It offers hope.

Shifting the story
This is the shift we need. From resistance in hospitals to resilience in the body. From global catastrophe to personal consciousness. From fear to fragrance. From the language of war to the language of wisdom.

The good, the bad, and the ugly bugs all live with us. The question is: how will we tell their story? If we continue with pessimism alone, people will turn away. If we change our language, if we bring in positivity, biology, and human connection, we can keep AMR on the agenda – not as an abstract threat, but as a living, urgent, and solvable challenge.

(Dr. Abdul Ghafur is senior consultant, infectious diseases, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai and coordinator, Chennai Declaration on AMR. drghafur@hotmail.com)

THE GIST

The human body is not just human. It is microbial. Trillions of bacteria, viruses, and fungi live in and on the body, shaping health in ways that are only beginning to be understood

Antibiotics, while life-saving, are not neutral. Even a single dose can disrupt the microbiome for months. In some cases, the balance never fully recovers

Instead of only warning that antibiotics cause resistance in society, the message can be: antibiotics can harm your microbiome. Protect your good bugs – they protect you

Time for a shift: Students staging rally to raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

Why we need to change the way we talk about antibiotic resistance
हमें एंटीबायोटिक प्रतिरोध के बारे में बात करने का तरीका क्यों बदलना चाहिए

- **Antimicrobial resistance** has become, above all, a **communication crisis**; instead of talking only about the future collapse of healthcare systems, the focus must be on the **present impact on individual bodies**; changing the language, bringing in **positivity, biology, and human connection**, can help keep **AMR** on the agenda.
  एंटीमाइक्रोबियल प्रतिरोध (AMR) सबसे ऊपर एक **संचार संकट** बन गया है; केवल स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणालियों के भविष्य में पतन के बारे में बात करने के बजाय, ध्यान **वर्तमान में व्यक्तिगत शरीरों पर प्रभाव** पर होना चाहिए; भाषा बदलना, **सकारात्मकता, जीवविज्ञान और मानवीय संबंध** लाना, **AMR** को एजेंडा पर बनाए रखने में मदद कर सकता है।
- In **2010**, India woke up to a **scientific storm**. A research paper published in **The Lancet Infectious Diseases** described a new **enzyme** that could make bacteria resistant to nearly all

antibiotics, including our **last-resort drugs**. This enzyme was named **New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase, or NDM**.

2010 में, भारत एक **वैज्ञानिक तूफ़ान** से जागा। **The Lancet Infectious Diseases** में प्रकाशित एक शोध पत्र ने एक नया **एंज़ाइम** बताया जो लगभग सभी **एंटीबायोटिक्स**, जिनमें हमारे **अंतिम विकल्प की दवाएँ** भी शामिल हैं, के प्रति बैक्टीरिया को प्रतिरोधी बना सकता था। इस एंज़ाइम का नाम रखा गया **न्यू दिल्ली मेटालो-बेटा-लैक्टामेस, या NDM**।

- Overnight, the **gene's name** became a **political issue**. The **Indian government** argued it unfairly tarnished the nation's reputation, while the **British researchers** defended it as a **standard naming practice**. The media seized the story, politicians took positions, and for a short time, **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** became front-page news.

  एक रात में, इस **जीन का नाम** एक **राजनीतिक मुद्दा** बन गया। **भारतीय सरकार** ने तर्क दिया कि यह देश की प्रतिष्ठा को अनुचित रूप से धूमिल करता है, जबकि **ब्रिटिश शोधकर्ताओं** ने इसे एक **मानक नामकरण प्रथा** के रूप में बचाव किया। मीडिया ने इस कहानी को पकड़ लिया, राजनेताओं ने अपनी स्थिति बनाई, और थोड़े समय के लिए, **एंटीमाइक्रोबियल प्रतिरोध (AMR)** फ्रंट-पेज समाचार बन गया।

- This controversy, and the unbiased opinions of many who stated that **AMR** could push our country into a **catastrophic health crisis** if not urgently tackled, created a momentum that later paved the way for initiatives such as the **Chennai Declaration**.

  इस विवाद और कई लोगों की निष्पक्ष राय, जिन्होंने कहा कि यदि **AMR** को तुरंत नहीं निपटाया गया तो यह हमारे देश को **भयानक स्वास्थ्य संकट** में डाल सकता है, ने एक गति बनाई जिसने बाद में **चेन्नई घोषणा** जैसी पहलों के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त किया।

- Those were years when **strong, even frightening predictions** worked. They jolted **decision-makers**. They made headlines. They opened doors. But what worked in **2010** no longer works today.

  वे साल थे जब **मजबूत, यहां तक कि डरानेवाली भविष्यवाणियाँ** काम करती थीं। उन्होंने **निर्णय-निर्माताओं** को झटका दिया। उन्होंने सुर्खियाँ बनाईं। उन्होंने दरवाजे खोले। लेकिन जो **2010** में काम किया, आज वह काम नहीं करता।

- For over a decade, we have repeated the same **dire forecasts**: **10 million deaths every year by 2050**, **one hundred trillion dollars lost to the global economy**, a looming **collapse of healthcare**. These numbers, taken from the landmark report by British economist **Lord Jim O'Neill**, once carried weight. They reframed **AMR** as not just a medical problem, but also an **economic and political one**.

  एक दशक से अधिक समय से, हमने वही **भयंकर पूर्वानुमान** दोहराए हैं: **2050 तक हर साल 1 करोड़ मौतें**, **वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था को 100 ट्रिलियन डॉलर का नुकसान**, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल का आसन्न **पतन**। ये आंकड़े, ब्रिटिश अर्थशास्त्री **लॉर्ड जिम ओ'नील** की प्रमुख रिपोर्ट से लिए गए, एक समय में महत्वपूर्ण थे। उन्होंने **AMR** को केवल एक चिकित्सा समस्या नहीं बल्कि एक **आर्थिक और राजनीतिक समस्या** के रूप में पुनः प्रस्तुत किया।

- Governments took notice. The **G7** and **G20** put **AMR** on their agenda. For a time, the message worked.

  सरकारों ने ध्यान दिया। **G7** और **G20** ने **AMR** को अपने एजेंडा पर रखा। कुछ समय के लिए, यह संदेश काम कर गया।

- But repetition dulls impact. Psychologists call this **habituation**: the more you hear something, the less you respond. Psychologist **Paul Slovic**, who has studied how humans perceive risk, calls it **psychic numbing**: the bigger the numbers, the less we feel.

  लेकिन दोहराव प्रभाव को कम कर देता है। मनोवैज्ञानिक इसे **आदत डालना (habituation)** कहते हैं: जितना अधिक आप कुछ सुनते हैं, उतना ही कम आप प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं। मनोवैज्ञानिक **पॉल स्लोविक**, जिन्होंने अध्ययन किया कि मनुष्य जोखिम को कैसे समझते हैं, इसे **मानसिक सुन्नता (psychic numbing)** कहते हैं: जितने बड़े आंकड़े, उतना कम हम महसूस करते हैं।

- A single patient's suffering moves us; **10 million deaths** become an **abstraction**. As journalist **Paul Brodeur** wrote, "Statistics are human beings with the tears wiped off." In talking about **AMR** only in statistics and distant futures, we have wiped off the **tears** and lost the **human connection**.

  एक मरीज का दुख हमें प्रभावित करता है; **1 करोड़ मौतें** एक **सिद्धांत** बन जाती हैं। जैसे पत्रकार **पॉल ब्रोड्यूर** ने लिखा, "सांख्यिकी ऐसे मानव हैं जिनके आँसू पोंछ दिए गए हैं।" **AMR** के बारे में केवल आंकड़ों और दूरस्थ भविष्य में बात करके, हमने **आँसुओं** को पोंछ दिया और **मानव संबंध** खो दिया।

- Today, the media is tired of **AMR stories**. Policymakers are distracted by other crises. Even doctors are weary of hearing the same warnings at conferences. Among the public, **AMR** barely registers.

  आज, मीडिया **AMR की कहानियों** से थक चुका है। नीति निर्माता अन्य संकटों से विचलित हैं। यहां तक कि डॉक्टर भी सम्मेलनों में वही चेतावनियाँ सुन-सुन कर थक चुके हैं। जनता में, **AMR** मुश्किल से दिखाई देता है।

- This is not because resistance is less dangerous than before. If anything, the problem is worse. The real crisis is that our **words** no longer move people. **AMR** has become, above all, a **communication crisis**.

  यह इसलिए नहीं है कि प्रतिरोध पहले से कम खतरनाक है। यदि कुछ है, तो समस्या और भी गंभीर है। असली संकट यह है कि हमारे **शब्द** अब लोगों को प्रभावित नहीं करते। **AMR** सबसे ऊपर एक **संचार संकट** बन गया है।

Making it personal
इसे व्यक्तिगत बनाना

- If the language of catastrophe no longer works, what can? The answer lies in **making the story personal**. Instead of talking only about the future collapse of healthcare systems, we must talk about the **present impact on individual bodies**.

  अगर विनाश की भाषा अब काम नहीं करती, तो क्या काम करेगा? उत्तर है **कहानी को व्यक्तिगत बनाना**। केवल स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के भविष्य के पतन के बारे में बात करने के बजाय, हमें **वर्तमान में व्यक्तिगत शरीरों पर प्रभाव** के बारे में बात करनी चाहिए।

- The focus must shift from **statistics** to **biology**.

  ध्यान को **सांख्यिकी** से **जीवविज्ञान** की ओर स्थानांतरित करना होगा।

- The human body is not just human. It is **microbial**. Trillions of **bacteria, viruses, and fungi** live in and on us, shaping our health in ways we are only beginning to understand.

  मानव शरीर केवल मानव नहीं है। यह **सूक्ष्मजीवी** है। ट्रिलियन की संख्या में **बैक्टीरिया, वायरस, और फंगस** हमारे भीतर और हमारे ऊपर रहते हैं, हमारे स्वास्थ्य को इस तरह से आकार देते हैं जिसे हम केवल समझना शुरू कर रहे हैं।

- This community, called the **microbiome**, helps digest food, produces vitamins, trains immunity, and protects our skin. It even communicates with our brain, influencing **mood** and **cognition**.

  यह समुदाय, जिसे **माइक्रोबायोम** कहा जाता है, भोजन को पचाने में मदद करता है, विटामिन बनाता है, प्रतिरक्षा को प्रशिक्षित करता है, और हमारी त्वचा की सुरक्षा करता है। यह हमारे मस्तिष्क के साथ भी संवाद करता है, **मनोवृत्ति** और **संज्ञानात्मक क्षमता** को प्रभावित करता है।

- **Antibiotics**, while life-saving, are not neutral. Even a single dose can disrupt the **microbiome** for months. In some cases, the balance never fully recovers.

  एंटीबायोटिक्स, जबकि जीवनरक्षक हैं, तटस्थ नहीं हैं। केवल एक खुराक भी **माइक्रोबायोम** को महीनों तक बाधित कर सकती है। कुछ मामलों में, संतुलन कभी पूरी तरह से नहीं लौटता।

- The consequences ripple through what scientists call the "axes" of communication between the **gut** and the rest of the **body**. Disturbances in the **gut microbiome** affect the **brain**, worsening **anxiety** or **depression**. They affect the **lungs**, increasing the risk of **asthma** and severe **

GS III: Environment

Tusks and tensions

Kerala's changes to Wildlife Act will devolve national safeguards

Kerala's decision to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 marks a turning point in the federal discourse on environmental governance. The Wild Life Protection (Kerala Amendment) Bill 2025 seeks to arm the State with powers thus far reserved for the Union government. While the ambition is rooted in a painful lived crisis, the attempt to sidestep Centre-State dissonance exposes tensions between ecological prudence and federal autonomy. The Bill asserts that the State may decide when a Schedule II animal has become 'vermin', and thus liable to lose protections under that Schedule for specific areas and periods. It also vests the Chief Wildlife Warden with the power to order any animal that has severely injured a person to be killed, tranquillised, captured or translocated. There have been violent confrontations with wild boars in the State's dense mosaic of farms, settlements and forests. Assembly resolutions and ministerial trips to New Delhi to have the wild boar declared as 'vermin' under the Central Act have proved fruitless. Read against the ongoing expansion of human settlements into erstwhile buffer zones, the change risks normalising lethal outcomes produced by human advance rather than by animal behaviour. This said, the Centre's power to declare vermin has too often been exercised as a veto without transparent criteria or timely engagement with States that face distinct ecologies and pressures. Kerala's frustration is thus a federal critique.

Shifting the same blunt power to the State does not by itself cure the vice of opacity, however. A jurisprudence that ties need to circumstance must interrogate how the circumstance was produced and whether non-lethal options were credibly exhausted. Section 62 of the Central Act exists to keep indiscriminate culling from eroding conservation baselines. Wildlife lies in the Concurrent List and any State law repugnant to the Central Act requires Presidential assent. If that test can be framed as Centre versus State, it is also about whether Kerala's recourse recreates the national safeguards in devolved form. A defensible settlement would preserve the floors, i.e., no dilution of baseline protections and international commitments; building State-level ceilings in the form of clearer, faster procedures; devolving non-lethal toolkits and accountable, data-driven thresholds; and tuning incentives to reward coexistence. Until then, declaring the wild boar to be 'vermin' or downgrading the bonnet macaque from Schedule I to Schedule II of the Central Act, while buying political time, may risk deepening a cycle in which governance failure begets lethal shortcuts. If the urgency is real, so too is the obligation to ensure that speed does not substitute reason and federal devolution does not become federal abdication.

Tusks and tensions
दांत और तनाव

Kerala's changes to Wildlife Act will devolve national safeguards
केरल में वन्यजीव कानून में बदलाव से राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा प्रावधान सौंपे जाएंगे

- Kerala's decision to amend the **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972** marks a turning point in the **federal discourse** on **environmental governance**.
केरल का **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972** में संशोधन करने का निर्णय **पर्यावरण शासन** पर **संघीय संवाद** में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ को दर्शाता है।

- The **Wild Life Protection (Kerala Amendment) Bill 2025** seeks to arm the **State** with powers thus far reserved for the **Union government**.
Wildlife Protection (Kerala Amendment) Bill 2025 राज्य को उन शक्तियों से लैस करने का प्रयास करता है जो अब तक **केंद्र सरकार** के पास सुरक्षित थीं।

- While the ambition is rooted in a **painful lived crisis**, the attempt to sidestep **Centre-State dissonance** exposes tensions between **ecological prudence** and **federal autonomy**.
हालांकि यह महत्वाकांक्षा एक **दुखद वास्तविक संकट** में निहित है, **केंद्र-राज्य असहमति** को दरकिनार करने का प्रयास **पारिस्थितिक विवेक** और **संघीय स्वायत्तता** के बीच तनाव को उजागर करता है।

- The Bill asserts that the **State** may decide when a **Schedule II animal** has become 'vermin', and thus liable to lose **protections** under that Schedule for specific areas and periods.
बिल का दावा है कि **राज्य** यह तय कर सकता है कि कब कोई **Schedule II पशु** 'कीट/हानिकारक' बन गया है, और इस प्रकार विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों और समयावधियों के लिए उस अनुसूची के तहत **सुरक्षा** खो सकता है।

- It also vests the **Chief Wildlife Warden** with the power to order any animal that has severely injured a person to be **killed, tranquillised, captured** or **translocated**.
यह **मुख्य वन्यजीव संरक्षक** को शक्ति भी देता है कि किसी भी पशु को जिसने किसी व्यक्ति को गंभीर रूप से चोट पहुँचाई हो, उसे **मारने, शांत करने, पकड़ने** या **स्थानांतरित करने** का आदेश दिया जा सके।

- There have been violent confrontations with **wild boars** in the State's dense mosaic of **farms, settlements and forests**.
राज्य के घने मिश्रण वाले **खेतों, बस्तियों और जंगलों** में **वन सूअरों** के साथ हिंसक टकराव हुए हैं।

- Assembly **resolutions** and **ministerial trips** to **New Delhi** to have the **wild boar** declared as '**vermin**' under the **Central Act** have proved fruitless.
विधान सभा के प्रस्तावों और **मंत्री स्तर की यात्राओं** के माध्यम से **New Delhi** में **wild boar** को **Central Act** के तहत 'कीट/हानिकारक' घोषित कराने का प्रयास निष्फल साबित हुआ है।

- Read against the ongoing expansion of **human settlements** into erstwhile **buffer zones**, the change risks normalising **lethal outcomes** produced by **human advance** rather than by **animal behaviour**.
पुराने **बफर ज़ोन** में **मानव बस्तियों** के चल रहे विस्तार के खिलाफ पढ़ा जाए, तो यह बदलाव **घातक परिणामों** को सामान्य बनाने का खतरा पैदा करता है, जो **पशु व्यवहार** के बजाय **मानव विस्तार** के कारण उत्पन्न होते हैं।

- This said, the **Centre's power** to declare **vermin** has

too often been exercised as a **veto** without transparent **criteria** or timely engagement with **States** that face distinct **ecologies** and **pressures**. Kerala's frustration is thus a **federal critique**.

इसके बावजूद, **कीट घोषित करने की केंद्र की शक्ति** अक्सर पारदर्शी **मानदंडों** या विशिष्ट **पारिस्थितिकी** और **दबाव** का सामना करने वाले **राज्यों** के साथ समय पर संवाद के बिना **वेटो** के रूप में इस्तेमाल की गई है। इसलिए, केरल की नाराजगी एक **संघीय आलोचना** है।

- Shifting the same **blunt power** to the **State** does not by itself cure the **vice of opacity**, however.

हालांकि, वही **सख्त शक्ति** राज्य को सौंपना स्वयं में **अस्पष्टता की बुराई** को ठीक नहीं करता।

- A **jurisprudence** that ties need to **circumstance** must interrogate how the **circumstance** was produced and whether **non-lethal options** were credibly exhausted.

एक **कानूनी सिद्धांत** जो आवश्यकता को **परिस्थिति** से जोड़ता है, उसे यह जांचना चाहिए कि वह **परिस्थिति** कैसे उत्पन्न हुई और क्या **अघातक विकल्पों** का विश्वसनीय रूप से उपयोग किया गया।

- **Section 62** of the **Central Act** exists to keep indiscriminate **culling** from eroding **conservation baselines**.

Central Act का **Section 62** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए है कि **अंधाधुंध शिकार संरक्षण की मूलभूत सीमाओं** को कमजोर न करे।

- **Wildlife** lies in the **Concurrent List** and any **State law** repugnant to the **Central Act** requires **Presidential assent**.

वन्यजीव Concurrent List में हैं और कोई भी **राज्य कानून** जो **Central Act** के खिलाफ हो, उसे **राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति** की आवश्यकता होती है।

- If that test can be framed as **Centre versus State**, it is also about whether Kerala's **recourse** recreates the **national safeguards** in **devolved form**.

यदि उस परीक्षण को **केंद्र बनाम राज्य** के रूप में तैयार किया जा सकता है, तो यह भी देखना है कि केरल की **संसाधन वापसी** क्या **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा प्रावधानों** को **सौंपे गए रूप** में पुनर्निर्मित करती है।

- A defensible **settlement** would preserve the **floors**, i.e., no dilution of **baseline protections** and **international commitments**; building **State-level ceilings** in the form of clearer, faster **procedures**; devolving **non-lethal toolkits** and accountable, **data-driven thresholds**; and tuning **incentives** to reward **coexistence**.

एक **सुरक्षित समझौता मूल स्तर** को बनाए रखेगा, अर्थात, **मूलभूत सुरक्षा** और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं** में कोई कमी नहीं; स्पष्ट और तेज़ **प्रक्रियाओं** के रूप में **राज्य स्तर की सीमाएँ** बनाना; **अघातक उपकरण** और जवाबदेह, **डेटा-आधारित सीमा** सौंपना; और **सह-अस्तित्व** को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए **प्रोत्साहनों** को अनुकूलित करना।

- Until then, declaring the **wild boar** to be 'vermin' or downgrading the **bonnet macaque** from **Schedule I** to **Schedule II** of the **Central Act**, while buying **political time**, may risk deepening a cycle in which **governance failure** begets **lethal shortcuts**.

तब तक, **wild boar** को '**कीट/हानिकारक**' घोषित करना या **bonnet macaque** को **Schedule I** से **Schedule II** में डाउनग्रेड करना, जबकि **राजनीतिक समय** खरीदना, उस चक्र को गहरा कर सकता है जिसमें **शासन विफलता घातक शॉर्टकट** को जन्म देती है।

- If the **urgency** is real, so too is the obligation to ensure that **speed** does not substitute **reason** and **federal devolution** does not become **federal abdication**.

यदि यह **आपातकाल** वास्तविक है, तो यह सुनिश्चित करने की जिम्मेदारी भी उतनी ही वास्तविक है कि **गति विचार** का स्थान न ले और **संघीय सौंपना संघीय परित्याग** न बन जाए।

Why are T.N. food outlets opting for a new delivery partner?

Can the new model overcome the challenges that doomed earlier ventures?

GS III: Economy

D. Suresh Kumar:

The story so far:

App-based food delivery has been facing a shake-up in Tamil Nadu in recent months. Breaking new ground, restaurants from smaller towns such as Namakkal and Cuddalore have logged off popular app-based food delivery giants Swiggy and Zomato. They have instead on-boarded Zaaroz, a lesser-known, homegrown alternative.

Why are restaurants switching platforms?

Restaurateurs cite high commissions, unilateral discounts, and poor communication from the big players as reasons for the platform migration. Restaurants claim they have to pay a commission, sometimes ranging between 30% and 35% plus GST to Swiggy and Zomato. Besides, the apps unilaterally offer deep discounts to customers, denting profits.

In small towns, the hoteliers are largely skilled businessmen but not fully digitally literate. As a result, they are unable to comprehend the terms and conditions they sign up for and are not able to contest the deep discounting tactics. Increasing food prices to cope with consequential losses hasn't been viable either. As a result, restaurant owners say they end up incurring heavy losses and are forced to wind up their businesses.

What is Zaaroz, and how does it operate differently?

Headquartered in the temple town of Chidambaram — over 230 km north of Chennai — Zaaroz was founded in 2019 by Ram Prasath, a young entrepreneur. It has been operating as an app-based general delivery platform in over 50 Tier-2 and Tier-3 locations in Tamil Nadu with 5,000 vendors on board and serving an estimated eight lakh customers. It has since ventured into the food delivery business.

Unlike the commission-based operations models of Swiggy and Zomato, restaurants are onboarded on the Zaaroz platform for a flat monthly subscription: ₹3,000 plus GST for bigger restaurants and ₹1,500 plus GST for smaller eateries, messes, and bakeries. The company also provides electric bikes to delivery executives, and for those using fuel-driven bikes, it offers ₹2 per km towards petrol expenses.

How have restaurateurs responded?

In July, many restaurants in Namakkal – the poultry and lorry body building hub in western Tamil Nadu – logged off Swiggy and Zomato and migrated to Zaaroz. The Namakkal Town and Taluk Hotel Owners Association secretary, N. Arul Murugan, said, "Earlier, the eateries paid ₹20,000 to ₹30,000 as commission to the apps. Now we are able to save 90% of the money." As a result, he said, restaurants were able to slash menu prices.

Last month, the Cuddalore District Hotel Owners Association also switched over to the new app. Terming these two districts as a "pilot," Tamil Nadu Hotel Owners Association president Venkadasubbu said the model would be adopted by restaurants across the State, as popular delivery apps were overcharging both hoteliers and customers.

What does the future look like?

The founder of Zaaroz, Mr. Prasath, said the company is expanding to other districts and towns, including Theni and Perundurai.

However, taking on established players with deep pockets, experience, and economies of scale is not easy. In the app-based cab-hailing market, new entrants have struggled to survive against the big players.

The same would hold good for the food delivery business, where patronage needs to be sustained.

In 2021, the Kerala Hotel and Restaurant Association launched its own food delivery app, 'Rezoy', charging a flat 10% commission. However, it expanded too quickly from Kochi to Thrissur to Malappuram and collapsed under the pressure.

Attempts by restaurant owners elsewhere to break free from Swiggy and Zomato have met with little success. Zaaroz will face similar challenges in terms of logistics, customer acquisition, driver retention, and platform reliability. It is too early to decide if it will tick all the boxes.

THE GIST

▼ Restaurants in smaller towns like Namakkal and Cuddalore have logged off Swiggy and Zomato, citing high commission, unilateral discounts, and poor communication from the big players. They have migrated to Zaaroz, a homegrown app charging a flat monthly subscription.

▼ Zaaroz plans to expand to other districts, but faces challenges in logistics, customer acquisition, driver retention, and sustaining patronage against established players.

Why are T.N. food outlets opting for a new delivery partner?
टी.एन. के फूड आउटलेट नए डिलीवरी पार्टनर को क्यों चुन रहे हैं?

Can the new model overcome the challenges that doomed earlier ventures?
क्या नया मॉडल उन चुनौतियों को पार कर सकता है जिन्होंने पहले के उद्यमों को नाकाम किया था?

- App-based food delivery has been facing a shake-up in **Tamil Nadu** in recent months.
  ऐप-आधारित फूड डिलीवरी हाल के महीनों में **तमिलनाडु** में एक झटका झेल रही है।
- Breaking new ground, restaurants from smaller towns such as **Namakkal** and **Cuddalore** have logged off popular app-based food delivery giants **Swiggy** and **Zomato**.
  नई दिशा में, **नमक्कल** और **कड्डालोर** जैसे छोटे शहरों के रेस्टोरेंट्स ने लोकप्रिय ऐप-आधारित फूड डिलीवरी दिग्गजों **स्विगी** और **ज़ोमैटो** से लॉग ऑफ किया है।
- They have instead on-boarded **Zaaroz**, a lesser-known, homegrown alternative.
  इसके बजाय उन्होंने एक कम प्रसिद्ध, घरेलू विकल्प **Zaaroz** को अपनाया है।

Why are restaurants switching platforms?
रेस्टोरेंट प्लेटफॉर्म क्यों बदल रहे हैं?

- Restaurateurs cite **high commissions**, unilateral discounts, and poor communication from the big players as reasons for the platform migration.
  रेस्टोरेंट मालिक प्लेटफॉर्म परिवर्तन के कारण के रूप में **उच्च कमीशन**, एकतरफा छूट, और बड़े खिलाड़ियों से खराब संचार का हवाला देते हैं।
- Restaurants claim they have to pay a commission, sometimes ranging between **30% and 35% plus GST** to Swiggy and Zomato.
  रेस्टोरेंट्स का कहना है कि उन्हें स्विगी और ज़ोमैटो को कभी-कभी **30% से 35% प्लस GST** तक कमीशन देना पड़ता है।
- Besides, the apps unilaterally offer deep discounts to customers, denting profits.
  इसके अलावा, ऐप्स एकतरफा रूप से ग्राहकों को गहरी छूट देते हैं, जिससे लाभ प्रभावित होता है।
- In small towns, the hoteliers are largely skilled businessmen but not fully digitally literate.
  छोटे शहरों में, होटल मालिक अधिकांशतः कुशल व्यापारी हैं लेकिन पूरी तरह से डिजिटल साक्षर नहीं हैं।
- As a result, they are unable to comprehend the terms and conditions they sign up for and are not able to contest the deep discounting tactics.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप, वे उन शर्तों और नियमों को समझने में असमर्थ हैं जिनके लिए उन्होंने साइन अप किया है और गहरी छूट की रणनीतियों के खिलाफ चुनौती नहीं दे पा रहे हैं।

- Increasing food prices to cope with consequential losses hasn't been viable either.
परिणामी नुकसान को सहन करने के लिए भोजन की कीमतें बढ़ाना भी व्यवहार्य नहीं रहा।

- As a result, restaurant owners say they end up incurring heavy losses and are forced to wind up their businesses.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप, रेस्टोरेंट मालिक कहते हैं कि उन्हें भारी नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है और वे अपने व्यवसाय को बंद करने के लिए मजबूर होते हैं।

What is Zaaroz, and how does it operate differently?
Zaaroz क्या है, और यह अलग कैसे संचालित होता है?

- Headquartered in the temple town of **Chidambaram** — over 230 km north of **Chennai** — Zaaroz was founded in **2019** by **Ram Prasath**, a young entrepreneur.
चिदंबरम के मंदिर शहर में मुख्यालय — **चेन्नई** से 230 किमी उत्तर में — Zaaroz की स्थापना **2019** में युवा उद्यमी **राम प्रसाद** ने की थी।

- It has been operating as an **app-based general delivery platform** in over **50 Tier-2 and Tier-3 locations** in Tamil Nadu with **5,000 vendors** on board and serving an estimated **eight lakh customers**.
यह तमिलनाडु के **50 से अधिक टियर-2 और टियर-3 लोकेशन्स** में **5,000 विक्रेताओं** के साथ एक **ऐप-आधारित सामान्य डिलीवरी प्लेटफॉर्म** के रूप में काम कर रहा है और अनुमानित **आठ लाख ग्राहकों** को सेवा प्रदान कर रहा है।

- It has since ventured into the **food delivery business**.
इसके बाद यह **फूड डिलीवरी व्यवसाय** में उतर चुका है।

- Unlike the **commission-based operations models** of Swiggy and Zomato, restaurants are onboarded on the Zaaroz platform for a **flat monthly subscription**: ₹3,000 plus GST for bigger restaurants and ₹1,500 plus GST for smaller eateries, messes, and bakeries.
स्विगी और ज़ोमैटो के **कमीशन-आधारित संचालन मॉडल** के विपरीत, रेस्टोरेंट्स को Zaaroz प्लेटफॉर्म पर **फ्लैट मासिक सब्सक्रिप्शन** के लिए जोड़ा जाता है: बड़े रेस्टोरेंट्स के लिए ₹3,000 प्लस GST और छोटे ईटरीज, मैस और बेकरीज के लिए ₹1,500 प्लस GST।

- The company also provides **electric bikes** to delivery executives, and for those using **fuel-driven bikes**, it offers ₹2 per km towards petrol expenses.
कंपनी डिलीवरी कर्मचारियों को **इलेक्ट्रिक बाइक** भी प्रदान करती है, और जिनके पास **ईंधन वाली बाइक** है, उनके लिए पेट्रोल खर्च के लिए ₹2 प्रति किमी देती है।

How have restaurateurs responded?
रेस्टोरेंट मालिकों ने कैसे प्रतिक्रिया दी?

- In **July**, many restaurants in **Namakkal** — the poultry and lorry body building hub in western Tamil Nadu — logged off Swiggy and Zomato and migrated to Zaaroz.
जुलाई में, पश्चिमी तमिलनाडु के पोल्ट्री और लॉरी बॉडी बिल्डिंग हब **नमक्कल** के कई रेस्टोरेंट्स ने स्विगी और ज़ोमैटो से लॉग ऑफ किया और Zaaroz में शामिल हो गए।

- The Namakkal Town and Taluk Hotel Owners Association secretary, **N. Arul Murugan**, said, "Earlier, the eateries paid ₹20,000 to ₹30,000 as commission to the apps. Now we are able to save 90% of the money."
नमक्कल टाउन और तालुक होटल ओनर्स एसोसिएशन के सचिव, **N. Arul Murugan**, ने कहा, "पहले, भोजनालय ऐप्स को ₹20,000 से ₹30,000 के बीच कमीशन देते थे। अब हम पैसे का 90% बचा पा रहे हैं।"

- As a result, he said, restaurants were able to **slash menu prices**.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप, उन्होंने कहा, रेस्टोरेंट्स **मेनू की कीमतें कम** करने में सक्षम थे।

- Last month, the **Cuddalore District Hotel Owners Association** also switched over to the new app.
पिछले महीने, **कड्डालोर जिला होटल ओनर्स एसोसिएशन** ने भी नए ऐप में बदलाव किया।

- Terming these two districts as a "**pilot**," Tamil Nadu Hotel Owners Association president **Venkadasubbu** said the model would be adopted by restaurants across the State, as popular delivery apps were overcharging both hoteliers and customers.
इन दो जिलों को "**पायलट**" कहकर, तमिलनाडु होटल ओनर्स एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष **Venkadasubbu** ने
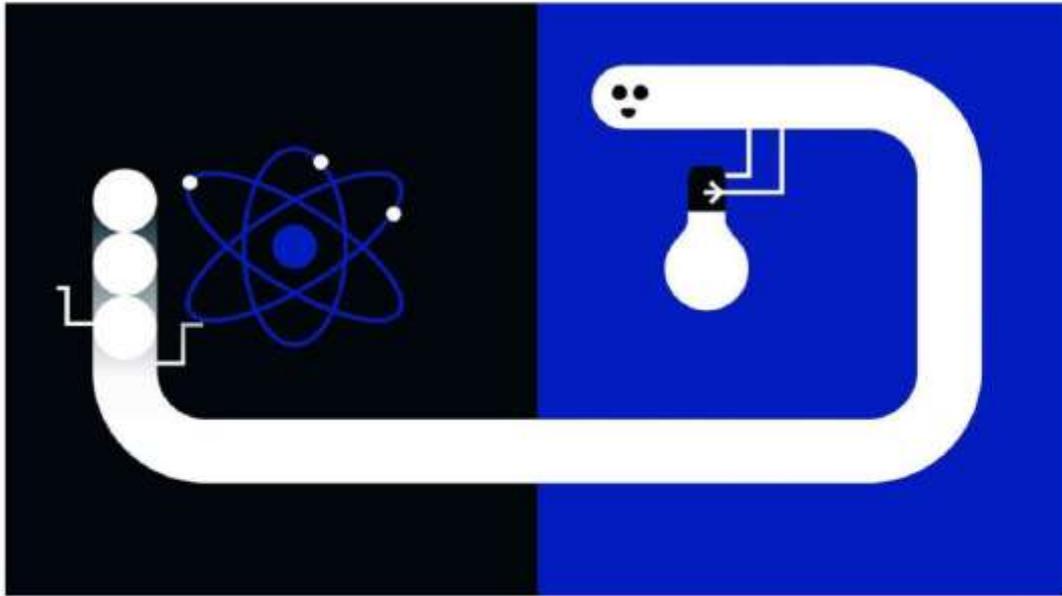
कहा कि इस मॉडल को पूरे राज्य के रेस्टोरेंट्स द्वारा अपनाया जाएगा, क्योंकि लोकप्रिय डिलीवरी ऐप्स होटल मालिकों और ग्राहकों दोनों से अधिक शुल्क ले रहे थे।

What does the future look like?
भविष्य कैसा दिखता है?

- The founder of Zaaroz, **Mr. Prasath**, said the company is expanding to other districts and towns, including **Theni** and **Perundurai**.
  Zaaroz के संस्थापक, **श्री प्रसाद**, ने कहा कि कंपनी अन्य जिलों और शहरों में विस्तार कर रही है, जिसमें **थेनी** और **पेरुंदराई** शामिल हैं।
- However, taking on established players with deep pockets, experience, and economies of scale is not easy.
  हालांकि, गहरी पूँजी, अनुभव, और पैमाने की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं वाले स्थापित खिलाड़ियों का सामना करना आसान नहीं है।
- In the app-based **cab-hailing market**, new entrants have struggled to survive against the big players.
  ऐप-आधारित **कैब-हैलिंग मार्केट** में, नए प्रवेशकों को बड़े खिलाड़ियों के खिलाफ जीवित रहने में कठिनाई हुई है।
- The same would hold good for the **food delivery business**, where patronage needs to be sustained.
  इसी तरह **फूड डिलीवरी व्यवसाय** में भी लागू होगा, जहां ग्राहक बनाए रखना आवश्यक है।
- In **2021**, the Kerala Hotel and Restaurant Association launched its own food delivery app, '**Rezoy**', charging a flat 10% commission.
  2021 में, केरल होटल और रेस्टोरेंट एसोसिएशन ने अपना फूड डिलीवरी ऐप '**Rezoy**' लॉन्च किया, जो फ्लैट 10% कमीशन लेता था।
- However, it expanded too quickly from **Kochi** to **Thrissur** to **Malappuram** and collapsed under the pressure.
  हालांकि, यह बहुत जल्दी **कोच्चि** से **त्रिश्शुर** और **मलप्पुरम** तक फैल गया और दबाव में ढह गया।
- Attempts by restaurant owners elsewhere to break free from **Swiggy** and **Zomato** have met with little success.
  दूसरे स्थानों पर रेस्टोरेंट मालिकों के **स्विगी** और **ज़ोमैटो** से मुक्त होने के प्रयास बहुत सफल नहीं रहे।
- Zaaroz will face similar challenges in terms of **logistics, customer acquisition, driver retention, and platform reliability**.
  Zaaroz को **लॉजिस्टिक्स, ग्राहक अधिग्रहण, ड्राइवर प्रतिधारण, और प्लेटफॉर्म विश्वसनीयता** के संदर्भ में समान चुनौतियों का सामना

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Quantum tunnelling is a phenomenon in which a particle passes through an energy barrier instead of having to climb over it. JOHAN JARNESTAD/THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The curious history of how quantum mechanics came to be 'seen' in an electrical circuit

The work that won this year's physics Nobel Prize lay at the end of a chain of ideas that created a bridge from the quantum world of particles to the macroscopic world of devices. Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis showed that macroscopic systems can exhibit quantum tunnelling and energy quantisation

Vasudevan Mukunth

Quantum mechanics is usually described as the science of the very small – of electrons, atoms, and photons that behave in ways that defy the rules of everyday experience. Yet one of the most striking results of modern physics is that this quantum behaviour doesn't vanish abruptly when systems become large. Instead, it continues to show itself in the behaviour of groups of particles doing something together. Over the years, physicists have learnt how to engineer these groups, measure them, and even control them to perform specific tasks.

The 2025 physics Nobel Prize has been awarded to John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis for showing in their experiments that quantum tunnelling – a phenomenon in which a particle passes through an energy barrier instead of having to climb over it – can occur not only in the subatomic realm but also in an electrical circuit big enough to see with the naked eye. Their achievement came at the end of one particular chain of ideas stretching back to Brian Josephson, a British physicist who first described how pairs of electrons could tunnel through an insulating barrier between two superconductors, and Anthony Leggett, who later proposed that an entire circuit's collective state could itself behave as a quantum object. Together, these ideas created a bridge from the quantum world of particles to the macroscopic world of devices.

The single quantum wave

In 1962, when Josephson was a 22-year-old graduate student at the University of Cambridge, the Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory had explained superconductivity. In a superconductor, electrons move in pairs known as Cooper pairs, forming a collective state that flows without resistance. Josephson wondered

what would happen if two superconductors were separated by a very thin insulating barrier. Would the paired electrons simply stop at the wall, or would they tunnel through (since that's something quantum physics allows)?

Using the maths of quantum physics, he showed that it was possible for a supercurrent, i.e., a superconducted current, to pass through even if there was no voltage across the barrier. The result was revolutionary: a current could flow indefinitely across an insulator purely because of the particular relationship between the two superconductors. Josephson derived a simple formula linking the current to the phase difference.

In a superconductor, all the electrons that form Cooper pairs act together as a single quantum wave. And like any wave, this collective quantum state has a phase, which you can think of as a measure of how far along the wave's cycle (crest to trough) it is at a given point.

When you place two superconductors next to each other with a thin insulating barrier between them, each one has its own quantum wave and its own phase. The **phase difference is simply the difference between these two phases** – i.e., how much one wave leads or lags behind the other.

This difference isn't just mathematical; it's also physically real and it controls how electrons tunnel between the superconductors. In fact, the current that flows across the junction depends directly on the sine of that phase difference, which is what Josephson expressed in his formula: $I = I_c \sin(\varphi)$, where φ is the angle expressing the phase difference.

Imagine two synchronised dancers performing the same steps. If they move perfectly in sync (no phase difference), they look like one. If one dancer is slightly ahead of the other, that offset (their phase difference) creates visible interference in their motion. Similarly, when the

superconductors' phases differ, that offset drives a beat between them, producing a current even when no voltage is applied.

The next great leap

Josephson also predicted that if a voltage were applied, the current would oscillate at a specific frequency proportional to that voltage. He also said that **if the setup were illuminated with microwaves of that frequency, there should be a measurable voltage across the barrier**. When other researchers quickly confirmed these predictions, this Josephson effect became a cornerstone of quantum electronics. In 1972, the BCS theory won the Nobel Prize for physics, and Josephson followed the next year with the prize for his work.

To visualise the Josephson effect, imagine two reservoirs of water separated by a thin glass wall. Classically, no water should cross it. But in the quantum world, waves associated with the molecules on either side can interfere and create a small but steady leak through the wall. The Josephson junction – which is a sandwich of two superconductors and an insulator – is the electrical version of this improbable leak. The supercurrent doesn't arise from a push or voltage, but from the coherence of the quantum waves themselves. 'Coherence' here means the ability of the system to maintain its quantum character. And because of this coherence, a Josephson junction can behave like a single quantum entity, even though it consists of trillions of electrons.

The next great leap on this chain was that of the British-American physicist Anthony Leggett. By the late 1970s, physicists knew Josephson junctions behaved in ways consistent with quantum theory, but there also remained a deeper conceptual question: could an entire macroscopic variable, such as the current flowing in a circuit, obey the laws of quantum mechanics as if it were a microscopic particle?

Something remarkable

His work did more than propose a radical
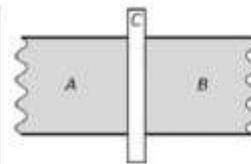
A schematic illustration of a single Josephson junction. A and B are two superconductors; C is an ultrathin insulator. MINACETI (CC BY-SA)

Leggett, then a young theorist with a background in superfluid helium, recognised that the Josephson junction offered the ideal testing ground. He proposed treating the phase difference between the two superconductors (remember: a collective property involving trillions of electrons) as a single parameter moving in an energy landscape. In his model, the system resembled a marble trapped in a valley between two hills. The marble represented the phase difference, the hills represented energy barriers determined by the junction's current and capacitance. If the marble had enough energy, it could roll over the hill, corresponding to the junction switching from a zero-voltage state to one with a finite voltage. But even without enough energy, quantum mechanics allows the marble to tunnel through the hill, appearing on the other side without having to go over the top.

Leggett predicted that at a sufficiently low temperature, when there wasn't enough heat in the system to push it over the energy barrier, a macroscopic variable of the system could tunnel through – and that this could be observed as a small current that's independent of the temperature.

idea: it set down specific conditions in which macroscopic quantum effects could survive the destructive influence of the environment. He analysed how frictional losses and electromagnetic noise (together known as dissipation and decoherence) would discourage quantum tunnelling, and showed how to design circuits that would minimise them. In other words, his theory showed a way to use the Josephson junction to test the limits of quantum mechanics.

Among those who took up the challenge were Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis. They developed exquisitely clean Josephson junctions and cooled them to fractions of a degree above absolute zero. By biasing the junction with a steadily increasing current, they could watch for the point at which it switched into a finite voltage state. At high temperatures, the switch occurred at random currents determined by thermal fluctuations: i.e. the hotter the sample, the more easily it could jump over the barrier, instead of opting to tunnel through.

But as they lowered the temperature, something remarkable happened. Below a certain point, the temperature no longer mattered: the junction continued to switch with a small but steady probability, exactly as Leggett's model predicted. This escape rate also stopped following the classical thermal pattern and instead settled into a pattern only quantum mechanics could explain. In effect, the trio had caught a macroscopic system tunnelling through an energy barrier.

To strengthen their case, the three then turned to spectroscopy. If the phase variable truly behaved like a quantum particle, it would have to have discrete energy levels. They followed Josephson's prediction and shone microwaves of specific frequencies on the circuit, and found that it absorbed energy only when the frequency matched the gap between energy levels. This was clear evidence of energy quantisation in a macroscopic object.

The superconducting qubit

In two papers in 1981 and 1985, they described the observation of macroscopic quantum tunnelling and quantised energy levels, both in a single Josephson junction – a result that built directly on Josephson's discovery and Leggett's theory. Over the next few decades, as physicists developed materials more suited to these tests and advanced techniques that could make finer measurements, they were able to confirm these effects with ever greater precision. Eventually, the experiments became the foundation of today's quantum computers. Or as Michael Schirber of Physics Magazine put it: "The work thrust open the field of superconducting circuits, which have become one of the promising platforms for future quantum computing devices."

At the heart of these computers is the superconducting qubit, which is a device that works by harnessing the same quantum behaviour seen in Josephson junctions. A qubit is the basic unit of information in a quantum computer. Unlike a classical bit, which can be either 0 or 1, a qubit can exist in a superposition: part 0 and part 1 at the same time. This allows quantum computers to explore many possibilities simultaneously, making them powerful for solving problems that are too complex for classical computers. Each of these qubits consists of a circuit of the sort the laureates used. By virtue of behaving like a quantum particle, a variable of the macroscopic circuit – e.g. the phase difference – would essay the role of the qubit, while the large size of the circuit would make it easy for an operator to manipulate and measure it.

Leggett has often reflected that while quantum mechanics appears universal, there may still be limits imposed by environmental factors, and that probing those limits is as important as building devices that exploit them. His work on macroscopic quantum systems helped establish the modern field of quantum coherence, which now spans condensed-matter physics, quantum optics, and quantum information science. Josephson, meanwhile, went on to explore the philosophical implications of coherence, proposing that the deep connectedness implied by quantum phase relations may have analogues in other domains.

The curious history of how quantum mechanics came to be 'seen' in an electrical circuit
क्वांटम मैकेनिक्स को एक विद्युत सर्किट में 'देखा' जाने का जिज्ञासु इतिहास

- The work that won this year's **physics Nobel Prize** lay at the end of a chain of ideas that created a bridge from the **quantum world of particles** to the macroscopic world of devices; **Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis** showed that macroscopic systems can exhibit **quantum**

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tunnelling and **energy quantisation**.

इस वर्ष का **फिजिक्स नोबेल पुरस्कार** जीतने वाला कार्य विचारों की उस श्रृंखला के अंत में था जिसने **कणों की क्वांटम दुनिया** को उपकरणों की मैक्रोस्कोपिक दुनिया से जोड़ा; **क्लार्क, डेवोरेट और मार्टिनिस** ने दिखाया कि मैक्रोस्कोपिक सिस्टम **क्वांटम टनलिंग** और **ऊर्जा क्वांटाइजेशन** प्रदर्शित कर सकते हैं।

*   **Quantum mechanics** is usually described as the science of the very small — of **electrons, atoms, and photons** that behave in ways that defy the rules of everyday experience.

    क्वांटम मैकेनिक्स को आमतौर पर बहुत छोटे पैमाने का विज्ञान कहा जाता है — **इलेक्ट्रॉन्स, परमाणु और फोटॉन्स** का, जो रोजमर्रा के अनुभव के नियमों को चुनौती देने वाले तरीके से व्यवहार करते हैं।

*   Yet one of the most striking results of modern physics is that this **quantum behaviour** doesn't vanish abruptly when systems become large.

    फिर भी, आधुनिक भौतिकी के सबसे उल्लेखनीय परिणामों में से एक यह है कि यह **क्वांटम व्यवहार** बड़े सिस्टम होने पर अचानक गायब नहीं होता।

*   Instead, it continues to show itself in the behaviour of groups of particles doing something together.

    इसके बजाय, यह समूह में कणों के किसी कार्य के दौरान उनके व्यवहार में दिखाई देना जारी रखता है।

*   Over the years, physicists have learnt how to engineer these groups, measure them, and even control them to perform specific tasks.

    वर्षों में, भौतिकविदों ने सीखा कि इन समूहों को कैसे इंजीनियर किया जाए, मापा जाए, और विशिष्ट कार्यों को करने के लिए नियंत्रित किया जाए।

*   The 2025 **physics Nobel Prize** has been awarded to **John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis** for showing in their experiments that **quantum tunnelling** — a phenomenon in which a particle passes through an energy barrier instead of having to climb over it — can occur not only in the **subatomic realm** but also in an **electrical circuit** big enough to see with the naked eye.

    2025 का **फिजिक्स नोबेल पुरस्कार जॉन क्लार्क, मिशेल डेवोरेट और जॉन मार्टिनिस** को उनके प्रयोगों में यह दिखाने के लिए दिया गया कि **क्वांटम टनलिंग** — एक घटना जिसमें एक कण ऊर्जा बाधा के ऊपर चढ़ने के बजाय उसके माध्यम से गुजरता है — केवल **सबएटॉमिक क्षेत्र** में ही नहीं बल्कि एक **विद्युत सर्किट** में भी हो सकता है, जिसे नग्न आंख से देखा जा सकता है।

*   Their achievement came at the end of one particular chain of ideas stretching back to **Brian Josephson**, a British physicist who first described how pairs of electrons could tunnel through an insulating barrier between two superconductors, and **Anthony Leggett**, who later proposed that an entire circuit's collective state could itself behave as a **quantum object**.

    उनकी उपलब्धि उस विशेष विचार श्रृंखला के अंत में आई, जो ब्रिटिश भौतिकविद **ब्रायन जोसफसन** तक जाती है, जिन्होंने पहले यह बताया कि इलेक्ट्रॉनों की जोड़ी दो सुपरकंडक्टरों के बीच इन्सुलेटिंग बैरियर के माध्यम से टनल कर सकती है, और **एंथनी लेगेट**, जिन्होंने बाद में प्रस्तावित किया कि पूरे सर्किट की सामूहिक स्थिति स्वयं एक **क्वांटम वस्तु** के रूप में व्यवहार कर सकती है।

*   Together, these ideas created a bridge from the **quantum world of particles** to the macroscopic world of devices.

    साथ में, इन विचारों ने **कणों की क्वांटम दुनिया** से उपकरणों की मैक्रोस्कोपिक दुनिया तक एक पुल बनाया।

The single quantum wave
एकल क्वांटम तरंग

- In 1962, when **Josephson** was a 22-year-old graduate student at the **University of Cambridge**, the **Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory** had explained superconductivity.
  1962 में, जब **जोसफसन कैंब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय** में 22 वर्षीय स्नातक छात्र थे, **बार्डीन-कूपर-श्रिफ़र (BCS) थ्योरी** ने सुपरकंडक्टिविटी को समझाया था।

- In a superconductor, electrons move in pairs known as **Cooper pairs**, forming a collective state that flows without resistance.
  सुपरकंडक्टर में, इलेक्ट्रॉन्स **कूपर जोड़ी** के रूप में चलते हैं, एक सामूहिक स्थिति बनाते हैं जो प्रतिरोध के बिना प्रवाहित होती है।

- Josephson wondered what would happen if two superconductors were separated by a very thin **insulating barrier**.
  जोसफसन ने सोचा कि अगर दो सुपरकंडक्टरों को बहुत पतली **इन्सुलेटिंग बाधा** द्वारा अलग किया जाए तो क्या होगा।

- Would the paired electrons simply stop at the wall, or would they tunnel through (since that's something quantum physics allows)?
  क्या जोड़ीदार इलेक्ट्रॉन्स दीवार पर रुक जाएंगे, या उसके माध्यम से टनल करेंगे (क्योंकि यह क्वांटम भौतिकी में संभव है)?

- Using the maths of **quantum physics**, he showed that it was possible for a **supercurrent** to pass through even if there was no voltage across the barrier.
  क्वांटम भौतिकी के गणित का उपयोग करते हुए, उन्होंने दिखाया कि एक **सुपरकरंट** बाधा के पार बिना वोल्टेज के भी गुजर सकता है।

- The result was revolutionary: a current could flow indefinitely across an insulator purely because of the particular relationship between the two superconductors.
  परिणाम क्रांतिकारी था: एक करंट बिना अंत के एक इन्सुलेटर में प्रवाहित हो सकता है केवल दो सुपरकंडक्टरों के बीच विशेष संबंध के कारण।

- Josephson derived a simple formula linking the current to the **phase difference**.
  जोसफसन ने करंट को **फेज़ अंतर** से जोड़ने वाला एक सरल सूत्र निकाला।

- In a superconductor, all the electrons that form **Cooper pairs** act together as a single **quantum wave**.
  सुपरकंडक्टर में, सभी इलेक्ट्रॉन्स जो **कूपर जोड़ी** बनाते हैं, एकल **क्वांटम तरंग** के रूप में एक साथ कार्य करते हैं।

- And like any wave, this collective quantum state has a **phase**, which you can think of as a measure of how far along the wave's cycle (crest to trough) it is at a given point.
  और किसी भी तरंग की तरह, इस सामूहिक क्वांटम स्थिति का एक **फेज़** होता है, जिसे आप इस बात के रूप में सोच सकते हैं कि यह एक निश्चित बिंदु पर तरंग के चक्र (शिखर से गर्त) में कितनी दूर है।

- When you place two superconductors next to each other with a thin **insulating barrier** between them, each one has its own quantum wave and its own phase.
  जब आप दो सुपरकंडक्टरों को एक-दूसरे के पास रखते हैं और उनके बीच पतली **इन्सुलेटिंग बाधा** होती है, तो प्रत्येक की अपनी क्वांटम तरंग और अपनी फेज़ होती है।

- The **phase difference** is simply the difference between those two phases — i.e., how much one wave leads or lags behind the other.
  फेज़ अंतर बस उन दो फेज़ों के बीच का अंतर है — यानी, एक तरंग दूसरी के आगे या पीछे कितनी है।

- This difference isn't just mathematical; it's also physically real and it controls how electrons tunnel between the superconductors.
  यह अंतर केवल गणितीय नहीं है; यह भौतिक रूप से वास्तविक है और यह नियंत्रित करता है कि इलेक्ट्रॉन्स सुपरकंडक्टरों के बीच कैसे टनल करते हैं।

- In fact, the current that flows across the junction depends directly on the sine of that phase difference, which is what Josephson expressed in his formula: **I = Ic sin(φ)**, where φ is the angle expressing the phase difference.
  वास्तव में, जंक्शन के पार बहने वाला करंट सीधे उस फेज़ अंतर के साइन पर निर्भर करता है, जिसे जोसफसन ने अपने सूत्र में व्यक्त किया: **I = Ic sin(φ)**, जहां φ वह कोण है जो फेज़ अंतर व्यक्त करता है।

- Imagine two synchronised dancers performing the same steps. If they move perfectly in sync (no phase difference), they look like one.
  कल्पना करें दो समन्वित डांसर समान कदम कर रहे हैं। अगर वे पूरी तरह सिंक में चलते हैं (कोई फेज़ अंतर नहीं), तो वे एक जैसी दिखते हैं।

- If one dancer is slightly ahead of the other, that offset (their **phase difference**) creates visible interference in their motion.
  अगर एक डांसर दूसरे से थोड़ा आगे है, तो वह अंतर (उनका **फेज़ अंतर**) उनके गति में दृश्यमान हस्तक्षेप पैदा करता है।

- Similarly, when the superconductors' phases differ, that offset drives a beat between them, producing a current even when no voltage is applied.
  इसी तरह, जब सुपरकंडक्टरों के फेज़ अलग होते हैं, तो वह अंतर उनके बीच एक बीट उत्पन्न करता है, जिससे करंट बनता है भले ही कोई वोल्टेज लागू न हो।

The next great leap
अगला बड़ा कदम

- Josephson also predicted that if a **voltage** were applied, the current would oscillate at a specific frequency proportional to that voltage.
  जोसफसन ने यह भी भविष्यवाणी की कि यदि कोई **वोल्टेज** लगाया जाए, तो करंट उस वोल्टेज के अनुपात में एक विशेष आवृत्ति पर दोलित होगा।

- He also said that if the setup were illuminated with **microwaves** of that frequency, there should be a measurable voltage across the barrier.
  उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि यदि उस आवृत्ति की **माइक्रोवेव्स** से सेटअप को प्रकाशित किया जाए, तो बाधा के पार मापने योग्य वोल्टेज होना चाहिए।

- When other researchers quickly confirmed these predictions, this **Josephson effect** became a cornerstone of **quantum electronics**.
  जब अन्य शोधकर्ताओं ने इन भविष्यवाणियों की तेजी से पुष्टि की, तो यह **जोसफसन प्रभाव क्वांटम इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स** का आधार बन गया।

- In 1972, the **BCS theory** won the **Nobel Prize for physics**, and Josephson followed the next year with the prize for his work.
  1972 में, **BCS थ्योरी** ने **फिजिक्स के लिए नोबेल पुरस्कार** जीता, और जोसफसन ने अगले वर्ष अपने कार्य के लिए पुरस्कार प्राप्त किया।

- To visualise the Josephson effect, imagine two reservoirs of water separated by a thin glass wall. Classically, no water should cross it.
  जोसफसन प्रभाव को देखने के लिए कल्पना करें कि दो जलाशयों को पतली कांच की दीवार द्वारा अलग किया गया है। पारंपरिक रूप से, कोई पानी इसे पार नहीं करना चाहिए।

- But in the **quantum world**, waves associated with the molecules on either side can interfere and create a small but steady leak through the wall.
  लेकिन **क्वांटम दुनिया** में, दोनों तरफ के अणुओं से संबंधित तरंगें हस्तक्षेप कर सकती हैं और दीवार के माध्यम से एक छोटा लेकिन स्थिर रिसाव उत्पन्न कर सकती हैं।

- The **Josephson junction** — which is a sandwich of two superconductors and an insulator — is the electrical version of this improbable leak.
  जोसफसन जंक्शन — जो दो सुपरकंडक्टरों और एक इन्सुलेटर का सैंडविच है — इस असंभव रिसाव का इलेक्ट्रिकल संस्करण है।

- The **supercurrent** doesn't arise from a push or voltage, but from the coherence of the **quantum waves** themselves.
  सुपरकरंट धक्का या वोल्टेज से नहीं आता, बल्कि स्वयं **क्वांटम तरंगों** की समन्वयता से उत्पन्न होता है।

- 'Coherence' here means the ability of the system to maintain its **quantum character**.
  यहां 'समन्वयता' का अर्थ है कि सिस्टम अपनी **क्वांटम विशेषता** बनाए रखने में सक्षम है।

- And because of this coherence, a **Josephson junction** can behave like a single **quantum entity**, even though it consists of trillions of electrons.
  और इस समन्वयता के कारण, एक **जोसफसन जंक्शन** एकल **क्वांटम इकाई** की तरह व्यवहार कर सकता है, भले ही इसमें खरबों इलेक्ट्रॉन्स हों।

- The next great leap on this chain was that of the British-American physicist **Anthony Leggett**.
  इस श्रृंखला में अगला बड़ा कदम ब्रिटिश-अमेरिकी भौतिकविद **एंथनी लेगेट** का था।

- By the late 1970s, physicists knew **Josephson junctions** behaved in ways consistent with **quantum theory**, but there also remained a deeper conceptual question:
  1970 के दशक के अंत तक, भौतिकविद जानते थे कि **जोसफसन जंक्शन क्वांटम थ्योरी** के अनुरूप व्यवहार करते हैं, लेकिन एक गहरा वैचारिक प्रश्न भी बना रहा:

- could an entire **macroscopic variable**, such as the **current** flowing in a circuit, obey the laws of **quantum mechanics** as if it were a microscopic particle?
  क्या पूरा **मैक्रोस्कोपिक वेरिएबल**, जैसे कि सर्किट में बहने वाला **करंट**, **क्वांटम मैकेनिक्स** के नियमों का पालन कर सकता है जैसे कि यह एक सूक्ष्म कण हो?

- **Leggett, then a young theorist with a background in superfluid helium**
  लेगेट, तब सुपरफ्लुइड हीलियम के पृष्ठभूमि वाले एक युवा सिद्धांतकार

- Leggett recognised that the **Josephson junction** offered the ideal testing ground.
  लेगेट ने पहचाना कि **जोसफसन जंक्शन** आदर्श परीक्षण स्थल प्रदान करता है।

- He proposed treating the **phase difference** between the two superconductors as a single parameter moving in an **energy landscape**.
  उन्होंने प्रस्तावित किया कि दो सुपरकंडक्टरों के बीच के **फेज़ अंतर** को एकल पैरामीटर के रूप में माना जाए जो **ऊर्जा परिदृश्य** में चलता है।

- In his model, the system resembled a **marble trapped in a valley** between two hills.
  अपने मॉडल में, सिस्टम दो पहाड़ियों के बीच एक **घाटी में फंसा हुआ मार्बल** जैसा प्रतीत होता है।

- The marble represented the **phase difference**; the hills represented **energy barriers** determined by the junction's **current** and **capacitance**.
  मार्बल ने **फेज़ अंतर** का प्रतिनिधित्व किया; पहाड़ियों ने **ऊर्जा बाधाओं** का प्रतिनिधित्व किया, जो जंक्शन के **करंट** और **कैपेसिटेंस** द्वारा निर्धारित होती हैं।

- If the marble had enough energy, it could roll over the hill, corresponding to the junction switching from a **zero-voltage state** to one with a **finite voltage**.
  यदि मार्बल के पास पर्याप्त ऊर्जा होती, तो यह पहाड़ी पार कर सकता था, जो जंक्शन के **शून्य-वोल्टेज स्थिति** से **निश्चित वोल्टेज** वाली स्थिति में स्विच करने के बराबर होता।

- But even without enough energy, **quantum mechanics** allows the marble to **tunnel through** the hill, appearing on the other side without having to go over the top.
  लेकिन पर्याप्त ऊर्जा के बिना भी, **क्वांटम मैकेनिक्स** मार्बल को पहाड़ी के माध्यम से **टनल** करने की अनुमति देता है, बिना ऊपर से जाने के दूसरी तरफ दिखाई देता है।

- Leggett predicted that at a sufficiently low temperature, when there wasn't enough heat in the system to push it over the energy barrier, a **macroscopic variable** of the system could **tunnel through** — and that this could be observed as a small **current** that's independent of the **temperature**.
  लेगेट ने भविष्यवाणी की कि पर्याप्त कम तापमान पर, जब सिस्टम में पर्याप्त गर्मी नहीं होती इसे ऊर्जा बाधा पार करने के लिए, सिस्टम का एक **मैक्रोस्कोपिक वेरिएबल टनल** कर सकता है — और इसे एक छोटे **करंट** के रूप में देखा जा सकता है जो **तापमान** से स्वतंत्र होता है।

Something remarkable
कुछ अद्भुत

- His work did more than propose a radical idea: it set down specific conditions in which **macroscopic quantum effects** could survive the destructive influence of the **environment**.
  उनका कार्य केवल एक क्रांतिकारी विचार प्रस्तुत करने से अधिक था: इसने विशिष्ट परिस्थितियाँ निर्धारित कीं जिसमें **मैक्रोस्कोपिक क्वांटम प्रभाव पर्यावरण** के विनाशकारी प्रभाव से बच सकते हैं।

- He analysed how **frictional losses** and **electromagnetic noise** (together known as **dissipation** and **decoherence**) would discourage **quantum tunnelling**, and showed how to design circuits that would minimise them.
  उन्होंने विश्लेषण किया कि **घर्षण हानि** और **इलेक्ट्रोमैग्नेटिक शोर** (जिसे मिलाकर **डिसिपेशन** और **डेकोहेरेन्स** कहा जाता है) कैसे **क्वांटम टनेलिंग** को रोकेंगे, और दिखाया कि ऐसे सर्किट कैसे डिज़ाइन किए जा सकते हैं जो इन्हें न्यूनतम करेंगे।

- In other words, his theory showed a way to use the **Josephson junction** to test the limits of **quantum mechanics**.
  दूसरे शब्दों में, उनके सिद्धांत ने यह दिखाया कि **जोसफसन जंक्शन** का उपयोग **क्वांटम मैकेनिक्स** की सीमाओं को परखने के लिए कैसे किया जा सकता है।

- Among those who took up the challenge were **Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis**.
  जो लोग इस चुनौती को स्वीकार कर चुके थे उनमें **क्लार्क, डेवोरेट, और मार्टिनिस** शामिल थे।

- They developed exquisitely clean **Josephson junctions** and cooled them to fractions of a degree above **absolute zero**.
  उन्होंने अत्यंत स्वच्छ **जोसफसन जंक्शन** विकसित किए और उन्हें **शून्य के ऊपर कुछ अंश** तक ठंडा किया।
- By biasing the junction with a steadily increasing **current**, they could watch for the point at which it switched into a **finite voltage state**.
  जंक्शन को लगातार बढ़ते हुए **करंट** से बायस करके, वे उस बिंदु पर नजर रख सकते थे जब यह **निश्चित वोल्टेज स्थिति** में स्विच करता।
- At high temperatures, the switch occurred at random **currents** determined by **thermal fluctuations**.
  उच्च तापमान पर, स्विच **थर्मल फ्लक्चुएशन्स** द्वारा निर्धारित यादृच्छिक **करंट** पर होता।
- But as they lowered the temperature, something remarkable happened.
  लेकिन जैसे ही उन्होंने तापमान कम किया, कुछ अद्भुत हुआ।
- Below a certain point, the **temperature** no longer mattered: the junction continued to switch with a small but steady probability, exactly as **Leggett's model** predicted.
  एक निश्चित बिंदु से नीचे, **तापमान** अब मायने नहीं रखता: जंक्शन एक छोटे लेकिन स्थिर संभावना के साथ स्विच करता रहा, बिल्कुल जैसा कि **लेगेट का मॉडल** भविष्यवाणी करता था।
- This escape rate also stopped following the classical **thermal pattern** and instead settled into a pattern only **quantum mechanics** could explain.
  यह बचाव दर भी पारंपरिक **थर्मल पैटर्न** का पालन करना बंद कर दी और इसके बजाय केवल **क्वांटम मैकेनिक्स** द्वारा समझाए जाने योग्य पैटर्न में स्थापित हो गई।
- In effect, the trio had caught a **macroscopic system tunnelling** through an **energy barrier**.
  वास्तव में, इस तिकड़ी ने एक **मैक्रोस्कोपिक सिस्टम** को **ऊर्जा बाधा** के माध्यम से **टनलिंग** करते हुए पकड़ा।
- To strengthen their case, the three then turned to **spectroscopy**.
  अपने मामले को मजबूत करने के लिए, फिर तीनों ने **स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी** की ओर रुख किया।
- If the **phase variable** truly behaved like a **quantum particle**, it would have to have discrete **energy levels**.
  यदि **फेज़ वेरिएबल** वास्तव में एक **क्वांटम कण** की तरह व्यवहार करता है, तो इसके पास अलग-अलग **ऊर्जा स्तर** होने चाहिए।
- They followed **Josephson's prediction** and shone **microwaves** of specific frequencies on the circuit, and found that it absorbed energy only when the frequency matched the **gap between energy levels**.
  उन्होंने **जोसफसन की भविष्यवाणी** का पालन किया और सर्किट पर विशेष आवृत्ति की **माइक्रोवेव्स** डालीं, और पाया कि यह ऊर्जा केवल तब अवशोषित करता है जब आवृत्ति **ऊर्जा स्तरों के बीच अंतर** से मेल खाती है।
- This was clear evidence of **energy quantisation** in a **macroscopic object**.
  यह एक **मैक्रोस्कोपिक वस्तु** में ऊर्जा **क्वांटाइजेशन** का स्पष्ट प्रमाण था।

The superconducting qubit
सुपरकंडक्टिंग क्यूबिट

- In two papers in 1981 and 1985, they described the observation of **macroscopic quantum tunnelling** and **quantised energy levels**, both in a single **Josephson junction**.
  1981 और 1985 में दो पत्रों में, उन्होंने एकल **जोसफसन जंक्शन** में **मैक्रोस्कोपिक क्वांटम टनेलिंग** और **क्वांटाइज्ड ऊर्जा स्तरों** के अवलोकन का वर्णन किया।
- Over the next few decades, as physicists developed materials more suited to these tests and advanced techniques that could make finer measurements, they were able to confirm these effects with ever greater precision.
  अगले कुछ दशकों में, जैसे-जैसे भौतिकविद इन परीक्षणों के लिए अधिक उपयुक्त सामग्री और सूक्ष्म माप करने की उन्नत तकनीकें विकसित करते गए, वे इन प्रभावों की पुष्टि उच्चतम सटीकता के साथ कर पाए।
- Eventually, the experiments became the foundation of today's **quantum computers**.
  अंततः, ये प्रयोग आज के **क्वांटम कंप्यूटरों** की नींव बन गए।
- Or as Michael Schirber of **Physics Magazine** put it: "The work of thrust opens the field of **superconducting circuits**, which have become one of the promising platforms for future **quantum computing devices**."
  या जैसा कि **फिजिक्स मैगज़ीन** के माइकल शिर्बर ने कहा: "इस कार्य ने **सुपरकंडक्टिंग सर्किट्स** के क्षेत्र को खोल दिया, जो भविष्य के **क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग डिवाइसों** के लिए एक आशाजनक मंच बन गए हैं।"

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- At the heart of these computers is the **superconducting qubit**, which is a device that works by harnessing the same **quantum behaviour** seen in **Josephson junctions**.
  इन कंप्यूटरों के केंद्र में **सुपरकंडक्टिंग क्यूबिट** है, जो एक ऐसा डिवाइस है जो **जोसफसन जंक्शन** में देखे गए समान **कांटम व्यवहार** का उपयोग करता है।

- A **qubit** is the basic unit of information in a **quantum computer**.
  एक **क्यूबिट कांटम कंप्यूटर** में सूचना की मूल इकाई है।

- Unlike a classical bit, which can be either 0 or 1, a **qubit** can exist in a **superposition**: part 0 and part 1 at the same time.
  एक क्लासिकल बिट के विपरीत, जो 0 या 1 हो सकता है, एक **क्यूबिट सुपरपोजिशन** में हो सकता है: एक ही समय में आंशिक रूप से 0 और आंशिक रूप से 1।

- This allows **quantum computers** to explore many possibilities simultaneously, making them powerful for solving problems that are too complex for classical computers.
  यह **कांटम कंप्यूटरों** को कई संभावनाओं का एक साथ अन्वेषण करने की अनुमति देता है, जिससे वे उन समस्याओं को हल करने में शक्तिशाली बन जाते हैं जो क्लासिकल कंप्यूटरों के लिए बहुत जटिल हैं।

- Each of these **qubits** consists of a **circuit** of the sort the laureates used.
  इनमें से प्रत्येक **क्यूबिट** उस प्रकार के **सर्किट** से बना है जिसे पुरस्कार विजेताओं ने उपयोग किया।

- By virtue of behaving like a **quantum particle**, a variable of the macroscopic circuit — e.g. the **phase difference** — would essay the role of the **qubit**, while the large size of the circuit would make it easy for an operator to manipulate and measure it.
  एक **कांटम कण** की तरह व्यवहार करने के गुण के कारण, मैक्रोस्कोपिक सर्किट का एक वेरिएबल — जैसे कि **फेज़ अंतर** — **क्यूबिट** की भूमिका निभाएगा, जबकि सर्किट का बड़ा आकार ऑपरेटर के लिए इसे मापना और नियंत्रित करना आसान बना देगा।

- Leggett has often reflected that while **quantum mechanics** appears universal, there may still be limits imposed by **environmental factors**, and that probing those limits is as important as building devices that exploit them.
  लेगेट ने अक्सर विचार किया कि जबकि **कांटम मैकेनिक्स** सार्वभौमिक प्रतीत होता है, फिर भी **पर्यावरणीय कारकों** द्वारा सीमाएँ लगाई जा सकती हैं, और उन सीमाओं की जांच करना उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है जितना कि उन्हें उपयोग करने वाले उपकरण बनाना।

- His work on **macroscopic quantum systems** helped establish the modern field of **quantum coherence**, which now spans **condensed-matter physics**, **quantum optics**, and **quantum information science**.
  मैक्रोस्कोपिक कांटम सिस्टम्स पर उनके काम ने आधुनिक क्षेत्र **कांटम कोहेरेन्स** की स्थापना में मदद की, जो अब **संघनित पदार्थ भौतिकी**, **कांटम ऑप्टिक्स**, और **कांटम सूचना विज्ञान** में फैला हुआ है।

- **Josephson**, meanwhile, went on to explore the philosophical implications of **coherence**, proposing that the deep connectedness implied by **quantum phase relations** may have analogues in other domains.
  इस बीच, **जोसफसन** ने **कोहेरेन्स** के दार्शनिक निहितार्थों का अन्वेषण करना जारी रखा, यह प्रस्तावित करते हुए कि **कांटम फेज़ रिलेशन्स** द्वारा इंगित गहरी जुड़ाव अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी समानताएं रख सकती है।