PATRIOTIC IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE HINDU NEWSPAP

29 OCTOBER 2025

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PCS Special:	29 October 2025
1. QUIZ	

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the Indian artist known as the 'father of Indian Animation'. **Ans: Ram Mohan**

2. This animated film was the first cartoon to use fully synchronised sound. **Ans: *Steamboat Willie***

3. This work became the first animated feature nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars. **Ans: *Beauty and the Beast***

4. The animation that was used in films like *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. **Ans: Stop Motion animation**

5. The name of the animation technique where live-action footage is traced over to create realistic motion. **Ans: Rotoscoping**

6. This Pixar hit was the first feature-length film animated entirely with CGI. **Ans: *Toy Story***

7. This studio was founded by Spielberg, Katzenberg, and Geffen in 1994. **Ans: DreamWorks Animation**

Visual: Name this legendary animator. **Ans: Hayako Miyazaki**

Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Rohit Sah| Pranab Biswas| Ashok Gamaganoru| Dharmendra Singh

QUIZ

Ram Mohan — "Father of Indian Animation"

Basic Identity and Summary
 • **Name:** Ram Mohan
 • **Life Span: 26 August 1931 – 11 October 2019**
 • **Why He's Notable:** Widely regarded as the **"Father of Indian Animation"** for pioneering studio animation in India, training generations of animators, and producing award-winning films and educational series.

Steamboat Willie — The First Cartoon with Fully Synchronised Sound

• **Title:** *Steamboat Willie*
 • **Released: 18 November 1928**
 • **Director: Walt Disney** and **Ub Iwerks**
 • **Production Studio: Walt Disney Studios** (then known as Disney Brothers Studio)
 • **Runtime:** Approximately **7 minutes and 42 seconds**
 • **Historical Significance:** *Steamboat Willie* is recognized as the **first animated film to use fully synchronized sound**, marking a revolutionary moment in animation and cinema history.

Historical Background and Context

• During the **1920s**, most animated films were **silent**. Music and sound effects were added live during screenings by orchestras or sound operators.
 • The late 1920s witnessed a **technological transformation in film sound**, notably with the release of *The Jazz Singer* (1927) — the first feature-length film with synchronized dialogue.
 • Inspired by this breakthrough, **Walt Disney** decided to create an animated film that perfectly synchronised sound and visuals using innovative technology.

Creation and Production Details

• **Development Team:** Walt Disney (Producer/Director), Ub Iwerks (Animator), and Wilfred Jackson (Sound Coordination).

• **Animation:** Drawn by hand using traditional cell animation techniques, with over **10,000 individual drawings** created.
• **Sound Synchronization Technique:** Disney used a system called **"Cinephone"**, developed by Pat Powers, to record and align sound with the animated visuals.
• **Music Composition:** The musical score was composed by **Wilfred Jackson** and **Bert Lewis**. It included popular tunes like *Steamboat Bill* and *Turkey in the Straw*.
• **Voice of Mickey Mouse: Walt Disney himself** provided Mickey's voice.

Plot Summary

• The film opens with **Mickey Mouse** piloting a steamboat under the supervision of the grumpy **Captain Pete**.
• Mickey joyfully navigates the boat, plays musical tunes using onboard animals and objects, and showcases playful, rhythmic animation.
• **Minnie Mouse** joins later, and together they perform a musical piece by improvising instruments from livestock and ship items.

Significance in Animation History

• **First Cartoon with Fully Synchronised Sound:** *Steamboat Willie* was the first to integrate music, character movement, and sound effects with perfect timing — revolutionizing animated storytelling.
• **Birth of Mickey Mouse:** This film marked the **public debut** of **Mickey Mouse** and **Minnie Mouse**, who later became the most iconic characters in global animation.
• **Sound and Technology Breakthrough:** Demonstrated the potential of combining sound technology with animation to enhance emotional and comic effects.
• **Industry Impact:** The film's massive success led to Disney's dominance in animation and set the industry standard for sound-animated synchronization.

Reception and Cultural Impact

• **Premiere:** Released at the **Colony Theatre**, New York City, on **18 November 1928** — a date now celebrated as **Mickey Mouse's official birthday**.
• **Critical Acclaim:** Audiences were astonished by the seamless blend of sound and movement, describing it as a "talking picture in cartoon form."
• **Legacy:** *Steamboat Willie* was selected for preservation in the **United States National Film Registry** by the **Library of Congress** for being "culturally, historically, and aesthetically significant."

Technological and Artistic Concepts

1. Synchronised Sound Animation:
• Achieved by timing each frame of animation with pre-recorded music and effects.
• Required innovative coordination between animators and sound engineers.

2. Character Personality Through Motion:
• Mickey's playful movements and expressions introduced "personality animation" — giving emotion and liveliness to drawn characters.

3. Influence on Future Animation:
• Inspired a new generation of filmmakers and animators to combine sound with visuals.
• Laid the foundation for future masterpieces such as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937).

Beauty and the Beast (1991) — First Animated Feature Nominated for Best Picture

• **Title:** *Beauty and the Beast*
• **Release Year:** 1991

• **Production Studio:** Walt Disney Feature Animation / Walt Disney Pictures
• **Significant Achievement:** It became the **first full-length animated feature film** to receive a nomination for the Academy Award for **Best Picture**.
• **Award Results:** The film did *not* win Best Picture (the Oscar went to *The Silence of the Lambs* in 1992) but won other Academy Awards—**Best Original Score** and **Best Original Song**—and received several nominations.

Stop Motion Animation

• **Definition:** Stop Motion Animation is a filmmaking technique in which **physical objects are moved in small increments** between individually photographed frames. When these frames are played in sequence, they create the illusion of motion.
• It is one of the **oldest and most artistic** forms of animation, blending photography, sculpture, and storytelling.
• Each frame is **manually captured**, making the process time-intensive but visually distinctive.

Rotoscoping — The Animation Technique of Tracing Live-Action Footage

• **Definition:** Rotoscoping is an **animation technique** where **animators trace over live-action footage**, frame by frame, to produce **realistic motion**.
• This process allows artists to combine the **fluidity of human movement** with the **creative flexibility of animation**.
• It serves as a bridge between **live-action cinematography** and **animated art**, used both in traditional and modern digital filmmaking.

Key Concepts and Process of Rotoscoping

1. Live-Action Recording
• The process begins with filming real actors performing specific movements or scenes.
• These live-action clips serve as **reference material** for animators.

2. Frame-by-Frame Tracing
• Each frame of the footage is **projected or imported** onto a surface (traditionally glass, now digital software).
• Animators trace the outlines and key motion features of the actors frame by frame, capturing realistic gestures and timing.

3. Animation Rendering
• Once traced, the frames are cleaned, coloured, and stylized according to the animation's artistic direction.
• The result is a **smooth, lifelike motion**, blending realism with artistic exaggeration.

Applications of Rotoscoping in Film and Animation

1. Traditional Animation
• Early Disney films such as **"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (1937)** used rotoscoping extensively to achieve graceful and realistic human movements, particularly in dance sequences.

2. Visual Effects (VFX)
• In modern cinema, rotoscoping is used to **isolate objects or actors from backgrounds**, especially for **compositing and green-screen removal**.
• Example: **Star Wars (1977)** used rotoscoping to create the glowing **lightsaber effects**.

3. Contemporary Animation and Hybrid Films
• **"A Scanner Darkly" (2006)** and **"Waking Life" (2001)**, both directed by **Richard Linklater**, used **digital rotoscoping** to blend realism with surreal art styles.
• The Indian animation film **"Delhi Safari" (2012)** also employed rotoscoping for selected sequences.

Technological Evolution

Traditional Rotoscoping (1910s–1980s):
 • Done manually using light tables and projected film frames.
 • Used in early Disney and Fleischer studios.

Digital Rotoscoping (1990s–Present):
 • Uses software such as **Adobe After Effects**, **Nuke**, and **Silhouette** for precision tracing and compositing.
 • Modern VFX industries employ rotoscoping in almost every CGI-heavy film — from **Marvel Studios' Avengers series** to **Avatar (2009)**.

DreamWorks Animation (Founded 1994)

Founding and Historical Background

• **Founded:** 1994
 • **Founders: Steven Spielberg**, **Jeffrey Katzenberg**, and **David Geffen** — the initials of their last names form the "SKG" in **DreamWorks SKG**.
 • **Purpose:** The founders aimed to create a new-generation film studio combining creativity, cutting-edge technology, and strong storytelling.
 • **Headquarters:** Glendale, California, USA
 • DreamWorks was envisioned as a **modern, artist-driven studio** that would rival long-established players like Disney and Warner Bros.

Evolution of DreamWorks Animation

• Initially, DreamWorks SKG produced both **live-action** and **animated films**, with animation handled by **DreamWorks Animation** (a separate division formed in **1997**).
 • The studio quickly gained attention for pushing **computer-generated imagery (CGI)** to new levels, following Pixar's success with *Toy Story* (1995).
 • In **2004**, DreamWorks Animation became an **independent company** and went public under the name *DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc*

GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography	
TOPICS COVERED	**29 October 2025**
1.	**Cyclone Montha makes landfall; rain batters several parts of A.P.** **चक्रवात मोंथा ने किया तट पर प्रहार; बारिश ने आंध्र प्रदेश के कई हिस्सों को किया प्रभावित**

2.	**'Rising sea surface temperatures leading to more cyclones'** **'बढ़ते समुद्री सतह तापमान से चक्रवातों की संख्या में वृद्धि'**
3.	**Rethinking Immigration in the Age of Exclusion** **बहिष्कार के युग में आव्रजन पर पुनर्विचार**
4.	**Relief and Rehabilitation: India's East Coast Invariably Bears the Brunt of Cyclones** **राहत और पुनर्वास: भारत का पूर्वी तट हमेशा चक्रवातों का मुख्य भार झेलता है**
5.	**Media outlets in Kyrgyzstan labelled 'extremist' as crackdown intensifies** **किर्गिज़स्तान में मीडिया आउटलेट्स को 'चरमपंथी' करार दिया गया, दमन तेज हुआ**
6.	**A Senegal cemetery sheds new light on shadows of a French colonial massacre** **फ्रांसीसी औपनिवेशिक नरसंहार की छाया पर नया प्रकाश डालता एक सेनेगल कब्रिस्तान**

GS I: Geography

The peak of Japan's Mount Fuji was capped with snow for the first time this winter on October 23, reaching the milestone 21 days later than the average since records began in 1894, the country's meteorological agency said. REUTERS

The peak of Japan's Mount Fuji was capped with snow for the first time this winter on October 23, reaching the milestone 21 days later than the average since records began in 1894, the country's meteorological agency said

GS I: Mapping

A Giant tortoise enjoy pumpkins during the upcoming halloween festivities at the Prague Zoo in Czech Republic on Tuesday. AP

A Giant tortoise enjoy pumpkins during the upcoming halloween festivities at the Prague Zoo in Czech Republic on Tuesday.

Cyclone Montha makes landfall; rain batters several parts of A.P.

- **35,000 people evacuated; crops on 43,000 hectares submerged**
- **Power infrastructure, including substations, suffer massive damage**
- **Twenty trains and more than 50 flights cancelled**

`GS I: Geography`

Swept away: A home destroyed by the cyclonic swell in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. K.R. DEEPAK

T. Appala Naidu
Nellore Sravani
VIJAYAWADA

The severe cyclonic storm Montha began its landfall near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh around 7 p.m. on Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Between 11.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., the storm moved with a speed of 17 kmph. It was positioned around 120 km east of Machilipatnam, 110 km south of Kakinada, and 220 km south-southwest of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and 460 km southwest of Gopalpur in Odisha at 5.30 p.m.

The storm triggered very heavy rain in the State and neighbouring Odisha.

After lashing north coastal Andhra on Monday, the rainfall activity moved to SPSR Nellore and Prakasam districts in south coastal Andhra. Many places in these two districts received more than 100 mm rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The IMD said Ulavapadu in SPSR Nellore district recorded the day's maximum rain of 167 mm, followed by Kavali and Dagadarthi of the same district at 162.75 mm and 147.5 mm. In Prakasam district, Singarayakonda, Pakala and Ongole received 131.5 mm, 122 mm and 100.5 mm rain respectively.

Kakinada received only light showers till 7 p.m.

The IMD withdrew red alerts issued for a few districts for Wednesday, and issued orange alerts for the districts of Srikakulam, Parvathipuram Manyam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anakapalli, Eluru, NTR, Krishna, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, and Nandyal.

The two days of heavy to very heavy rain in the State has left crops on more than 43,000 hectares submerged and affected 83,000 farmers, according to initial assessments made by the agricultural department. Paddy and cotton were the worst hit.

The total estimated loss to the power sector has crossed ₹2,200 crore, with massive damage to substations, transformers, and power lines.

In Visakhapatnam district, which recorded more than 147 mm rainfall on Monday, the municipal corporation cleared 119 fallen trees.

The Kakinada district administration has kept ready 401 relief camps. At least 35,000 people have been evacuated so far.

"The number of people to be evacuated is expected to rise as 67 villages and five towns and Kakinada city are falling in the cyclone-affected area," said Kakinada District Collector S. Shan Mohan. Nearly 1,600 school bus services have been deployed to evacuate people.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed that the NDRF and SDRF teams be deployed in and around Kakinada, where the cyclone is likely to make landfall.

Trains, flights cancelled
Twenty trains, 10 originating in Visakhapatnam, and 11 operating from various divisions of South Central Railway (SCR) in Andhra and one from Bhubaneswar, passing through Visakhapatnam, were cancelled due to heavy rain and gales on Tuesday.

A total of 32 flights from Visakhapatnam were cancelled. The lone flight which operated was a nine-seater Vizag-Jeypore flight.

The Vijayawada-Vizag-Vijayawada IndiGo flight for Wednesday has been cancelled. The other flights from Visakhapatnam to various destinations are expected to operate normally on Wednesday, said airport director N. Purushottam.

The Vijayawada airport cancelled 16 flights, while four flights from Tirupati were cancelled.

Cyclone Montha makes landfall; rain batters several parts of A.P.
चक्रवात मोंथा ने किया तट पर प्रहार; बारिश ने आंध्र प्रदेश के कई हिस्सों को किया प्रभावित

- 35,000 people evacuated; crops on 43,000 hectares submerged
  43,000 हेक्टेयर में फसलें डूबीं; **35,000 लोग** किए गए **स्थानांतरित**
- Power infrastructure, including substations, suffer massive damage
  पावर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर, जिसमें **सबस्टेशन** शामिल हैं, को **भारी नुकसान** पहुंचा
- Twenty trains and more than 50 flights cancelled
  20 ट्रेनें और **50 से अधिक उड़ानें** रद्द की गईं
- The severe cyclonic storm Montha began its landfall near Kakinada in **Andhra Pradesh** around **7 p.m.** on **Tuesday**, the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** said.
  भारतीय मौसम विभाग (IMD) ने बताया कि गंभीर चक्रवाती तूफान मोंथा ने मंगलवार शाम 7 बजे के आसपास **आंध्र प्रदेश** के **काकीनाडा** के निकट **भूमि से टकराना** शुरू किया।
- Between **11.30 a.m.** and **5.30 p.m.**, the storm moved with a speed of **17 kmph**. It was positioned around **120 km east of Machilipatnam**, **110 km south of Kakinada**, and **220 km south-southwest of Visakhapatnam** in Andhra Pradesh, and **460 km southwest of Gopalpur** in Odisha at **5.30 p.m.**
  सुबह 11.30 बजे से शाम **5.30 बजे** के बीच तूफान **17 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटे** की रफ्तार से चला। शाम **5.30 बजे** यह **आंध्र प्रदेश** में मचिलीपट्टनम से 120 किमी पूर्व, काकीनाडा से 110 किमी दक्षिण, और विशाखापत्तनम से 220 किमी दक्षिण-दक्षिण पश्चिम तथा ओडिशा के गोपालपुर से 460 किमी दक्षिण-पश्चिम में स्थित था।
- The storm triggered very heavy rain in the State and neighbouring **Odisha**.
  इस तूफान ने राज्य और पड़ोसी **ओडिशा** में **भारी बारिश** कराई।
- After lashing north coastal Andhra on **Monday**, the rainfall activity moved to **SPSR Nellore** and **Prakasam** districts in south coastal Andhra. Many places in these two districts received more than **100 mm rainfall** between **8.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.**
  सोमवार को **उत्तर तटीय आंध्र** में प्रहार करने के बाद वर्षा गतिविधि **दक्षिण तटीय आंध्र** के एसपीएसआर नेल्लोर और प्रकाशम जिलों में चली गई। इन दोनों जिलों के कई स्थानों पर **सुबह 8.30 बजे से शाम 7 बजे** के बीच **100 मिमी से अधिक वर्षा** दर्ज की गई।
- The IMD said **Ulavapadu** in **SPSR Nellore district** recorded the day's maximum rain of **167 mm**, followed by **Kavali (162.75)** and **Dagadarthi (147.5 mm)** of the same district. In **Prakasam district**, **Singarayakonda**, **Pakala** and **Ongole** received **131.5 mm**, **122 mm** and **100.5 mm** rain respectively.
  IMD ने बताया कि एसपीएसआर नेल्लोर जिले के उलावापाडु में 167 मिमी, कवाली में 162.75 मिमी, और दगदर्थी में 147.5 मिमी वर्षा दर्ज की गई। वहीं **प्रकाशम जिले** में सिंगरायकोंडा (131.5 मिमी), पाकाला (122 मिमी) और **ओंगोल (100.5 मिमी)** में बारिश हुई।
- **Kakinada** received only light showers till **7 p.m.**
  काकीनाडा में शाम 7 बजे तक केवल **हल्की बारिश** हुई।
- The **IMD** withdrew **red alerts** issued for a few districts for **Wednesday**, and issued **orange alerts** for the districts of **Srikakulam, Parvathipuram Manyam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anakapalli, Eluru, NTR, Krishna, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, and Nandyal**.
  IMD ने **बुधवार** के लिए जारी **रेड अलर्ट** कुछ जिलों से वापस ले लिया और **श्रीकाकुलम, पर्वतीपुरम मन्यम, विजयनगरम, विशाखापत्तनम, अल्लूरी सीताराम राजू, अनकापल्ली, एलुरु, एनटीआर, कृष्णा, गुंटूर, पलनाडु, बापटला और नंद्याल** जिलों के लिए **ऑरेंज अलर्ट** जारी किया।
- The two days of heavy to very heavy rain in the State has left crops on more than **43,000 hectares** submerged and affected **83,000 farmers**, according to initial assessments made by the **agricultural department**. **Paddy and cotton** were the worst hit.
  कृषि विभाग के प्रारंभिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, राज्य में दो दिनों की **भारी से अति भारी बारिश** से **43,000 हेक्टेयर** से अधिक फसलें डूब गईं और **83,000 किसान** प्रभावित हुए। **धान और कपास** सबसे अधिक प्रभावित रहे।
- The total estimated loss to the **power sector** has crossed **₹2,200 crore**, with massive damage to **substations, transformers, and power lines**.

पावर सेक्टर को अनुमानित **₹2,200 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का नुकसान** हुआ है, जिसमें **सबस्टेशन, ट्रांसफॉर्मर** और **बिजली लाइनों** को भारी नुकसान हुआ।

- In **Visakhapatnam district**, which recorded more than **147 mm rainfall** on **Monday**, the municipal corporation cleared **119 fallen trees**.
  विशाखापत्तनम जिले में, जहां **सोमवार** को **147 मिमी से अधिक वर्षा** हुई, नगर निगम ने **119 गिरे पेड़ों** को हटाया।

- The **Kakinada district administration** has kept ready **401 relief camps**. At least **35,000 people** have been **evacuated** so far.
  काकीनाडा जिला प्रशासन ने **401 राहत शिविर** तैयार रखे हैं। अब तक कम से कम **35,000 लोगों** को **स्थानांतरित** किया गया है।

- "The number of people to be evacuated is expected to rise as **67 villages** and **five towns and Kakinada city** are falling in the cyclone-affected area," said **Kakinada District Collector S. Shan Mohan**. Nearly **1,600 school bus services** have been deployed to evacuate people.
  काकीनाडा जिला कलेक्टर एस. शान मोहन ने कहा, "स्थानांतरित किए जाने वाले लोगों की संख्या बढ़ने की उम्मीद है क्योंकि **67 गांव**, **5 कस्बे** और **काकीनाडा शहर** चक्रवात प्रभावित क्षेत्र में हैं।" लगभग **1,600 स्कूल बस सेवाओं** को लोगों को निकालने के लिए तैनात किया गया है।

- **Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** directed that the **NDRF** and **SDRF** teams be deployed in and around **Kakinada**, where the cyclone is likely to make landfall.
  मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने निर्देश दिया कि **एनडीआरएफ** और **एसडीआरएफ** की टीमें **काकीनाडा** और उसके आसपास **तैनात** की जाएं, जहां चक्रवात के तट से टकराने की संभावना है।

Trains, flights cancelled
ट्रेनें और उड़ानें रद्द की गईं

- Twenty trains, 10 originating in **Visakhapatnam**, and 11 operating from various divisions of **South Central Railway (SCR)** in **Andhra** and one from **Bhubaneswar**, passing through **Visakhapatnam**, were cancelled due to **heavy rain and gales** on **Tuesday**.
  मंगलवार को **भारी बारिश और तेज हवाओं** के कारण **20 ट्रेनें** रद्द कर दी गईं, जिनमें से **10 ट्रेनें विशाखापत्तनम** से शुरू हुईं, **11 दक्षिण मध्य रेलवे (SCR)** के विभिन्न मंडलों से संचालित हुईं और **एक भुवनेश्वर** से जो विशाखापत्तनम से होकर गुजरती थी।

- A total of **32 flights** from **Visakhapatnam** were cancelled. The lone flight which operated was a **nine-seater Vizag-Jeypore flight**.
  विशाखापत्तनम से कुल **32 उड़ानें रद्द** कर दी गईं। केवल **एक नौ-सीटर विजाग-जयपुर उड़ान** संचालित हुई।

- The **Vijayawada-Vizag-Vijayawada IndiGo flight** for **Wednesday** has been cancelled. The other flights from **Visakhapatnam** to various destinations are expected to operate normally on **Wednesday**, said **airport director N. Purushottam**.
  एयरपोर्ट निदेशक एन. पुरुषोत्तम ने कहा कि **बुधवार** की **विजयवाड़ा-विजाग-विजयवाड़ा इंडिगो उड़ान** रद्द कर दी गई है। अन्य **विशाखापत्तनम से विभिन्न गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ानें** बुधवार को सामान्य रूप से संचालित होने की उम्मीद है।

- The **Vijayawada airport** cancelled **16 flights**, while **four flights from Tirupati** were cancelled.
  विजयवाड़ा हवाई अड्डे ने **16 उड़ानें** रद्द कीं, जबकि **तिरुपति से चार उड़ानें** रद्द की गईं।

'Rising sea surface temperatures leading to more cyclones'

GS I: Geography
GSIII: Climate Change

Sun... over the last few decades.

VISAKHAPATNAM

Since 2010, Andhra Pradesh has borne the brunt of at least 10 major tropical cyclones, some of them categorised as severe and very severe cyclonic storms. Tamil Nadu and Odisha have also been affected by these storms.

Meteorologists have identified a common element in these storms – the high intensity of the storms and the trails of destruction they left – and they blame the rapid rise in sea surface temperature (SST)

Rising SST

According to Prof. S.S.V.S. Ramakrishna, former Head of Department (HoD) of Oceanography and Meteorology, Andhra University, the Bay of Bengal has recorded a consistent rise in the SST.

Sea temperatures have regularly exceeded the 20°C to 30°C mark, creating an ideal environment for the formation of tropical cyclones.

"As the water gets warmer, latent heat energy increases, increasing the

Cyclone trail
Cyclones that hit Andhra Pradesh in the past 15 years

Name	Category	Date	Landfall	Wind speed	Death toll
Phailin	Extremely Severe	Oct. 8 to 14, 2013	Gopalpur, Odisha	260 kmph	45
Helen	Severe Cyclonic	Nov. 20–23, 2013	Machilipatnam, A.P.	130 kmph	Nil
Hudhud	Very Severe	Oct. 7–14, 2014	Visakhapatnam, A.P.	150-180 kmph	124
Titli	Very Severe	Oct. 8–13 2018	Near Palasa, A.P.	195 kmph	89
Michaung	Severe	Dec. 1 To 6, 2023	Near Bapatla, A.P.	120 kmph	17

possibility of cyclones. In the last 50 years, studies conducted by IITM Pune have indicated that the SST

A fallen tree blocks a road in Machilipatnam as Cyclone Montha brought in heavy rain in Andhra Pradesh. PTI

in Bay of Bengal has gone up by 0.5°C to 1°C," he said.

Prof. O.S.R.U. Bhanu Kumar, former HoD, from the same department, attributed the changing factor to global warming and climate change. The warming

of the atmosphere increases the capacity of air to hold moisture, leading to heavier rainfall during cyclones.

In recent times, positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and La Niña have contributed to more favourable conditions for cyclonic formations over the Bay of Bengal, he said.

Both experts cautioned that deforestation and degradation of coastal ecosystems like mangroves and wetlands, have reduced the natural buffers, amplifying the damage caused by cyclones.

'Rising sea surface temperatures leading to more cyclones'
'बढ़ते समुद्री सतह तापमान से चक्रवातों की संख्या में वृद्धि'

- Since **2010**, **Andhra Pradesh** has borne the brunt of at least **10 major tropical cyclones**, some of them categorised as **severe** and **very severe cyclonic storms**.

  2010 से, **आंध्र प्रदेश** ने कम से कम **10 प्रमुख उष्णकटिबंधीय चक्रवातों** का सामना किया है, जिनमें से कुछ को **गंभीर** और **अत्यंत गंभीर चक्रवाती तूफान** के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया है।

- **Tamil Nadu** and **Odisha** have also been affected by these storms.

  तमिलनाडु और **ओडिशा** भी इन तूफानों से प्रभावित हुए हैं।

- Meteorologists have identified a common element in these storms — the **high intensity** of the storms and the **trails of destruction** they left — and they blame the **rapid rise in sea surface temperature (SST)** over the last few decades.

  मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने इन तूफानों में एक समान तत्व पहचाना है — इनकी **उच्च तीव्रता** और **विनाश की लकीरें** — और उन्होंने पिछले कुछ दशकों में **समुद्री सतह तापमान (SST) में तेजी से वृद्धि** को इसका कारण बताया है।

Rising SST
बढ़ता समुद्री सतह तापमान (SST)

- According to **Prof. S.S.V.S. Ramakrishna**, former **Head of Department (HoD)** of **Oceanography and Meteorology**, **Andhra University**, the **Bay of Bengal** has recorded a consistent rise in the **SST**.

  आंध्र विश्वविद्यालय के **महासागरीय विज्ञान और मौसम विज्ञान विभाग** के पूर्व प्रमुख **प्रोफेसर एस.एस.वी.एस. रामकृष्ण** के अनुसार, **बंगाल की खाड़ी** में **समुद्री सतह तापमान (SST)** में लगातार वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है।

- Sea temperatures have regularly exceeded the **20°C to 30°C** mark, creating an ideal environment for the formation of **tropical cyclones**.

  समुद्र का तापमान नियमित रूप से **20°C से 30°C** के स्तर को पार कर गया है, जिससे **उष्णकटिबंधीय चक्रवातों** के गठन के लिए एक आदर्श वातावरण बन गया है।

- "As the water gets warmer, **latent heat energy** increases, increasing the possibility of **cyclones**. In the last **50 years**, studies conducted by **IITM Pune** have indicated that the **SST in Bay of Bengal** has gone up by **0.5°C to 1°C**," he said.

  उन्होंने कहा, "जैसे-जैसे पानी **गर्म** होता है, **गुप्त ऊष्मा ऊर्जा** बढ़ती है, जिससे **चक्रवातों** की संभावना बढ़ जाती

है। पिछले **50 वर्षों** में **आईआईटीएम पुणे** द्वारा किए गए अध्ययनों में पाया गया है कि **बंगाल की खाड़ी में SST में 0.5°C से 1°C** तक की वृद्धि हुई है।"

- **Prof. O.S.R.U. Bhanu Kumar**, former **HoD** from the same department, attributed the changing factor to **global warming** and **climate change**. The warming of the atmosphere increases the capacity of air to hold moisture, leading to **heavier rainfall during cyclones**.

  उसी विभाग के पूर्व **प्रमुख प्रो. ओ.एस.आर.यू. भानु कुमार** ने इस परिवर्तन को **वैश्विक ऊष्मीकरण** और **जलवायु परिवर्तन** से जोड़ा। वायुमंडल के गर्म होने से **हवा की नमी धारण करने की क्षमता बढ़ती है**, जिससे **चक्रवातों के दौरान भारी वर्षा** होती है।

- In recent times, **positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** and **La Niña** have contributed to more favourable conditions for **cyclonic formations** over the **Bay of Bengal**, he said.

  उन्होंने कहा कि हाल के समय में **सकारात्मक भारतीय महासागर द्विध्रुव (IOD)** और **ला नीना** ने बंगाल की **खाड़ी में चक्रवातों के गठन** के लिए अधिक अनुकूल परिस्थितियां पैदा की हैं।

- Both experts cautioned that **deforestation** and **degradation of coastal ecosystems** like **mangroves** and **wetlands have** reduced the **natural buffers**, amplifying the **damage caused by cyclones**.

  दोनों विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी कि **वनों की कटाई** और **मैन्ग्रोव** तथा **आर्द्रभूमियों जैसे तटीय पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों का क्षरण** प्राकृतिक **सुरक्षा कवचों को कमजोर** कर रहा है, जिससे **चक्रवातों से होने वाले नुकसान** में वृद्धि हो रही है।

Rethinking immigration in the age of exclusion

GS I: World History

The arrival of Columbus in the New World marked the beginning of a long history of human migration, driven by the universal quest for survival, hope and dignity. Yet, in a grotesque inversion of history, contemporary politics in the United States, particularly under the Trump administration, has perversely transformed immigration into a toxic battleground of fear, exclusion and ideological warfare. By erasing this brutal history, successive governments in the United States have perpetuated a myth of exceptionalism, even as it denies the humanity of those seeking refuge on its shores.

As schoolchildren, many of us were asked to write an essay on the theme, "What if Columbus had not discovered America?" Understandably, the very framing of this question is steeped in colonial ideology that assumes that Columbus's landing was a historic necessity, a great leap for civilisation rather than what it actually was. Our answers, drawn from textbooks that valorised explorers and erased victims, inevitably celebrated Columbus's courage and navigational daring. We were taught to admire the predator, never to mourn the prey.

The destruction of vibrant civilisations
But what if Columbus had not landed in the Bahamas in 1492? What if the Arawaks, the generous, peace-loving people he first encountered, had been allowed to live in peace? What if the Americas had been allowed to evolve on their own terms, with their own cultures, languages, and knowledge systems flourishing unmolested? The Iroquois Confederacy, for instance, had developed a sophisticated democratic system that inspired elements of the U.S. Constitution, though that influence is often buried or denied. These were not "primitive" societies awaiting rescue. They were civilisations with libraries, roads and astronomy, all destroyed in the name of gold and god.

From the early waves of European colonisation in the Americas and Africa to the apartheid regimes of South Africa, migration has not merely been a matter of movement. It has also been a means of conquest, expansion and domination. Settler colonial projects thrived through the forceful displacement and systematic downgrading of native populations, manifesting in overt and subtle ways through systems of oppression that are deeply ingrained in societal structures that perpetuate racial disparity and injustice. The U.S., frequently celebrated as an ideal for the "tired, poor, huddled masses", was

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The future of immigration policy is linked to a willingness to confront the dark past and the brutal realities of the present

itself forged through the expurgation of native peoples and the abuse of enslaved labour. By denying entry to migrants, powerful nations conveniently obscure their own complicity in creating the conditions that drive people to flee.

The intricate dynamics of historical memory and its distortion are starkly illustrated in the U.S.'s approach to immigration and counter-terrorism. Let us for a moment go back to the distressing example of "Geronimo", the code word said to have been used in the 2011 mission ("Operation Neptune Spear") to eliminate Osama bin Laden. By appropriating the name of the legendary Apache leader, Geronimo, the U.S. military inadvertently highlighted its historical amnesia. Geronimo was a complex figure, a warrior who resisted Mexican and U.S. military forces, seeking to preserve Apache sovereignty and way of life. Labelling him a terrorist overlooks the nuances of his struggle and reduces it to simplistic binaries.

But this is no isolated misstep, for it is symptomatic of a deeper sickness in the dominant historical narrative; a narrative that begins in 1492 with the mythic arrival of Christopher Columbus. This moment is still described in textbooks, museums and mindless school rhymes as the "discovery" of America. The truth, of course, is far more brutal. Columbus did not discover a new world. He invaded one, and that invasion set in motion one of the most ferocious chapters in human history. Columbus's arrival heralded not discovery, but genocide. The devastation was total.

What mainstream historians miss
Mainstream historians seldom dwell on the mass enslavement, the sexual violence or the cultural annihilation. To question Columbus's legacy is to invite accusations of being "anti-American" or "revisionist". But if revision means restoring truth to the record, then revisionism is a moral obligation. The problem is not that we remember too little; it is that we remember too selectively.

The Columbus myth, far from being a harmless fable, is the ideological blueprint for centuries of colonial expansion, white supremacy and racial capitalism. It legitimises the pillaging of the Americas, the enslavement of Africans, and the later interventions of American imperialism under the guise of spreading "freedom". The mentality that justified the extermination of the Arawaks is the same that rationalises drone strikes today.

Fast-forward to the 21st century, and the brutal calculus of migration remains unchanged: flee

war-torn Syria, economically ravaged Venezuela, or climate-ravaged sub-Saharan Africa, and you will be met with suspicion and hostility at the borders of the Global North. The Trump presidency has been a zenith of this xenophobic fervour, pathologising immigration as an existential threat to American identity. The border wall, family separations, and the Muslim ban are not just policy aberrations but ideological manifestos that codify cruelty and exclusion. These measures are not pragmatic responses to complex issues; they are declarations of war on the most vulnerable.

Moreover, the resurgence of exclusionary nationalism, a hallmark of Trump-era politics, has biased the discourse around belonging and citizenship. It designates the immigrant not as a fellow human in search of security but as an economic burden, a cultural contagion or a national security risk. What emerges, then, is a moral paradox of nations founded on violent migration and colonisation but now busy erecting moral and legal barriers to those seeking refuge.

If settler colonialism is justified under the banner of "civilising mission", why should today's migration be framed illegitimate? The glaring disparity between the revered pioneers of the past and the vilified migrants of today lays bare the insidious role of race, power and historical amnesia in shaping the immigration narrative.

A fundamental aspiration
Clearly, the future of immigration policy hinges on our willingness to confront the darkest chapters of our past and the brutal realities of our present. We need to excavate the buried subtexts of empire, capitalism and racial domination that continue to shape mobility, and forge a new path forward informed by historical reckoning and a commitment to human dignity. The right to seek safety, to move across borders, is not a privilege to be doled out to the few, but a fundamental human aspiration that must be recognised and protected.

To imagine, therefore, a world in which Columbus had not made landfall is not to indulge in idle fantasy, but to confront the brutal reality of a collective past. It is to consider the possibility of a world unshaped by genocide, a world where Indigenous peoples flourished on their own terms, where empires did not build their foundations on loot and plunder. The truth about history is not a matter of nicety, but a fundamental requirement for justice, accountability, and a future that does not replicate the wrongs of the past.

Rethinking Immigration in the Age of Exclusion
बहिष्कार के युग में आव्रजन पर पुनर्विचार

- The arrival of **Columbus in the New World** marked the beginning of a long history of **human migration**, driven by the universal quest for **survival, hope, and dignity**.
  नई दुनिया में कोलंबस का आगमन मानव प्रवास के एक लंबे इतिहास की शुरुआत का प्रतीक था, जो **जीवित रहने, आशा और गरिमा** की सार्वभौमिक खोज से प्रेरित था।

- Yet, in a grotesque inversion of history, **contemporary U.S. politics**, particularly under the **Trump administration**, has transformed **immigration** into a toxic battleground of **fear, exclusion, and ideological warfare**.
  फिर भी, इतिहास के एक भयानक उलटफेर में, **ट्रंप प्रशासन** के तहत **अमेरिकी राजनीति** ने **आप्रवासन** को **भय, बहिष्कार और वैचारिक युद्ध** के जहरीले युद्धक्षेत्र में बदल दिया है।

- By erasing this brutal history, **successive U.S. governments** have perpetuated a **myth of exceptionalism**, even as they deny the **humanity of refugees** seeking safety on American shores.
  इस क्रूर इतिहास को मिटाकर, **लगातार अमेरिकी सरकारों** ने **अपवादवाद की मिथक** को बनाए रखा है, जबकि वे **शरण चाहने वाले शरणार्थियों** की मानवता से इनकार करती हैं।

- As schoolchildren, many were asked to write on the theme — "**What if Columbus had not discovered America?**"
  स्कूली बच्चों से अक्सर यह विषय लिखने को कहा जाता था — "**यदि कोलंबस ने अमेरिका की खोज नहीं की होती तो क्या होता?**"

- The very framing of this question is steeped in **colonial ideology**, assuming Columbus's voyage was a **historic necessity** — a "great leap for civilisation" rather than a **violent invasion**.
  इस प्रश्न की संरचना ही **औपनिवेशिक विचारधारा** में डूबी हुई है, जो कोलंबस की यात्रा को **सभ्यता की महान छलांग** मानती है, जबकि वह वास्तव में एक **हिंसक आक्रमण** थी।

- Textbooks glorified explorers and erased victims — teaching generations to **admire the predator** and never **mourn the prey**.
  पाठ्यपुस्तकों ने खोजकर्ताओं का महिमामंडन किया और पीड़ितों को मिटा दिया — पीढ़ियों को **शिकारी की प्रशंसा करना** और **शिकार का शोक न करना** सिखाया।

- If **Columbus had not landed in the Bahamas (1492)**, the **Arawaks**, the peace-loving people he met first, might have lived in peace.
  यदि **1492 में कोलंबस बहामास में नहीं उतरा होता**, तो **अरावाक**, जो शांतिप्रिय लोग थे, संभवतः शांति से रह सकते थे।

- The **Americas** could have evolved on their own terms, with independent **cultures, languages, and knowledge systems**.
  अमेरिका अपने स्वयं के **संस्कृति, भाषा और ज्ञान प्रणालियों** के साथ स्वतंत्र रूप से विकसित हो सकता था।

- The **Iroquois Confederacy** had a **sophisticated democratic system** that inspired parts of the **U.S. Constitution**, though this influence is often ignored.
  इरोकोइस परिसंघ की एक **उन्नत लोकतांत्रिक प्रणाली** थी जिसने **अमेरिकी संविधान** के कुछ हिस्सों को प्रेरित किया, हालांकि इसे अक्सर नजरअंदाज किया जाता है।

- These were not **primitive societies**, but **civilisations with libraries, roads, and astronomy**, all destroyed in the name of **gold and god**.
  ये **आदिम समाज** नहीं थे, बल्कि **पुस्तकालयों, सड़कों और खगोल विज्ञान** वाली **सभ्यताएँ** थीं, जिन्हें **सोने और ईश्वर** के नाम पर नष्ट कर दिया गया।

- From **European colonisation** in the Americas and Africa to **apartheid in South Africa**, migration became a tool of **conquest and domination**.
  अमेरिका और अफ्रीका में यूरोपीय उपनिवेशवाद से लेकर **दक्षिण अफ्रीका में रंगभेद** तक, प्रवास **विजय और प्रभुत्व** का साधन बन गया।

- **Settler colonial projects** displaced and degraded native populations, embedding **racial oppression** deep within social structures.
  सेटलर उपनिवेशवादी परियोजनाओं ने स्थानीय आबादी को बेदखल और अपमानित किया, और **नस्लीय उत्पीड़न** को सामाजिक संरचनाओं में गहराई तक स्थापित किया।

- The **U.S.**, hailed as a land for the "**tired, poor, huddled masses**," was built through **genocide and enslaved labour**.
  संयुक्त राज्य, जिसे "**थके, गरीब, और शरणार्थी लोगों की भूमि**" कहा जाता है, वास्तव में **नरसंहार और गुलाम मजदूरी** पर आधारित था।

- By **denying entry to migrants**, powerful nations hide their **role in creating the crises** that drive people to flee.
  आप्रवासियों को प्रवेश से वंचित करके, शक्तिशाली राष्ट्र उन **संघर्षों में अपनी भूमिका** को छिपाते हैं, जिनके कारण लोग भागने को मजबूर होते हैं।

- The **distortion of historical memory** is evident in America's **immigration and counter-terrorism** approach.
  ऐतिहासिक स्मृति के विकृतिकरण का उदाहरण अमेरिका की **आप्रवासन और आतंकवाद विरोधी** नीतियों में स्पष्ट दिखता है

- In **2011**, during "**Operation Neptune Spear**" to kill **Osama bin Laden**, the U.S. military used the code name "**Geronimo**".
  2011 में **ओसामा बिन लादेन** को मारने के अभियान "**ऑपरेशन नेप्च्यून स्पीयर**" के दौरान, अमेरिकी सेना ने "**जेरोनिमो**" कोड नाम का प्रयोग किया।

- **Geronimo** was an **Apache leader** who fought against Mexican and U.S. forces to defend his people's **sovereignty and way of life**.
  जेरोनिमो एक **अपाचे जनजाति के नेता** थे, जिन्होंने अपने लोगों की **संप्रभुता और जीवन शैली** की रक्षा के लिए मैक्सिकन और अमेरिकी सेनाओं से संघर्ष किया।

- Calling him a **terrorist** oversimplifies and distorts his **resistance struggle**.
  उन्हें **आतंकवादी** कहना उनके **संघर्ष** को सरलीकृत और विकृत करना है।

- This reflects a **deep sickness** in the dominant **historical narrative** that begins with **Columbus's mythic arrival (1492)**.
  यह **प्रमुख ऐतिहासिक कथा** में छिपी **गहरी बीमारी** को दर्शाता है, जो **1492 में कोलंबस के मिथकीय आगमन** से शुरू होती है।

- Textbooks and museums still describe it as the "**discovery of America**," though in reality, it was an **invasion and genocide**.
  आज भी पाठ्यपुस्तकें और संग्रहालय इसे "**अमेरिका की खोज**" कहते हैं, जबकि वास्तव में यह एक **आक्रमण और नरसंहार** था।

- **Columbus did not discover a new world — he invaded one.** His arrival triggered one of the **most ferocious chapters** in human history.
  कोलंबस ने कोई नई दुनिया नहीं खोजी — उसने उस पर आक्रमण किया। उसका आगमन मानव इतिहास के **सबसे भयानक अध्यायों** में से एक की शुरुआत था।

- **Columbus's arrival heralded not discovery, but genocide. The devastation was total.**
  कोलंबस का आगमन खोज नहीं, बल्कि नरसंहार का प्रतीक था। विनाश पूर्ण था।

What Mainstream Historians Miss
मुख्यधारा के इतिहासकार क्या नज़रअंदाज़ करते हैं

- Mainstream historians seldom dwell on the **mass enslavement**, the **sexual violence** or the **cultural annihilation**.
  मुख्यधारा के इतिहासकार शायद ही कभी **सामूहिक दासता**, **यौन हिंसा**, या **सांस्कृतिक विनाश** पर ध्यान देते हैं।

- To question **Columbus's legacy** is to invite accusations of being "**anti-American**" or "**revisionist**".
  कोलंबस की विरासत पर सवाल उठाना "**अमेरिका विरोधी**" या "**संशोधनवादी**" कहलाने का जोखिम उठाना है।

- But if **revision** means restoring truth to the record, then **revisionism** is a **moral obligation**.
  लेकिन यदि **संशोधन** का अर्थ रिकॉर्ड में **सत्य को पुनर्स्थापित करना** है, तो **संशोधनवाद** एक **नैतिक कर्तव्य** है।

- The problem is not that we remember too little; it is that we remember too selectively.
  समस्या यह नहीं है कि हम बहुत कम याद रखते हैं; समस्या यह है कि हम **चयनात्मक रूप से याद रखते हैं**।

- The **Columbus myth**, far from being a harmless fable, is the **ideological blueprint** for centuries of **colonial expansion**, **white supremacy**, and **racial capitalism**.

कोलंबस की कथा, एक **निर्दोष कहानी** नहीं बल्कि **औपनिवेशिक विस्तार**, **श्वेत वर्चस्व**, और **नस्लीय पूंजीवाद** के **विचारधारात्मक खाके** के रूप में काम करती है।

- It legitimises the **pillaging of the Americas**, the **enslavement of Africans**, and the later interventions of **American imperialism** under the guise of spreading "freedom".
  यह "**स्वतंत्रता फैलाने**" के नाम पर **अमेरिकी साम्राज्यवाद** के हस्तक्षेप, **अफ्रीकियों की दासता**, और **अमेरिका के लूटपाट** को वैध ठहराती है।

- The mentality that justified the **extermination of the Arawaks** is the same that rationalises **drone strikes today**.
  अरावाक जनजाति के विनाश को उचित ठहराने वाली मानसिकता ही आज **ड्रोन हमलों** को भी तार्किक ठहराती है।

Fast-forward to the 21st Century
इक्कीसवीं सदी की ओर बढ़ते हुए

- The brutal calculus of **migration** remains unchanged: flee **war-torn Syria**, economically ravaged **Venezuela**, or **climate-ravaged sub-Saharan Africa**, and you will be met with **suspicion and hostility** at the borders of the **Global North**.
  प्रवास की क्रूर गणना अब भी नहीं बदली है: **युद्धग्रस्त सीरिया**, **आर्थिक रूप से तबाह वेनेजुएला**, या **जलवायु-प्रभावित उप-सहारा अफ्रीका** से भागिए, और **वैश्विक उत्तर** की सीमाओं पर आपको **संदेह और शत्रुता** का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

- The **Trump presidency** has been a zenith of this **xenophobic fervour**, pathologising immigration as an **existential threat** to **American identity**.
  ट्रंप शासनकाल इस **विदेशी विरोधी उन्माद** का चरम रहा, जिसमें **प्रवासन** को **अमेरिकी पहचान के लिए अस्तित्वगत खतरे** के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया।

- The **border wall**, **family separations**, and the **Muslim ban** are not just policy aberrations but **ideological manifestos** that codify **cruelty and exclusion**.
  सीमा दीवार, **परिवारों का अलगाव**, और **मुस्लिम प्रतिबंध** केवल नीतिगत विचलन नहीं बल्कि **क्रूरता और बहिष्कार** को संस्थागत रूप देने वाले **विचारधारात्मक घोषणापत्र** हैं।

- These measures are not pragmatic responses to complex issues; they are **declarations of war on the most vulnerable**.
  ये उपाय जटिल मुद्दों के व्यावहारिक समाधान नहीं हैं; बल्कि **सबसे कमजोर लोगों के खिलाफ युद्ध की घोषणाएँ** हैं।

Exclusionary Nationalism and the Moral Paradox
बहिष्कारी राष्ट्रवाद और नैतिक विरोधाभास

- The resurgence of **exclusionary nationalism**, a hallmark of **Trump-era politics**, has biased the discourse around **belonging and citizenship**.
  बहिष्कारी राष्ट्रवाद का पुनरुत्थान, जो **ट्रंप युग की राजनीति** की पहचान है, ने **नागरिकता और जुड़ाव** पर बहस को विकृत कर दिया है।

- It designates the **immigrant** not as a fellow human in search of security but as an **economic burden**, a **cultural contagion**, or a **national security risk**.
  यह **प्रवासी** को सुरक्षा की तलाश में एक इंसान के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि एक **आर्थिक बोझ**, **सांस्कृतिक संक्रमण**, या **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा खतरे** के रूप में देखता है।

- What emerges, then, is a **moral paradox** of nations founded on **violent migration and colonisation**, but now busy erecting **moral and legal barriers** to those seeking refuge.
  परिणामस्वरूप, यह एक **नैतिक विरोधाभास** बन जाता है — ऐसे राष्ट्रों का जो **हिंसक प्रवासन और उपनिवेशवाद** पर आधारित हैं, लेकिन अब **शरणार्थियों के लिए नैतिक और कानूनी दीवारें** खड़ी कर रहे हैं।

- If **settler colonialism** is justified under the banner of a "**civilising mission**", why should today's **migration** be framed **illegitimate**?
  यदि **उपनिवेशवाद** को "**सभ्य बनाने के मिशन**" के नाम पर उचित ठहराया गया, तो आज का **प्रवास अवैध** क्यों माना जाए?

- The glaring disparity between the **revered pioneers of the past** and the **vilified migrants of today** lays bare the insidious role of **race, power, and historical amnesia** in shaping the **immigration narrative**.

अतीत के **पूज्य अग्रदूतों** और **आज के निंदित प्रवासियों** के बीच का **स्पष्ट अंतर** यह दर्शाता है कि **नस्ल, सत्ता, और ऐतिहासिक विस्मरण** ने **प्रवासन कथा** को कैसे आकार दिया है।

A Fundamental Aspiration
एक मौलिक आकांक्षा

- Clearly, the future of **immigration policy** hinges on our willingness to confront the **darkest chapters** of our past and the **brutal realities** of our present.
  स्पष्ट रूप से, **प्रवासन नीति** का भविष्य इस पर निर्भर करता है कि हम अपने अतीत के **सबसे अंधेरे अध्यायों** और वर्तमान की **निर्मम वास्तविकताओं** का सामना कितनी ईमानदारी से करते हैं।

- We need to excavate the buried **subtexts of empire, capitalism, and racial domination** that continue to shape mobility, and forge a new path forward informed by **historical reckoning** and a **commitment to human dignity**.
  हमें **साम्राज्य, पूंजीवाद, और नस्लीय प्रभुत्व** के उन **छिपे अर्थों** को उजागर करना होगा जो अब भी **गतिशीलता को आकार दे रहे हैं**, और **ऐतिहासिक आत्ममंथन** तथा **मानव गरिमा के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता** से प्रेरित एक नया मार्ग बनाना होगा।

- The right to seek **safety**, to **move across borders**, is not a privilege to be doled out to the few, but a **fundamental human aspiration** that must be **recognised and protected**.
  सुरक्षा पाने और **सीमाओं के पार जाने** का अधिकार कुछ लोगों को दी जाने वाली विशेष अनुमति नहीं, बल्कि एक **मौलिक मानवीय आकांक्षा** है जिसे **मान्यता** और **संरक्षण** मिलना चाहिए।

- To imagine a world in which **Columbus had not made landfall** is not to indulge in fantasy, but to confront the **brutal reality of a collective past**.
  एक ऐसी दुनिया की कल्पना करना जिसमें **कोलंबस ने भूमि पर कदम नहीं रखा था**, कोई कल्पना नहीं, बल्कि **साझे अतीत की क्रूर सच्चाई** से सामना करना है।

- It is to consider the possibility of a world **unshaped by genocide**, where **Indigenous peoples flourished on their own terms**, and **empires** were not built on **loot and plunder**.
  यह उस संभावना पर विचार करना है कि अगर **नरसंहार से अछूती दुनिया** होती, जहां **मूल निवासी अपने शर्तों पर फले-फूले**, और **साम्राज्य लूट और विनाश** पर नहीं टिके होते।

- The **truth about history** is not a matter of nicety, but a **fundamental requirement for justice, accountability, and a humane future**.
  इतिहास का सत्य कोई औपचारिकता नहीं, बल्कि **न्याय, जवाबदेही और मानवीय भविष्य** के लिए एक **मौलिक आवश्यकता** है।

Relief, rehabilitation
India's east coast invariably bears the brunt of cyclones

GS I: Cyclone

Historically, October and November mark the period when the Bay of Bengal throws up devastating cyclones. Of the 12 such cyclones during the 18th Century CE-20th Century CE, nine were recorded in these months. They include the severe cyclone which made landfall near Nizampatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on November 19, 1977, and the super cyclone, which crossed the Odisha coast near Paradip on October 29, 1999. The human toll in both disasters was about 10,000 each, according to an India Meteorological Department (IMD) publication in 2021. Memories of such events get rekindled whenever a cyclonic storm develops in the Bay, an example being Cyclone Montha, which began to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm on October 27-28, 2025. Though not as strong as the ones in 1977 and 1999, this does not provide much comfort to the authorities in the three coastal States, including Odisha. Parts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh, especially Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli and Srikakulam districts, and also Ganjam and Gajapati of Odisha have received significant rainfall. In Andhra's Kakinada and Konaseema regions, nearly 10,000 people were evacuated. The Odisha government made arrangements for the evacuation of people from vulnerable places amid inclement weather in several southern districts where there was a "red alert". National Disaster Response Force teams were also deployed.

Over the years, the preparedness of the Union and State governments has improved to an extent where the prospect of thousands dying in cyclones has become a thing of the past, if the last 20-odd years are an indication. However, there is still damage to public and private properties, affecting the livelihood opportunities of the underprivileged sections in particular. Likewise, milch and draught animals and poultry are severely impacted. When Cyclone Gaja struck the Tamil Nadu coast near Vedaranayam in November 2018, Nagapattinam district and Thanjavur saw large-scale losses of cattle and poultry. Several coastal States have been taking measures, structural and non-structural, to mitigate the effect of cyclones. Notwithstanding improvements to their knowledge and skills, the authorities in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha will have to demonstrate in action all that they have learnt so far while undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures. The political leadership should not lag behind and must ensure that all affected people are safeguarded and treated in an impartial way.

Relief and Rehabilitation: India's East Coast Invariably Bears the Brunt of Cyclones
राहत और पुनर्वास: भारत का पूर्वी तट हमेशा चक्रवातों का मुख्य भार झेलता है

- Historically, **October and November** mark the period when the **Bay of Bengal** throws up devastating **cyclones**. Of the **12 such cyclones** during the **18th–20th Century CE**, **nine** were recorded in these months.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, **अक्टूबर और नवंबर** वह समय होता है जब **बंगाल की खाड़ी** में भयंकर **चक्रवात** आते हैं। 18वीं से 20वीं सदी ईस्वी के बीच आए **12 चक्रवातों** में से 9 इन्हीं महीनों में दर्ज किए गए।

- They include the severe cyclone which made landfall near **Nizampatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, on **November 19, 1977**, and the **super cyclone**, which crossed the **Odisha coast near Paradip** on **October 29, 1999**.
इनमें **19 नवंबर 1977** को आंध्र प्रदेश के **नज़ामपट्नम के पास** आया भयंकर चक्रवात और **29 अक्टूबर 1999** को **ओडिशा के पारादीप के पास** आया **सुपर चक्रवात** शामिल हैं।

- The **human toll** in both disasters was **about 10,000 each**, according to the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** publication in **2021**.
भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) के 2021 के प्रकाशन के अनुसार, दोनों आपदाओं में **लगभग 10,000 लोगों** की मृत्यु हुई थी।

- Memories of such events get rekindled whenever a **cyclonic storm** develops in the Bay, such as **Cyclone Montha**, which intensified into a **severe cyclonic storm** on **October 27–28, 2025**.
जब भी बंगाल की खाड़ी में कोई **चक्रवाती तूफान** बनता है, ऐसे घटनाओं की **स्मृतियाँ जागृत** हो जाती हैं। उदाहरण है **चक्रवात मॉन्था**, जिसने **27–28 अक्टूबर 2025** को एक **भयंकर चक्रवात** का रूप लिया।

- Though not as strong as the ones in **1977 and 1999**, this does not provide much comfort to the authorities in the **three coastal States**, including **Odisha**.
यद्यपि यह **1977 और 1999** जैसे चक्रवातों जितना शक्तिशाली नहीं था, फिर भी यह **ओडिशा** सहित **तीन तटीय राज्यों** के लिए चिंता का विषय है।

- Parts of **north coastal Andhra Pradesh**, especially **Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, and Srikakulam districts**, and **Ganjam and Gajapati** of Odisha have received **significant rainfall**.
उत्तर तटीय आंध्र प्रदेश के **विशाखापट्नम, अनकापल्ली और श्रीकाकुलम जिलों** तथा ओडिशा के **गंजाम और गजपति** में **भारी वर्षा** हुई।

- In Andhra's **Kakinada and Konaseema** regions, nearly **10,000 people were evacuated**. The **Odisha government** also evacuated people from **vulnerable areas** amid **inclement weather** in southern districts under a **red alert**.
आंध्र के **काकीनाडा और कोनसीमा** क्षेत्रों में लगभग **10,000 लोगों को निकाला गया**। ओडिशा सरकार ने भी **दक्षिणी जिलों** के संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों से लोगों को **रेड अलर्ट** के बीच निकाला।

- **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** teams were also **deployed**.
राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रतिक्रिया बल (NDRF) की टीमें भी **तैनात** की गईं।

- Over the years, the preparedness of the **Union and State governments** has improved so much that **thousands of deaths** in cyclones have become **a thing of the past**, as seen over the **last 20 years**.

  पिछले **20 वर्षों** में यह देखा गया है कि **केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों** की **तैयारी** इस हद तक सुधरी है कि अब **हजारों मौतें** अतीत की बात बन गई हैं।

- However, there is still **damage to public and private property**, affecting the **livelihoods** of **underprivileged sections** in particular.

  हालांकि, अब भी **सार्वजनिक और निजी संपत्तियों को नुकसान** होता है, जिससे विशेष रूप से **वंचित वर्गों की आजीविका** प्रभावित होती है।

- **Milch and draught animals** and **poultry** are also **severely impacted**.

  दूध देने वाले और बोझा ढोने वाले पशु तथा **पोल्ट्री उद्योग** भी **गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित** होते हैं।

- When **Cyclone Gaja** struck the **Tamil Nadu coast near Vedaranayam** in **November 2018**, **Nagapattinam** and **Thanjavur** saw **large-scale losses of cattle and poultry**.

  जब **नवंबर 2018** में **चक्रवात गजा** ने **तमिलनाडु के वेदारण्यम के पास तट से टक्कर मारी**, तब **नागपट्टिनम** और **तंजावुर** जिलों में **बड़े पैमाने पर पशुधन और पोल्ट्री** की हानि हुई।

- Several **coastal States** have been taking **structural and non-structural measures** to **mitigate the effects of cyclones**.

  कई **तटीय राज्य संरचनात्मक और गैर-संरचनात्मक उपाय** अपना रहे हैं ताकि **चक्रवातों के प्रभावों को कम** किया जा सके।

- Despite improvements in **knowledge and skills**, the authorities in **Andhra Pradesh and Odisha** must **demonstrate in action** what they have learnt while conducting **relief and rehabilitation measures**.

  ज्ञान और कौशल में सुधार के बावजूद, **आंध्र प्रदेश और ओडिशा** के प्रशासन को **राहत और पुनर्वास कार्यों** में अपने सीखे हुए कौशल को **व्यवहार में दिखाना होगा**।

- The **political leadership** should not lag behind and must ensure that all **affected people** are **safeguarded and treated impartially**.

  राजनीतिक नेतृत्व को भी पीछे नहीं रहना चाहिए और यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि सभी **प्रभावित लोगों की सुरक्षा और निष्पक्ष सहायता** हो।

Media outlets in Kyrgyzstan labelled 'extremist' as crackdown intensifies

GS I: Mapping

Agence France-Presse
BISHKEK

Kyrgyzstan has labelled three media outlets critical of the government as "extremist," making it illegal for anybody to read them amid an intensifying crackdown on free speech.

This is the first such ban in the country's history to target journalists and media outlets.

Kyrgyzstan, which has close ties with Russia and China, was long considered the most democratic among the former Soviet republics in Central Asia, a region dominated by authoritarian regimes.

But since President Sadyr Japarov came to power after a revolution in 2020 – the country's third in two decades – several NGOs have reported increased pressure on media and ci-

Rights groups says there has been more pressure on media and civil society during President Sadyr Japarov's tenure since 2020. REUTERS

vil society, which the authorities deny.

"The information materials of the media projects Temirov Live, Kloop.kg (Kloop Media) and Ait Ait Dese were considered extremist," a court in the capital Bishkek ruled on Monday.

Under Kyrgyz criminal law, possessing or sharing content from "extremist"

entities is punishable by imprisonment.

Pre-election move
The decision follows a tightening of "extremist" legislation, which rights groups see as a threat to freedom of speech. It also comes weeks before snap parliamentary election set for November 30.

"This is another round

of repression that will not only affect us but also damage Kyrgyzstan's reputation and criminalise many uninvolved people," Kloop co-founder Rinat Tukhvatshin said in a post on Telegram, adding that he planned to appeal.

The three outlets, funded mostly by private Western investors and which primarily cover corruption, have already been technically banned since 2024 for criticising the authorities.

Their websites are blocked, but they continue to publish on other platforms, such as Telegram and YouTube.

In September, two Kloop employees were jailed for five years on charges of attempting to incite mass unrest and riots.

(With inputs from Reuters)

Media outlets in Kyrgyzstan labelled 'extremist' as crackdown intensifies
किर्गिज़स्तान में मीडिया आउटलेट्स को 'चरमपंथी' करार दिया गया, दमन तेज हुआ

- Kyrgyzstan has labelled three media outlets critical of the government as **"extremist,"** making it illegal for anybody to read them amid an intensifying crackdown on **free speech**.
किर्गिज़स्तान ने सरकार की आलोचना करने वाले तीन मीडिया आउटलेट्स को **"चरमपंथी"** घोषित किया है, जिससे **अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता** पर बढ़ते दमन के बीच किसी के लिए उन्हें पढ़ना अवैध हो गया है।
- This is the **first such ban** in the country's history to target journalists and media outlets.
यह देश के इतिहास में पत्रकारों और मीडिया आउटलेट्स को निशाना बनाने वाला **पहला ऐसा प्रतिबंध** है।
- Kyrgyzstan, which has close ties with **Russia and China,** was long considered the most **democratic** among the former **Soviet republics** in **Central Asia**, a region dominated by **authoritarian regimes.**
रूस और चीन के साथ घनिष्ठ संबंध रखने वाला किर्गिज़स्तान लंबे समय से **मध्य एशिया** के पूर्व **सोवियत गणराज्यों** में सबसे **लोकतांत्रिक** माना जाता था, जो **सत्तावादी शासन** से प्रभावित क्षेत्र है।
- But since **President Sadyr Japarov** came to power after a **revolution in 2020** — the country's **third in two decades** — several **NGOs** have reported increased pressure on media and civil society, which the authorities deny.
लेकिन **राष्ट्रपति सादिर जापारोव** के **2020 की क्रांति** के बाद सत्ता में आने से — जो दो दशकों में देश की

तीसरी क्रांति थी — कई **गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs)** ने मीडिया और नागरिक समाज पर बढ़ते दबाव की रिपोर्ट दी है, जिसे सरकार ने नकार दिया है।

- "The information materials of the media projects **Temirov Live, Kloop.kg (Kloop Media)** and **Ait Ait Dese** were considered **extremist,**" a court in the capital **Bishkek** ruled on Monday.
  राजधानी **बिश्केक** की एक अदालत ने सोमवार को निर्णय दिया कि मीडिया प्रोजेक्ट्स **Temirov Live, Kloop.kg (Kloop Media)** और **Ait Ait Dese** की सूचना सामग्री को **चरमपंथी** माना गया है।

- Under **Kyrgyz criminal law,** possessing or sharing content from **"extremist" entities** is punishable by **imprisonment.**
  किर्गिज़ आपराधिक कानून के तहत, **"चरमपंथी"** संस्थाओं की सामग्री का स्वामित्व या साझा करना **कारावास** द्वारा दंडनीय है।

Pre-election move
चुनाव-पूर्व कदम

- The decision follows a tightening of **"extremist" legislation,** which **rights groups** see as a threat to **freedom of speech.** It also comes weeks before **snap parliamentary election** set for **November 30.**
  यह निर्णय **"चरमपंथी" कानून** के सख्त होने के बाद आया है, जिसे **अधिकार समूहों** ने **अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता** के लिए खतरा बताया है। यह निर्णय **30 नवंबर** को होने वाले **अकस्मात संसदीय चुनावों** से कुछ सप्ताह पहले आया है।

- "This is another round of **repression** that will not only affect us but also damage **Kyrgyzstan's reputation** and criminalise many uninvolved people," **Kloop co-founder Rinat Tukhvatshin** said in a post on **Telegram,** adding that he planned to appeal.
  "यह **दमन का एक और दौर** है जो न केवल हमें प्रभावित करेगा बल्कि **किर्गिज़िस्तान की प्रतिष्ठा** को भी नुकसान पहुंचाएगा और कई निर्दोष लोगों को अपराधी बनाएगा," **Kloop के सह-संस्थापक रिनात तुखवतशिन** ने **टेलीग्राम** पर एक पोस्ट में कहा, यह भी जोड़ते हुए कि वह अपील करने की योजना बना रहे हैं।

- The three outlets, funded mostly by **private Western investors** and which primarily cover **corruption,** have already been **technically banned since 2024** for criticising the authorities.
  तीनों आउटलेट्स, जिन्हें मुख्य रूप से **निजी पश्चिमी निवेशकों** द्वारा वित्तपोषित किया जाता है और जो मुख्य रूप से **भ्रष्टाचार** को कवर करते हैं, को **2024 से तकनीकी रूप से प्रतिबंधित** किया गया है क्योंकि उन्होंने सरकार की आलोचना की थी।

- Their **websites are blocked,** but they continue to publish on other platforms, such as **Telegram and YouTube.**
  उनकी **वेबसाइटें अवरुद्ध** कर दी गई हैं, लेकिन वे अभी भी **टेलीग्राम और यूट्यूब** जैसे अन्य प्लेटफ़ॉर्मों पर प्रकाशित कर रहे हैं।

- In **September,** two **Klopp employees** were jailed for **five years** on charges of attempting to **incite mass unrest and riots.**
  सितंबर में, **Klopp के दो कर्मचारियों** को **जन अशांति और दंगों को भड़काने** के आरोप में **पांच साल** की कैद की सजा सुनाई गई।

A Senegal cemetery sheds new light on shadows of a French colonial massacre

GS I: Mapping

Agence France-Presse
THIAROYE

Holes in the ground, clods of earth next to headstones, dislocated concrete outlines: the Thiaroye military cemetery near Dakar bears the marks of recent excavations meant to unearth the truth behind a World War II-era massacre by French colonial forces.

In November 1944, around 1,600 soldiers from several west African countries were sent to the Thiaroye camp after being captured by Germany while fighting for France.

Discontent soon mounted over unpaid back pay and unmet demands that they be treated on a par with white soldiers.

On December 1, French forces opened fire on them. The circumstances surrounding the massacre, the number of riflemen killed and their place of burial all remain unclear.

An AFP team recently visited the camp's cemetery, where archaeologists are conducting landmark excavations to find and examine the remains of those interred there.

Rows of 202 graves, marked with white headstones and cement demarcations, are covered with shells. It is not known who exactly is in all the graves, or if there are even bodies at each marker.

The cemetery was created in 1926 by colonial France to bury African soldiers. Some researchers believe that riflemen killed in the Thiaroye massacre were buried there.

in the Thiaroye massacre were buried there.

Senegal alleges it was difficult to access the French colonial archives to study the massacre in full.

The dead do talk
This is why Colonel Saliou Ngom, the director of the Senegalese army's archives and historical heritage, believes it was necessary to "make the underground" speak.

The archaeologists have so far carried out their initial excavations under one of two large baobabs, enormous trees that can indicate the site of buried bodies.

The baobab is "a calcareous tree, that is one that likes limestone", history and geography professor

HARD TRUTH: Researchers believe that west African riflemen killed in the Thiaroye massacre were buried in the cemetery in Dakar. AFP

Mamadou Kone, technical adviser to the Armed Forces Museum, told AFP. "Where there are bones, there are often baobabs", he said.

The researchers submitted an official report on October 16 to Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye describing the massacre as "premeditated" and covered up, with a death toll that had been grossly underestimated.

The French colonial authorities at the time of the massacre said up to 70

World War II riflemen were killed. But the researchers said the most credible estimates put the figure closer to 300 to 400, with some of the men buried in the Thiaroye cemetery.

Clues on violence
One of the archaeologists who led the dig, Moustapha Sall, explained that seven graves were excavated out of a first group of 34.

"Archaeologists found seven skeletons. This is a very important step in the search for historical truth," Colonel Ngom said.

According to Mr. Sall, "one skeleton contains a bullet in its left side in the location of the heart."

"Others lack a spine, ribs or skull. Some individuals are buried with iron

chains on their shins," he added. "This means they suffered violence."

The graves where the bodies are located are more recent than the remains themselves, Mr. Sall added.

"One hypothesis is that the graves were made after the [initial] burials or that it was staged to make it appear they had been properly buried," he said.

The next key step, Mr. Sall explained, will be taking DNA samples to help determine the individuals' origins. "The preliminary results do not allow us to answer all the questions".

Ballistics experts will additionally provide information on the military equipment, he added.

Meanwhile the Senegalese government has ordered ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to better explore the depths of the cemetery's subsoil.

"We have been searching for the historical truth for 81 years", Colonel Ngom said. "If the subsoil provides us with [the truth] there is nothing more significant".

President Faye has announced he has approved "the continuation of archaeological excavations at all sites likely to contain mass graves".

In November 2024, as the atrocity's 80th anniversary approached, French President Emmanuel Macron acknowledged that French colonial forces had committed a "massacre" in Thiaroye.

A Senegal cemetery sheds new light on shadows of a French colonial massacre
फ्रांसीसी औपनिवेशिक नरसंहार की छाया पर नया प्रकाश डालता एक सेनेगल कब्रिस्तान

- Holes in the ground, clods of earth next to headstones, dislocated concrete outlines: the **Thiaroye military cemetery** near **Dakar** bears the marks of recent excavations meant to unearth the truth behind a **World War II-era massacre** by French colonial forces.

  ज़मीन में गड्ढे, समाधि पत्थरों के पास मिट्टी के ढेले, विस्थापित कंक्रीट की रेखाएँ: **डकार** के पास स्थित **थियरोए सैन्य कब्रिस्तान** पर हाल की खुदाई के निशान हैं, जिसका उद्देश्य **फ्रांसीसी औपनिवेशिक बलों** द्वारा किए गए **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध कालीन नरसंहार** के पीछे की सच्चाई को उजागर करना है।

- In **November 1944,** around **1,600 soldiers** from several **west African countries** were sent to the **Thiaroye camp** after being captured by **Germany** while fighting for **France.**
  नवंबर **1944** में, कई **पश्चिमी अफ्रीकी देशों** के लगभग **1,600 सैनिकों** को **फ्रांस** के लिए लड़ते समय **जर्मनी** द्वारा पकड़े जाने के बाद **थियरोए शिविर** भेजा गया।

- Discontent soon mounted over **unpaid back pay** and unmet demands that they be treated on a par with **white soldiers.**
  जल्द ही **अवैतनिक बकाया वेतन** और **श्वेत सैनिकों** के समान व्यवहार की अधूरी मांगों को लेकर असंतोष बढ़ गया।

- On **December 1, French forces** opened fire on them. The circumstances surrounding the **massacre,** the number of **riflemen killed** and their **place of burial** all remain unclear.
  1 दिसंबर को **फ्रांसीसी बलों** ने उन पर गोली चला दी। इस **नरसंहार,** मारे गए **राइफलधारियों** की संख्या और उनके **दफनाने के स्थान** के बारे में सब कुछ अभी भी अस्पष्ट है।

- An **AFP team** recently visited the camp's cemetery, where **archaeologists** are conducting landmark excavations to find and examine the remains of those interred there.
  हाल ही में एक **एएफपी टीम** ने शिविर के कब्रिस्तान का दौरा किया, जहाँ **पुरातत्वविद्** वहां दफन लोगों के अवशेषों को खोजने और जांचने के लिए ऐतिहासिक खुदाई कर रहे हैं।

- Rows of **202 graves,** marked with **white headstones** and **cement demarcations,** are covered with shells. It is not known who exactly is in all the graves, or if there are even bodies at each marker.
  202 कब्रों की कतारें, **सफेद समाधि पत्थरों** और **सीमेंट सीमांकन** से चिह्नित, सीपियों से ढकी हुई हैं। यह ज्ञात नहीं है कि वास्तव में इन कब्रों में कौन है, या क्या प्रत्येक निशान के नीचे शरीर हैं भी या नहीं।

- The cemetery was created in **1926** by **colonial France** to bury **African soldiers.** Some researchers believe that **riflemen** killed in the **Thiaroye massacre** were buried there.
  यह कब्रिस्तान **1926** में **औपनिवेशिक फ्रांस** द्वारा **अफ्रीकी सैनिकों** को दफनाने के लिए बनाया गया था। कुछ शोधकर्ताओं का मानना है कि **थियरोए नरसंहार** में मारे गए **राइफलधारियों** को वहीं दफनाया गया था।

- **Senegal** alleges it was difficult to access the **French colonial archives** to study the massacre in full.
  सेनेगल का आरोप है कि **फ्रांसीसी औपनिवेशिक अभिलेखागार** तक पहुँचना कठिन था, जिससे नरसंहार का पूरा अध्ययन नहीं हो सका।

The dead do talk
मृतक बोलते हैं

- This is why **Colonel Saliou Ngom,** the director of the **Senegalese army's archives and historical heritage,** believes it was necessary to "make the underground speak."
  इसी कारण **सेनेगल सेना के अभिलेख और ऐतिहासिक विरासत निदेशक कर्नल सलीऊ नगोम** का मानना है कि "भूमिगत को बोलने के लिए मजबूर करना" आवश्यक था।
- The archaeologists have so far carried out their initial excavations under one of two large **baobabs,** enormous trees that can indicate the site of buried bodies.
  अब तक पुरातत्वविदों ने दो विशाल **बाओबाब पेड़ों** में से एक के नीचे प्रारंभिक खुदाई की है, जो अक्सर दफनाए गए शवों के स्थान का संकेत देते हैं।
- The baobab is "a calcareous tree, that is one that likes limestone", history and geography professor **Mamadou Kone,** technical adviser to the **Armed Forces Museum,** told AFP.
  सशस्त्र बल संग्रहालय के तकनीकी सलाहकार और इतिहास-भूगोल के प्रोफेसर **ममादू कोने** ने एएफपी को बताया कि **बाओबाब एक कैल्केरियस पेड़** है, अर्थात जो **चूना पत्थर** पसंद करता है।
- "Where there are bones, there are often baobabs", he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "जहाँ **हड्डियाँ होती हैं**, वहाँ अक्सर **बाओबाब पेड़** भी होते हैं।"
- The researchers submitted an official report on **October 16** to **Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye,** describing the massacre as **"premeditated"** and covered up, with a death toll that had been **grossly underestimated.**
  शोधकर्ताओं ने **16 अक्टूबर** को **सेनेगल के राष्ट्रपति बासिरू डियोमाये फाये** को एक आधिकारिक रिपोर्ट सौंपी, जिसमें नरसंहार को **"पूर्व नियोजित"** और छिपाया गया बताया गया, तथा मौतों की संख्या को **काफी कम आंका गया** बताया गया।
- The government has ordered **ground-penetrating radar (GPR)** to better explore the depths of the cemetery's subsoil.
  सरकार ने कब्रिस्तान की मिट्टी की गहराइयों की बेहतर जांच के लिए **ग्राउंड-पेनेट्रेटिंग रडार (GPR)** का आदेश दिया है।
- "We have been searching for the **historical truth** for **81 years**", Colonel Ngom said. "If the subsoil provides us with [the truth] there is nothing more significant."
  कर्नल नोम ने कहा, "हम पिछले **81 वर्षों** से **ऐतिहासिक सत्य** की तलाश कर रहे हैं। यदि यह मिट्टी हमें [सत्य] देती है, तो इससे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण कुछ नहीं।"
- **President Faye** has announced he has approved "the continuation of **archaeological excavations** at all sites likely to contain **mass graves.**"
  राष्ट्रपति फाये ने घोषणा की है कि उन्होंने उन सभी स्थलों पर **पुरातात्विक खुदाई जारी रखने** की अनुमति दी है जहाँ **सामूहिक कब्रें** होने की संभावना है।
- In **November 2024,** as the atrocity's **80th anniversary** approached, **French President Emmanuel Macron** acknowledged that **French colonial forces** had committed a "massacre" in **Thiaroye.**
  नवंबर 2024 में, जब इस अत्याचार की **80वीं वर्षगांठ** नज़दीक आई, **फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों** ने स्वीकार किया कि **फ्रांसीसी औपनिवेशिक बलों** ने थियरोए में एक "नरसंहार" किया था।
- One of the archaeologists who led the dig, **Moustapha Sall,** explained that **seven graves** were excavated out of a first group of **34.**
  खुदाई का नेतृत्व करने वाले पुरातत्वविद् **मुसतफा सल्ल** ने बताया कि **34 कब्रों** के पहले समूह में से **7 कब्रों** की खुदाई की गई।
- "Archaeologists found seven skeletons. This is a very important step in the search for **historical truth,**" Colonel Ngom said.
  कर्नल नोम ने कहा, "पुरातत्वविदों ने **सात कंकाल** पाए। यह **ऐतिहासिक सत्य** की खोज में एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।"

- According to Mr. Sall, "one skeleton contains a **bullet** in its left side in the location of the **heart.**"

  श्री सल्ल के अनुसार, "एक कंकाल के **बाएँ हिस्से में दिल के स्थान पर एक गोली** पाई गई।"

- "Others lack a spine, ribs or skull. Some individuals are buried with **iron chains** on their shins," he added. "This means they suffered violence."

  उन्होंने आगे कहा, "अन्य कंकालों में **रीढ़, पसलियाँ या खोपड़ी** नहीं हैं। कुछ व्यक्तियों को **टांगों पर लोहे की जंजीरों** के साथ दफनाया गया है। इसका अर्थ है कि उन्होंने **हिंसा सहन की।**"

- The graves where the bodies are located are more recent than the remains themselves, Mr. Sall added.

  श्री सल्ल ने बताया कि जिन कब्रों में शव पाए गए, वे स्वयं अवशेषों की तुलना में **अधिक हाल की** हैं।

- "One hypothesis is that the graves were made after the [initial] burials or that it was staged to make it appear they had been properly buried," he said.

  उन्होंने कहा, "एक परिकल्पना यह है कि **कब्रें प्रारंभिक दफन के बाद बनाई गईं**, या यह दिखाने के लिए **मंचित की गईं** कि उन्हें सही ढंग से दफनाया गया था।"

- The next key step, Mr. Sall explained, will be taking **DNA samples** to help determine the individuals' origins. "The preliminary results do not allow us to answer all the questions."

  श्री सल्ल ने समझाया कि अगला महत्वपूर्ण कदम व्यक्तियों की उत्पत्ति निर्धारित करने के लिए **डीएनए नमूने** लेना होगा। "प्रारंभिक परिणाम हमें सभी प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने की अनुमति नहीं देते।"

- **Ballistics experts** will additionally provide information on the **military equipment,** he added.

  उन्होंने जोड़ा कि **बैलिस्टिक विशेषज्ञ सैन्य उपकरणों** पर भी जानकारी प्रदान करेंगे।

- Meanwhile, the **French colonial authorities** at the time of the massacre said **up to 70 World War II riflemen** were killed. But the researchers said the most credible estimates put the figure closer to **300 to 400,** with some of the men buried in the **Thiaroye cemetery.**

  इस बीच, नरसंहार के समय **फ्रांसीसी औपनिवेशिक अधिकारियों** ने कहा था कि **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के 70 राइफलधारी** मारे गए। लेकिन शोधकर्ताओं का कहना है कि सबसे विश्वसनीय अनुमान **300 से 400** के बीच है, जिनमें से कुछ को **थियरोए कब्रिस्तान** में दफनाया गया।

Clues on violence
हिंसा के संकेत

World War II riflemen were killed. But the researchers said the most credible estimates put the figure closer to **300 to 400**, with some of the men buried in the **Thiaroye cemetery.**

द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के राइफलधारी मारे गए। लेकिन शोधकर्ताओं ने कहा कि सबसे विश्वसनीय अनुमान **300 से 400** के बीच हैं, जिनमें से कुछ पुरुषों को **थियरोए कब्रिस्तान** में दफनाया गया।

- One of the **archaeologists** who led the dig, **Moustapha Sall**, explained that **seven graves** were excavated out of a first group of **34.**

  खुदाई का नेतृत्व करने वाले **पुरातत्वविदों** में से एक **मुसतफा सल्ल** ने बताया कि पहले समूह की **34 कब्रों** में से **सात कब्रों** की खुदाई की गई।

- "**Archaeologists found seven skeletons.** This is a very important step in the search for **historical truth,**" **Colonel Ngom** said.

  "**पुरातत्वविदों** ने सात कंकाल पाए। यह **ऐतिहासिक सत्य** की खोज में एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण कदम है," **कर्नल न्गोम** ने कहा।

- According to **Mr. Sall**, "one skeleton contains a **bullet** in its left side in the location of the **heart.**"

  श्री सल्ल के अनुसार, "एक कंकाल के **बाएँ हिस्से में दिल के स्थान पर एक गोली** पाई गई।"

- "Others lack a **spine, ribs or skull.** Some individuals are buried with **iron chains** on their shins," he added. "This means they **suffered violence.**"

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- The graves where the bodies are located are more recent than the remains themselves, **Mr. Sall** added.

  श्री सल्ल ने कहा कि जिन कब्रों में शव पाए गए हैं, वे स्वयं **अवशेषों से अधिक हाल की** हैं।

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उन्होंने कहा, "एक परिकल्पना यह है कि **कब्रें प्रारंभिक दफन के बाद बनाई गईं** या यह दिखाने के लिए **मंचित की गईं** कि उन्हें सही ढंग से दफनाया गया था।"

- The next key step, **Mr. Sall** explained, will be taking **DNA samples** to help determine the individuals' origins. "The preliminary results do not allow us to answer all the questions."
  अगला महत्वपूर्ण कदम, **श्री सल्ल** ने बताया, व्यक्तियों की उत्पत्ति निर्धारित करने के लिए **डीएनए नमूने** लेना होगा। "प्रारंभिक परिणाम हमें सभी प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने की अनुमति नहीं देते।"

- **Ballistics experts** will additionally provide information on the **military equipment**, he added.
  उन्होंने जोड़ा कि **बैलिस्टिक विशेषज्ञ** अतिरिक्त रूप से **सैन्य उपकरणों** पर जानकारी प्रदान करेंगे।

- Meanwhile the **Senegalese government** has ordered **ground-penetrating radar (GPR)** to better explore the depths of the cemetery's subsoil.
  इस बीच **सेनेगल सरकार** ने कब्रिस्तान की मिट्टी की गहराइयों की बेहतर जांच के लिए **ग्राउंड-पेनेट्रेटिंग रडार (GPR)** का आदेश दिया है।

- "We have been searching for the **historical truth** for **81 years**," Colonel Ngom said. "If the subsoil provides us with [the truth] there is nothing more significant."
  कर्नल नोम ने कहा, "हम पिछले **81 वर्षों** से **ऐतिहासिक सत्य** की खोज कर रहे हैं। यदि यह मिट्टी हमें [सत्य] देती है, तो इससे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण कुछ नहीं।"

- **President Faye** has announced he has approved "the continuation of **archaeological excavations** at all sites likely to contain **mass graves.**"
  राष्ट्रपति फाये ने घोषणा की है कि उन्होंने उन सभी स्थलों पर **पुरातात्विक खुदाई जारी रखने** की अनुमति दी है जहाँ **सामूहिक कब्रें** होने की संभावना है।

- In **November 2024**, as the atrocity's **80th anniversary** approached, **French President Emmanuel Macron** acknowledged that **French colonial forces** had committed a **"massacre"** in **Thiaroye.**
  नवंबर 2024 में, जब इस अत्याचार की **80वीं वर्षगांठ** नज़दीक आई, **फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों** ने स्वीकार किया कि **फ्रांसीसी औपनिवेशिक बलों** ने **थियरोए** में एक **"नरसंहार"** किया था।

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations	
TOPICS COVERED	**29 October 2025**
1	**Women vital for peace that is sustainable, says MP in UN** संयुक्त राष्ट्र में सांसद ने कहा — स्थायी शांति के लिए महिलाएँ आवश्यक हैं
2.	**32% candidates in Phase 1 polls have criminal cases: ADR** पहले चरण के चुनावों में 32% उम्मीदवारों पर आपराधिक मामले: एडीआर
3.	**Trade talks with EU reduced 'outstanding issues', says Goyal** यूरोपीय संघ के साथ व्यापार वार्ताओं में 'लंबित मुद्दों' में कमी आई है, गोयल ने कहा

4.	**Missed Opportunity: India could have made better use of the ASEAN Summit** छूटा हुआ अवसर: भारत ASEAN शिखर सम्मेलन का बेहतर उपयोग कर सकता था
5.	**The Politics of the EBCs in Bihar** बिहार में अति पिछड़ी जातियों (EBCs) की राजनीति
6.	**Philippines to take ASEAN chair with focus on South China Sea** दक्षिण चीन सागर पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए फिलीपींस संभालेगा आसियान की अध्यक्षता
7.	**China and ASEAN, hit by U.S. tariffs, sign upgraded free trade agreement** अमेरिकी शुल्कों से प्रभावित चीन और आसियान ने उन्नत मुक्त व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए
8.	**India's diaspora diplomacy and the limits of cultural nationalism abroad** भारत की प्रवासी कूटनीति और विदेशों में सांस्कृतिक राष्ट्रवाद की सीमाएँ

Women vital for peace that is sustainable, says MP in UN

संयुक्त राष्ट्र में सांसद ने कहा — स्थायी शांति के लिए महिलाएँ आवश्यक हैं

GS II:International Institutions

- India was among the **first countries** to recognise the **role of women** in building "**sustainable peace**", Rajya Sabha member P. Wilson said at the **UN Peacebuilding Commission** on Monday.

राज्यसभा सदस्य पी. विल्सन ने सोमवार को **संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति निर्माण आयोग (UN Peacebuilding Commission)** में कहा कि **भारत** उन **पहले देशों** में से एक था जिसने "**स्थायी शांति**" के निर्माण में **महिलाओं की भूमिका** को मान्यता दी।

- Presenting **India's statement**, **Mr. Wilson**, who is leading the **Indian delegation** at the Commission in **New York**, said **sustainable peace** required "**full and equal participation**" of **women**.

न्यूयॉर्क में आयोग में **भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल** का नेतृत्व कर रहे **श्री विल्सन** ने **भारत का वक्तव्य** प्रस्तुत करते हुए कहा कि **स्थायी शांति** के लिए **महिलाओं की "पूर्ण और समान भागीदारी"** आवश्यक है।

- "What sets **India's peacekeeping legacy** apart is not only the **scale of our contributions**, but our **early recognition of women** as indispensable agents of **sustainable peace**," said **Mr. Wilson**, who started his statement with the **Tamil greeting 'vanakkam'**.

श्री विल्सन ने अपने वक्तव्य की शुरुआत **तमिल अभिवादन 'वनक्कम'** से करते हुए कहा, "जो चीज **भारत की शांति स्थापना की विरासत** को अलग बनाती है, वह केवल हमारे **योगदान का पैमाना** नहीं, बल्कि **महिलाओं को स्थायी शांति की अनिवार्य प्रतिनिधि** के रूप में हमारी **प्रारंभिक स्वीकृति** भी है।"

- "Long before **Resolution 1325**, **Indian women medical officers** served in the **Congo** in **1960s**, marking one of the **earliest instances** of **women serving in UN peacekeeping operations**," the **MP** added.

सांसद ने आगे कहा, "**संकल्प 1325** से बहुत पहले, **1960 के दशक** में भारतीय महिला चिकित्सा अधिकारी कांगो में कार्यरत थीं, जो **संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना अभियानों में महिलाओं की सेवा के शुरुआती उदाहरणों** में से एक था।"

32% candidates in Phase 1 polls have criminal cases: ADR

GS II: Elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Around 32% of candidates contesting Phase 1 of the Bihar Assembly election have declared criminal cases against themselves. Out of them, 27% have serious criminal cases of murder and crimes against women, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The analysis by ADR and Bihar Election Watch considered the affidavits of 1,303 out of 1,314 candidates, who are contesting the first phase of the elections.

Out of the 1,303 candidates analysed, 423 (32%) have declared criminal cases against themselves. A total of 354 (27%) candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

Crime against women

There are 33 candidates with cases related to murder and 86 candidates have declared cases of attempt to murder.

A total of 42 candidates have declared cases related to crimes against women, out of which two have declared cases related to

The CPI(ML) (93%) had most candidates with criminal cases, followed by the RJD (76%) and BJP (65%)

rape. As far as parties were concerned, the CPI(ML) had the largest number of candidates with criminal cases (93%) followed by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (76%) and the BJP (65%).

Case numbers

Among the major parties, 50 (44%) out of 114 candidates analysed from the Jan Suraaj Party, 18 (20%) out of 89 candidates from the BSP, 53 (76%) out of 70 candidates from the RJD, 22 (39%) out of 57 candidates from the JD(U), 31 (65%) out of 48 candidates from the BJP, 12 (27%) out of 44 candidates from the AAP, 15 (65%) out of 23 candidates from the Congress, 13 (93%) out of 14 candidates from the CPI(ML), seven (54%) out of 13 candidates from the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), all five (100%) candidates from the CPI and all three (100%) from the CPI(M) have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

32% candidates in Phase 1 polls have criminal cases: ADR
पहले चरण के चुनावों में 32% उम्मीदवारों पर आपराधिक मामले: एडीआर

- Around **32% of candidates** contesting **Phase 1 of the Bihar Assembly election** have declared **criminal cases** against themselves. Out of them, **27%** have **serious criminal cases** of **murder** and **crimes against women**, according to an analysis by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**.

बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव के पहले चरण में चुनाव लड़ने वाले लगभग **32% उम्मीदवारों** ने अपने खिलाफ **आपराधिक मामले** घोषित किए हैं। इनमें से **27%** पर **हत्या** और **महिलाओं के खिलाफ अपराधों** जैसे गंभीर आपराधिक मामले हैं, एसोसिएशन फॉर डेमोक्रेटिक रिफॉर्म्स (एडीआर) के विश्लेषण के अनुसार।

- The analysis by **ADR and Bihar Election Watch** considered the **affidavits of 1,303 out of 1,314 candidates**, who are contesting the first phase of the elections.

एडीआर और बिहार इलेक्शन वॉच के विश्लेषण में **1,314 उम्मीदवारों** में से **1,303 उम्मीदवारों के हलफनामों** को शामिल किया गया, जो **पहले चरण के चुनावों** में भाग ले रहे हैं।

- Out of the **1,303 candidates analysed**, **423 (32%)** have declared **criminal cases** against themselves. A total of **354 (27%)** candidates have declared **serious criminal cases** against themselves.

विश्लेषित **1,303 उम्मीदवारों** में से **423 (32%)** ने अपने खिलाफ **आपराधिक मामले** घोषित किए हैं। कुल **354 (27%)** उम्मीदवारों ने अपने खिलाफ **गंभीर आपराधिक मामले** घोषित किए हैं।

Crime against women
महिलाओं के खिलाफ अपराध

- There are **33 candidates** with cases related to **murder** and **86 candidates** have declared cases of **attempt to murder**.

33 उम्मीदवारों पर **हत्या** से संबंधित मामले हैं और **86 उम्मीदवारों** ने **हत्या के प्रयास** के मामले घोषित किए हैं।

- A total of **42 candidates** have declared cases related to **crimes against women**, out of which **two** have declared cases related to **rape**.

कुल **42 उम्मीदवारों** ने **महिलाओं के खिलाफ अपराधों** से संबंधित मामले घोषित किए हैं, जिनमें से **दो** ने **बलात्कार** से संबंधित मामले घोषित किए हैं।

- As far as **parties** were concerned, the **CPI(ML)** had the **largest number of candidates with criminal cases (93%)** followed by the **Rashtriya Janata Dal (76%)** and the **BJP (65%)**.

जहां तक **राजनीतिक दलों** की बात है, **CPI(ML)** के सबसे अधिक **93% उम्मीदवारों** पर **आपराधिक मामले** हैं, इसके बाद **राष्ट्रीय जनता दल (76%)** और **भाजपा (65%)** का स्थान है।

Case numbers
मामलों की संख्या

- Among the major parties, **50 (44%) out of 114 candidates** analysed from the **Jan Suraaj Party**, **18 (20%) out of 89 candidates** from the **BSP**, **53 (76%) out of 70 candidates** from the **RJD**, **22 (39%) out of 57 candidates** from the **JD(U)**, **31 (65%) out of 48 candidates** from the **BJP**, **12 (27%) out of 44 candidates** from the **AAP**, **15 (65%) out of 23 candidates** from the **Congress**, **13 (93%) out of 14 candidates** from the **CPI(ML)**, **seven (54%) out of 13 candidates** from the **Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)**, **all five (100%) candidates** from the **CPI** and **all three (100%)** from the **CPI(M)** have declared **criminal cases** against themselves in their **affidavits**.

  मुख्य दलों में, **जन सुराज पार्टी** के **114 में से 50 (44%)** उम्मीदवारों, **बसपा** के **89 में से 18 (20%)**, **राजद** के **70 में से 53 (76%)**, **जद(यू)** के **57 में से 22 (39%)**, **भाजपा** के **48 में से 31 (65%)**, **आप** के **44 में से 12 (27%)**, **कांग्रेस** के **23 में से 15 (65%)**, **CPI(ML)** के **14 में से 13 (93%)**, **लोक जनशक्ति पार्टी (राम विलास)** के **13 में से 7 (54%)**, **CPI** के **5 (100%)** और **CPI(M)** के **3 (100%)** उम्मीदवारों ने अपने **हलफनामों में आपराधिक मामले** घोषित किए हैं।

Trade talks with EU reduced 'outstanding issues', says Goyal

Foundation laid for balanced and robust agreement, says Minister after meeting with counterpart; high-level EU team to visit India next week

GS II: India-EU

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India and the European Union have "significantly" reduced the gaps in their negotiating positions after three days of trade discussions in Brussels, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Goyal and his EU counterpart, Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, held discussions to provide a political push to help get the negotiations for an India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) over the finish line.

"The talks have significantly reduced our outstanding issues and allowed us to create the framework that will help deliver a win-win for our economies," Mr. Goyal said on X, describing the discussions as "intense" but "very productive".

Mr. Goyal posted a video statement by the two Ministers, in which Mr Šefčovič characterised the talks as having occurred in an at-

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal meeting EU Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic in Brussels on Monday.

mosphere of "full transparency and trust". The Commissioner also said that "further work is required". He said substantial progress had been made in a number of areas and the sides had given specific guidance to their teams on industrial tariffs.

Mr. Šefčovič confirmed that a high-level EU trade delegation led by Director-General Sabine Weyand would be in New Delhi next week to conclude "technical tariff negotiations". A trade delegation from the European Parliament is in New Delhi this week to better understand the challenges and oppor-

tunities presented by the trade negotiations. Some of the sticking points have included tariffs around agricultural products, a sensitive area for both sides and particularly for India. Tariffs on European automobiles being sold in India have also been under discussion in recent weeks. Regulatory issues, including the EU's carbon tax on imports (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism), have been contentious issues to work through.

"The negotiations and discussions have laid the foundation for a robust and balanced agreement," Mr. Goyal said.

Trade talks with EU reduced 'outstanding issues', says Goyal
यूरोपीय संघ के साथ व्यापार वार्ताओं में 'लंबित मुद्दों' में कमी आई है, गोयल ने कहा

- **Foundation laid for balanced and robust agreement**, says Minister after meeting with counterpart; **high-level EU team** to visit **India next week**
  संतुलित और मजबूत समझौते की नींव रखी गई है, मंत्री ने अपने समकक्ष से मुलाकात के बाद कहा; **उच्च-स्तरीय यूरोपीय संघ टीम** अगले सप्ताह **भारत का दौरा** करेगी।

- India and the **European Union** have "**significantly reduced** the gaps" in their **negotiating positions** after three days of **trade discussions** in Brussels, **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said on **Tuesday** evening.
  भारत और **यूरोपीय संघ** ने ब्रसेल्स में तीन दिनों की **व्यापार वार्ताओं** के बाद अपने **वार्ता रुखों में "महत्वपूर्ण कमी"** की है, यह बात **वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल** ने मंगलवार शाम कही।

- Mr. Goyal and his **EU counterpart, Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič**, held discussions to provide a **political push** to help get the negotiations for an **India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** over the **finish line**.
  श्री **गोयल** और उनके **यूरोपीय संघ के समकक्ष, आयुक्त मारोश शेफचोविच**, ने **भारत-ईयू मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (एफटीए)** की वार्ताओं को **अंतिम चरण तक पहुंचाने** के लिए **राजनीतिक प्रोत्साहन** देने हेतु चर्चा की।

- "The talks have **significantly reduced our outstanding issues** and allowed us to create the **framework** that will help deliver a **win-win** for our **economies**," Mr. Goyal said on **X**, describing the discussions as "**intense**" but "**very productive**".
  श्री गोयल ने **एक्स (X)** पर कहा कि "वार्ताओं ने हमारे **लंबित मुद्दों में उल्लेखनीय कमी** की है और हमें ऐसा **ढांचा तैयार करने** की अनुमति दी है जो हमारी **अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के लिए लाभदायक (win-win)** होगा।" उन्होंने चर्चाओं को "**गहन** लेकिन **बहुत उत्पादक**" बताया।

- Mr. Goyal posted a **video statement** by the two Ministers, in which Mr. **Šefčovič** characterised the talks as having occurred in an atmosphere of "**full transparency and trust**". The Commissioner also said that "**further work is required**".
  श्री गोयल ने दोनों मंत्रियों का एक **वीडियो बयान** पोस्ट किया, जिसमें श्री **शेफचोविच** ने वार्ताओं को "**पूर्ण पारदर्शिता और विश्वास**" के माहौल में हुई बताया। आयुक्त ने यह भी कहा कि "**अभी और काम की आवश्यकता है।**"

- He said **substantial progress** had been made in a number of areas and the sides had given **specific guidance** to their teams on **industrial tariffs**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि कई क्षेत्रों में **महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति** हुई है और दोनों पक्षों ने अपनी टीमों को **औद्योगिक शुल्कों (industrial tariffs)** पर **विशिष्ट दिशा-निर्देश** दिए हैं।

- Mr. **Šefčovič** confirmed that a **high-level EU trade delegation** led by Director-General Sabine Weyand would be in **New Delhi next week** to conclude "**technical tariff negotiations**".
  श्री शेफचोविच ने पुष्टि की कि महानिदेशक सबीन वेयांड के नेतृत्व में एक **उच्च-स्तरीय यूरोपीय संघ व्यापार प्रतिनिधिमंडल** अगले सप्ताह **नई दिल्ली** में "**तकनीकी शुल्क वार्ताओं**" को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए पहुंचेगा।

- A **trade delegation from the European Parliament** is in **New Delhi this week** to better understand the **challenges and opportunities** presented by the **trade negotiations**.
  यूरोपीय संसद का एक व्यापार प्रतिनिधिमंडल इस सप्ताह **नई दिल्ली** में है ताकि **व्यापार वार्ताओं** से उत्पन्न **चुनौतियों और अवसरों** को बेहतर ढंग से समझा जा सके।

- Some of the **sticking points** have included **tariffs around agricultural products**, a **sensitive area** for both sides and particularly for **India**.
  कुछ **विवादास्पद बिंदुओं** में **कृषि उत्पादों पर शुल्क (tariffs)** शामिल हैं, जो दोनों पक्षों के लिए और विशेष रूप से **भारत के लिए संवेदनशील क्षेत्र** है।

- **Tariffs on European automobiles** being sold in **India** have also been under discussion in recent weeks.
  हाल के हफ्तों में **भारत में बेचे जाने वाले यूरोपीय वाहनों पर शुल्क (tariffs)** भी चर्चा का विषय रहा है।

- **Regulatory issues**, including the **EU's carbon tax on imports (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism)**, have been **contentious issues** to work through.

नियामक मुद्दे, जिनमें आयात पर यूरोपीय संघ का कार्बन टैक्स (कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म) शामिल है, विवादास्पद विषय रहे हैं।

- "The negotiations and discussions have **laid the foundation for a robust and balanced agreement**," Mr. Goyal said.

  "**वार्ताओं और चर्चाओं ने एक मजबूत और संतुलित समझौते की नींव रखी है**," श्री गोयल ने कहा।

GS II: Regional Groupings

Missed opportunity

India could have made better use of the ASEAN Summit

Since 1995, when India became a dialogue partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and 2002, when it was upgraded to Summit level, the annual ASEAN summit has been an opportunity for India to reconnect with a region with historical linkages, and now increasing geopolitical importance. In addition to the ASEAN and ASEAN-India summits, the annual East Asia Summit (including the U.S., China, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, India and the ASEAN countries) is a chance for the Indian leadership to interact with the most powerful countries on Indo-Pacific issues. The rebirth of the Australia-India-Japan-U.S. 'Quad', for example, took place in 2017, after a decade-long hiatus, on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit. Underlining this importance in his virtual speech at the ASEAN-India summit in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the 21st century "the century of India and ASEAN", and committed to India's support to "ASEAN Unity, ASEAN Centrality, and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific". He also announced that 2026 would be the year of ASEAN-India maritime cooperation, with a focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster response, maritime security and the region's blue economy. The summit – External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar represented India – came at a time of increased geopolitical turbulence, including the economic turmoil unleashed by the U.S.'s tariff policy, China's constraints on crucial exports, and maritime tensions. At the East Asia Summit, Mr. Jaishankar called the times "complicated", taking aim at the U.S. for constraining energy trade with Russia and applying its principles "selectively", and China for supply chain reliability and market access issues. India and ASEAN also committed to finalising the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) soon.

The strong statements and commitment to cooperation did not, however, sufficiently cover for Mr. Modi's absence from the Summit – he was absent in 2022 also. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Mr. Modi had expressed his inability to attend due to festivities in India, but the explanation was unconvincing as the ASEAN engagement had been planned months in advance. While some pointed to Mr. Modi's campaign schedule for the Bihar Assembly polls, others cited U.S. President Donald Trump's presence and India-U.S. trade deal tensions as a possible reason for his staying away. A few even suggested a lingering strain in the India-Malaysia relationship over Malaysia's diplomatic support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, and a visit by the Pakistani Prime Minister to Kuala Lumpur earlier this month. Mr. Modi may have had international, domestic or bilateral reasons, but the no-show was a missed opportunity, especially when other global players including the U.S. and China demonstrated their commitment to regional stability, by simply being there.

Missed Opportunity: India could have made better use of the ASEAN Summit
छूटा हुआ अवसर: भारत ASEAN शिखर सम्मेलन का बेहतर उपयोग कर सकता था

India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits
भारत-आसियान और पूर्वी एशिया शिखर सम्मेलन

- Since **1995**, when **India** became a **dialogue partner** of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, and **2002**, when it was upgraded to **Summit level**, the annual ASEAN summit has been an opportunity for India to reconnect with a region with **historical linkages** and now **increasing geopolitical importance**.

  1995 से, जब **भारत दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देशों के संगठन (आसियान)** का **संवाद भागीदार** बना, और **2002** में जब इसे **शिखर सम्मेलन स्तर** पर अपग्रेड किया गया, तब से वार्षिक आसियान शिखर सम्मेलन भारत के लिए इस क्षेत्र से दोबारा जुड़ने का अवसर रहा है, जिसके साथ **ऐतिहासिक संबंध** और अब **बढ़ता भू-राजनीतिक महत्व** है।

- In addition to the **ASEAN and ASEAN-India summits**, the annual **East Asia Summit** (including the **U.S., China, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, India, and the ASEAN countries**) is a chance for the Indian leadership to interact with the **most powerful countries** on **Indo-Pacific issues**.

  आसियान और आसियान-भारत शिखर सम्मेलनों के अलावा, वार्षिक **पूर्वी एशिया शिखर सम्मेलन** (जिसमें **अमेरिका, चीन, रूस, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूज़ीलैंड, जापान, दक्षिण कोरिया, भारत और आसियान देश** शामिल हैं) भारतीय नेतृत्व के लिए **हिंद-प्रशांत मुद्दों** पर **सबसे शक्तिशाली देशों** के साथ संवाद करने का अवसर है।

- The rebirth of the **Australia-India-Japan-U.S. Quad** took place in **2017**, after a **decade-long hiatus**, on the sidelines of the **ASEAN summit**.

  ऑस्ट्रेलिया-भारत-जापान-अमेरिका क्वाड का पुनर्जन्म **2017** में **दस वर्ष के अंतराल** के बाद **आसियान शिखर सम्मेलन** के दौरान हुआ।

- Underlining this importance in his **virtual speech** at the **ASEAN-India summit in Kuala Lumpur** on **Sunday**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** called the **21st century** "the century of **India and ASEAN**," and committed to India's support to "**ASEAN Unity, ASEAN Centrality, and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific**."

  कुआलालंपुर में रविवार को आयोजित आसियान-भारत शिखर सम्मेलन में अपने **वर्चुअल भाषण** में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 21वीं सदी को "**भारत और आसियान की सदी**" कहा और **आसियान एकता, आसियान केंद्रीयता और हिंद-प्रशांत पर आसियान दृष्टिकोण** के प्रति भारत के समर्थन की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की।

- He also announced that **2026** would be the **year of ASEAN-India maritime cooperation**, focusing on **humanitarian assistance**, **disaster response**, **maritime security**, and the region's **blue economy**.

उन्होंने यह भी घोषणा की कि **2026** को **आसियान-भारत समुद्री सहयोग वर्ष** के रूप में मनाया जाएगा, जिसका ध्यान **मानवीय सहायता**, **आपदा प्रतिक्रिया**, **समुद्री सुरक्षा**, और क्षेत्र की **नीली अर्थव्यवस्था** पर होगा।

- The summit — where **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** represented India — came at a time of **increased geopolitical turbulence**, including **economic turmoil** caused by the **U.S. tariff policy**, **China's export constraints**, and **maritime tensions**.

  यह शिखर सम्मेलन — जिसमें भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व **विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर** ने किया — ऐसे समय में हुआ जब भू-राजनीतिक अस्थिरता, **अमेरिका की शुल्क नीति** से उत्पन्न **आर्थिक उथल-पुथल**, **चीन के निर्यात प्रतिबंध**, और **समुद्री तनाव** बढ़ रहे थे।

- At the **East Asia Summit**, Mr. Jaishankar called the times "**complicated**," criticizing the **U.S.** for **constraining energy trade with Russia** and applying its principles "**selectively**," and **China** for issues related to **supply chain reliability** and **market access**.

  पूर्वी एशिया शिखर सम्मेलन में श्री जयशंकर ने इन समयों को "**जटिल**" कहा, **अमेरिका** की **रूस के साथ ऊर्जा व्यापार पर प्रतिबंध लगाने** और अपने सिद्धांतों को "**चयनात्मक रूप से लागू करने**" के लिए आलोचना की, तथा **चीन** की **सप्लाई चेन विश्वसनीयता** और **बाज़ार पहुंच** से जुड़ी समस्याओं को उठाया।

- **India and ASEAN** also committed to **finalising the review** of the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)** soon.

  भारत और आसियान ने भी **आसियान-भारत वस्तु व्यापार समझौते (AITIGA)** की समीक्षा को जल्द **अंतिम रूप देने** का वादा किया।

- The strong statements and commitment to cooperation did not, however, fully make up for **Mr. Modi's absence** from the Summit — he was **absent in 2022** as well.

  हालांकि, **श्री मोदी की अनुपस्थिति** — जो **2022 में भी** नहीं गए थे — के लिए इन **कड़े बयानों** और **सहयोग की प्रतिबद्धता** ने पूरी तरह से क्षतिपूर्ति नहीं की।

- **Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim** said that **Mr. Modi** had expressed his inability to attend due to **festivities in India**, but the explanation was **unconvincing** as the **ASEAN engagement** had been **planned months in advance**.

  मलेशियाई प्रधानमंत्री अनवर इब्राहिम ने कहा कि श्री **मोदी** ने भारत में त्योहारों के कारण उपस्थित न हो पाने की बात कही, लेकिन यह स्पष्टीकरण **असंतोषजनक** था क्योंकि **आसियान बैठक कई महीने पहले से तय** थी।

- Some pointed to **Mr. Modi's campaign schedule** for the **Bihar Assembly polls**, while others cited **U.S. President Donald Trump's presence** and **India-U.S. trade deal tensions** as possible reasons.

  कुछ लोगों ने श्री **मोदी के बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव अभियान कार्यक्रम** को कारण बताया, जबकि अन्य ने **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की उपस्थिति** और **भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार समझौते में तनाव** को संभावित कारण माना।

- A few even suggested that a **lingering strain** in **India-Malaysia relations** — due to **Malaysia's diplomatic support to Pakistan** during **Operation Sindoor**, and the **Pakistani Prime Minister's visit** to **Kuala Lumpur** earlier this month — may have been a factor.

  कुछ ने यह भी सुझाव दिया कि **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** के दौरान **मलेशिया द्वारा पाकिस्तान को कूटनीतिक समर्थन** और **इस महीने की शुरुआत में पाकिस्तानी प्रधानमंत्री की कुआलालंपुर यात्रा** के कारण **भारत-मलेशिया संबंधों में चल रहा तनाव** भी एक कारण हो सकता है।

- **Mr. Modi's absence** may have had **international, domestic, or bilateral** reasons, but it was a **missed opportunity**, especially when **other global players**, including the **U.S. and China**, demonstrated their **commitment to regional stability** by simply being present.

  श्री **मोदी की अनुपस्थिति** के पीछे **अंतरराष्ट्रीय, घरेलू या द्विपक्षीय** कारण हो सकते हैं, लेकिन यह एक **छूटा हुआ अवसर** था, खासकर जब **अमेरिका और चीन सहित अन्य वैश्विक शक्तियों** ने केवल अपनी **उपस्थिति दर्ज कराकर क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता** दिखाई।

The politics of the EBCs in Bihar

As Bihar gears up for the 2025 Assembly Elections, the marginalisation of Extremely Backward Castes in the political landscape is becoming increasingly apparent, highlighting the challenges they face in mobilising a coalition among their 112 recognised castes

GS II: Elections

FULL CONTEXT

Sarthak Bagchi
Ashutosh Kumar Pandey

According to the recent caste survey, Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs) are a diversified caste group that make up 36% of the population of Bihar. When combined together with the upper OBCs or upper Backward castes, they form the category of Backward Castes, which make up a combined total of 63% of Bihar's population. While the politics of the Backward Castes have dominated the political discourse of Bihar at least since the 1990s, EBCs have been marginalised in terms of political representation. That is, despite their numerical significance, their political representation in the Bihar Legislature has hardly ever gone above the 10% mark.

Composition of the category

Bihar has about 112 EBCs, also known as the Most Backward Castes. In Bihar, they are referred to as 'Annexure-I,' whereas OBCs are referred to as 'Annexure-II.' Annexure-I (the 'more backward') includes some 88 Hindu and Muslim castes, some well-known (for example, Dhanuk, Hajjam, Kahar and Mallah castes), while others considerably less so (Gulguha, Jadupatia etc). Annexure-II ('less backward') comprises of 30 castes including upper Backward castes such as the Kurmis, Koeris, Banias and Yadavs. According to political scientist Harry Blair, many of these communities, such as the Barhis, Kandus and Kumhars (as well as some Muslim castes like Momins and Rayeens), were difficult to distinguish in terms of social and economic backwardness from those in Annexure-I. However, the Bihar government's gazetted ordinance in 1951, followed by the first Backward Classes Commission led by Kaka Saheb Kalelkar in 1955, helped to identify the 837 "most Backward" castes among the total 2,399 Backward Castes in India. In Bihar, the commission enumerated a total of 127 Hindu and Muslim castes as backward castes, which now stand at 112, as per the caste survey conducted in 2022. Out of the 112 caste groups, 24 castes, like the Ansari or Momins, Rayeen, Shershahbadi, Rangrez, Dhobi, Idrish, Kasai, Nat, and Bhatiyara are Muslim EBCs, also referred to as Pasmanda Muslims.

Political mobilisation among EBCs

The politics of Bihar when seen through the prism of caste can be divided into several phases. The phase of the Congress rule in Bihar was dominated by forward caste alliances of Brahmin-Bhumihar-Rajput and Kayasthas for a long time after independence. Although backward caste mobilisation had begun in Bihar during the turn of the 20th century, through historical events like the Triveni Sangh (forging a collaboration between the Kurmis, Koeris and Yadavs) and the Janeyu Andolan (a movement where backward castes in Bihar began wearing the sacred thread to challenge upper-caste domination), the proliferation of several caste associations among upper Backward castes also played a prominent role in their political consolidation. This phase of political mobilisation of the backward castes reached a crescendo in the 1990s. From the Assembly elections of 1990 to 1995 and the Lok Sabha elections of 1991, the number of backward caste legislators finally outnumbered the number of upper caste representatives, a pivotal change in the social background of politicians in Bihar, that has since never been overturned.

Former Chief Minister of Bihar, Karpoori Thakur, attributed as the initiator of a 'Backward Raj' by Harry Blair, has been credited by several observers for this social reconfiguration in Bihar. Along with the implementation of the Mungeri Lal Commission report (1976), which facilitated reservations for backward castes in higher education and State government jobs, Karpoori Thakur initiated two major policy decisions which altered the caste dynamics of Bihar's political landscape. First among these was the removal of English language as a mandatory subject for class 10 examinations which enabled a large number of Hindi medium students from backward castes to get access to government jobs and other opportunities in higher education. Second was the decision to conduct local elections at the panchayat level in 1978, which created opportunities for participation in democracy at the grassroots level leading to an eventual process of democratisation. Years later, in his attempts to consolidate EBC support for himself, Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar also facilitated such democratisation by implementing reservations for EBCs (of upto 20%) and women (upto 50%) in Panchayati Raj Institutions by promulgating the Bihar Panchayati Raj Amendment Act in 2006. According to a study by Subhesh Kumar, Nitu Sharan and Srikant Pandey, these reservations allowed the election of almost 1,464 Mukhiyas, 18,901 Gram Panchayat Members, 1,464 Sarpanchs, and 18,900 panchas from the EBC category, allowing them to benefit significantly from such grassroots level participation in democracy.

However, at the State level, EBCs continued to be marginalised in representative electoral politics, as compared to upper backward OBCs, as the assertion of backward caste dominance has been led by the Yadavs, Kurmis, Koeri and Banias. As pointed out by Srikant and Prasanna Kumar Choudhary, between 1957 and 1962, EBCs had no representation in the Bihar Legislative Assembly. Between 1967 and 1995, there were 753 MLAs from Yadav, Kurmi, Koeri and Baniya castes (upper OBCs) while for the same period, the number of EBC MLAs in Bihar was 55. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of EBC MLAs in Bihar was between 6 to 16. In 2005, 19 EBC MLAs were elected to the State Assembly, which fell to 17 in 2010. This number increased up to 29 in 2020; it was also the first time when the share of EBC MLAs in the Bihar Assembly went above 10% of the total MLAs. For a community with a 36% share in the State's population, this is still a vast underrepresentation.

Emergence of new leadership

The heterogenous mix of castes within the EBC category poses substantial challenges to political mobilisation. Among the EBCs, only a handful of *jatis* like Teli, Dhanuk, Badhai, Kumhar (prajapati), Mallah, Nai, Noniya and Kahar (Chandravanshis) have a population between 1-3% of the total population of Bihar, as per the 2022 caste survey. All the other castes within the EBC category have a population size of below 1%, which makes political mobilisation difficult in terms of numerical consolidation.

The example of the Nishad community is a good case of political mobilisation through numerical consolidation. The Nishad community was forged by bringing together around 22 castes among the EBCs (such as the Mallah, Noniya and Bind, Kevat *jatis*), which brought their combined numbers to about 9.8% of the total population of the State, according to the 2022 caste survey. This makes them a significant part of the EBC cluster and highlights their political salience in terms of electoral support. However, while the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), led by Mukesh Sahani, has emerged as a key political group representing the interests of the Nishad community, the leadership among the Nishad has been scattered across several parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Janata Dal (United) (JD(U)) and even Congress. Therefore, the viability of the Nishad community's electoral impact among the EBCs is yet to materialise as a consolidated vote bank.

A close reading of the candidate nominations for 2025 by various political parties shows us that EBC representation among the fielded candidates has increased, especially among regional parties such as the JD(U), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and VIP. Both the Congress and the BJP lag behind in terms of EBC representation in distributing their party tickets. In fact, a closer look among candidate nominations suggests that among the various EBC castes, political parties tend to nominate candidates mostly from a few key communities like the Dhanuk, Mallah, Noniya, Teli among Hindu EBCs, and Ansaris or Momins among Muslim EBCs.

Long way to go

Whether it is the appointment of Dhanik Lal Mandal as the first EBC speaker of the Bihar Assembly in 1967, or the Rajya Sabha nomination for Pasmanda leader Ali Anwar, or even the appointment of Renu Devi as the first EBC Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar in 2020, the accommodation of EBC politicians by different parties in Bihar has been largely symbolic without much structural change in the political representation of the community, which remains highly marginalised.

Grassroots empowerment through representation in local level leadership positions is yet to translate into visible material transformations among the community, which still remains entrapped in poverty and precarity.

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Myriad groups: A march in support of a demand to give schedule caste status to the Dhanuk community, currently in the EBC list, in Patna in 2013. FILE PHOTO

THE GIST

▼ Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs) are a diversified caste group that make up 36% of the population of Bihar. When combined together with the upper OBCs or upper Backward castes, they form the category of Backward Castes, which make up a combined total of 63% of Bihar's population.

▼ Along with the implementation of the Mungeri Lal Commission report (1976), which facilitated reservations for backward castes in higher education and State government jobs, Karpoori Thakur initiated two major policy decisions which altered the caste dynamics of Bihar's political landscape.

▼ However, at the State level, EBCs continued to be marginalised in representative electoral politics.

The Politics of the EBCs in Bihar
बिहार में अति पिछड़ी जातियों (EBCs) की राजनीति

Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs) in Bihar
बिहार में अति पिछड़ा वर्ग (EBCs)

- According to the recent **caste survey**, **Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs)** are a diversified caste group that make up **36% of the population of Bihar**.
   हाल ही में हुए **जातीय सर्वेक्षण** के अनुसार, **अति पिछड़ा वर्ग (EBCs)** एक विविध जाति समूह है जो **बिहार की 36% जनसंख्या** का हिस्सा बनाते हैं।

- When combined together with the **upper OBCs or upper Backward Castes**, they form the category of **Backward Castes**, which make up a combined total of **63% of Bihar's population**.
   जब इन्हें **ऊपरी ओबीसी या ऊपरी पिछड़ी जातियों** के साथ जोड़ा जाता है, तो ये मिलकर **पिछड़ा वर्ग** की श्रेणी बनाते हैं, जो **बिहार की कुल 63% जनसंख्या** का हिस्सा हैं।

- While the politics of the **Backward Castes** have dominated the **political discourse of Bihar** since the **1990s**, **EBCs** have been **marginalised** in terms of **political representation**.
   1990 के दशक से पिछड़ा वर्ग की राजनीति ने **बिहार के राजनीतिक विमर्श** पर प्रभुत्व बनाया है, लेकिन **EBCs** को **राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व** के मामले में **हाशिए पर रखा गया** है।

- Despite their **numerical significance**, their **political representation** in the **Bihar Legislature** has hardly ever gone above the **10% mark**.
   अपनी **संख्यात्मक महत्ता** के बावजूद, **बिहार विधानसभा** में उनका **राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व** शायद ही कभी **10% से ऊपर** गया हो।

Composition of the Category
श्रेणी की संरचना

- Bihar has about **112 EBCs**, also known as the **Most Backward Castes**.
   बिहार में लगभग **112 EBCs** हैं, जिन्हें **अति पिछड़ी जातियाँ** भी कहा जाता है।

- In Bihar, they are referred to as **'Annexure-I'**, whereas **OBCs** are referred to as **'Annexure-II'**.
   बिहार में इन्हें **'अनुक्रमणिका-I'** कहा जाता है, जबकि **OBCs** को **'अनुक्रमणिका-II'** कहा जाता है।

- **Annexure-I (the 'more backward')** includes about **88 Hindu and Muslim castes**, some well-known (for example, **Dhanuk, Hajjam, Kahar and Mallah castes**) while others are less known (**Gulguha, Jadupatia**, etc).
   अनुक्रमणिका-I ('अधिक पिछड़ा') में लगभग **88 हिंदू और मुस्लिम जातियाँ** शामिल हैं, जिनमें कुछ प्रसिद्ध (**धनुक, हज्जाम, कहार और मल्लाह**) हैं, जबकि कुछ कम जानी जाती हैं (**गुलगुहा, जादुपटिया** आदि)।

- **Annexure-II ('less backward')** comprises **30 castes**, including upper Backward Castes such as **Kurmis, Koeris, Banias and Yadavs**.
   अनुक्रमणिका-II ('कम पिछड़ा') में **30 जातियाँ** शामिल हैं, जैसे **कुर्मी, कोयरी, बनिया और यादव** जैसी ऊपरी पिछड़ी जातियाँ।

- According to **political scientist Harry Blair**, many communities such as the **Barhis, Kandus and Kumhars**, and some **Muslim castes like Momins and Rayeens**, were difficult to distinguish in terms of **social and economic backwardness** from those in Annexure-I.
   राजनीतिक वैज्ञानिक हैरी ब्लेयर के अनुसार, **बरही, कंडू, कुम्हार** जैसी कई जातियाँ और कुछ **मुस्लिम जातियाँ** जैसे **मोमिन और रईन**, सामाजिक और आर्थिक पिछड़ेपन के मामले में **अनुक्रमणिका-I** से अलग पहचानना मुश्किल था।

- The **Bihar government's gazetted ordinance (1951)** and the **first Backward Classes Commission (1955)** led by **Kaka Saheb Kalelkar**, helped identify **837 "most backward" castes** among the total **2,399 Backward Castes** in India.
   1951 में बिहार सरकार के राजपत्रित अध्यादेश और **1955** में काका साहब कालेलकर की अध्यक्षता में गठित प्रथम पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग ने भारत की **कुल 2,399 पिछड़ी जातियों** में से **837 "अति पिछड़ी" जातियों** की पहचान में मदद की।

- In Bihar, the Commission enumerated **127 Hindu and Muslim castes** as backward castes, which now stand at **112**, as per the **2022 caste survey**.
   बिहार में आयोग ने **127 हिंदू और मुस्लिम जातियों** को पिछड़ी जाति के रूप में गिना था, जो अब **2022 के जातीय सर्वेक्षण** के अनुसार **112** रह गई हैं।

- Out of the **112 caste groups**, **24 castes** (like **Ansari or Momins, Rayeen, Shershahbadi, Rangrez, Dhobi, Idrish, Kasai, Nat, and Bhatiyara**) are **Muslim EBCs**, also referred to as **Pasmanda Muslims**.

112 जाति समूहों में से 24 जातियाँ (जैसे अंसारी या मोमिन, रईन, शेरशाहबादी, रंगरेज, धोबी, इदरीश, कसाई, नट, और भटियारा) मुस्लिम EBCs हैं, जिन्हें पसमांदा मुस्लिम भी कहा जाता है

Political Mobilisation among EBCs
EBCs के बीच राजनीतिक लामबंदी

- The **politics of Bihar**, when seen through the **prism of caste**, can be divided into several **phases**.
  बिहार की राजनीति, जब जाति के दृष्टिकोण से देखी जाती है, तो इसे कई चरणों में विभाजित किया जा सकता है।

- The phase of **Congress rule** in Bihar was dominated by **forward caste alliances of Brahmin-Bhumihar-Rajput and Kayasthas** for a long time after independence.
  बिहार में कांग्रेस शासन का दौर, स्वतंत्रता के बाद लंबे समय तक ब्राह्मण-भूमिहार-राजपूत और कायस्थों की सवर्ण जातियों के गठजोड़ के प्रभुत्व में रहा।

- Although **backward caste mobilisation** had begun in Bihar during the **turn of the 20th century**, through events like the **Triveni Sangh** (an alliance of **Kurmis, Koeris, and Yadavs**) and the **Janeyu Andolan** (a movement where backward castes began wearing the **sacred thread** to challenge **upper-caste domination**).
  यद्यपि 20वीं सदी की शुरुआत में ही बिहार में पिछड़ी जातियों की लामबंदी शुरू हो गई थी, जैसे त्रिवेणी संघ (जिसमें कुर्मी, कोयरी, यादव का गठजोड़ था) और जनेऊ आंदोलन (जहाँ पिछड़ी जातियों ने जनेऊ पहनकर सवर्ण प्रभुत्व को चुनौती दी)।

- The proliferation of several **caste associations** among **upper backward castes** also played a prominent role in their **political consolidation**.
  ऊपरी पिछड़ी जातियों के बीच कई जाति संघों की वृद्धि ने उनके राजनीतिक एकीकरण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

- This phase of **political mobilisation** of the **backward castes** reached a **crescendo in the 1990s**.
  पिछड़ी जातियों की राजनीतिक लामबंदी का यह दौर 1990 के दशक में चरम पर पहुँचा।

- From the **Assembly elections of 1990 to 1995** and the **Lok Sabha elections of 1991**, the number of **backward caste legislators** finally outnumbered **upper caste representatives** — a **pivotal change** in Bihar's **social background of politicians**, which has since **never been overturned**.
  1990 से 1995 के विधानसभा चुनावों और 1991 के लोकसभा चुनावों में, पिछड़ी जाति के विधायकों की संख्या ने सवर्ण प्रतिनिधियों को पीछे छोड़ दिया — यह बिहार के राजनीतिक सामाजिक ढाँचे में एक ऐतिहासिक परिवर्तन था, जो आज तक उलटा नहीं गया।

Political Mobilisation and Representation of EBCs in Bihar
बिहार में अत्यंत पिछड़े वर्गों (EBCs) की राजनीतिक लामबंदी और प्रतिनिधित्व

- Former **Chief Minister of Bihar, Karpoori Thakur**, attributed as the initiator of a **'Backward Raj'** by **Harry Blair**, has been credited by several observers for this social reconfiguration in Bihar.
  बिहार के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री कर्पूरी ठाकुर, जिन्हें हैरी ब्लेयर ने 'पिछड़ा राज' की शुरुआत करने वाला बताया है, को बिहार में इस सामाजिक पुनर्गठन का श्रेय कई पर्यवेक्षकों ने दिया है।

- Along with the implementation of the **Mungeri Lal Commission report (1976)**, which facilitated **reservations for backward castes** in higher education and State government jobs, Karpoori Thakur initiated two major policy decisions which altered the caste dynamics of Bihar's political landscape.
  मुंगेरी लाल आयोग की रिपोर्ट (1976) को लागू करने के साथ, जिसने उच्च शिक्षा और सरकारी नौकरियों में पिछड़ी जातियों के लिए आरक्षण की सुविधा दी, कर्पूरी ठाकुर ने दो प्रमुख नीतिगत निर्णय लिए, जिन्होंने बिहार के राजनीतिक जातिगत ढांचे को बदल दिया।

- First among these was the **removal of English language as a mandatory subject** for class 10 examinations which enabled a large number of **Hindi medium students from backward castes** to get access to **government jobs** and **higher education opportunities**.

पहला निर्णय था **कक्षा 10 की परीक्षा में अंग्रेज़ी विषय को अनिवार्य विषय से हटाना**, जिससे **हिंदी माध्यम के पिछड़े वर्गों के छात्रों** को सरकारी नौकरियों और **उच्च शिक्षा के अवसरों** तक पहुँचने में मदद मिली।

- Second was the decision to **conduct local elections at the panchayat level in 1978**, which created opportunities for participation in democracy at the **grassroots level**, leading to an eventual process of **democratisation**.

  दूसरा निर्णय था **1978 में पंचायत स्तर पर स्थानीय चुनाव कराना**, जिससे **जमीनी स्तर पर लोकतंत्र में भागीदारी** के अवसर बने और **लोकतंत्रीकरण की प्रक्रिया** को बल मिला।

- Years later, in his attempts to consolidate EBC support, **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** also facilitated such democratisation by implementing **reservations for EBCs (up to 20%)** and **women (up to 50%)** in **Panchayati Raj Institutions** through the **Bihar Panchayati Raj Amendment Act, 2006**.

  वर्षों बाद, **मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार** ने EBC समर्थन को मजबूत करने के लिए **बिहार पंचायती राज संशोधन अधिनियम, 2006** के तहत **EBCs (20% तक)** और **महिलाओं (50% तक)** के लिए **पंचायती राज संस्थाओं में आरक्षण** लागू करके इस **लोकतंत्रीकरण** को आगे बढ़ाया।

- According to a study by **Subhesh Kumar, Nitu Sharan and Srikant Pandey**, these reservations allowed the election of **1,464 Mukhiyas**, **18,901 Gram Panchayat Members**, **1,464 Sarpanchs**, and **18,900 Panchas** from the **EBC category**.

  सुभेश कुमार, नीतु शरण और श्रीकांत पांडेय के अध्ययन के अनुसार, इन आरक्षणों के तहत **1,464 मुखिया**, **18,901 ग्राम पंचायत सदस्य**, **1,464 सरपंच**, और **18,900 पंच EBC वर्ग** से चुने गए।

- However, at the **State level**, EBCs continued to be **marginalised** compared to upper OBCs like **Yadavs, Kurmis, Koeris and Banias**.

  हालांकि, **राज्य स्तर पर**, EBCs अभी भी **यादव, कुर्मी, कोइरी और बनिया** जैसे ऊँचे पिछड़े वर्गों की तुलना में **हाशिए पर** बने रहे।

- Between **1957 and 1962**, EBCs had **no representation** in the Bihar Legislative Assembly. From **1967–1995**, there were **753 MLAs** from upper OBCs and only **55 EBC MLAs**. Between **1990–2000**, the number ranged between **6 to 16**.

  1957 से 1962 के बीच, **EBCs का कोई प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं था**। **1967–1995** के बीच, ऊँचे पिछड़े वर्गों से **753 विधायक** चुने गए जबकि **EBC विधायकों** की संख्या केवल **55** थी। **1990–2000** के बीच यह संख्या **6 से 16** के बीच रही।

- In **2005**, 19 EBC MLAs were elected, falling to **17 in 2010**, and rising again to **29 in 2020**, marking the **first time** when EBCs crossed **10% representation** in the Assembly.

  2005 में **19 EBC विधायक** चुने गए, जो **2010** में घटकर **17** रह गए, और **2020** में **29** हो गए — यह **पहली बार** था जब **EBCs का प्रतिनिधित्व विधानसभा** में **10% से ऊपर** गया।

- For a community with a **36% share** in Bihar's population, this remains a **vast underrepresentation**.

  बिहार की **36% आबादी** वाले समुदाय के लिए यह अभी भी **काफी कम प्रतिनिधित्व** है।

Emergence of New Leadership
नई नेतृत्व का उदय

- The **heterogeneous mix** of castes within the EBC category poses challenges to **political mobilisation**.

  EBC वर्ग के भीतर **जातियों की विषम संरचना राजनीतिक लामबंदी** के लिए चुनौती प्रस्तुत करती है।

- Only a few jatis like **Teli, Dhanuk, Badhai, Kumhar (Prajapati), Mallah, Nai, Noniya and Kahar (Chandravanshi)** have populations between **1–3%**, while others are **below 1%**, making consolidation difficult.

  केवल कुछ जातियों जैसे **तेली, धनुक, बढ़ई, कुम्हार (प्रजापति), मल्लाह, नाई, नोनिया और कहार (चंद्रवंशी)** की जनसंख्या **1–3%** के बीच है, जबकि बाकी **1% से भी कम** हैं, जिससे एकजुटता कठिन होती है।

- The **Nishad community** serves as a case of **successful mobilisation**, combining around **22 EBC castes** (like **Mallah, Noniya, Bind, Kevat**) to form about **9.8%** of Bihar's population (as per **2022 caste survey**).

  निषाद समुदाय सफल राजनीतिक लामबंदी का उदाहरण है, जिसने लगभग **22 EBC जातियों** (जैसे **मल्लाह, नोनिया, बिंद, केवट**) को जोड़कर **बिहार की आबादी का 9.8%** हिस्सा बनाया (**2022 जाति सर्वेक्षण** के अनुसार)।

- The **Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP)** led by **Mukesh Sahani** emerged as a key group for Nishads, though their leadership remains **scattered across parties** like **BJP, JD(U)** and **Congress**.

  मुखेश सहनी के नेतृत्व वाली **विकासशील इंसान पार्टी (VIP) निषाद समुदाय** का प्रमुख राजनीतिक समूह बनकर उभरी, हालांकि उनका नेतृत्व **BJP, JD(U)** और **कांग्रेस** जैसी पार्टियों में **विखरा हुआ** है।

- In the **2025 candidate nominations**, **EBC representation** has **increased** in regional parties like **JD(U), RJD and VIP**, while **Congress and BJP lag behind**.

  2025 के उम्मीदवार नामांकन में **EBC प्रतिनिधित्व JDU, RJD और VIP** जैसी क्षेत्रीय पार्टियों में **बढ़ा** है, जबकि **कांग्रेस और BJP पीछे** हैं।

- Parties mostly nominate candidates from key **EBC communities** such as **Dhanuk, Mallah, Noniya, Teli (Hindu)** and **Ansari or Momins (Muslim)**.

  पार्टियाँ अधिकतर **धनुक, मल्लाह, नोनिया, तेली (हिंदू)** और **अंसारी या मोमिन (मुस्लिम)** जैसी प्रमुख **EBC जातियों** से उम्मीदवारों को टिकट देती हैं।

Long Way to Go
अभी लंबा रास्ता तय करना बाकी है

- Appointments like **Dhanik Lal Mandal** (first EBC Speaker, **1967**), **Ali Anwar** (Pasmanda leader in **Rajya Sabha**), and **Renu Devi** (first EBC **Deputy Chief Minister, 2020**) remain **symbolic gestures**.

  धनिक लाल मंडल (पहले EBC स्पीकर, **1967**), **अली अनवर** (राज्यसभा में पसमांदा नेता) और **रेणु देवी** (पहली **EBC उपमुख्यमंत्री, 2020**) जैसी नियुक्तियाँ **प्रतीकात्मक कदम** मात्र हैं।

- Despite such gestures, **structural political change** for EBCs remains limited, and their community continues to face **poverty and precarity** despite **grassroots empowerment**.

  इन प्रतीकात्मक कदमों के बावजूद, **EBCs के लिए संरचनात्मक राजनीतिक परिवर्तन** सीमित है और **जमीनी सशक्तिकरण** के बावजूद उनका समुदाय अब भी **गरीबी और असुरक्षा** में फँसा हुआ है।

KUALA LUMPUR

Philippines to take ASEAN chair with focus on South China Sea

GS II: Regional Groupings AP

Malaysia handed over the chairmanship of ASEAN to the Philippines on Tuesday, with territorial disputes in the South China Sea set to dominate its agenda when Manila takes charge in 2026. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim symbolically passed the gavel to Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos at the close of the summit. AFP

Philippines to take ASEAN chair with focus on South China Sea
दक्षिण चीन सागर पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए फिलीपींस संभालेगा आसियान की अध्यक्षता

- **Malaysia** handed over the **chairmanship of ASEAN** to the **Philippines on Tuesday**, with **territorial disputes in the South China Sea** set to dominate its agenda when **Manila takes charge in 2026**.

  मलेशिया ने मंगलवार को आसियान की अध्यक्षता **फिलीपींस** को सौंपी, जिसमें **दक्षिण चीन सागर में क्षेत्रीय विवाद** उसके **2026 में कार्यभार संभालने पर** उसके एजेंडे पर हावी रहेंगे।

- **Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim** symbolically passed the **gavel** to **Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos** at the close of the **summit**.

  प्रधानमंत्री अनवर इब्राहिम ने **शिखर सम्मेलन** के अंत में प्रतीकात्मक रूप से **गैवल** (हथौड़ा) **फिलीपींस के राष्ट्रपति फर्डिनेंड मार्कोस** को सौंपा।

China and ASEAN, hit by U.S. tariffs, sign upgraded free trade agreement

The deal would pave the way for improved market access in agriculture, digital economy and pharmaceuticals between the two sides; the 11-member bloc is Beijing's largest trading partner, with bilateral volume totalling $771 billion last year
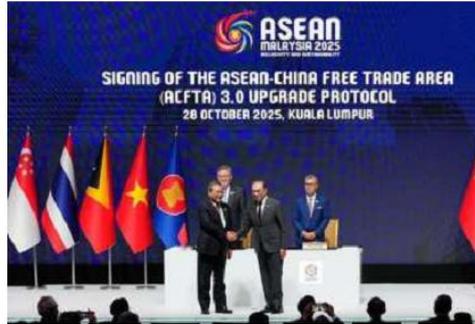
`GS II: ASEAN India-China`

Reuters
KUALA LUMPUR

China's Premier Li Qiang, left, and Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim at the signing of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area 3.0 in Kuala Lumpur. AP

China and the ASEAN bloc of Southeast Asian nations signed an upgrade to their free trade agreement on Tuesday, with leaders hailing the deal which spans the digital and green economy, and other new industries.

The 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations is China's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade totalling $771 billion last year, according to ASEAN statistics.

China is seeking to intensify its engagement with ASEAN, a region with a collective gross domestic product of $3.8 trillion, to counter hefty import tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration on countries around the world. "We must accelerate trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation and strengthen industrial integration and interdependence," Chinese Premier Li Qiang said at the ASEAN leaders' meeting on Tuesday.

Beijing has been seeking to position itself as a more open economy, despite criticism of its expanding export restrictions on rare earths and other critical minerals.

The so-called 3.0 version of the free trade agreement between ASEAN and China was signed into effect at a summit of the bloc's leaders in Malaysia, which Mr. Trump attended on Sunday at the start of a trip through Asia. Negotiations on the upgraded ASEAN-China deal began in November 2022 and concluded in May this year, just after Mr. Trump's tariff offensive kicked into gear. The first FTA came into force in 2010.

"The upgrade will further reduce trade barriers, strengthen supply chain connectivity, and unlock opportunities in future growth areas," Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said.

China has previously said the agreement would pave the way for improved market access in sectors such as agriculture, the digital economy and pharmaceuticals between China and ASEAN. Both China and ASEAN are part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world's largest trading bloc, which covers nearly a third of the global population and about 30% of global gross domestic product. Malaysia hosted an RCEP summit in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, the first in five years. The bloc is seen by some analysts as a potential buffer against tariffs imposed by the United States, though its provisions are considered weaker than some other regional trade deals due to competing interests among its members.

China and ASEAN, hit by U.S. tariffs, sign upgraded free trade agreement
अमेरिकी शुल्कों से प्रभावित चीन और आसियान ने उन्नत मुक्त व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए

- The deal would pave the way for **improved market access** in **agriculture**, **digital economy** and **pharmaceuticals** between the two sides; the **11-member bloc** is **Beijing's largest trading partner**, with **bilateral volume totalling $771 billion last year**.
यह समझौता दोनों पक्षों के बीच **कृषि**, **डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था** और **फार्मास्यूटिकल्स** में **बेहतर बाजार पहुंच** का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगा; **11 सदस्यीय समूह बीजिंग का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार** है, जिसका **द्विपक्षीय व्यापार पिछले वर्ष $771 बिलियन** तक पहुंचा।
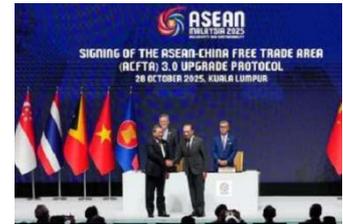
- **China** and the **ASEAN bloc of Southeast Asian nations** signed an **upgrade to their free trade agreement on Tuesday**, with leaders hailing the deal which spans the **digital and green economy**, and other new industries.
चीन और **दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देशों के आसियान समूह** ने मंगलवार को अपने मुक्त व्यापार समझौते के **उन्नयन पर हस्ताक्षर किए**, जिसमें नेताओं ने इस समझौते की प्रशंसा की जो **डिजिटल और हरित अर्थव्यवस्था** तथा अन्य नई उद्योगों को शामिल करता है।

- The **11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations** is **China's largest trading partner**, with **bilateral trade totalling $771 billion last year**, according to **ASEAN statistics**.

11 सदस्यीय दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई राष्ट्रों का संघ (आसियान) चीन का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार है, जिसके साथ **पिछले वर्ष द्विपक्षीय व्यापार $771 बिलियन** तक पहुंचा, **आसियान के आंकड़ों** के अनुसार।

- **China** is seeking to **intensify its engagement with ASEAN**, a region with a **collective GDP of $3.8 trillion**, to **counter hefty import tariffs** imposed by **U.S. President Donald Trump's administration** on countries around the world.

  चीन **$3.8 ट्रिलियन के सामूहिक जीडीपी** वाले **आसियान क्षेत्र के साथ अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करने** की कोशिश कर रहा है ताकि **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप प्रशासन** द्वारा विश्वभर के देशों पर लगाए गए **भारी आयात शुल्कों** का मुकाबला किया जा सके।

- "We must **accelerate trade and investment liberalisation** and **facilitation** and **strengthen industrial integration and interdependence**, " **Chinese Premier Li Qiang** said at the **ASEAN leaders' meeting on Tuesday**.

  "हमें **व्यापार और निवेश उदारीकरण** तथा **सुविधाकरण में तेजी लानी चाहिए** और **औद्योगिक एकीकरण और परस्पर निर्भरता को मजबूत करना चाहिए**," चीनी प्रधानमंत्री ली च्यांग ने मंगलवार को आसियान नेताओं की बैठक में कहा।

- **Beijing** has been seeking to **position itself as a more open economy**, despite **criticism of its export restrictions** on **rare earths and other critical minerals**.

  बीजिंग खुद को **एक अधिक खुली अर्थव्यवस्था के रूप में स्थापित करने** की कोशिश कर रहा है, बावजूद इसके कि **दुर्लभ खनिजों और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों पर निर्यात प्रतिबंधों** के लिए उसकी **आलोचना** की जा रही है।

- The so-called **3.0 version** of the **free trade agreement between ASEAN and China** was **signed into effect at a summit** of the bloc's leaders in **Malaysia**, which **Mr. Trump attended on Sunday** at the start of a trip through **Asia**.

  आसियान और चीन के बीच मुक्त व्यापार समझौते के **तथाकथित 3.0 संस्करण** पर मलेशिया में समूह के नेताओं के शिखर सम्मेलन में हस्ताक्षर किए गए, जिसमें **श्री ट्रंप** ने रविवार को एशिया यात्रा की शुरुआत में भाग लिया।

- **Negotiations** on the **upgraded ASEAN-China deal** began in **November 2022** and **concluded in May this year**, just after **Mr. Trump's tariff offensive kicked into gear**.

  उन्नत आसियान-चीन समझौते पर **वार्ताएं नवंबर 2022 में शुरू हुईं** और **इस वर्ष मई में पूरी हुईं**, ठीक उसके बाद जब श्री ट्रंप का शुल्क अभियान शुरू हुआ।

- The **first FTA** came into force in **2010**.

  पहला मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) 2010 में लागू हुआ।

- "The upgrade will further **reduce trade barriers**, **strengthen supply chain connectivity**, and **unlock opportunities in future growth areas**," Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said.

  "यह उन्नयन **व्यापार बाधाओं को और कम करेगा, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला की कनेक्टिविटी को मजबूत करेगा, और भविष्य के विकास क्षेत्रों में अवसर खोलेगा**," सिंगापुर के प्रधानमंत्री लॉरेंस वोंग ने कहा।

- **China** has previously said the agreement would **pave the way for improved market access** in sectors such as **agriculture**, **digital economy** and **pharmaceuticals** between **China and ASEAN**.

  चीन ने पहले कहा था कि यह समझौता **चीन और आसियान के बीच कृषि, डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था** और **फार्मास्यूटिकल्स** जैसे क्षेत्रों में **बेहतर बाजार पहुंच का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगा।**

- Both **China and ASEAN** are part of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**, the **world's largest trading bloc**, which covers **nearly one-third of the global population** and about **30% of global GDP**.

  चीन और आसियान दोनों क्षेत्रीय व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी (RCEP) का हिस्सा हैं, जो **विश्व का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक समूह** है, जो **वैश्विक जनसंख्या के लगभग एक-तिहाई हिस्से** और **वैश्विक जीडीपी के लगभग 30%** को कवर करता है।

- **Malaysia** hosted an **RCEP summit in Kuala Lumpur on Monday**, the **first in five years**.

  मलेशिया ने सोमवार को कुआलालंपुर में **RCEP शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी की**, जो **पांच वर्षों में पहला** था।

- The **bloc** is seen by some analysts as a **potential buffer against tariffs imposed by the United States**, though its provisions are considered **weaker than other regional trade deals** due to **competing interests among its members**.

  कुछ विश्लेषकों द्वारा इस **समूह** को **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए शुल्कों के विरुद्ध संभावित**

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सुरक्षा कवच माना जाता है, हालांकि **इसके प्रावधानों को अन्य क्षेत्रीय व्यापार समझौतों की तुलना में कमजोर माना जाता है क्योंकि सदस्यों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धी हित** हैं।

India's diaspora diplomacy and the limits of cultural nationalism abroad

NEWS ANALYSIS

GS II: India's Foreign Policy

The Indian diaspora has been in the spotlight in various countries in recent weeks. A section of the diaspora has attracted attention for its display of faith and culture, crossing the limits of acceptable public behaviour in developed countries. The immersion of Ganapati statues in water bodies and the display of Deepavali fireworks in public places are examples.

After Deepavali revellers set two houses on fire in Edmonton, Canada, an official police statement said: "Light up your home, not your neighbour's roof." Three men have been charged with arson. Anti-immigrant and nativist protesters in Australia have singled out Indians, and in the U.S. and Canada, nationalist campaigners have a special focus on people of Indian origin these days.

The higher visibility of these incidents could also be because a section of Indians aggressively promotes cultural exhibitionism as a matter of community pride and right – for instance, in the use of firecrackers on Deepavali wherever they are. In the midst of all this, the Indian diaspora is being urged by some observers to advocate Indian positions in the United States.

The Indian national movement was spread around the world in British colonies, and in the U.S. and Canada, but the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, consciously decided to keep the new Repu-

Crossing limits: A section of the diaspora has come under scrutiny for its display of faith and culture in developed countries. REUTERS

blic aloof from PIO (person of Indian origin) politics in foreign countries. He did not want India to be seen as interfering in the domestic politics of another country through the diaspora, and he urged PIO to stay loyal to the countries that they had adopted.

Rise of Hindutva

Issues of discrimination and racism were not narrow Indian concerns, and were raised as matters of universal human rights. This approach was consistent with the concept of territorial nationalism that guided Indian thinking then, as opposed to cultural nationalism.

The rise of Hindutva and a parallel fresh surge in the outflow of Indians expanded a global network of cultural nationalists from the 1990s. With the ascent of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014, this approach gained further momentum. Mr. Modi addressed diaspora rallies in several countries, most notably the U.S.

Exactly around this time, the fear of foreign interference in domestic politics became a central con-

cern in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and several European countries. At various points in U.S. history, immigrants from specific regions or countries have been subjects of special scrutiny. In recent years, allegations of Chinese and Russian interference have dominated public discourse. Even Israel, which had a free pass as an autonomous actor in U.S. domestic politics for decades, is facing increased scrutiny and resistance. Not only left-leaning figures such as Bernie Sanders, but also Christian conservatives such as Marjorie Taylor Greene and media figure Tucker Carlson now call out Israel's influence in U.S. domestic politics.

It may be noted that foreign influence operations per se are not illegal in the US, as long as they are openly registered as such.

Historically, Indian immigrants were considered a benign presence in the U.S. and diverse within, as followers of all religions and speakers of several languages. But state-sponsored attempts to turn the diaspora into active members of Indian strategy

have clashed with a rising fear of foreign interference in the West. India has escaped the kind of hostility that Russia and China face, but there is enough to suggest that New Delhi is not going unnoticed on this count in the West.

Nationalist hype

India does not allow dual citizenship, but the U.S. does. India gave partial citizenship rights to PIOs through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003, by adding Sections 7A-7D to the Citizenship Act, 1955. This amendment introduced the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI), offering lifetime visa-free entry, exemption from police registration, and rights similar to those of NRIs in economic, educational, and financial fields for the community. In 2015, the technical categories of PIO and OCI were merged as OCI. India presents this arrangement as "dual citizenship in spirit, but not in law".

U.S. citizens can hold passports of more than one country, but some lawmakers, including Ms. Greene, are seeking more scrutiny on the issue. Fear of foreign interference in domestic politics is a universal concern of parties and state agencies in the West. Expectations from the diaspora to promote Indian interests in the U.S. or any other country must account for the reality that it is negotiating an era of heightened nationalism in host countries. Multi-alignment may not work for diaspora members always. After all, nationalist hype is not an exclusive preserve of India.

India's diaspora diplomacy and the limits of cultural nationalism abroad
भारत की प्रवासी कूटनीति और विदेशों में सांस्कृतिक राष्ट्रवाद की सीमाएँ

- The **Indian diaspora** has been in the **spotlight** in various countries in recent weeks.
  भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय हाल के हफ्तों में विभिन्न देशों में **सुर्खियों में** रहा है।

- A section of the diaspora has attracted attention for its display of **faith and culture**, crossing the limits of acceptable public behaviour in developed countries.
  प्रवासी समुदाय के एक वर्ग ने अपने **धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक प्रदर्शन** से ध्यान आकर्षित किया है, जो विकसित देशों में **स्वीकार्य सार्वजनिक आचरण की सीमाओं** को पार कर गया है।

- The **immersion of Ganapati statues** in water bodies and the display of **Deepavali fireworks** in public places are examples.
  जल निकायों में **गणपति मूर्तियों का विसर्जन** और सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर **दीवाली के पटाखे चलाना** इसके उदाहरण हैं।

- After **Deepavali revellers set two houses on fire in Edmonton, Canada**, an official police statement said: "Light up your home, not your neighbour's roof."
  कनाडा के एडमॉन्टन में दीवाली मनाने वालों द्वारा दो घरों में आग लगाने के बाद पुलिस ने कहा: "अपने घर को रोशन करो, अपने पड़ोसी की छत को नहीं।"

- Three men have been **charged with arson**.
  तीन लोगों पर **आगजनी का आरोप लगाया गया है।**

- **Anti-immigrant and nativist protesters in Australia** have singled out **Indians**, and in the **U.S. and Canada**, **nationalist campaigners** have a special focus on people of **Indian origin** these days.
  ऑस्ट्रेलिया में प्रवासी विरोधी और स्थानीयतावादी प्रदर्शनकारियों ने **भारतीयों को निशाना बनाया**, और **अमेरिका व कनाडा में राष्ट्रवादी कार्यकर्ता** इन दिनों **भारतीय मूल के लोगों** पर विशेष ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं।

- The higher visibility of these incidents could also be because a section of **Indians aggressively promotes cultural exhibitionism** as a matter of **community pride and right** — for instance, in the use of **firecrackers on Deepavali** wherever they are.
  इन घटनाओं की बढ़ती दृश्यता का कारण यह भी हो सकता है कि **भारतीयों का एक वर्ग सांस्कृतिक प्रदर्शनवाद को सामुदायिक गर्व और अधिकार का प्रतीक मानकर आक्रामक रूप से बढ़ावा देता है** — जैसे कि **जहाँ भी हों, दीवाली पर पटाखे चलाना।**

- In the midst of all this, the **Indian diaspora** is being urged by some observers to **advocate Indian positions in the United States**.
  इन सबके बीच, कुछ पर्यवेक्षक **भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय से अमेरिका में भारत की नीतियों की वकालत करने** का आग्रह कर रहे हैं।

- The **Indian national movement** was spread around the world in **British colonies**, and in the **U.S. and Canada**, but the first Prime Minister, **Jawaharlal Nehru**, consciously decided to keep the new Republic **aloof from PIO (Person of Indian Origin) politics** in foreign countries.
  भारतीय राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन का प्रसार **ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशों**, **अमेरिका और कनाडा** में हुआ था, लेकिन पहले प्रधानमंत्री **जवाहरलाल नेहरू** ने जानबूझकर नई गणराज्य को विदेशी देशों में **भारतीय मूल के व्यक्तियों (PIO) की राजनीति से अलग रखने** का निर्णय लिया।

- He did not want **India** to be seen as interfering in the **domestic politics of another country** through the diaspora, and he urged **PIOs to stay loyal to their adopted countries**.
  वे नहीं चाहते थे कि **भारत** को प्रवासियों के माध्यम से **किसी अन्य देश की घरेलू राजनीति में हस्तक्षेप करने वाला** माना जाए, और उन्होंने **भारतीय मूल के लोगों** से अपने अपनाए गए देशों के प्रति वफादार रहने का आग्रह किया।

Rise of Hindutva
हिंदुत्व का उदय

- Issues of **discrimination and racism** were not narrow Indian concerns, and were raised as matters of **universal human rights**.
  भेदभाव और नस्लवाद के मुद्दे केवल भारत तक सीमित नहीं थे, बल्कि उन्हें **सार्वभौमिक मानवाधिकारों के मुद्दों** के रूप में उठाया गया।

- This approach was consistent with the concept of **territorial nationalism** that guided Indian thinking then, as opposed to **cultural nationalism**.
  यह दृष्टिकोण उस समय की **भारतीय सोच के क्षेत्रीय राष्ट्रवाद** के सिद्धांत के अनुरूप था, जो **सांस्कृतिक राष्ट्रवाद** के विपरीत था।

- The **rise of Hindutva** and a **fresh surge in Indian emigration** expanded a **global network of cultural nationalists** from the **1990s**.
  हिंदुत्व के उदय और **भारतीय प्रवास में नई लहर** ने **1990** के दशक से सांस्कृतिक राष्ट्रवादियों के वैश्विक नेटवर्क को विस्तार दिया।

- With the ascent of **Narendra Modi** as **Prime Minister in 2014**, this approach gained further **momentum**.
  2014 में नरेंद्र मोदी के प्रधानमंत्री बनने के साथ, इस दृष्टिकोण को और **गति मिली**।

- Mr. Modi addressed **diaspora rallies in several countries**, most notably the **U.S.**
  श्री मोदी ने कई देशों में प्रवासी सभाओं को संबोधित किया, विशेष रूप से **अमेरिका में**।

- Exactly around this time, the **fear of foreign interference in domestic politics** became a **central concern** in the **U.S., Canada, Australia**, and several **European countries**.
  ठीक इसी समय, **घरेलू राजनीति में विदेशी हस्तक्षेप का भय अमेरिका, कनाडा, ऑस्ट्रेलिया** और कई **यूरोपीय देशों** में एक **मुख्य चिंता** बन गया।

- At various points in **U.S. history**, **immigrants from specific regions or countries** have been subjects of **special scrutiny**.
  अमेरिकी इतिहास के विभिन्न समयों में **कुछ विशेष क्षेत्रों या देशों से आने वाले प्रवासियों** पर **विशेष निगरानी** रखी गई है।

- In recent years, **allegations of Chinese and Russian interference** have dominated **public discourse**.
  हाल के वर्षों में, **चीनी और रूसी हस्तक्षेप के आरोपों** ने **सार्वजनिक विमर्श** में प्रमुखता हासिल की है।

- Even **Israel**, which had a **free pass as an autonomous actor** in **U.S. domestic politics** for decades, is now **facing scrutiny and resistance**.
  यहाँ तक कि **इज़राइल**, जो दशकों तक **अमेरिकी घरेलू राजनीति में एक स्वतंत्र खिलाड़ी के रूप में बिना रोकटोक कार्य करता था**, अब जांच और विरोध का सामना कर रहा है।

- Not only **left-leaning figures like Bernie Sanders**, but also **Christian conservatives such as Marjorie Taylor Greene** and **media figure Tucker Carlson** now call out **Israel's influence** in **U.S. domestic politics**.
  अब केवल **वामपंथी नेता बर्नी सैंडर्स** ही नहीं, बल्कि **रूढ़िवादी क्रिश्चियन नेता मार्जोरी टेलर ग्रीन** और **मीडिया व्यक्तित्व टकर कार्लसन** भी **अमेरिकी घरेलू राजनीति में इज़राइल के प्रभाव** की आलोचना कर रहे हैं।

- It may be noted that **foreign influence operations per se are not illegal in the U.S.**, as long as they are **openly registered** as such.
  यह ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए कि **अमेरिका में विदेशी प्रभाव संचालन स्वयं में अवैध नहीं हैं**, जब तक कि वे **खुले तौर पर पंजीकृत** हों।

- Historically, **Indian immigrants** were considered a **benign presence** in the U.S. and **diverse**, as followers of **all religions and speakers of several languages**.
  ऐतिहासिक रूप से, **भारतीय प्रवासियों** को **अमेरिका में एक सौम्य उपस्थिति** माना जाता था, क्योंकि वे **विभिन्न धर्मों के अनुयायी** और **कई भाषाओं के वक्ता** थे।

- But **state-sponsored attempts** to turn the **diaspora into active members of Indian strategy** have **clashed with a rising fear of foreign interference** in the West.
  लेकिन **भारतीय रणनीति के सक्रिय सदस्य के रूप में प्रवासियों को बदलने के लिए राज्य-प्रायोजित प्रयास पश्चिम में विदेशी हस्तक्षेप के बढ़ते भय** से टकरा गए हैं।

- **India** has escaped the kind of **hostility that Russia and China face**, but there is enough to suggest that **New Delhi is not going unnoticed** on this count in the West.

भारत ने **रूस और चीन जैसी शत्रुता** से तो बचाव किया है, लेकिन इसके पर्याप्त संकेत हैं कि **पश्चिम में नई दिल्ली पर नजर रखी जा रही है।**

Nationalist hype
राष्ट्रवादी उत्साह

- **India does not allow dual citizenship**, but the **U.S. does**.
  भारत **दोहरी नागरिकता की अनुमति नहीं देता**, लेकिन **अमेरिका देता है।**
- India gave **partial citizenship rights** to PIOs through the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003**, by adding **Sections 7A–7D** to the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
  भारत ने **नागरिकता (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2003** के माध्यम से **भारतीय मूल के व्यक्तियों (PIO)** को **आंशिक नागरिकता अधिकार** दिए, जिसके तहत **नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955** में **धारा 7A–7D** जोड़ी गईं।
- This amendment introduced the **Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)**, offering **lifetime visa-free entry**, **exemption from police registration**, and **rights similar to NRIs** in **economic, educational, and financial fields**.
  इस संशोधन ने **भारतीय प्रवासी नागरिकता (OCI)** की शुरुआत की, जिसमें **आजीवन वीज़ा-मुक्त प्रवेश**, **पुलिस पंजीकरण से छूट**, और **आर्थिक, शैक्षिक और वित्तीय क्षेत्रों में एनआरआई जैसे अधिकार** दिए गए।
- In **2015**, the categories of **PIO and OCI** were **merged as OCI**.
  2015 में **PIO और OCI** की श्रेणियों को **मिलाकर OCI** बना दिया गया।
- India presents this as **"dual citizenship in spirit, but not in law."**
  भारत इसे **"भावनात्मक रूप से दोहरी नागरिकता, लेकिन कानूनी रूप से नहीं"** के रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है।
- **U.S. citizens** can hold **passports of more than one country**, but some lawmakers, including **Ms. Greene**, are seeking **more scrutiny** on the issue.
  अमेरिकी नागरिक एक से अधिक देशों के पासपोर्ट रख सकते हैं, लेकिन **सुश्री ग्रीन सहित कुछ सांसद** इस मुद्दे पर **अधिक जांच** की मांग कर रहे हैं।
- Fear of **foreign interference in domestic politics** is a **universal concern** of **parties and state agencies** in the **West**.
  घरेलू राजनीति में विदेशी हस्तक्षेप का भय पश्चिमी देशों की पार्टियों और राज्य संस्थाओं की एक **सामान्य चिंता** है।
- **Expectations from the diaspora** to **promote Indian interests** in the **U.S. or any other country** must account for the reality that it is **negotiating an era of heightened nationalism** in host countries.
  प्रवासी समुदाय से भारत के हितों को बढ़ावा देने की अपेक्षा करते समय यह ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि वह **मेजबान देशों में बढ़ते राष्ट्रवाद के युग से गुजर रहा है।**
- **Multi-alignment** may not work for **diaspora members**.
  बहु-संरेखण हमेशा **प्रवासी समुदाय के सदस्यों** के लिए काम नहीं कर सकता।
- After all, **nationalist hype** is not an **exclusive preserve of India**.
  आखिरकार, **राष्ट्रवादी उत्साह** केवल **भारत की विशेष संपत्ति** नहीं है।

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

TOPICS COVERED	29_10_2025

1.	IIP growth dips to three-month low of 4% in Sept. सितंबर में IIP वृद्धि तीन महीने के निचले स्तर 4% पर पहुंची
2.	Union Cabinet decides to raise fertilizer subsidy for winter crops to ₹37,952 cr. केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने शीतकालीन फसलों के लिए उर्वरक सब्सिडी ₹37,952 करोड़ तक बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया।
3.	'Relocation of forest dwellers from tiger reserves must be voluntary' 'बाघ अभयारण्यों से वनवासियों का पुनर्वास स्वैच्छिक होना चाहिए'
4.	NSCN(I-M) is firm on Naga political demands: Muivah NSCN(I-M) नागा राजनीतिक मांगों पर दृढ़ है: मुइवाह
5.	HAL signs pact with Russian firm for civil aircraft production नागरिक विमान उत्पादन के लिए HAL ने रूसी कंपनी के साथ समझौता किया
6.	Cloud-seeding trials done in Delhi to tackle air pollution वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने के लिए दिल्ली में क्लाउड-सीडिंग परीक्षण किए गए
7.	NDRF posted teams in five States ahead of cyclone landfall चक्रवात के भूमि से टकराने से पहले एनडीआरएफ ने पाँच राज्यों में टीमें तैनात कीं
8.	UN report finds countries' emission reductions short of goal set in Paris यूएन रिपोर्ट में पाया गया कि देशों के उत्सर्जन में कमी पेरिस में तय लक्ष्य से कम है
9.	Setting up an Early Warning System for the Himalayas Poses Unique Challenges हिमालय के लिए प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणाली स्थापित करना अनोखी चुनौतियाँ प्रस्तुत करता है
10.	If antibiotics are becoming less effective, why not combine them? यदि एंटीबायोटिक्स कम प्रभावी हो रही हैं, तो उन्हें मिलाकर क्यों न उपयोग करें?

IIP growth dips to three-month low of 4% in Sept.

GS III: Industry

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Industrial activity dipped marginally to a three-month low of 4% in September. The data also show that the growth in industrial activity during the first half of the financial year was the slowest in at least five years.

Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, stood at 3.2% in September last year. However, growth had since accelerated to 4.3% by July 2025, following which it slowed again.

The overall index grew 3% in the April-September period, the first half of the financial year 2025-26. This is the slowest in at least five years, the period for which data are readily available.

The index grew 24% in the first half of 2021-22, owing to the low base of the previous pandemic-affected year 2020-21. In the first half of 2022-23, the index grew 7%, which slowed to 6.3% and 4.1% in the corresponding periods of 2023-24 and 2024-25.

In September, the slowdown in industrial growth was mainly led by the mining, primary goods, and consumer non-durables sectors. Activity in the mining sector contracted 0.45% in September 2025 from growth of 6.6% in August 2025 and 0.2% in September last year.

The consumer non-durables sector continued to contract for the second consecutive month in September 2025, by 2.9%, compared with a contraction of 6.4% in August 2025, and a growth of 2.2% in September last year.

Impact of GST cuts
According to Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, this could be due to the fact that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cuts were implemented late in the month.

"As the GST cuts have targeted this industry, it can be assumed that the real impact will be seen in October-November as dealers have been facing a challenge of selling products with the older price labels," Mr. Sabnavis said.

Growth in the consumer durables segment sector surged to 10.2% in September 2025, from 3.5% in August 2025, and 6.3% in September last year.

The primary goods sector saw growth slowing to 1.4% in September 2025 from 5.4% in the previous month and 1.8% in September last year.

Growth in the manufacturing sector accelerated to 4.8% in September 2025 from 3.8% in the previous month and 4% in September 2024.

IIP growth dips to three-month low of 4% in Sept.
सितंबर में IIP वृद्धि तीन महीने के निचले स्तर 4% पर पहुंची

- Industrial activity dipped marginally to a three-month low of **4% in September**. The data also show that the growth in industrial activity during the first half of the financial year was the **slowest in at least five years**.

 सितंबर में औद्योगिक गतिविधि मामूली रूप से घटकर तीन महीने के निचले स्तर 4% पर पहुंच गई। आंकड़े यह भी दिखाते हैं कि वित्तीय वर्ष की पहली छमाही में औद्योगिक गतिविधि की वृद्धि कम से कम पांच वर्षों में सबसे धीमी रही।

- Growth in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, stood at **3.2% in September last year**. However, growth had since accelerated to **4.3% by July 2025**, following which it slowed again.

 सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) की वृद्धि पिछले वर्ष सितंबर में 3.2% थी। हालांकि, वृद्धि जुलाई 2025 तक 4.3% तक बढ़ी थी, जिसके बाद यह फिर से धीमी हो गई।**

- The overall index grew **3% in the April-September period**, the first half of the **financial year 2025-26**. This is the **slowest in at least five years**, the period for which data are readily available.

 अप्रैल-सितंबर अवधि में कुल सूचकांक 3% बढ़ा, जो वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 की पहली छमाही है। यह कम से कम पांच वर्षों में सबसे धीमी वृद्धि है, जिसके लिए आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं।

- The index grew **24% in the first half of 2021-22**, owing to the **low base** of the previous **pandemic-affected year 2020-21**. In the first half of **2022-23**, the index grew **7%**, which slowed to **6.3%** and **4.1%** in the corresponding periods of **2023-24** and **2024-25**.

 यह सूचकांक 2021-22 की पहली छमाही में 24% बढ़ा, जो महामारी-प्रभावित वर्ष 2020-21 के कम आधार प्रभाव के कारण था। 2022-23 की पहली छमाही में वृद्धि 7% रही, जो 2023-24 और 2024-25 की समान अवधियों में घटकर 6.3% और 4.1% हो गई।

- In **September**, the slowdown in industrial growth was mainly led by the **mining**, **primary goods**, and **consumer non-durables** sectors. Activity in the **mining sector** contracted **0.45% in September 2025** from growth of **6.6% in August 2025** and **0.2% in September last year**.

 सितंबर में औद्योगिक वृद्धि में गिरावट मुख्य रूप से खनन, प्राथमिक

वस्तुओं और **उपभोक्ता गैर-टिकाऊ वस्तुओं** क्षेत्रों द्वारा संचालित थी। **खनन क्षेत्र** की गतिविधि **सितंबर 2025 में 0.45% घट गई**, जबकि **अगस्त 2025 में 6.6% वृद्धि** और **पिछले वर्ष सितंबर में 0.2% वृद्धि** थी।

- The **consumer non-durables sector** continued to contract for the **second consecutive month in September 2025**, by **2.9%**, compared with a contraction of **6.4% in August 2025**, and a growth of **2.2% in September last year**.

  उपभोक्ता गैर-टिकाऊ वस्तु क्षेत्र ने सितंबर 2025 में लगातार दूसरे महीने में **2.9% की गिरावट** दर्ज की, जबकि **अगस्त 2025 में 6.4% की गिरावट** और **पिछले वर्ष सितंबर में 2.2% की वृद्धि** थी।

Impact of GST cuts
जीएसटी कटौती का प्रभाव

- According to **Madan Sabnavis**, **chief economist at the Bank of Baroda**, this could be due to the fact that the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** rate cuts were implemented **late in the month**.

  बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा के मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री मदन सबनवीस के अनुसार, इसका कारण यह हो सकता है कि **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST)** की दरों में की गई कटौती **महीने के अंत में लागू** की गई।

- "As the GST cuts have targeted this industry, it can be assumed that the real impact will be seen in **October-November**, as dealers have been facing a challenge of selling products with the **older price labels**," Mr. Sabnavis said.

  श्री **साबनवीस** ने कहा, "चूंकि **जीएसटी कटौती** ने इस उद्योग को **लक्षित** किया है, यह माना जा सकता है कि इसका वास्तविक प्रभाव **अक्टूबर-नवंबर** में दिखाई देगा क्योंकि विक्रेताओं को **पुराने मूल्य लेबल वाले उत्पादों** को बेचने में कठिनाई हो रही है।"

- Growth in the **consumer durables segment sector** surged to **10.2% in September 2025**, from **3.5% in August 2025**, and **6.3% in September last year**.

  उपभोक्ता टिकाऊ वस्तु क्षेत्र में वृद्धि सितंबर 2025 में **10.2%** तक बढ़ गई, जो **अगस्त 2025 में 3.5%** और **पिछले वर्ष सितंबर में 6.3%** थी।

- The **primary goods sector** saw growth slowing to **1.4% in September 2025** from **5.4% in the previous month** and **1.8% in September last year**.

  प्राथमिक वस्तु क्षेत्र में वृद्धि घटकर **सितंबर 2025 में 1.4%** रह गई, जो **पिछले महीने 5.4%** और **पिछले वर्ष सितंबर में 1.8%** थी।

- Growth in the **manufacturing sector** accelerated to **4.8% in September 2025** from **3.8% in the previous month** and **4% in September 2024**.

  विनिर्माण क्षेत्र में वृद्धि **सितंबर 2025 में 4.8%** तक बढ़ गई, जो **पिछले महीने 3.8%** और **सितंबर 2024 में 4%** थी।

Union Cabinet decides to raise fertilizer subsidy for winter crops to ₹37,952 cr.

GS III: Subsidies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday decided to provide ₹37,952 crore as fertilizer subsidy for the ongoing rabi crop of this winter season. The subsidy on phosphorous (P) and sulphur (S) fertilizers was increased by ₹736 crore, while the subsidy for nitrogen (N) and potash (K) will remain the same as the kharif (summer) crops.

"The subsidy approved for 2025 rabi season is higher by about ₹14,000 crore from the previous rabi season. During the last rabi season, the subsidy was about ₹24,000 crore," Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ash-

The rates will be applicable from October 1, 2025 till March 31, 2026. NAGARA GOPAL

wini Vaishnaw told presspersons after the Cabinet meeting.

The subsidy for phosphate will be increased to ₹47.96 a kg from ₹43.60 a kg in the 2025 kharif season; the subsidy for sulphur will be higher at ₹2.87 a kg, up from ₹1.77 a kg

(kharif); and the subsidy rate for nitrogen and potash will remain ₹43.02 a kg and ₹2.38 a kg, respectively.

The rates will be applicable from October 1, 2025 till March 31, 2026.

Special package
The Centre had fixed the subsidy rate considering the import price, and other factors, including nutrient requirement, subsidy burden, and maximum retail prices, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Centre had provided a special package to ensure adequate availability of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and triple super phosphate (TSP) to farmers, he added.

Union Cabinet decides to raise fertilizer subsidy for winter crops to ₹37,952 cr.
केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने शीतकालीन फसलों के लिए उर्वरक सब्सिडी ₹37,952 करोड़ तक बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया।

- The **Union Cabinet** on Tuesday decided to provide **₹37,952 crore** as **fertilizer subsidy** for the ongoing **rabi crop** of this **winter season**.
  केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने मंगलवार को इस **शीतकालीन मौसम** की **रबी फसल** के लिए **₹37,952 करोड़** की **उर्वरक सब्सिडी** प्रदान करने का निर्णय लिया।

- The **subsidy** on **phosphorous (P)** and **sulphur (S)** fertilizers was increased by **₹736 crore**, while the subsidy for **nitrogen (N)** and **potash (K)** will remain the same as the **kharif (summer) crops**.
  फॉस्फोरस (P) और **सल्फर (S)** उर्वरकों पर **₹736 करोड़** की **सब्सिडी** बढ़ाई गई है, जबकि **नाइट्रोजन (N)** और **पोटाश (K)** की सब्सिडी **खरीफ (गर्मी) फसलों** के समान रहेगी।

- "The subsidy approved for the 2025 **rabi season** is higher by about **₹14,000 crore** from the previous rabi season. During the last rabi season, the subsidy was about **₹24,000 crore**," **Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vais hnaw** told presspersons after

the Cabinet meeting.

केंद्रीय सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने कैबिनेट बैठक के बाद संवाददाताओं से कहा, "**2025 रबी सीजन** के लिए स्वीकृत **सब्सिडी** पिछले रबी सीजन से लगभग **₹14,000 करोड़** अधिक है। पिछली रबी फसल के दौरान **सब्सिडी लगभग ₹24,000 करोड़** थी।"

- The subsidy for **phosphate** will be increased to **₹47.96 a kg** from **₹43.60 a kg** in the **2025 kharif season**; the subsidy for **sulphur** will be higher at **₹2.87 a kg**, up from **₹1.77 a kg (kharif)**; and the **subsidy rate** for **nitrogen** and **potash** will remain **₹43.02 a kg** and **₹2.38 a kg**, respectively.

  फॉस्फेट पर **सब्सिडी 2025 खरीफ सीजन** में **₹43.60 प्रति किलोग्राम** से बढ़ाकर **₹47.96 प्रति किलोग्राम** कर दी जाएगी; **सल्फर** पर सब्सिडी **₹1.77 प्रति किलोग्राम (खरीफ)** से बढ़ाकर **₹2.87 प्रति किलोग्राम** होगी; और **नाइट्रोजन** तथा **पोटाश** के लिए **सब्सिडी दरें** क्रमशः **₹43.02 प्रति किलोग्राम** और **₹2.38 प्रति किलोग्राम** पर बनी रहेंगी।

- The rates will be applicable from **October 1, 2025 till March 31, 2026**.

  ये दरें **1 अक्टूबर 2025 से 31 मार्च 2026** तक लागू रहेंगी।

Special package
विशेष पैकेज

- The **Centre** had fixed the **subsidy rate** considering the **import price**, and other factors, including **nutrient requirement**, **subsidy burden**, and **maximum retail prices**, **Mr. Vaishnaw** said.

  श्री वैष्णव ने कहा कि **केंद्र सरकार** ने **आयात मूल्य**, **पोषक तत्वों की आवश्यकता**, **सब्सिडी बोझ**, और **अधिकतम खुदरा मूल्य** सहित अन्य कारकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए **सब्सिडी दर** तय की है।

- The **Centre** had provided a **special package** to ensure **adequate availability** of **di-ammonium phosphate (DAP)** and **triple super phosphate (TSP)** to farmers, he added.

  उन्होंने कहा कि **केंद्र सरकार** ने किसानों के लिए **डाय-अमोनियम फॉस्फेट (DAP)** और **ट्रिपल सुपर फॉस्फेट (TSP)** की **पर्याप्त उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने** हेतु एक **विशेष पैकेज** प्रदान किया है।

'Relocation of forest dwellers from tiger reserves must be voluntary'

GS III: Environment

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry has mandated that the relocation of forest-dwelling communities from tiger reserves must be an "exceptional, voluntary, and evidence-based measure".

The new policy framework also spells out the mechanisms that allow communities to continue living in the forests and the procedures to be followed for obtaining their consent for relocation.

The policy calls for a National Framework for Community-Centred Conservation and Relocation, through which the Environment Ministry and the Tribal Affairs Ministry can jointly set procedural standards, timelines, and accountability.

It also suggests a National Database on Conservation-Community Interface to record and track relocations, compensation, and status post-relocation. It recommends annual independent audits of relocation projects by empa-

The Tribal Affairs Ministry's new policy spells out the mechanisms that allow communities to continue living in the forests. K.R. DEEPAK

nelled agencies that assess compliance with the Forest Rights Act, the Wildlife Protection Act, and human rights standards.

Communities may choose to continue living in the "traditional forest habitats" while exercising their Individual Forest Rights or Community Forest Rights under the FRA, the policy says, emphasising that this must be an option for villages located within the reserves.

In such cases, authorities must ensure the *in situ* development of basic infrastructure, include Gram Sabha members in Tiger Conservation Foundations and Eco Development

Committees, and "generate evidence on sustainable co-habitation models for wider replication", the policy adds.

Against NTCA directive
This brief, titled "Reconciling conservation and community rights: a policy framework for relocation and coexistence in India's Tiger Reserves", was sent last week to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change from the office of the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The Tribal Affairs Ministry noted that it has been receiving several representations from State governments and Gram Sabhas,

flagging "serious concerns" about the non-implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Last year, the National Tiger Conservation Authority's directive to States asking them to prioritise relocation of villages in core areas of tiger reserves drew protests from several Gram Sabhas and forest rights activists. It also led to representations to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, the Tribal Affairs Ministry, and the Environment Ministry, seeking the rollback of the directive. There were 591 villages and 64,801 families within the core areas of tiger reserves, according to the NTCA.

In his letter to the Environment Ministry, Tribal Affairs Secretary Vibhu Nayar said there was an "urgent need to examine the substantive issues" with relocations and that a "collaborative approach" was needed to ensure that "relocation, if undertaken, be voluntary, scientifically justified, rights-compliant, and grounded in equity and dignity".

'Relocation of forest dwellers from tiger reserves must be voluntary'
'बाघ अभयारण्यों से वनवासियों का पुनर्वास स्वैच्छिक होना चाहिए'

- The **Union Tribal Affairs Ministry** has mandated that the **relocation of forest-dwelling communities** from **tiger reserves** must be an "**exceptional, voluntary, and evidence-based measure**".
  केंद्रीय जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय ने यह अनिवार्य किया है कि **बाघ अभयारण्यों से वनवासी समुदायों का पुनर्वास** "**अपवादस्वरूप, स्वैच्छिक और प्रमाण -आधारित कदम**" होना चाहिए।

- The new policy framework also spells out the mechanisms that allow communities to continue living in the forests and the procedures to be followed for obtaining their consent for relocation.
  नई **नीति रूपरेखा** में यह भी बताया गया है कि किन **तंत्रों के माध्यम से समुदायों को जंगलों में रहना जारी रखने की अनुमति** दी जा सकती है और **पुनर्वास के लिए उनकी सहमति प्राप्त करने की प्रक्रिया** क्या होगी।

- The policy calls for a **National Framework for Community-Centred Conservation and Relocation**, through which the **Environment Ministry** and the **Tribal Affairs Ministry** can jointly set **procedural standards, timelines, and accountability**.
  नीति में एक **सामुदायिक-केंद्रित संरक्षण और पुनर्वास हेतु राष्ट्रीय रूपरेखा** बनाने की बात कही गई है, जिसके माध्यम से **पर्यावरण मंत्रालय** और **जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय** मिलकर **प्रक्रियात्मक मानक, समयसीमा और जवाबदेही** निर्धारित कर सकते हैं।

- It also suggests a **National Database on Conservation-Community Interface** to record and track **relocations, compensation, and status post-relocation**.
  यह एक **संरक्षण-समुदाय अंतःक्रिया पर राष्ट्रीय डाटाबेस** बनाने का सुझाव भी देती है, ताकि **पुनर्वास, मुआवजा और पुनर्वास के बाद की स्थिति** का रिकॉर्ड और निगरानी रखी जा सके।

- It recommends **annual independent audits** of relocation projects by **empanelled agencies** that assess **compliance with the Forest Rights Act, the Wildlife Protection Act, and human rights standards**.
  इसमें यह सिफारिश की गई है कि **सूचीबद्ध एजेंसियों** द्वारा पुनर्वास परियोजनाओं का **वार्षिक स्वतंत्र ऑडिट** किया जाए, जो **वन अधिकार अधिनियम, वन्यजीव संरक्षण अधिनियम और मानवाधिकार मानकों** के अनुपालन का मूल्यांकन करें।

- Communities may choose to continue living in the "**traditional forest habitats**" while exercising their **Individual Forest Rights** or **Community Forest Rights** under the **FRA**, the policy says, emphasising that this must be an option for villages located within the reserves.
  नीति में कहा गया है कि समुदाय अपने **व्यक्तिगत वन अधिकार (Individual Forest Rights)** या **सामुदायिक वन अधिकार (Community Forest Rights)** का प्रयोग करते हुए "**पारंपरिक वन आवासों**" में रहना जारी रखने का विकल्प चुन सकते हैं, और यह विकल्प **अभयारण्य के भीतर स्थित गांवों** के लिए उपलब्ध होना चाहिए।

- In such cases, authorities must ensure the **in situ development of basic infrastructure**, including **Gram Sabha members** in **Tiger Conservation Foundations** and **Eco Development Committees**, and "generate evidence on **sustainable co-habitation models** for wider replication", the policy adds.
  ऐसे मामलों में, प्राधिकरणों को **मूलभूत ढांचे का स्थल पर विकास (in situ development)** सुनिश्चित करना होगा, **ग्राम सभा के सदस्यों** को **बाघ संरक्षण फाउंडेशन** और **ईको विकास समितियों** में शामिल करना होगा, और "**स्थायी सह-अस्तित्व मॉडल्स (sustainable cohabitation models)**" पर साक्ष्य तैयार करने होंगे ताकि उन्हें व्यापक रूप से अपनाया जा सके, नीति में कहा गया है।

Against NTCA directive
एनटीसीए निर्देश के विरुद्ध

- This brief, titled "**Reconciling conservation and community rights: a policy framework for relocation and coexistence in India's Tiger Reserves**", was sent last week to the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change** from the office of the **Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
  "**संरक्षण और सामुदायिक अधिकारों के समन्वय: भारत के बाघ अभयारण्यों में पुनर्वास और सह-अस्तित्व के लिए नीति रूपरेखा**" शीर्षक वाला यह दस्तावेज़ पिछले सप्ताह **जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय के सचिव** के कार्यालय से **पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय** को भेजा गया था।

- The **Tribal Affairs Ministry** noted that it has been receiving several **representations from State governments and Gram Sabhas**, flagging "serious concerns" about the **non-implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006**.
  जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय ने कहा कि उसे **राज्य सरकारों और ग्राम सभाओं से कई अभ्यावेदन** प्राप्त हुए हैं, जो **वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006 के अनुपालन न होने** को लेकर "गंभीर चिंताएँ" व्यक्त कर रहे हैं।

- Last year, the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**'s directive to States asking them to **prioritise relocation of villages in core areas** of tiger reserves drew **protests** from several **Gram Sabhas** and **forest rights activists**.
  पिछले वर्ष, **राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (NTCA)** द्वारा राज्यों को **बाघ अभयारण्यों के कोर क्षेत्रों में गांवों के पुनर्वास को प्राथमिकता देने** का निर्देश जारी करने के बाद, कई **ग्राम सभाओं** और **वन अधिकार कार्यकर्ताओं** ने **विरोध** किया।

- It also led to **representations** to the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**, the **Tribal Affairs Ministry**, and the **Environment Ministry**, seeking the **rollback of the**

directive.

इससे **अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग**, **जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय**, और **पर्यावरण मंत्रालय** को **निर्देश को वापस लेने** के लिए **अभ्यावेदन** भी भेजे गए।

- There were **591 villages** and **64,801 families** within the **core areas of tiger reserves**, according to the **NTCA**.

  एनटीसीए के अनुसार, **बाघ अभयारण्यों के कोर क्षेत्रों में 591 गांव और 64,801 परिवार** थे।

- In his letter to the **Environment Ministry**, **Tribal Affairs Secretary Vibhu Nayar** said there was an "**urgent need to examine the substantive issues**" with relocations and that a "**collaborative approach**" was needed to ensure that "**relocation, if undertaken, be voluntary, scientifically justified, rights-compliant, and grounded in equity and dignity**".

  जनजातीय कार्य सचिव विभु नायर ने अपने पत्र में **पर्यावरण मंत्रालय** को लिखा कि पुनर्वास से जुड़े "**वास्तविक मुद्दों की तत्काल जांच की आवश्यकता**" है और यह कि एक "**सहयोगात्मक दृष्टिकोण (collaborative approach)**" आवश्यक है ताकि "**यदि पुनर्वास किया जाए, तो वह स्वैच्छिक, वैज्ञानिक रूप से उचित, अधिकार-संगत और समानता एवं गरिमा पर आधारित हो।**"

NSCN(I-M) is firm on Naga political demands: Muivah

GS III: North East Insurgency

GUWAHATI

Less than 48 hours before his scheduled departure from his birthplace in Manipur's Ukhrul district, NSCN(I-M) general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah said his group would not budge from its position on the Naga political issue.

The armed group wants New Delhi to recognise the Naga national flag and the Naga constitution, which it claims were part of the deal when the Framework Agreement was signed in August 2015.

NSCN(I-M) expands to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah). The group prefers to be called the National Socialist Council of Nagalim.

"They [Government of India] started giving ultimatum... We were forced to tell them, come what may, we will stand our ground. We know who the Indians are and their history," Mr. Muivah, 91, told presspersons from the Gethsemane hall in Som-dal on Tuesday. He reached Somdal, his birth-place, on October 22, six decades after he left home in 1964 to join the Naga freedom movement. He is scheduled to fly back to the NSCN(I-M)'s central head-quarters near Nagaland's Dimapur after a stopover in Manipur's Senapati town on October 29.

"...We will not come tak-ing your (India's) history to surrender to you. We will never do that... Whether it is today or tomorrow, Na-gas are Nagas and Indians are Indians," Mr. Muivah, the chief negotiator in the peace talks, said.

"If you don't come to understand us and appre-ciate, then there is no point for us going to you," he said, insisting that the peace negotiators repre-senting New Delhi under-stood his position.

The NSCN(I-M) general secretary claimed that the NSCN(I-M) has been clear about its position since the day it declared a truce in 1997 and that the Centre's negotiators were aware of it.

अपने रुख पर कायम रहेंगे। हमें पता है कि भारतीय कौन हैं और उनका इतिहास क्या है," **91 वर्षीय मुइवाह** ने **मंगलवार** को **सोमदल के गेल्समनी हॉल** में पत्रकारों से कहा।

- He reached **Somdal**, his birthplace, on **October 22**, six decades after he left home in **1964** to join the **Naga freedom movement**.
  वह **22 अक्टूबर** को अपने **जन्मस्थान सोमदल** पहुंचे, **1964** में **नागा स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन** में शामिल होने के लिए घर छोड़ने के छह दशक बाद।

- He is scheduled to fly back to the **NSCN(I-M)'s central headquarters** near **Nagaland's Dimapur** after a stopover in **Manipur's Senapati town** on **October 29**.
  वह **29 अक्टूबर** को **मणिपुर के सेनापति नगर** में एक पड़ाव के बाद **नागालैंड के दीमापुर** के पास स्थित **NSCN(I-M) के केंद्रीय मुख्यालय** वापस उड़ान भरने वाले हैं।

- "…We will not come taking your (India's) history to surrender to you. We will never do that… Whether it is today or tomorrow, **Nagas are Nagas and Indians are Indians**," **Mr. Muivah**, the **chief negotiator in the peace talks**, said.
  "…हम तुम्हारा (भारत का) इतिहास लेकर तुम्हारे सामने आत्मसमर्पण करने नहीं आएंगे। हम ऐसा कभी नहीं करेंगे… चाहे आज हो या कल, **नागा नागा हैं और भारतीय भारतीय हैं**," शांति वार्ता के मुख्य वार्ताकार **मुइवाह** ने कहा।

- "If you don't come to understand us and appreciate us, then there is no point for us going to you," he said, insisting that the **peace negotiators representing New Delhi** understood his position.
  "यदि आप हमें समझने और सराहने नहीं आते, तो हमारे लिए आपके पास जाने का कोई अर्थ नहीं है," उन्होंने कहा, यह दावा करते हुए कि **नई दिल्ली का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले शांति वार्ताकार** उनके रुख को समझते हैं।

- The **NSCN(I-M) general secretary** claimed that the **NSCN(I-M)** has been clear about its position since the day it declared a **truce in 1997** and that the **Centre's negotiators** were aware of it.
  NSCN(I-M) के महासचिव ने दावा किया कि **NSCN(I-M)** ने जब **1997 में संघर्षविराम** की घोषणा की थी, तब से उसका रुख स्पष्ट रहा है और **केंद्र के वार्ताकार** इसके बारे में जानते थे।

HAL signs pact with Russian firm for civil aircraft production

GS III: Defence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and the Russian company United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) have signed a memorandum of understanding for production of the civil commuter aircraft SJ-100.

The SJ-100 is a twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft. As on date, more than 200 aircraft have been produced and are being operated by more than 16 commercial airline operators.

HAL said the SJ-100 would be a game changer for short-haul connectivity under the UDAN scheme in India. Under this arrangement, HAL will have the rights to manufacture SJ-100 aircraft for domestic customers.

Production in India

"This collaboration between HAL and UAC is the result of mutual trust between the organisations. This will also be the first instance wherein a complete passenger aircraft will be produced in India. The last such project was HAL's production of AVRO HS-748, which started in 1961 and ended in 1988," HAL said.

It is estimated that over

Officials from HAL and Oleg Bogomolov sign an MoU for making of the aircraft SJ-100.

the next 10 years, the Indian aviation sector will require over 200 jets in this category for regional connectivity and an additional 350 aircraft for the Indian Ocean region to serve nearby international tourist destinations, it said.

"The manufacturing of the SJ-100 aircraft marks the beginning of a new chapter in Indian aviation industry. Manufacturing will also strengthen the private sector and create direct and indirect jobs in the aviation industry," the Bengaluru-headquartered PSU said.

The MoU was signed in Moscow on Monday by Prabhat Ranjan from HAL and Oleg Bogomolov from UAC.

HAL signs pact with Russian firm for civil aircraft production
नागरिक विमान उत्पादन के लिए HAL ने रूसी कंपनी के साथ समझौता किया

- Aerospace major **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL)** and the **Russian company United Aircraft Corporation (UAC)** have signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** for production of the **civil commuter aircraft SJ-100**.
एयरोस्पेस प्रमुख हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) और रूसी कंपनी यूनाइटेड एयरक्राफ्ट कॉर्पोरेशन (UAC) ने नागरिक कम्प्यूटर विमान SJ-100 के उत्पादन के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।

- The **SJ-100** is a **twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft**. As on date, more than **200 aircraft** have been produced and are being operated by more than **16 commercial airline operators**.
SJ-100 एक द्विन-इंजन, नैरो-बॉडी विमान है। अब तक 200 से अधिक विमान निर्मित किए जा चुके हैं और 16 से अधिक वाणिज्यिक एयरलाइन ऑपरेटरों द्वारा संचालित किए जा रहे हैं।

- **HAL** said the **SJ-100** would be a **game changer** for **short-haul connectivity** under the **UDAN scheme** in India. Under this arrangement, HAL will have the **rights to manufacture SJ-100 aircraft** for domestic **customers**.
HAL ने कहा कि SJ-100 भारत में उड़ान (UDAN) योजना के तहत लघु-दूरी कनेक्टिविटी के लिए एक गेम चेंजर साबित होगा। इस व्यवस्था के तहत, HAL को घरेलू ग्राहकों के लिए SJ-100 विमान बनाने के अधिकार मिलेंगे।

Production in India
भारत में उत्पादन

- "This collaboration between **HAL and UAC** is the result of **mutual trust** between the organisations. This will also be the **first instance** wherein a **complete passenger aircraft** will be **produced in India**. The last such project was HAL's **production of AVRO HS-748**, which started in **1961** and ended in **1988**," HAL said.
"HAL और UAC के बीच यह सहयोग दोनों संगठनों के आपसी विश्वास का परिणाम है। यह भी पहला उदाहरण होगा जब एक पूर्ण यात्री विमान का निर्माण भारत में किया जाएगा। ऐसा पिछला प्रोजेक्ट HAL द्वारा AVRO HS-748 का 1961 से 1988 तक किया गया उत्पादन था," HAL ने कहा।

- It is estimated that over the next **10 years**, the **Indian aviation sector** will require over **200 jets** in this category for **regional connectivity** and an additional **350 aircraft** for the **Indian Ocean region** to serve nearby **international tourist destinations**, it said.
इसका अनुमान है कि अगले 10 वर्षों में, भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र को क्षेत्रीय संपर्क के लिए इस श्रेणी में 200 से अधिक जेट विमानों की आवश्यकता होगी और भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र में आस-पास के अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्यटन स्थलों की सेवा के लिए अतिरिक्त 350 विमानों की आवश्यकता होगी।

- "The manufacturing of the **SJ-100 aircraft** marks the beginning of a **new chapter** in the **Indian aviation industry**. Manufacturing will also **strengthen the private sector** and **create direct and indirect jobs** in the aviation industry," the **Bengaluru-headquartered PSU** said.

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"**SJ-100 विमान** का निर्माण भारतीय विमानन उद्योग में एक नए अध्याय की शुरुआत को दर्शाता है। यह निर्माण **निजी क्षेत्र को सशक्त** करेगा और विमानन उद्योग में **प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष रोजगार के अवसर** भी उत्पन्न करेगा," बेंगलुरु स्थित सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम (PSU) ने कहा।

- The MoU was signed in **Moscow on Monday** by **Prabhat Ranjan** from **HAL** and **Oleg Bogomolov** from **UAC**.

 यह **समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU)** सोमवार को मॉस्को में HAL के **प्रभात रंजन** और UAC के **ओलेग बोगोमोलोव** द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित किया गया।

Cloud-seeding trials done in Delhi to tackle air pollution

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cloud-seeding trials done in Delhi to tackle air pollution
वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने के लिए दिल्ली में क्लाउड-सीडिंग परीक्षण किए गए

- Amid **surging pollution levels**, the **Delhi government**, in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-Kanpur)**, on **Tuesday** conducted **two cloud-seeding trials** to induce rain. However, **negligible rainfall** was observed till late in the evening. The first such trial was conducted on **October 23**.

 बढ़ते प्रदूषण स्तरों के बीच, **दिल्ली सरकार** ने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कानपुर (IIT-कानपुर) के सहयोग से **मंगलवार को** बारिश कराने के लिए **दो क्लाउड-सीडिंग परीक्षण** किए। हालांकि, **शाम तक बहुत कम वर्षा** देखी गई। ऐसा **पहला परीक्षण 23 अक्टूबर** को किया गया था।

- "Today, the clouds had very little **moisture content**. We are doing a **sortie tomorrow morning** and the clouds are expected to have **higher moisture content** than today, and there are **better chances of rainfall**," **Manindra Agrawal**, Director, **IIT-Kanpur**, said.

 "आज बादलों में **बहुत कम नमी की मात्रा** थी। हम **कल सुबह एक उड़ान (sortie)** कर रहे हैं और उम्मीद है कि **बादलों में आज से अधिक नमी** होगी, जिससे **वर्षा की बेहतर संभावना** रहेगी," **आईआईटी-कानपुर के निदेशक मनिंद्र अग्रवाल** ने कहा।

- He said they were **generating data** from the trials. "We are learning a lot, as **cloud seeding** has **never been done** for **pollution control** in **Delhi or India** before this."

 उन्होंने कहा कि वे इन परीक्षणों से **डेटा एकत्र कर रहे हैं**। "हम बहुत कुछ सीख रहे हैं क्योंकि **क्लाउड-सीडिंग** का उपयोग **दिल्ली या भारत में प्रदूषण नियंत्रण** के लिए पहले **कभी नहीं किया गया** है।"

- As per officials, **0.1 mm rainfall** was observed in **Noida** and **0.2 mm in Greater Noida** around **4 p.m.**

 अधिकारियों के अनुसार, **शाम 4 बजे के आसपास**, नोएडा में **0.1 मिमी वर्षा** और ग्रेटर नोएडा में **0.2 मिमी वर्षा** दर्ज की गई।

- **Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa** said more **trials** would be done in the **coming days**.

 दिल्ली के पर्यावरण मंत्री मनजिंदर सिंह सिरसा ने कहा कि **आने वाले दिनों में और परीक्षण** किए जाएंगे।

- He said the **humidity** on **Tuesday** was only **15% to 20%**.

 उन्होंने कहा कि **मंगलवार को आर्द्रता** केवल **15% से 20%** थी।

NDRF posted teams in five States ahead of cyclone landfall

GS III: Disaster Management

NEW DELHI

Ahead of Cyclone Montha's landfall on Tuesday night, the National Disaster Response Force deployed 25 teams across Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu, while another 20 teams were on standby.

"The Director General, NDRF, has directed all formations to maintain a high level of readiness to provide immediate response for search, rescue, and relief operations," the organisation said in a statement.

Each team is equipped with boats, cutting equipment, communication equipment, and other specialised rescue tools to carry out evacuation, relief and restoration operations.

Coordination meetings are being held with the National Disaster Management Authority and their State-level counterparts and district administrations. The NDRF teams are also conducting public-awareness campaigns and community-sensitisation activities in vulnerable areas through local administrations to ensure timely evacuation and adherence to safety advisories.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw also reviewed the Indian Railways' preparedness to deal with the aftermath of the cyclone. The meeting assessed readiness along the east coast, focusing on passenger safety, train regulation and coordination with local administrations.

Teams are equipped with boats, cutting and communication equipment, to carry out relief operations

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- Ahead of **Cyclone Montha's landfall** on **Tuesday night**, the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** deployed **25 teams** across **Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu**, while another **20 teams** were on **standby**.
 मंगलवार रात चक्रवात मॉन्था के भूमि से टकराने से पहले, राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रतिक्रिया बल (NDRF) ने आंध्र प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़, ओडिशा, पुडुचेरी और तमिलनाडु में 25 टीमें तैनात कीं, जबकि अन्य 20 टीमें तैयार स्थिति में (स्टैंडबाय) रहीं।

- "The **Director General, NDRF**, has directed all formations to maintain a **high level of readiness** to provide **immediate response** for **search, rescue, and relief operations**," the organisation said in a statement.
 संस्था ने एक बयान में कहा, "एनडीआरएफ के महानिदेशक ने सभी इकाइयों को निर्देश दिया है कि वे खोज, बचाव और राहत कार्यों के लिए उच्च स्तर की तत्परता बनाए रखें ताकि तत्काल प्रतिक्रिया दी जा सके।"

- Each team is equipped with **boats, cutting equipment, communication equipment**, and other **specialised rescue tools** to carry out **evacuation, relief and restoration operations**.
 प्रत्येक टीम को नावों, काटने वाले उपकरणों, संचार उपकरणों और अन्य विशेष बचाव उपकरणों से लैस किया गया है ताकि निकासी, राहत और पुनर्स्थापना कार्यों को अंजाम दिया जा सके।

- **Coordination meetings** are being held with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and their **State-level counterparts** and **district administrations**.
 राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (NDMA) तथा उनके राज्य स्तरीय समकक्षों और जिला प्रशासन के साथ समन्वय बैठकों का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।

- The **NDRF teams** are also conducting **public-awareness campaigns** and **community-sensitisation activities** in **vulnerable areas** through **local administrations** to ensure **timely evacuation** and adherence to **safety advisories**.
 एनडीआरएफ टीमें, स्थानीय प्रशासन के माध्यम से संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में जन-जागरूकता अभियानों और सामुदायिक संवेदनशीलता गतिविधियों का संचालन कर रही हैं ताकि समय पर निकासी और सुरक्षा निर्देशों का पालन सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।

- **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** also reviewed the **Indian Railways' preparedness** to deal with the **aftermath of the cyclone**.
 रेल मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने भी चक्रवात के बाद की स्थिति से निपटने के लिए भारतीय रेल की तैयारियों की समीक्षा की।

- The meeting assessed **readiness along the east coast**, focusing on **passenger safety, train regulation**, and **coordination with local administrations**.
  बैठक में **पूर्वी तट पर तैयारियों** का मूल्यांकन किया गया, जिसमें **यात्रियों की सुरक्षा, ट्रेन संचालन** और **स्थानीय प्रशासन के साथ समन्वय** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया।

UN report finds countries' emission reductions short of goal set in Paris

GS III: Climate Change

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Conference of Parties (COP 30) in Belem, Brazil, next month, the United Nations made public a "synthesis report" on Tuesday that finds countries are poised to reduce emissions by only 17% of 2019 levels by 2035 – well below what is required to keep earth from heating up by 1.5 degrees Celsius or even 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

To keep temperatures below these limits, countries must cut emissions by 37% and 57%, respectively, of 2019 levels by 2035.

The synthesis is based on countries' updated nationally determined contributions (NDC), which are promises to cut fossil fuel emissions or plant forests (to capture carbon dioxide) until 2035. Tuesday's report is only a partial picture as only 64, out of a potential 190 countries, have submitted updated NDCs until September 30. India is among the countries that is yet to submit updated NDCs, after its last submission in August 2022.

The report says countries will cut emissions by only 17% by 2035, far below the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit. GETTY IMAGES

While conversation in the lead-up to climate COPs generally end to weigh heavily towards emissions reductions, the NDCs that have been submitted so far are also stressing two other important pillars of climate action – adaptation and resilience, with 73% of the new NDCs including an 'adaptation' component, the report notes. Adaptation refers to steps that must be taken by countries to adapt to ongoing and future impact from warming.

"All NDCs go beyond mitigation to include elements, inter alia, on adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building and addressing loss and damage, reflecting the comprehensive scope of the Paris Agreement," the report notes.

With regard to greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions, the total GHG emission level resulting from the implementation of Parties' new NDCs is projected to be around 13 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent in 2035, which is 6% below what they promised in their previous NDCs (submitted from 2020-2022).

Domestic pledges

Afforestation, reforestation and adding solar energy were identified as the options with the greater need for support. Some Parties have announced domestic pledges and projects, such as tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030, enhancing low-carbon hydrogen production and expanding Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) capacity.

UN report finds countries' emission reductions short of goal set in Paris
यूएन रिपोर्ट में पाया गया कि देशों के उत्सर्जन में कमी पेरिस में तय लक्ष्य से कम है

- Ahead of the **Conference of Parties (COP 30)** in **Belem, Brazil**, next month, the **United Nations** made public a **"synthesis report"** on **Tuesday** that finds countries are poised to reduce emissions by only **17% of 2019 levels by 2035** — well below what is required to keep earth from heating up by **1.5°C** or even **2°C** by the end of the century.
  अगले महीने **बेलम, ब्राज़ील** में होने वाले **कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑफ पार्टीज़ (COP 30)** से पहले, **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** ने **मंगलवार** को एक **"सिंथेसिस रिपोर्ट"** जारी की, जिसमें पाया गया कि देश **2035 तक 2019 के स्तर से केवल**

17% उत्सर्जन कम करने की स्थिति में हैं — जो पृथ्वी के तापमान को **1.5°C** या **2°C** से नीचे रखने के लिए आवश्यक स्तर से काफी कम है।

- To keep temperatures below these limits, countries must cut emissions by **37%** and **57%**, respectively, of 2019 levels by **2035**.
  इन सीमाओं के नीचे तापमान बनाए रखने के लिए, देशों को **2035 तक 2019 के** स्तर से क्रमशः **37% और 57% उत्सर्जन** कम करना होगा।

- The **synthesis** is based on countries' updated **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)**, which are promises to cut **fossil fuel emissions** or **plant forests (to capture carbon dioxide)** until 2035.
  यह **सिंथेसिस** देशों के अद्यतन **राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDCs)** पर आधारित है, जो **जीवाश्म ईंधन उत्सर्जन में कटौती** या **वनारोपण (कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड को अवशोषित करने के लिए)** के वादे हैं, जिन्हें **2035 तक** पूरा किया जाना है।

- Tuesday's report is only a **partial picture** as only **64 out of 190 countries** have submitted updated NDCs until **September 30**.
  मंगलवार की रिपोर्ट केवल एक **आंशिक चित्र** है क्योंकि **190 में से केवल 64 देशों** ने **30 सितंबर** तक अद्यतन NDCs प्रस्तुत किए हैं।

- **India** is among the countries that is yet to submit updated NDCs, after its last submission in **August 2022**.
  भारत उन देशों में शामिल है जिसने अभी तक अद्यतन NDCs प्रस्तुत नहीं किए हैं; इसकी पिछली प्रस्तुति **अगस्त 2022** में हुई थी।

- While conversation in the lead-up to **climate COPs** generally tends to weigh heavily towards **emissions reductions**, the NDCs that have been submitted so far are also stressing **adaptation and resilience**, with **73% of new NDCs** including an **'adaptation' component**, the report notes.
  जहाँ **जलवायु COPs** की चर्चाएँ आमतौर पर **उत्सर्जन में कमी** पर केंद्रित रहती हैं, वहीं अब तक प्रस्तुत किए गए **NDCs** में **अनुकूलन और लचीलापन (adaptation and resilience)** पर भी जोर दिया गया है, और **73% नए NDCs** में **'अनुकूलन' घटक** शामिल है, जैसा कि रिपोर्ट में उल्लेख किया गया है।

- **Adaptation** refers to steps that must be taken by countries to adapt to ongoing and future impact from **warming**.
  अनुकूलन (Adaptation) उन कदमों को संदर्भित करता है जो देशों को **गर्माहट के वर्तमान और भविष्य के प्रभावों** से निपटने के लिए उठाने होंगे।

- "All NDCs go beyond mitigation to include elements, inter alia, on **adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building** and addressing **loss and damage**, reflecting the comprehensive scope of the **Paris Agreement**," the report notes.
  "सभी **NDCs** केवल **न्यूनिकरण (mitigation)** तक सीमित नहीं हैं, बल्कि इनमें **अनुकूलन, वित्त, प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण, क्षमता निर्माण** और **हानि व क्षति की भरपाई** जैसे तत्व भी शामिल हैं, जो **पेरिस समझौते** के व्यापक दायरे को दर्शाते हैं," रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है।

- With regard to **greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions**, the total **GHG emission level** resulting from the implementation of **Parties' new NDCs** is projected to be around **13 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent in 2035**, which is **6% below** what they promised in their previous NDCs (submitted from 2020–2022).
  ग्रीनहाउस गैस (GHG) उत्सर्जन में कमी के संदर्भ में, **पार्टियों के नए NDCs** के कार्यान्वयन से **2035 में** कुल GHG उत्सर्जन स्तर लगभग **13 अरब टन CO_2 समतुल्य** होने का अनुमान है, जो उनके **2020–2022** के बीच प्रस्तुत पिछले NDCs की तुलना में **6% कम** है।

- **Afforestation, reforestation**, and adding **solar energy** were identified as the options with the **greater need for support**.
  वनारोपण, पुनर्वनीकरण, और **सौर ऊर्जा** को ऐसे विकल्पों के रूप में पहचाना गया है जिन्हें **अधिक समर्थन की आवश्यकता** है।

- Some **Parties** have announced **domestic pledges and projects**, such as **tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030**, **enhancing low-carbon hydrogen production**, and **expanding Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) capacity**.
  कुछ **देशों (Parties)** ने **घरेलू प्रतिज्ञाएँ और परियोजनाएँ** घोषित की हैं, जैसे **2030 तक वैश्विक नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता को तीन गुना करना, कम-कार्बन हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन को बढ़ाना,** और **कार्बन कैप्चर, उपयोग और भंडारण (CCUS) क्षमता का विस्तार** करना।

Setting up an early warning system for the Himalayas poses unique challenges

Climate change and development works have made the Himalayas acutely vulnerable to floods, landslides, and lake bursts, killing hundreds. Why are early warning systems not a priority? Scientists say that a network of rugged, easy-to-operate early warning systems to monitor activity across the Himalayan mountains is essential

Div
GS III: Environment
GS III: Disaster Management

On the first weekend of this month, Mount Everest (on the Tibetan side) turned dystopian: a sudden blizzard, torrential snowfall, and lightning strikes hit the mountain's vicinity, trapping a thousand trekkers who were gradually rescued with the help of local villagers trudging through knee-deep snow. In other parts of the Himalayas, at the same time, a heavy downpour and snowfall, led to floods and landslides, killing scores in Nepal and Darjeeling.

This is the latest among scores of disasters in the Himalayas, which are only increasing: of the 687 disasters that the country experienced between 1900 and 2022, as many as 240 were in the Himalayas, according to a 2024 *Down To Earth* (*DTE*) report. They include glacial lake outbursts, landslides, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes. Between 1902 and 1962, the region recorded just five disasters.

Abysmally poor

"Since then, there has been a rapid decade-on-decade increase in disasters. In 1963-1972, the region reported 11 disasters, followed by 13 disasters in 1973-82. The last decade (2013-2022) saw the highest number of disasters at 68, and they accounted for 44% of all the disasters reported in India," the *DTE* report explained. Quoting NASA's landslide data, *DTE* said the region experienced 1,121 landslide events between 2007 and 2017.

"I've come to the Himalayas around 20 times, but I've never experienced weather like this," a long-time hiker, Dong Shuchang, 27, told the *BBC*. Climate change is indeed making this seismically vulnerable range increasingly unpredictable: the region is experiencing "a faster rate of warming than the global average, ranging from 0.15° to 0.60° C per decade," according to a paper published last year in *Springer Nature*.

So why do we have an abysmally poor number of early warning systems (EWS), a practical mitigator of disasters, in one of the world's most volatile regions to predict events and save lives?

AI's help

As peer-reviewed studies portend a deepening crisis in the Himalayas, there is clearly a dire need for EWS for imminent earthquakes, landslides, snow storms, lake outburst floods, and extreme temperatures in this tempestuous mountain range that encompasses 12 Indian States and Union Territories.

Considering the sheer scale of the problem, "we need to install many more EWS, one in each valley, across the entire Himalayan arc (there are indeed cases of trans-boundary floods)," glaciologist Argha Banerjee, working on Himalayan glaciers at IISER Pune, told *The Hindu*. "We do not have an indigenous low-cost EWS that is weather-proof, easy-to-install and operate (by local people), uses multiple input parameters (in-situ and remote), and transmits live data (many of these valleys are remote, out of the reach of mobile networks)."

A functional early warning system can clearly save lives, he said.

There are challenges to monitoring the 2,400 km range: drones have a scale problem and "are only good for localised studies, and hard to fly in glacierised, windy, rugged Himalayan conditions," Dr. Banerjee said.

But artificial intelligence (AI) models, he added, could surely help in transforming live data to credible warnings. There is scope for satellite use, although satellite links are very expensive and may not be scalable. "There is some scope for them, although data collection from satellites needs to be rapid.

Per Dr. Banerjee: "It is important to involve and train local people to maintain, operate the EWS, and also to react to the warning."

Hazard map

There have been promising precedents of Himalayan disasters averted: the recent glacier-collapse/debris flow at Blatten village in the Swiss Alps was prevented from exploding into a humanitarian crisis when a shepherd called the downstream village, saving hundreds of lives.

There has been a rapid increase in disasters in the Himalayas. AP

There have been promising precedents of disasters averted: the recent glacier collapse at Blatten village in the Swiss Alps was prevented from exploding into a crisis when a shepherd called the downstream village, saving hundreds of lives

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences published a paper in 2022 on how they created an EWS for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in Cirenmaco, a high-risk glacial lake in the central Himalayas using an unmanned boat.

EWS "prevents loss of life and reduces the economic and societal impacts of disasters," the authors of the paper, published in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, wrote. It consisted of monitoring lake-level change, end-moraine displacement, ice collapse, and downstream runoff. The data can be transmitted via satellites and a mobile network to the data centre.

A hazard map was created of flood depth and velocity and translated into four intensity levels.

"In the future, more refined and accurate simulation results can be relied upon to establish this hazard map, which has implications for determining evacuation locations in downstream areas, constructing GLOF prevention and mitigation facilities, and implementing economic development measures," according to the paper.

Vinod Kumar Gaur, a Bengaluru-based seismologist and former director of the National Geophysical Research Institute, is closely involved in the implementation of three EWSs, the third one still at an elementary stage relating to cloudbursts. One of these was recently funded by the Environment Ministry to produce an operational system to provide advanced, sub-kilometre scale (a few hundred metres) hailstorm alerts to apple orchard managers in Uttarakhand and Himachal.

Not a priority

"The systems are based on a melding of local data and AI-aided predictions and a rigorously downscaled atmospheric model at the local scale with a capability to capture local land surface and hydrometeorological processes," said Dr. Gaur.

Indeed, there's no time to lose: a study published last year in the journal *Climate Change* predicted that 90% of the Himalayas will experience drought lasting over a year if global warming increases by 3° C. We get clues into this scenario from the fact that wildlife here is trapped in an "altitude squeeze," as a warming mountain range pushes musk deer and snow trout to higher ground, according to a recent UN report.

Himalayan catastrophes are not being given the priority they deserve: either by scientists, engineers, funding agencies, industry, or policy makers in central and local authorities, Dr. Banerjee said. "I think Himalayan people need it, and it is an urgent need. This should be a national priority."

THE GIST

There has been an increase in disasters. From 1963 to 1972, the region reported 11 disasters, followed by 13 in 1973-82. The last decade (2013-2022) saw the highest number of disasters at 68, accounting for 44% of all disasters reported in India

An EWS requires data and processing ability. Drones and satellites can provide the input, and AI models could help convert live data into credible warnings

Researchers say Himalayan catastrophes are not being given priority by stakeholders. Considering the impact of warming on mountain dynamics, EWS is an urgent requirement and should be a national priority

Setting up an Early Warning System for the Himalayas Poses Unique Challenges
हिमालय के लिए प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणाली स्थापित करना अनोखी चुनौतियाँ प्रस्तुत करता है

Frequent Disasters in the Himalayas
हिमालय में बार-बार आने वाली आपदाएँ

- On the **first weekend of this month**, **Mount Everest** (on the Tibetan side) turned dystopian with a sudden **blizzard, torrential snowfall, and lightning strikes**, trapping around **a thousand trekkers** who were later rescued by **local villagers** trudging through **knee-deep snow**.
  इस महीने के **पहले सप्ताहांत में माउंट एवरेस्ट (तिब्बती भाग) पर अचानक आए बर्फीले तूफ़ान, भारी बर्फबारी और बिजली गिरने** से हालात **भयावह** हो गए। लगभग **1 000 ट्रेकर्स** फँस गए जिन्हें **स्थानीय ग्रामीणों** ने **घुटनों तक बर्फ में चलकर** बचाया।

- At the same time, **heavy downpour and snowfall** caused **floods and landslides** in **Nepal and Darjeeling**, killing many.
  उसी समय, **नेपाल और दार्जिलिंग** में **भारी वर्षा और बर्फबारी** के कारण **बाढ़ और भूस्खलन** हुए, जिनमें कई लोगों की मृत्यु हो गई।

- Between **1900 and 2022**, of the **687 disasters** India experienced, **240** occurred in the **Himalayas**, as per a **2024 Down To Earth (DTE)** report.
  1900 से 2022 के बीच भारत में हुई **687 आपदाओं** में से **240 हिमालय क्षेत्र** में हुईं, जैसा कि **2024 की डाउन टू अर्थ (DTE)** रिपोर्ट बताती है।

- These include **glacial lake outbursts, landslides, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes**.
  इनमें **हिमनद झील फटने की घटनाएँ, भूस्खलन, बाढ़, जंगल की आग और भूकंप** शामिल हैं।

- Between **1902 and 1962**, only **five disasters** were recorded in the region.
  1902 से 1962 के बीच क्षेत्र में केवल **5 आपदाएँ** दर्ज की गईं।

Abysmally Poor Early Warning Systems (EWS)
बेहद कमजोर प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियाँ (EWS)

- Since then, disasters have **increased rapidly decade after decade**.
  तब से, आपदाओं की संख्या **हर दशक में तेज़ी से बढ़ी** है।

- From **1963–1972**, **11 disasters** were reported; **1973–82**, **13 disasters**; and the **last decade (2013–2022)** saw **68 disasters**, accounting for **44% of all disasters in India**, according to DTE.
  1963–1972 के बीच **11 आपदाएँ**, **1973–1982** के बीच **13 आपदाएँ**, और **2013–2022** के दशक में **68 आपदाएँ** हुईं, जो भारत की कुल आपदाओं का **44%** थीं।

- **NASA's landslide data** shows **1,121 landslides** between **2007 and 2017**.
  NASA के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **2007 से 2017** के बीच **1,121 भूस्खलन** हुए।

- A hiker, **Dong Shuchang (27)**, told the **BBC** that despite visiting the Himalayas about **20 times**, he had never seen such weather.
  एक पर्वतारोही **डोंग शूचांग (27)** ने **BBC** को बताया कि वह **लगभग 20 बार** हिमालय आए हैं, लेकिन ऐसा मौसम पहले कभी नहीं देखा।

- The region is **warming faster than the global average — 0.15°C to 0.60°C per decade**, as per a **Springer Nature (2023)** paper.

स्प्रिंगर नेचर (2023) के अनुसार, यह क्षेत्र **वैश्विक औसत से तेज़ गर्म** हो रहा है — **0.15°C से 0.60°C प्रति दशक** की दर से।

Need for Strong Early Warning Systems (EWS)
मजबूत प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियों (EWS) की आवश्यकता

- Despite this, the region has **abysmally poor EWS**, which could **predict events and save lives**.
  इसके बावजूद, इस क्षेत्र में **बेहद कमजोर EWS** हैं, जो **घटनाओं की भविष्यवाणी** और **जीवन की रक्षा** कर सकते हैं।

- **Peer-reviewed studies** highlight a deepening **crisis in the Himalayas**, demanding **EWS for earthquakes, landslides, snowstorms, lake outbursts, and extreme temperatures** across **12 Indian States and UTs**.
  समीक्षित अध्ययनों ने हिमालय में बढ़ते **संकट** को उजागर किया है और **भूकंप, भूस्खलन, बर्फीले तूफ़ान, झील फटने और अत्यधिक तापमान** के लिए **12 भारतीय राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों** में EWS की आवश्यकता बताई है।

- According to **glaciologist Argha Banerjee (IISER Pune)**, we need **EWS in every Himalayan valley** due to **trans-boundary flood risks**.
  हिमनद विज्ञानी अर्घा बनर्जी (IISER पुणे) के अनुसार, **सीमापार बाढ़ जोखिमों** के कारण **हर हिमालयी घाटी** में EWS स्थापित करना आवश्यक है।

- India lacks an **indigenous, low-cost, weather-proof EWS** that is **easy to install and operate locally**, uses **multiple input parameters (in-situ and remote)**, and **transmits live data** even in areas without **mobile networks**.
  भारत के पास ऐसा **स्थानीय, सस्ता, मौसम-रोधी EWS** नहीं है जो **स्थानीय लोगों द्वारा संचालित**, विभिन्न डेटा स्रोतों (स्थानीय और दूरस्थ) का उपयोग कर सके और **लाइव डेटा प्रसारित** कर सके, खासकर जहाँ **मोबाइल नेटवर्क नहीं हैं**।

Role of Technology and AI
प्रौद्योगिकी और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) की भूमिका

- **Functional EWS** can clearly **save lives**, said Dr. Banerjee.
  डॉ. बनर्जी ने कहा कि एक **सक्रिय EWS** निश्चित रूप से **जीवन बचा सकता है**।

- Monitoring the **2,400 km Himalayan range** is challenging; **drones** face **scale limitations** and are hard to use in **glacierised, windy, and rugged conditions**.
  2,400 किमी लंबे हिमालयी क्षेत्र की निगरानी कठिन है; **ड्रोन** में सीमा और पैमाने की सीमाएँ हैं और इन्हें **हिमाच्छादित, तेज़ हवा वाले और दुर्गम क्षेत्रों** में उड़ाना मुश्किल है।

- However, **AI models** can help **convert live data into credible warnings**.
  हालाँकि, **AI मॉडल** लाइव डेटा को विश्वसनीय चेतावनियों में परिवर्तित करने में मदद कर सकते हैं।

- **Satellites** may assist, but **satellite links are costly** and not easily **scalable**; data collection must be **rapid**.
  उपग्रह उपयोगी हो सकते हैं, लेकिन **उपग्रह कनेक्शन महंगे** और **विस्तार योग्य नहीं** हैं; डेटा संग्रह **तेज़ गति से** होना चाहिए।

- It is crucial to **train local people** to **maintain, operate, and respond** to the **EWS warnings**.
  स्थानीय लोगों को **प्रशिक्षित** करना अत्यंत आवश्यक है ताकि वे **EWS का रखरखाव, संचालन** और **चेतावनी पर तुरंत प्रतिक्रिया** दे सकें।

Hazard Map
खतरा मानचित्र

- There have been promising precedents of **Himalayan disasters averted**: the recent **glacier-collapse/debris flow** at **Blatten village** in the **Swiss Alps** was prevented from exploding into a humanitarian crisis when a **shepherd** called the downstream village, saving hundreds of lives.

हिमालयी आपदाओं से बचाव के कुछ **उत्साहजनक उदाहरण** रहे हैं: **स्विस आल्प्स** के **ब्लैटन गाँव** में हाल ही में हुए **हिमनद ध्वंस/मलबा प्रवाह (glacier-collapse/debris flow)** को एक **चरवाहे** द्वारा नीचे बसे गाँव को सूचना देने से **मानवीय संकट** बनने से रोका गया, जिससे **सैकड़ों जानें** बच गईं।

- Researchers from the **Chinese Academy of Sciences** published a paper in **2022** on how they created an **EWS (Early Warning System)** for **glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)** in **Cirenmaco**, a high-risk glacial lake in the **central Himalayas**, using an **unmanned boat**.
  चीनी विज्ञान अकादमी (Chinese Academy of Sciences) के शोधकर्ताओं ने **2022** में एक शोध पत्र प्रकाशित किया जिसमें बताया गया कि उन्होंने केंद्रीय हिमालय की **उच्च-जोखिम वाली हिमनदी झील सीरेनमाको (Cirenmaco)** में **मानवरहित नौका (unmanned boat)** का उपयोग करते हुए **हिमनदी झील विस्फोट बाढ़ (GLOFs)** के लिए एक **प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणाली (EWS)** विकसित की।

- **EWS "prevents loss of life and reduces the economic and societal impacts of disasters,"** the authors of the paper, published in the **International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction**, wrote.
  शोध पत्र के अनुसार, जो **इंटरनेशनल जर्नल ऑफ डिजास्टर रिस्क रिडक्शन** में प्रकाशित हुआ था, **EWS "जीवन की हानि को रोकती है और आपदाओं के आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक प्रभावों को कम करती है।"**

- It consisted of **monitoring lake-level change, end-moraine displacement, ice collapse, and downstream runoff.**
  इसमें **झील के स्तर में बदलाव, एंड-मोरेन (end-moraine) के विस्थापन, बर्फ के ध्वंस, और डाउनस्ट्रीम बहाव (runoff)** की निगरानी शामिल थी।

- The data can be transmitted via **satellites and mobile network** to the **data centre.**
  यह डेटा **उपग्रहों और मोबाइल नेटवर्क** के माध्यम से **डेटा केंद्र** तक भेजा जा सकता है।

- A **hazard map** was created of **flood depth and velocity** and translated into **four intensity levels.**
  बाढ़ की गहराई और वेग (flood depth and velocity) के आधार पर एक **खतरा मानचित्र (hazard map)** तैयार किया गया और इसे **चार तीव्रता स्तरों** में वर्गीकृत किया गया।

- "In the future, more refined and accurate simulation results can be relied upon to establish this hazard map, which has implications for determining **evacuation locations**, constructing **GLOF prevention and mitigation facilities**, and implementing **economic development measures**," according to the paper.
  शोध पत्र के अनुसार, "भविष्य में अधिक **सटीक और परिष्कृत सिमुलेशन परिणामों** के आधार पर इस **खतरा मानचित्र** को और बेहतर बनाया जा सकता है, जिससे **निकासी स्थानों** के निर्धारण, **GLOF रोकथाम और न्यूनीकरण संरचनाओं** के निर्माण, और **आर्थिक विकास उपायों** के क्रियान्वयन में मदद मिलेगी।"

- **Vinod Kumar Gaur**, a **Bengaluru-based seismologist** and former director of the **National Geophysical Research Institute**, is closely involved in the implementation of **three EWSs**, the third one still at an elementary stage relating to **cloudbursts.**
  बेंगलुरु-स्थित भूकंपविज्ञानी विनोद कुमार गौर, जो **नेशनल जियोफिजिकल रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट** के पूर्व निदेशक हैं, **तीन प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियों (EWSs)** के क्रियान्वयन में शामिल हैं, जिनमें से तीसरी **बादल फटने (cloudbursts)** से संबंधित है और अभी प्रारंभिक अवस्था में है।

- One of these was recently funded by the **Environment Ministry** to produce an operational system to provide **advanced, sub-kilometre scale hailstorm alerts** to **apple orchard managers** in Uttarakhand and Himachal.
  इनमें से एक परियोजना को हाल ही में **पर्यावरण मंत्रालय** द्वारा वित्त पोषित किया गया है ताकि **उत्तराखंड और हिमाचल** में सेब के बागानों के प्रबंधकों को **उन्नत, उप-किलोमीटर पैमाने पर ओलावृष्टि अलर्ट (hailstorm alerts)** प्रदान करने वाली एक **संचालन प्रणाली** विकसित की जा सके।

Not a Priority
प्राथमिकता नहीं दी जा रही

- "The systems are based on a **melding of local data and AI-aided predictions** and a rigorously downscaled **atmospheric model** at the local scale with a capability to capture **land surface and hydrometeorological processes**," said **Dr. Gaur**.
  डॉ. गौर ने कहा कि "ये प्रणालियाँ **स्थानीय डेटा और एआई-सहायता प्राप्त पूर्वानुमानों (AI-aided predictions)** के **संयोजन** और स्थानीय स्तर पर तैयार किए गए **वायुमंडलीय मॉडल** पर आधारित हैं, जो

भूमि सतह और जलवायुगतिकीय प्रक्रियाओं (hydrometeorological processes) को पकड़ने में सक्षम हैं।"

- Indeed, there's **no time to lose**: a study published last year in the journal **Climate Change** predicted that **90% of the Himalayas** will experience **drought lasting over a year** if **global warming increases by 3°C.**

  वास्तव में, **समय बर्बाद करने का अवसर नहीं है**: पिछले वर्ष **क्लाइमेट चेंज** जर्नल में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन ने भविष्यवाणी की कि यदि **वैश्विक तापन (global warming)** में **3°C** की वृद्धि होती है, तो **हिमालय का 90% भाग एक वर्ष से अधिक की सूखे की स्थिति** झेलेगा।

- We get clues into this scenario from the fact that wildlife here is trapped in an **"altitude squeeze"**, as a warming mountain range pushes **musk deer** and **snow trout** to higher ground, according to a **recent UN report.**

  संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) की एक हालिया रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यहाँ का **वन्यजीवन "ऊँचाई के दबाव (altitude squeeze)"** में फँस गया है क्योंकि **गरम होती पर्वतमालाएँ कस्तूरी मृग (musk deer)** और **स्नो ट्राउट मछलियों को ऊँचाई वाले क्षेत्रों** की ओर धकेल रही हैं।

- **Himalayan catastrophes** are not being given the **priority they deserve**: either by **scientists, engineers, funding agencies, industry, or policymakers** in **central and local authorities**, said **Dr. Banerjee.**

  डॉ. बनर्जी ने कहा कि **हिमालयी आपदाओं** को वह **प्राथमिकता नहीं दी जा रही** जिसकी वे **हकदार हैं**, न तो **वैज्ञानिकों, इंजीनियरों, फंडिंग एजेंसियों, उद्योग**, और न ही **केंद्र या स्थानीय नीति निर्माताओं** द्वारा।

- "I think **Himalayan people need it**, and it is an **urgent need**. This should be a **national priority.**"

  उन्होंने कहा, "मेरा मानना है कि **हिमालयी लोगों को इसकी आवश्यकता है**, और यह एक **तत्काल आवश्यकता (urgent need)** है। इसे **राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकता (national priority)** बनाया जाना चाहिए।"

Antagonistic antibiotics

Q. If antibiotics are becoming less effective, why not combine them?

A.It might seem logical to combine different antibiotics to create a more powerful weapon against resistant bacteria, but this approach can surprisingly backfire. Instead of becoming stronger, some antibiotic combinations can work against each other, a phenomenon known as antagonism. This means the mixture can be less effective than using a single, appropriate antibiotic.

One reason for this is that some antibiotics, called bacteriostatic agents, only stop bacteria from multiplying, while others, known as bactericidal antibiotics, actively kill them. If you mix the two, the bacteriostatic drug can prevent the bactericidal one from working properly as the latter often targets processes in actively dividing cells.

Further, every antibiotic use, including in combinations, puts pressure on bacteria to evolve and develop resistance. Using combinations without a clear benefit can inadvertently contribute to the creation of "superbugs" that are even

Antibiotic use puts pressure on bacteria to evolve and develop resistance. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE. JAMES YAREMA/UNSPLASH

harder to treat. This is why it's crucial for doctors to carefully select the right antibiotic based on the specific infection, rather than simply mixing them.

A study published in *Molecular Systems Biology* on October 27 illustrated this problem in *Escherichia coli* bacteria. Researchers combined ciprofloxacin, an antibiotic that kills bacteria by damaging DNA, with tetracycline, which merely stops them from growing. They discovered that tetracycline actually slowed down the bacteria's metabolism, preventing ciprofloxacin from killing them. Ultimately the survival rate of the bacterial cells increased.

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If antibiotics are becoming less effective, why not combine them?
यदि एंटीबायोटिक्स कम प्रभावी हो रही हैं, तो उन्हें मिलाकर क्यों न उपयोग करें?

- It might seem logical to combine different **antibiotics** to create a more powerful weapon against **resistant bacteria**, but this approach can surprisingly backfire.

   यह तर्कसंगत लग सकता है कि विभिन्न **एंटीबायोटिक्स** को मिलाकर **प्रतिरोधी बैक्टीरिया** के खिलाफ एक अधिक शक्तिशाली हथियार बनाया जाए, लेकिन यह तरीका आश्चर्यजनक रूप से **उल्टा असर** कर सकता है।

- Instead of becoming stronger, some **antibiotic combinations** can work **against each other**, a phenomenon known as **antagonism**.

   अधिक प्रभावी होने के बजाय, कुछ **एंटीबायोटिक संयोजन** एक-दूसरे के **विपरीत कार्य** कर सकते हैं, जिसे **एंटागोनिज़म (Antagonism)** कहा जाता है।

- This means the **mixture** can be less effective than using a single, appropriate antibiotic.

   इसका मतलब यह है कि यह **मिश्रण** एक अकेली उपयुक्त एंटीबायोटिक की तुलना में **कम प्रभावी** हो सकता है।

- One reason for this is that some antibiotics, called **bacteriostatic agents**, only **stop bacteria from multiplying**, while others, known as **bactericidal antibiotics**, actively **kill them**.

   इसका एक कारण यह है कि कुछ एंटीबायोटिक्स जिन्हें **बैक्टीरियोस्टैटिक एजेंट (Bacteriostatic Agents)** कहा जाता है, केवल **बैक्टीरिया की वृद्धि को रोकती हैं**, जबकि अन्य जिन्हें **बैक्टीरिसाइडल एंटीबायोटिक्स (Bactericidal Antibiotics)** कहा जाता है, उन्हें **सक्रिय रूप से मारती हैं**।

- If you mix the two, the **bacteriostatic drug** can prevent the **bactericidal one** from working properly, as the latter often targets **processes in actively dividing cells**.

   यदि आप दोनों को मिलाते हैं, तो **बैक्टीरियोस्टैटिक दवा बैक्टीरिसाइडल दवा** को सही ढंग से काम करने से रोक सकती है, क्योंकि बाद वाली **सक्रिय रूप से विभाजित होने वाली कोशिकाओं** की प्रक्रियाओं को लक्ष्य करती है।

- Further, every **antibiotic use**, including in combinations, puts **pressure on bacteria** to evolve and develop **resistance**.

   इसके अतिरिक्त, प्रत्येक **एंटीबायोटिक का उपयोग**, संयोजन सहित, **बैक्टीरिया पर दबाव** डालता है कि वे विकसित हों और **प्रतिरोध (Resistance)** विकसित करें।

- Using combinations without a clear benefit can inadvertently contribute to the creation of **"superbugs"** that are even harder to treat.

   बिना स्पष्ट लाभ के संयोजन का उपयोग अनजाने में **"सुपरबग्स"** के निर्माण में योगदान कर सकता है, जिन्हें उपचार करना और भी कठिन होता है।

- This is why it's crucial for doctors to carefully select the **right antibiotic** based on the **specific infection**, rather than simply mixing them.

   यही कारण है कि डॉक्टरों के लिए यह अत्यंत आवश्यक है कि वे **विशिष्ट संक्रमण (Specific Infection)** के आधार पर **सही एंटीबायोटिक** का चयन करें, बजाय उन्हें बस मिलाने के।

- A study published in **Molecular Systems Biology** on **October 27** illustrated this problem in **Escherichia coli (E. coli)** bacteria.

   27 अक्टूबर को **मॉलिक्यूलर सिस्टम्स बायोलॉजी (Molecular Systems Biology)** में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन ने यह समस्या **ईशरीशिया कोलाई (E. coli)** बैक्टीरिया में दर्शाई।

- Researchers combined **ciprofloxacin**, an antibiotic that **kills bacteria by damaging DNA**, with **tetracycline**, which merely **stops them from growing**.

   शोधकर्ताओं ने **सिप्रोफ्लॉक्सासिन (Ciprofloxacin)**, जो डीएनए को नुकसान पहुँचाकर बैक्टीरिया को मारती है, को **टेट्रासाइक्लिन (Tetracycline)** के साथ जोड़ा, जो केवल **उनकी वृद्धि को रोकती है**।

- They discovered that **tetracycline** actually **slowed down the bacteria's metabolism**, preventing **ciprofloxacin** from killing them.

   उन्होंने पाया कि **टेट्रासाइक्लिन** वास्तव में **बैक्टीरिया के चयापचय (Metabolism)** को धीमा करती है, जिससे **सिप्रोफ्लॉक्सासिन** उन्हें मार नहीं पाती।

- Ultimately, the **survival rate** of the bacterial cells **increased**.

   अंततः, **बैक्टीरियल कोशिकाओं की जीवित रहने की दर (Survival Rate)** बढ़ गई।

A quip that stings but also inspires

GS III: Economics

Many have now formed their opinions about the 2025 Nobel Economics Prize and how its focus signals to the world, the criticality of the economics of innovation and growth. However, what was also curious was the quip by the 2025 Laureate Joel Mokyr (one of the three winners) that 'economic historians don't win the prize'.

The discipline often undervalues the slow, evidentiary craft of archival work. Yet, when the world grows noisy, amid disruptions by Artificial Intelligence, inequality, fiscal overhangs and geopolitical shocks, policy debates turn to long-run narratives that economic historians assemble.

Growth as social technology first

Mokyr's central lesson, sharpened by the pedagogy of scholars such as Carnegie Mellon economic historian David Hounshell, is that modern growth is a social technology before it is a mechanical one. The achievement of the Industrial Enlightenment did not rest on a single genius or gadget; it relied on civic machinery that made useful knowledge travel – printers, coffee houses, learned societies, dissenting congregations and guilds that were sometimes cartels but often repositories of tacit know-how. Apprenticeships, shop-floor heuristics and rule-of-thumb engineering formed the codebase of progress. Where guilds faced contestable markets and porous cities, they incubated capability. Where they ossified, they throttled entry. In sum, Schumpeter's creative destruction works only when the social plumbing allows new ideas to displace entrenched privilege.

This is where the contributions of Mokyr's fellow Laureates, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt, complement rather than contradict Mokyr's narrative. Their Schumpeterian growth framework provides dynamic microfoundations: innovation rents attract entrepreneurs; incumbents litigate and lobby; and policy can either harden moats or protect the process that makes churn productive. The engine misfires when experimentation is costly and entry blocked; it hums when institutions tilt toward contestability and diffusion. Mokyr shows how societies built a working engine. Aghion and Howitt show how to keep tuning it under pressure.

The quip about Nobels persists because the field sometimes treats history (in fact the economics Nobel itself was an afterthought) as an anecdote rather than a mechanism. Archival material can, however, illuminate incentives more vividly than elaborate regressions adorned with robustness checks and identification strategies. And as a literal claim, Mokyr's line is likely to be wrong. Other scholars have won the prize building on economic history. Douglass North and Robert Fogel were honoured for placing institutions and counterfactuals at the core of economics. Claudia Goldin received the prize for a sweeping historical account of women's labour markets. Simon Kuznets' national accounting was inseparable from historical measurement. Their work demonstrates that economic history is no sideshow. It is the lab where rules, culture and technology are tested as drivers (or brakes) on growth.

What grips the world now

Consider three current anxieties. First, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and jobs. Mokyr's work cautions that technology shocks rarely act as one-for-one job killers. They reprice competencies and reorganise tasks. The social question is transition management: who bears the cost of moving from old tasks to new ones? Here the Aghion-Howitt injunction to protect process rather than incumbents becomes policy-relevant fast. Portable benefits, credible skills bridges, interoperability and data portability in digital markets. All of these protect workers and entry, not the last generation of firms.

Second, high public debt. History also sobers exuberance and fatalism alike. The Dutch and British states that populate Mokyr's studies did not become credible borrowers through austerity alone. They built civic capacity – tax systems, representative institutions, enforceable contracts – that enabled a rollover of obligations and the financing of long projects. In an era of swollen balance sheets, that lesson is not antiquarian. Fiscal sustainability is institutional, not merely arithmetic.

Third, inequality. Guild history also clarifies how privilege often hides behind claims of quality control and safety. The counter is not iconoclasm but contestability. Lower the costs of entry and diffusion so insiders' rents are bid down by capability, not pedigree. In digital markets, this maps to pro-competitive procurement, open standards, and limits on self-preferencing. These are perhaps modern analogues of the coffee house and the cheap pamphlet.

Digitisation itself invites a reality check. Sussex economic historian Nick Crafts' revisions to the British Industrial Revolution show that general purpose technologies (steam, ICT, AI) appear late in macro data because they require complementary investments and firm reorganisation. Meanwhile, Jared Diamond's wider lens (geography, ecology, diffusion barriers) offers a further reminder – technology is embedded in landscapes and path dependencies. Together, the history bench is a vaccine against both euphoria and despair. It directs attention to institutions, complementarities, and time.

As a documentation

Why, then, does Mokyr's quip still feel true? Because prizes, like productivity statistics, are lagging indicators. The frontier of research may periodically swing toward identification strategies, but the problems that preoccupy the public (automation, debt, social mobility, geopolitical realignment) are historical in essence. They demand causal stories that unfold over decades, with actors who learn, bargain, and sometimes entrench. That is economic history's comparative advantage. It documents how societies learn to argue productively and build forums and rules where better ideas defeat old power.

The deeper point, therefore, is not about medals but about machinery. The question is whether societies are protecting the engine – the open, critical, experimental process that moves ideas from discovery to diffusion – or leaning toward merely the owners of the last engine.

History's answer is blunt: prosperity is the exception. It must be argued for, institutionally and incessantly.

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Economics Laureate Joel Mokyr's line, that 'economic historians don't win Nobel Prizes', captures a professional unease

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A Quip That Stings but Also Inspires
एक व्यंग्य जो चुभता भी है और प्रेरित भी करता है

2025 Nobel Economics Prize and the Relevance of Economic History
2025 का नोबेल अर्थशास्त्र पुरस्कार और आर्थिक इतिहास का महत्व

- Many have now formed their opinions about the **2025 Nobel Economics Prize** and how its focus signals to the world, the **criticality of the economics of innovation and growth**.
  कई लोगों ने अब **2025 के नोबेल अर्थशास्त्र पुरस्कार** के बारे में अपनी राय बना ली है और यह कैसे दुनिया को **नवाचार और विकास की अर्थव्यवस्था के महत्व** का संकेत देता है।

- However, what was also curious was the quip by the **2025 Laureate Joel Mokyr** (one of the three winners) that **"economic historians don't win the prize."**
  हालांकि, जो बात उत्सुकता जगाती है वह यह है कि **2025 के पुरस्कार विजेता जोएल मोक्यर** (तीनों विजेताओं में से एक) ने मजाक में कहा कि **"आर्थिक इतिहासकार पुरस्कार नहीं जीतते।"**

- The discipline often undervalues the slow, evidentiary craft of **archival work**.
  यह क्षेत्र अक्सर **अभिलेखीय कार्य** की धीमी और प्रमाणिक कला को कम महत्व देता है।
- Yet, when the world grows noisy amid disruptions by **Artificial Intelligence**, **inequality**, **fiscal overhangs**, and **geopolitical shocks**, policy debates turn to **long-run narratives** that economic historians assemble.
  फिर भी जब दुनिया **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता**, **असमानता**, **राजकोषीय संकट**, और **भू-राजनीतिक झटकों** से भरी होती है, तो नीति बहसें उन **दीर्घकालिक कथाओं** की ओर मुड़ती हैं जिन्हें आर्थिक इतिहासकार तैयार करते हैं।

Growth as Social Technology First
विकास पहले एक सामाजिक प्रौद्योगिकी के रूप में

- Mokyr's central lesson, sharpened by scholars such as **David Hounshell** of **Carnegie Mellon**, is that **modern growth is a social technology before it is a mechanical one**.
  मोक्यर का मुख्य संदेश, जिसे **कार्नेगी मेलॉन विश्वविद्यालय** के **डेविड हाउनशेल** जैसे विद्वानों ने और निखारा, यह है कि **आधुनिक विकास एक यांत्रिक प्रक्रिया से पहले एक सामाजिक प्रौद्योगिकी है।**
- The achievement of the **Industrial Enlightenment** did not rest on a single genius or gadget; it relied on **civic machinery** that made useful knowledge travel — **printers, coffee houses, learned societies, dissenting congregations**, and **guilds**.
  औद्योगिक प्रबोधन की सफलता किसी एक प्रतिभा या उपकरण पर निर्भर नहीं थी; यह **नागरिक संस्थानों** पर टिकी थी जो उपयोगी ज्ञान को फैलाते थे — जैसे **प्रिंटिंग प्रेस, कॉफी हाउस, विद्वत् समाज, असहमत समूह,** और **गिल्ड (संघ)**।
- These guilds were sometimes **cartels** but often **repositories of tacit know-how**.
  ये गिल्ड कभी-कभी **कार्टेल** थे, लेकिन अक्सर **गुप्त ज्ञान के भंडार** भी थे।
- **Apprenticeships**, **shop-floor heuristics**, and **rule-of-thumb engineering** formed the **codebase of progress**.
  शिक्षुता, कारखाना-स्तर पर अनुभवजन्य ज्ञान, और व्यावहारिक इंजीनियरिंग ने प्रगति की **आधार-कोड संरचना** बनाई।
- Where guilds faced **contestable markets** and **porous cities**, they **incubated capability**; where they **ossified**, they **throttled entry**.
  जहाँ गिल्ड को **प्रतिस्पर्धी बाजारों** और **खुले शहरों** का सामना करना पड़ा, उन्होंने **क्षमता का विकास किया**; लेकिन जहाँ वे **जड़ हो गए**, उन्होंने **नए प्रवेश को रोक दिया**।
- In sum, **Schumpeter's creative destruction** works only when the **social plumbing** allows new ideas to displace entrenched privilege.
  संक्षेप में, **शुम्पीटर का रचनात्मक विनाश** तभी काम करता है जब **सामाजिक संरचना** नए विचारों को **जमे हुए विशेषाधिकारों** को हटाने की अनुमति देती है।

Complementary Contributions of Aghion and Howitt
अघियोन और हाउइट के पूरक योगदान

- The contributions of Mokyr's fellow Laureates, **Philippe Aghion** and **Peter Howitt**, **complement rather than contradict** Mokyr's narrative.
  मोक्यर के सह-विजेताओं **फिलिप अघियोन** और **पीटर हाउइट** के योगदान, मोक्यर की कथा का **विरोध नहीं बल्कि पूरक** हैं।
- Their **Schumpeterian growth framework** provides **dynamic microfoundations** — **innovation rents** attract entrepreneurs; **incumbents litigate and lobby**; and policy can either **harden moats** or **protect productive churn**.
  उनका **शुम्पीटेरियन विकास ढाँचा गतिशील सूक्ष्म नींव** प्रदान करता है — **नवाचार से होने वाले लाभ** उद्यमियों को आकर्षित करते हैं; **पुराने खिलाड़ी मुकदमे और लॉबिंग करते हैं**; और नीतियाँ या तो **प्रतिस्पर्धा रोक सकती हैं** या **उत्पादक बदलाव की रक्षा** कर सकती हैं।
- The engine misfires when **experimentation is costly** and **entry blocked**; it hums when **institutions favour contestability and diffusion**.
  जब **प्रयोग महंगे** हों और **प्रवेश अवरुद्ध** हो, तो इंजन रुक जाता है; लेकिन जब **संस्थान प्रतिस्पर्धा और प्रसार का समर्थन करते हैं**, तो यह **सुगमता से चलता है।**

- **Mokyr** shows how societies **built a working engine**. **Aghion and Howitt** show how to **keep tuning it under pressure**.
  मोक्यर दिखाते हैं कि समाजों ने **काम करने वाला इंजन कैसे बनाया**, और **अधियोन और हाउइट** दिखाते हैं कि इसे **दबाव में कैसे बनाए रखा जाए**।

Economic History and the Nobel Paradox
आर्थिक इतिहास और नोबेल का विरोधाभास

- The quip about **Nobels** persists because the field sometimes treats **history** as an **anecdote rather than a mechanism**.
  नोबेल पुरस्कारों के बारे में यह टिप्पणी इसलिए बनी रहती है क्योंकि यह क्षेत्र कभी-कभी **इतिहास** को **तंत्र के बजाय कथा** के रूप में देखता है।
- **Archival material** can illuminate **incentives** more vividly than **elaborate regressions** and **robustness checks**.
  अभिलेखीय सामग्री अक्सर **जटिल सांख्यिकीय विश्लेषणों** और **सटीकता परीक्षणों** की तुलना में **प्रेरणाओं** को अधिक स्पष्ट रूप से दर्शा सकती है।
- As a literal claim, Mokyr's line is likely to be wrong — other scholars have won the prize **building on economic history**.
  सीधे तौर पर देखें तो मोक्यर की यह बात गलत साबित होती है — अन्य विद्वानों ने भी **आर्थिक इतिहास पर कार्य करके नोबेल जीता है**।
- **Douglass North** and **Robert Fogel** were honoured for placing **institutions and counterfactuals** at the core of economics.
  डगलस नॉर्थ और **रॉबर्ट फोगल** को **संस्थानों और संभाव्य परिदृश्यों** को अर्थशास्त्र के केंद्र में लाने के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।
- **Claudia Goldin** received the prize for a **sweeping historical account** of **women's labour markets**.
  क्लाउडिया गोल्डिन को **महिलाओं के श्रम बाजारों के व्यापक ऐतिहासिक अध्ययन** के लिए पुरस्कार मिला।
- **Simon Kuznets'** work on **national accounting** was inseparable from **historical measurement**.
  साइमन कूज़नेट्स का **राष्ट्रीय लेखांकन पर कार्य ऐतिहासिक मापन** से अलग नहीं किया जा सकता।
- Their work demonstrates that **economic history is no sideshow** — it is the **lab where rules, culture, and technology** are tested as **drivers or brakes of growth**.
  उनका कार्य यह दर्शाता है कि **आर्थिक इतिहास कोई गौण विषय नहीं है** — यह वह **प्रयोगशाला है जहाँ नियम, संस्कृति और प्रौद्योगिकी को विकास के प्रेरक या अवरोधक** के रूप में परखा जाता है।

What grips the world now
अब दुनिया को क्या जकड़े हुए है

- Consider three current anxieties.
  तीन वर्तमान चिंताओं पर विचार करें।
- First, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and jobs.
  पहली, **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** और नौकरियाँ।
- **Mokyr's work** cautions that technology shocks rarely act as one-for-one job killers.
  मोक्यर (Mokyr) का कार्य चेतावनी देता है कि तकनीकी झटके शायद ही कभी सीधे नौकरियाँ खत्म करते हैं।
- They reprice competencies and reorganise tasks.
  वे **कौशलों का पुनर्मूल्यांकन** करते हैं और कार्यों का **पुनर्गठन** करते हैं।
- The social question is **transition management** — who bears the cost of moving from old tasks to new ones?
  सामाजिक प्रश्न है **संक्रमण प्रबंधन (Transition Management)** — पुराने कार्यों से नए कार्यों में बदलाव की लागत कौन वहन करेगा?
- The **Aghion-Howitt injunction** urges to protect **process** rather than incumbents.
  एगियोन-हॉविट (Aghion-Howitt) का निर्देश है कि **प्रक्रिया की रक्षा करें**, न कि मौजूदा संस्थाओं की।

- **Portable benefits**, **skills bridges**, **interoperability** and **data portability** protect workers and market entry.
  पोर्टेबल लाभ, कौशल सेतु, अंतरसंचालनीयता, और डेटा पोर्टेबिलिटी श्रमिकों और बाजार में प्रवेश की रक्षा करते हैं।
- Second, **high public debt**.
  दूसरी, **उच्च सार्वजनिक ऋण (High Public Debt)**।
- History sobers both exuberance and fatalism.
  इतिहास **अत्यधिक उत्साह** और **निराशावाद** दोनों को संयमित करता है।
- **Dutch and British states** built **civic capacity** — tax systems, representative institutions, enforceable contracts.
  डच और ब्रिटिश राज्यों ने **नागरिक क्षमता (Civic Capacity)** का निर्माण किया — **कर प्रणाली**, **प्रतिनिधिक संस्थाएँ**, **प्रवर्तनीय अनुबंध**।
- Fiscal sustainability is **institutional**, not merely **arithmetic**.
  वित्तीय स्थिरता **संस्थागत (Institutional)** है, केवल **गणितीय (Arithmetic)** नहीं
- Third, **inequality**.
  तीसरी, **असमानता (Inequality)**।
- Guild history shows how **privilege** hides behind **quality control and safety**.
  गिल्ड इतिहास दिखाता है कि **विशेषाधिकार (Privilege)** कैसे **गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण और सुरक्षा** के पीछे छिपा होता है।
- The counter is **contestability** — lowering entry costs and promoting capability over pedigree.
  इसका समाधान है **प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता (Contestability)** — प्रवेश लागत घटाना और **कौशल** को **वंशावली** पर वरीयता देना।
- In digital markets, this means **pro-competitive procurement**, **open standards**, and limits on **self-preferencing**.
  डिजिटल बाजारों में, इसका अर्थ है **प्रतिस्पर्धा को बढ़ावा देने वाली खरीद नीति**, **खुले मानक**, और **स्व-प्राथमिकता** पर सीमाएँ।
- **Digitisation** invites a reality check.
  डिजिटलीकरण (Digitisation) वास्तविकता की जांच की मांग करता है।
- **Nick Crafts** shows that general-purpose technologies (steam, ICT, AI) appear late in data due to **complementary investments**.
  निक क्राफ्ट्स (Nick Crafts) दिखाते हैं कि **सामान्य प्रयोजन प्रौद्योगिकियाँ** (भाप, ICT, AI) डेटा में देर से दिखती हैं क्योंकि उन्हें **पूरक निवेशों** की आवश्यकता होती है।
- **Jared Diamond** reminds that technology is embedded in **geography, ecology, and diffusion barriers**.
  जेरेड डायमंड (Jared Diamond) याद दिलाते हैं कि तकनीक **भूगोल, पारिस्थितिकी और प्रसार बाधाओं** में निहित होती है।
- History acts as a **vaccine against euphoria and despair**, focusing on **institutions, complementarities, and time**.
  इतिहास **उत्साह और निराशा के खिलाफ एक वैक्सीन** की तरह कार्य करता है, और **संस्थाओं, पूरकताएँ और समय** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है।
- **Why does Mokyr's quip still feel true?**
  मोक्यर का कथन अब भी सत्य क्यों प्रतीत होता है?
- Because prizes and productivity statistics are **lagging indicators**.
  क्योंकि **पुरस्कार और उत्पादकता आँकड़े पिछड़े संकेतक (Lagging Indicators)** हैं।
- Public problems like **automation, debt, social mobility, and geopolitical realignment** are **historical in essence**.
  स्वचालन, ऋण, सामाजिक गतिशीलता, और भू-राजनीतिक पुनर्संरेखण जैसी सार्वजनिक समस्याएँ **मूल रूप से ऐतिहासिक** हैं।
- They demand **causal stories** unfolding over **decades**, showing how societies **learn and build institutions**.
  ये **दशकों तक चलने वाली कारणात्मक कहानियों** की माँग करती हैं, जो दिखाती हैं कि समाज कैसे **सीखते और संस्थाएँ बनाते** हैं।
- The deeper point is whether societies protect the **engine of innovation** — the **open, critical, experimental process** — or just the owners of the last one.

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गहरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या समाज **नवाचार के इंजन (Engine of Innovation)** — अर्थात् **खुली, आलोचनात्मक और प्रयोगात्मक प्रक्रिया** — की रक्षा करते हैं, या केवल पिछले इंजन के **मालिकों की।**

- History's answer is blunt: **prosperity is the exception**. It must be argued for **institutionally and incessantly**.

   इतिहास का उत्तर स्पष्ट है: **समृद्धि एक अपवाद (Exception)** है। इसके लिए **संस्थागत रूप से और निरंतर** तर्क करना आवश्यक है।

How Amazon's cloud outage affected services and apps globally

The glitch took down more than 2,000 companies, with several apps and services impacted like Amazon, Snapchat, Signal, ChatGPT, Perplexity, Canva, Roblox, Duolingo, Fortnite, Coinbase and Epic Games online services

GS III: S&T

Poulomi Chatterjee

The story so far:

On October 20, one Amazon Web Services (AWS) data centre, located in the east coast of the U.S., began experiencing "increased error rates and latencies." By next morning several issues were reported across AWS data centres, many of which are located in Northern Virginia. The affected data centre cluster, U.S.-East-1, is AWS' biggest and most active. The disruption took down digital services of over 2,000 companies, according to *Downdetector*. Services of Amazon, Snapchat, Signal, ChatGPT, Perplexity, Canva, Roblox, Duolingo, Fortnite, Coinbase and Epic Games online services were affected. The issue was eventually "fully resolved" by 6:53 PM ET, AWS said in a blog post.

What happened?

In a status update, AWS informed users that the outage originated from a Domain Name System (DNS) error affecting the DynamoDB database application programming interfaces in the US-East-1 region. After some time, Amazon advised users experiencing issues resolving the DynamoDB service endpoints in US-East-1 to flush their DNS caches.

The DNS essentially functions as a lookup mechanism that translates a web URL into its corresponding IP address. For instance, the IP address for the domain 'www.instagram.com' is 57.144.150.34. When DNS fails, there's no way to retrieve the address, so even if a service appears to be operational for users running the platform, there's no incoming traffic. Consider trying to contact a friend whose phone number keeps changing, and you don't have any of these numbers memorised.

The DynamoDB database service was used by AWS to store data for Amazon's own services as well as several other customers including Amazon retail, Amazon Alexa, Lyft, Snapchat and Signal etc.

DNS errors have become frequent due to various factors. It could happen in case a company failed to renew registration or during a faulty automated update or in the most common instances where the DNS service provider is changed or is updating the domain address. Although DNS errors could be caused by malicious actors, this specific outage was not. It was a case of "availability," cybersecurity experts said, where the system couldn't correctly decide which server to latch on to, which led to a ripple effect. Despite how centralised cloud systems have become over time, AWS' US-East-1 region is relatively infamous for causing massive disruptions. Built in 2006, US-East-1 is also the default for swathes of services and users given it was the first AWS region.

There are some global AWS services run from US-East-1 depending on its endpoints, which includes DynamoDB Global Tables among others. This could mean that services used in even Europe have infrastructure features located in US-East-1 and can therefore be susceptible to a chain reaction.

Have there been past AWS outages?

After two prominent outages in September and December of 2021, customers were furious, calling US-East-1 a "systemic risk." The outage in December is often cited as the most severe in AWS history. It laid bare how fragile cloud dependencies could be. Lasting almost seven hours and costing S&P companies $150 million, the outage was caused to a typo in a command entered while debugging an issue.

Following the backlash, Amazon confirmed that new architectures were being rebuilt for both the AWS support case management system for customers to chat with technical support and the health dashboard. But, in June 2023, the region faced another outage taking down 100 services for around four hours with customers grappling with a recurring issue of not being able to reach out to AWS Support quickly, despite the changes.

Notably, every AWS region has a minimum of three different availability zones (AZ) that are all connected separately. And while customers were suggested to allow their apps and platforms to run in different availability zones to control risks of impact, the entire region has been prone to going down, taking everything with it.

Will there be more outages in future?

Some experts have predicted that cloud outages could increase due to the push towards introducing AI capabilities in enterprises which leads to an increased ingestion of data into the cloud, increasing the load on hyperscalers (global cloud computing is largely dominated by AWS, followed by Microsoft's Azure and Google Cloud).

As most experts have been warning repeatedly, the outage is a stark reminder that over-reliance on dominant cloud providers could bring global online companies down to their knees.

Gergely Orosz, author of the newsletter, 'The Pragmatic Engineer,' listed some unlikely cases of fallout from this outage, which included Postman, an API development tool, and Eight Sleep, a sleep fitness company.

"In both cases, things should have worked locally! It's what customers assumed, and it should have been possible. But clearly the dev teams found it simpler to take on a cloud dependency – and made no prep for an AWS region outage. So now customers know these are cloud products," he said in a X post.

Amazon released a report with a detailed summary of the 15-hour outage saying it will be temporarily disabling DynamoDB DNS Planner and that it will add "additional protections" to prevent DNS errors in future. The AWS team will also work on improving their internal testing to look for more such problems that stretched the outage.

How Amazon's Cloud Outage Affected Services and Apps Globally
कैसे Amazon की क्लाउड सेवा की खराबी ने वैश्विक स्तर पर सेवाओं और ऐप्स को प्रभावित किया

- On **October 20**, one **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** data centre, located in the **east coast of the U.S.**, began experiencing "**increased error rates and latencies.**"
  20 अक्टूबर को, **अमेज़न वेब सर्विसेज़ (AWS)** का एक **डेटा सेंटर**, जो **अमेरिका के पूर्वी तट** पर स्थित है, में "**त्रुटियों की बढ़ी हुई दर और विलंबता**" का अनुभव हुआ।

- By next morning several issues were reported across **AWS data centres**, many of which are located in **Northern Virginia**.
  अगले दिन सुबह तक कई **AWS डेटा सेंटर्स**, जिनमें से अधिकांश **नॉर्दर्न वर्जीनिया** में स्थित हैं, में समस्याओं की रिपोर्ट की गई।

- The affected data centre cluster, **U.S.-East-1**, is AWS' **biggest and most active**.
  प्रभावित डेटा सेंटर क्लस्टर **U.S .-East-1**, AWS का **सबसे बड़ा और सबसे सक्रिय** क्लस्टर है।

- The disruption took down digital services of **over 2,000 companies**, according to **Downdetector**.
  Downdetector के अनुसार, इस व्यवधान ने **2,000 से अधिक कंपनियों** की डिजिटल सेवाओं को ठप कर दिया।

- Services of **Amazon, Snapchat, Signal, ChatGPT, Perplexity, Canva, Roblox, Duolingo, Fortnite, Coinbase,** and **Epic Games online services** were affected.
  अमेज़न, स्नैपचैट, सिग्नल, चैटजीपीटी, परप्लेक्सिटी, कैनवा, रोब्लॉक्स, डुओलिंगो, फोर्टनाइट, कॉइनबेस और **एपिक गेम्स ऑनलाइन सेवाओं** पर प्रभाव पड़ा।
- The issue was eventually "**fully resolved**" by **6:53 PM ET**, AWS said in a blog post.
  AWS ने एक ब्लॉग पोस्ट में कहा कि यह समस्या अंततः **शाम 6:53 बजे (ET)** तक "**पूरी तरह से हल**" हो गई थी।

What happened?

क्या हुआ था?

- In a status update, AWS informed users that the outage originated from a **Domain Name System (DNS) error** affecting the **DynamoDB database APIs** in the **US-East-1 region**.
  एक स्टेटस अपडेट में, AWS ने उपयोगकर्ताओं को सूचित किया कि यह आउटेज **US-East-1 क्षेत्र में** DynamoDB डेटाबेस API को प्रभावित करने वाली **डोमेन नेम सिस्टम (DNS) त्रुटि** से उत्पन्न हुआ था।
- After some time, Amazon advised users experiencing issues resolving the **DynamoDB service endpoints** in **US-East-1** to **flush their DNS caches**.
  कुछ समय बाद, अमेज़न ने **US-East-1** में DynamoDB **सेवा एंडपॉइंट्स** को हल करने में समस्या झेल रहे उपयोगकर्ताओं को अपने **DNS कैश को फ़्लश** करने की सलाह दी।
- The **DNS** essentially functions as a lookup mechanism that translates a **web URL** into its corresponding **IP address**.
  DNS मूल रूप से एक **लुकअप तंत्र** के रूप में कार्य करता है जो किसी **वेब URL** को उसके संबंधित **IP पते** में अनुवाद करता है।
- For instance, the IP address for the domain '**www.instagram.com**' is **57.144.150.34**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, डोमेन '**www.instagram.com**' का **IP पता 57.144.150.34** है।
- When **DNS fails**, there's no way to retrieve the address, so even if a service appears operational, there's **no incoming traffic**.
  जब **DNS विफल** हो जाता है, तो पता प्राप्त करने का कोई तरीका नहीं होता, इसलिए भले ही सेवा काम करती दिखे, वहाँ **कोई इनकमिंग ट्रैफ़िक नहीं** होता।
- Consider trying to contact a friend whose **phone number keeps changing**, and you don't have any of these numbers memorised.
  कल्पना करें कि आप ऐसे मित्र से संपर्क करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं जिसका **फ़ोन नंबर बार-बार बदलता रहता है**, और आपको कोई नंबर याद नहीं है।
- The **DynamoDB database service** was used by AWS to store data for **Amazon's own services** as well as **several other customers** including **Amazon Retail, Amazon Alexa, Lyft, Snapchat, and Signal**, etc.
  DynamoDB **डेटाबेस सेवा** का उपयोग **AWS** द्वारा **अमेज़न की अपनी सेवाओं** और अन्य ग्राहकों जैसे **अमेज़न रिटेल, अमेज़न एलेक्सा, लिफ्ट, स्नैपचैट और सिग्नल** आदि के लिए डेटा संग्रहण हेतु किया गया था।
- **DNS errors** have become frequent due to various factors — failed registration renewal, faulty automated updates, or provider changes.
  विभिन्न कारणों — जैसे **पंजीकरण नवीनीकरण की विफलता, त्रुटिपूर्ण स्वचालित अपडेट,** या **सेवा प्रदाता परिवर्तन** — के कारण **DNS त्रुटियाँ** सामान्य हो गई हैं।
- Although DNS errors could be caused by **malicious actors**, this specific outage was not.
  यद्यपि **DNS त्रुटियाँ** कभी-कभी **दुर्भावनापूर्ण गतिविधियों** के कारण होती हैं, लेकिन यह विशेष आउटेज ऐसा नहीं था।
- It was a case of **availability**, cybersecurity experts said, where the system couldn't correctly decide which server to latch on to, leading to a **ripple effect**.
  साइबर सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञों ने कहा कि यह **उपलब्धता (availability)** का मामला था, जहाँ सिस्टम यह तय नहीं कर पाया कि किस सर्वर से जुड़ना है, जिससे एक **श्रृंखलाबद्ध प्रभाव (ripple effect)** हुआ।
- Despite how **centralised cloud systems** have become, **AWS' US-East-1 region** is infamous for **massive disruptions**.
  यद्यपि **क्लाउड सिस्टम** अत्यधिक **केंद्रीकृत** हो गए हैं, **AWS का US-East-1 क्षेत्र भारी व्यवधानों** के लिए बदनाम है।

- Built in **2006**, **US-East-1** is also the **default region** for many services and users since it was the **first AWS region**.
  2006 में निर्मित, **US-East-1** कई सेवाओं और उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए **डिफ़ॉल्ट क्षेत्र** है क्योंकि यह **पहला AWS क्षेत्र** था।
- Some **global AWS services** run from **US-East-1**, including **DynamoDB Global Tables**, meaning even **European services** may depend on it, making them **susceptible to chain reactions**.
  कुछ **वैश्विक AWS सेवाएँ**, जैसे **DynamoDB Global Tables**, **US-East-1** से संचालित होती हैं, जिससे **यूरोप की सेवाएँ** भी इस पर निर्भर होती हैं और **श्रृंखलाबद्ध प्रभावों (chain reactions)** के प्रति संवेदनशील बनती हैं।

Past AWS Outages

पिछले AWS आउटेज

- After two major outages in **September and December 2021**, customers called **US-East-1 a "systemic risk."**
  सितंबर और दिसंबर 2021 के दो प्रमुख आउटेज के बाद, ग्राहकों ने **US-East-1 को "सिस्टमिक रिस्क"** कहा।
- The **December 2021 outage**, lasting **seven hours**, is considered the **most severe** in AWS history, costing **S&P companies $150 million**.
  दिसंबर 2021 का आउटेज, जो **सात घंटे** तक चला, **AWS के इतिहास का सबसे गंभीर** माना जाता है, जिससे **S&P कंपनियों को $150 मिलियन** का नुकसान हुआ।
- It was caused by a **typo in a command** entered during debugging.
  यह **डिबगिंग के दौरान डाले गए एक कमांड में टाइपो (त्रुटि)** के कारण हुआ था।
- Following backlash, Amazon **rebuilt architectures** for **AWS support systems** and **health dashboards**.
  आलोचना के बाद, अमेज़न ने **AWS सपोर्ट सिस्टम** और **हेल्थ डैशबोर्ड्स** के लिए **नई आर्किटेक्चर का पुनर्निर्माण** किया।
- Yet, in **June 2023**, the region faced another outage affecting **100 services** for **around four hours**.
  फिर भी, **जून 2023** में इस क्षेत्र में एक और आउटेज हुआ जिसने **लगभग चार घंटे तक 100 सेवाओं** को प्रभावित किया।
- Customers again struggled to **reach AWS Support quickly**, despite the improvements.
  सुधारों के बावजूद, ग्राहक दोबारा **AWS सपोर्ट तक जल्दी पहुँचने** में संघर्ष करते रहे।
- Each **AWS region** has at least **three availability zones (AZs)** that are **separately connected**.
  प्रत्येक **AWS क्षेत्र** में कम से कम **तीन उपलब्धता ज़ोन (AZ)** होते हैं जो **अलग-अलग जुड़े** होते हैं।
- Customers were advised to **run their apps** in different **availability zones** to minimise risk, yet the **entire region** often goes down.
  ग्राहकों को सलाह दी गई थी कि वे अपनी **एप्स को विभिन्न उपलब्धता ज़ोनों** में चलाएँ ताकि जोखिम कम हो, फिर भी **पूरा क्षेत्र** कई बार ठप हो जाता है।

Will there be more outages in the future?

क्या भविष्य में और आउटेज होंगे?

- Experts predict **more cloud outages** due to **AI-driven data ingestion**, which increases load on **hyperscalers** like **AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud**.
  विशेषज्ञों का अनुमान है कि **AI आधारित डेटा लोडिंग** के कारण **क्लाउड आउटेज** बढ़ेंगे, जिससे **AWS, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट एज़्योर** और **गूगल क्लाउड** जैसे **हाइपरस्केलर्स** पर दबाव बढ़ेगा।
- The outage is a reminder that **over-reliance on dominant cloud providers** can bring **global companies to their knees**.

यह आउटेज इस बात की याद दिलाता है कि **प्रमुख क्लाउड प्रदाताओं पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता वैश्विक कंपनियों को पंगु बना सकती है**।

- **Gergely Orosz**, author of *The Pragmatic Engineer*, listed **unexpected fallout cases** such as **Postman** and **Eight Sleep**.
  The Pragmatic Engineer के लेखक **गर्गेली ओरोस्ज़** ने **Postman** और **Eight Sleep** जैसी **अप्रत्याशित प्रभावित कंपनियों** का उल्लेख किया।

- He said these products **should have worked locally**, but **dev teams relied on cloud**, so users discovered they were **fully cloud-dependent**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि ये उत्पाद **स्थानीय रूप से काम करने चाहिए थे**, लेकिन **डेव टीमों ने क्लाउड पर निर्भरता रखी**, जिससे उपयोगकर्ताओं को पता चला कि ये **पूरी तरह क्लाउड-निर्भर** हैं।

- Amazon released a **15-hour outage report**, saying it will **temporarily disable DynamoDB DNS Planner** and add **additional protections** to prevent future DNS errors.
  अमेज़न ने **15 घंटे के आउटेज** पर एक रिपोर्ट जारी करते हुए कहा कि वह अस्थायी रूप से **DynamoDB DNS प्लानर को निष्क्रिय** करेगा और भविष्य में **DNS त्रुटियों को रोकने के लिए अतिरिक्त सुरक्षा उपाय** जोड़ेगा।

- AWS also said its team will **improve internal testing** to detect similar problems early that had **stretched the outage**.
  AWS ने यह भी कहा कि उसकी टीम **आंतरिक परीक्षण प्रक्रियाओं में सुधार** करेगी ताकि उन समस्याओं को पहले से पहचाना जा सके, जिन्होंने इस आउटेज को **लंबा खींच दिया था**।