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PCS Special:

22 January 2026

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| 1. | NASA astronaut Sunita Williams retires after 27-year stellar career
नासा की अंतरिक्ष यात्री सुनीता विलियम्स ने 27 साल के शानदार करियर के बाद सेवानिवृत्ति ली |
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NEW DELHI

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams retires after 27-year stellar career



PCS
NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has retired from the space agency, capping a stellar 27-year career during which she completed three missions aboard the International Space Station and set various human spaceflight records. Ms. Williams also completed nine spacewalks and was the first person to run a marathon in space. PTI

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams retires after 27-year stellar career

नासा की अंतरिक्ष यात्री सुनीता विलियम्स ने 27 साल के शानदार करियर के बाद सेवानिवृत्ति ली

• NASA astronaut **Sunita Williams** has retired from the **space agency**, capping a stellar **27-year career** during which she completed **three missions** aboard the **International Space Station** and set various **human spaceflight records**.

नासा की अंतरिक्ष यात्री **सुनीता विलियम्स** ने अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी से सेवानिवृत्ति ले ली है, जिससे उनका **27 साल का शानदार करियर** समाप्त हुआ, जिसके दौरान उन्होंने अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर **तीन मिशन पूरे किए और कई मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान रिकॉर्ड**

बनाए।

- Williams also completed **nine spacewalks** and was the **first person to run a marathon in space**.

सुश्री विलियम्स ने **नौ स्पेसवॉक** भी पूरे किए और वह **अंतरिक्ष में मैराथन दौड़ने वाली पहली व्यक्ति** थीं।

GS Paper 1: Geography

TOPICS COVERED

22 January 2026



GS I: Geography

Visual: What is the general name for formations like **stalactites** and **stalagmites**, which are formed when minerals slowly deposit at one location over a long period? DAVE BUNNELL / UNDER EARTH IMAGES (CC BY SA)

Visual: What is the general name for formations like stalactites and stalagmites, which are formed when minerals slowly deposit at one location over a long period?



GS Paper II: Polity,

TOPICS COVERED

22 January 2026

- EC discretion during SIR is not unregulated authority, says SC**
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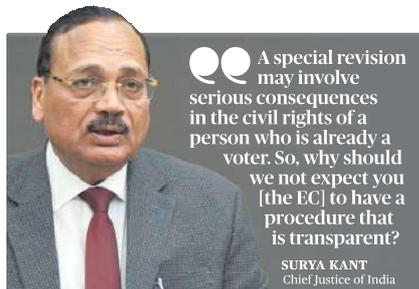
EC discretion during SIR is not unregulated authority, says SC

Court ticks off EC for 'deviations', and says revision must be in line with norms; EC counsel says the poll body has to travel beyond prescribed limits to revise electoral rolls as long as the reasons were recorded and procedures were fair and just

GS II: Polity
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Election Commission (EC) is blessed with the "widest discretions" but its "deviations" while revising electoral rolls, as in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, cannot be "untrammelled or unregulated" in breach of principles of natural justice and procedure prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, submitted that the SIR was "sustainable" under Article 324 read with Section 21 (3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Section 21(3) clothes the EC with a residuary power to direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in "such manner as it may think fit".



A special revision may involve serious consequences in the civil rights of a person who is already a voter. So, why should we not expect you [the EC] to have a procedure that is transparent?

SURYA KANT
Chief Justice of India

"But a special revision may involve serious consequences in the civil rights of a person who is already a voter. So, why should we not expect you (the EC) to have a procedure that is transparent," Chief Justice Surya Kant, heading the Division Bench, asked the EC's counsel.

Mr. Dwivedi conceded that the EC's deviations from procedure must embrace the constitutional guarantee of equality before the law, equal protection of the laws enshrined

in Article 14, constitutional norms of transparency, and ease of voters.

He, however, contended that sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the 1950 Act allowed the EC to travel beyond the prescribed limits to revise electoral rolls as long as the reasons were recorded and the procedures were fair and just. Section 21(3) unshackled the EC, he said.

"You have the authority to deviate, but not by throwing out the Rules... Form 6 has six notified

'Bengal SIR shows discrepancies that defy science'

NEW DELHI
The Election Commission has said that many instances of "logical discrepancies" found in West Bengal's electoral roll, including two electors found with more than 200 children, defies science. » PAGE 5

documents, your SIR has 11 documents. We would call upon you to answer if you can increase or eliminate documents which are already prescribed?" Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a member of the Division Bench, asked the poll body.

Justice Bagchi drew Mr. Dwivedi's attention to clause (2) of Rule 25 of the 1960 Rules, which mandated that an intensive revision of the electoral roll would include the preparation of a fresh roll in accordance with the procedure

prescribed under Rules 4 to 23.

"Rule 25 puts the shackles on you... It cannot be that an authority, however high, can be untrammelled or unregulated..." Justice Bagchi said, leaving it hanging for Mr. Dwivedi to grasp the court's line of thought.

Mr. Dwivedi argued that sub-section (3) of Section 21 was a step up from the preceding sub-section (2) of the 1950 Act. Sub-section (2) provided the EC with the authority to hold a revision of the electoral roll before an election.

Justice Bagchi said the provision of summary revisions in the 1950 Act was a manifestation of the Parliament's wisdom, as there was constant movement/migration of the population in the early years after Independence. There was a lot of flux then, he said. The Parliament knew it would take some years for the population to settle.

EC discretion during SIR is not unregulated authority, says SC

SIR के दौरान EC का विवेकाधिकार अनियंत्रित शक्ति नहीं है, SC का कहना

- Court ticks off EC for 'deviations', and says revision must be in line with norms; EC counsel says the poll body has to travel beyond prescribed limits to revise electoral rolls as long as the reasons were recorded and procedures were fair and just



अदालत ने 'विचलनों' के लिए EC को फटकार लगाई, और कहा कि संशोधन मानकों के अनुरूप होना चाहिए; EC के वकील ने कहा कि चुनावी सूचियों के संशोधन के लिए, कारण दर्ज होने और प्रक्रिया निष्पक्ष व न्यायसंगत होने तक, आयोग को निर्धारित सीमाओं से आगे जाना पड़ता है

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Election Commission (EC) is blessed with the "widest discretions" but its "deviations" while revising electoral rolls, as in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, cannot be "untrammelled or unregulated" in breach of principles of natural justice and procedure prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को कहा कि निर्वाचन आयोग (EC) को "सबसे व्यापक विवेकाधिकार" प्राप्त हैं, लेकिन चुनावी सूचियों के संशोधन के दौरान, जैसे कि चल रहे विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) अभ्यास में, इसके "विचलन" प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांतों और 1960 के निर्वाचक पंजीकरण नियमों के तहत निर्धारित प्रक्रिया का उल्लंघन करते हुए "अनियंत्रित या बिना नियमन" नहीं हो सकते।

- Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, submitted that the SIR was "sustainable" under Article 324 read with Section 21 (3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. EC की ओर से वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता राकेश द्विवेदी ने दलील दी कि SIR, अनुच्छेद 324 के साथ जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 की धारा 21(3) के तहत "स्थायी/टिकाऊ" है।

- Section 21(3) clothes the EC with a residuary power to direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in "such manner as it may think fit". धारा 21(3) EC को किसी भी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र या उसके किसी भाग के लिए चुनावी सूची के विशेष पुनरीक्षण का निर्देश देने की अवशिष्ट शक्ति प्रदान करती है, "जिस प्रकार वह उपयुक्त समझे"।

- "But a special revision may involve serious consequences in the civil rights of a person who is already a voter. So, why should we not expect you (the EC) to have a procedure that is transparent," Chief Justice Surya Kant, heading the Division Bench, asked the EC's counsel.

"लेकिन विशेष पुनरीक्षण पहले से मतदाता व्यक्ति के नागरिक अधिकारों पर गंभीर प्रभाव डाल सकता है। तो फिर हम आपसे (EC) पारदर्शी प्रक्रिया की अपेक्षा क्यों न करें," मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत, डिवीजन बेंच का नेतृत्व करते हुए, EC के वकील से पूछा।

- Mr. Dwivedi conceded that the EC's deviations from procedure must embrace the constitutional guarantee of equality before the law, equal protection of the laws enshrined in Article 14, constitutional norms of transparency, and ease of voters.

श्री द्विवेदी ने स्वीकार किया कि प्रक्रिया से EC के विचलनों में कानून के समक्ष समानता, अनुच्छेद 14 में निहित कानूनों का समान संरक्षण, पारदर्शिता के संवैधानिक मानक, और मतदाताओं की सुविधा शामिल होनी चाहिए।

- He, however, contended that sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the 1950 Act allowed the EC to travel beyond the prescribed limits to revise electoral rolls as long as the reasons were recorded and the procedures were fair and just.

हालांकि, उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि 1950 अधिनियम की धारा 21 की उप-धारा (3) EC को चुनावी सूचियों के संशोधन के लिए निर्धारित सीमाओं से आगे जाने की अनुमति देती है, बशर्ते कारण दर्ज हों और प्रक्रियाएँ निष्पक्ष और न्यायसंगत हों।

- Section 21(3) unshackled the EC, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि धारा 21(3) ने EC को बंधनों से मुक्त किया है।

- "You have the authority to deviate, but not by throwing out the Rules... Form 6 has six notified documents, your SIR has 11 documents. We would call upon you to answer if you can increase or eliminate documents which are already prescribed?" Justice Joyimalya Bagchi, a member of the Division Bench, asked the poll body.

"आपके पास विचलन का अधिकार है, लेकिन नियमों को दरकिनार कर नहीं... फॉर्म 6 में छह अधिसूचित दस्तावेज़ हैं, आपके SIR में 11 दस्तावेज़ हैं। हम आपसे पूछते हैं कि क्या आप पहले से निर्धारित दस्तावेज़ों को बढ़ा या घटा सकते हैं?" न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची, डिवीजन बेंच के सदस्य, ने चुनाव आयोग से पूछा।

- Justice Bagchi drew Mr. Dwivedi's attention to clause (2) of Rule 25 of the 1960 Rules, which mandated that an intensive revision of the electoral roll would include the preparation of a fresh roll in accordance with the procedure prescribed under Rules 4 to 23.

न्यायमूर्ति बागची ने श्री द्विवेदी का ध्यान 1960 नियमों के नियम 25 की उप-धारा (2) की ओर दिलाया, जो यह अनिवार्य करता है कि चुनावी सूची के गहन पुनरीक्षण में नियम 4 से 23 के तहत निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार नई सूची तैयार की जाए।



- “**Rule 25** puts the shackles on you... It cannot be that an authority, however high, can be **untrammelled or unregulated...**” Justice Bagchi said, leaving it hanging for Mr. Dwivedi to grasp the court’s line of thought.
“**नियम 25** आप पर बंधन लगाता है... यह नहीं हो सकता कि कोई भी प्राधिकरण, चाहे कितना भी उच्च हो, **अनियंत्रित या बिना नियमन हो...**” न्यायमूर्ति बागची ने कहा, और श्री द्विवेदी को अदालत की सोच समझने के लिए छोड़ दिया।
- Mr. Dwivedi argued that sub-section (3) of **Section 21** was a step up from the preceding sub-section (2) of the **1950 Act**.
श्री द्विवेदी ने तर्क दिया कि **धारा 21** की उप-धारा (3), **1950 अधिनियम** की पूर्ववर्ती उप-धारा (2) से एक कदम आगे है।
- Sub-section (2) provided the EC with the authority to hold a revision of the electoral roll before an election.
उप-धारा (2) EC को चुनाव से पहले चुनावी सूची के पुनरीक्षण का अधिकार देती है।
- Justice Bagchi said the provision of **summary revisions** in the **1950 Act** was a manifestation of the **Parliament’s wisdom**, as there was constant movement/migration of the population in the early years after **Independence**.
न्यायमूर्ति बागची ने कहा कि **1950 अधिनियम** में **संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण** का प्रावधान **संसद की दूरदर्शिता** का प्रतीक था, क्योंकि **स्वतंत्रता** के बाद शुरुआती वर्षों में जनसंख्या का निरंतर आवागमन/प्रवास था।
- There was a lot of **flux** then, he said.
उस समय बहुत अधिक **अस्थिरता** थी, उन्होंने कहा।
- The **Parliament** knew it would take some years for the population to settle **संसद** जानती थी कि जनसंख्या को स्थिर होने में कुछ वर्ष लगेंगे

‘Freebies’ different from investing in welfare for the marginalised, says SC

ESU Policy
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday drew a clear line between state functionaries splurging public money on irrational freebies and “investing” in welfare schemes for the marginalised sections.

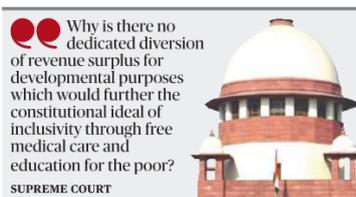
“Distribution of state largesse to individuals at a large scale is different from investing state largesse in public welfare schemes. That distinction should be kept in mind,” Chief Justice Surya Kant observed orally.

The Supreme Court asked why there was no

“dedicated diversion of revenue surplus for developmental purposes which would further the constitutional ideal of inclusivity through free medical care and education for the poor and those not in the creamy layer of the society. The state has a commitment towards this end”.

The Chief Justice said **launching welfare schemes** was an obligation the state had to achieve under the **Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution**.

The oral observations from the Bench, also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, was in response to



an oral mentioning made by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay for early listing of a batch of petitions seeking a **judicial declaration that irrational freebies offered by political parties to lure voters during poll time should be**

considered a “corrupt practice”.
Mr. Upadhyay said when the petition was filed, the nation was in debt of ₹1.5 lakh crore, which had since increased to ₹2.5 lakh crore. **Every Indian was in debt**, and yet the state con-

tinued to rain freebies before polls, he submitted. “This is a very, very important matter,” Chief Justice Kant reacted, agreeing to list it early for hearing.

‘Parasitic existence’

In January last year, a top court Bench headed by Justice (now retired) B.R. Gavai had asked whether **untrammelled freebies** lull the poor into a parasitic existence, depriving them of any initiative to find work, join the mainstream and contribute to national development.

The court has, in previous hearings in the case, made its anxiety plain

about parties, which form the government riding the wave created by their pre-poll promises of “free gifts”, **bleeding the State finances dry by actually trying to fulfil their “wild” promises of largesse using public money**.

Amicus curiae, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, had submitted that the court had to decide whether “giving freebies would be a corrupt practice under Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and become a ground for moving court in an election petition”.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, for the petitioner

side, had submitted that freebies ought to be considered as “expenditure defrayable by the Union or a State out of its revenues” under **Article 282**. Advocate Prashant Bhushan had said **legitimate freebies must not be classed with discriminatory gifts**.

Consistently, over the years, the court has been shifting away from its 2013 judgment in the *S. Subramaniam Balaji versus Tamil Nadu* case, which held that making promises in election manifestos did not amount to a “corrupt practice” under Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act.

‘Freebies’ different from investing in welfare for the marginalised, says SC

‘मुफ्त सुविधाएँ’ हाशिये के वर्गों के कल्याण में निवेश से अलग हैं, SC का कहना

- The **Supreme Court** on Wednesday drew a clear line between state functionaries splurging public money on irrational **freebies** and “**investing**” in welfare schemes for the **marginalised sections**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को सार्वजनिक धन को अविवेकपूर्ण **मुफ्त सुविधाओं** पर खर्च करने और **हाशिये के वर्गों** के लिए कल्याण योजनाओं में “**निवेश**” करने के बीच स्पष्ट अंतर बताया।
- “Distribution of state largesse to individuals at a large scale is different from investing state largesse in public welfare schemes. That distinction should be kept in mind,” **Chief Justice Surya Kant** observed orally.
“राज्य की संपदा को बड़े पैमाने पर व्यक्तियों में बाँटना और उसे सार्वजनिक कल्याण योजनाओं में निवेश करना अलग है। इस अंतर को ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिए,” **मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्य कांत** ने मौखिक टिप्पणी की।
- The **Supreme Court** asked why there was no “**dedicated diversion of revenue surplus for developmental purposes** which would further the constitutional ideal of **inclusivity** through free medical care and education for the poor and those not in the **creamy layer** of the society.”



The state has a commitment towards this end”.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पूछा कि “राजस्व अधिशेष को विकासात्मक उद्देश्यों के लिए समर्पित रूप से क्यों नहीं मोड़ा जाता जिससे गरीबों और समाज के क्रीमी लेयर में न आने वालों के लिए मुफ्त चिकित्सा और शिक्षा के माध्यम से समावेशिता के संवैधानिक आदर्श को आगे बढ़ाया जा सके। इस दिशा में राज्य की प्रतिबद्धता है।”

- The **Chief Justice** said launching welfare schemes was an obligation the state had to achieve under the **Directive Principles of State Policy** in the **Constitution**.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ शुरू करना संविधान के राज्य के नीति-निर्देशक सिद्धांतों के तहत राज्य का दायित्व है।
- The oral observations from the Bench, also comprising **Justice Joymalya Bagchi**, was in response to an oral mentioning made by advocate **Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay** for early listing of a batch of petitions seeking a judicial declaration that irrational freebies offered by political parties to lure voters during poll time should be considered a “**corrupt practice**”.
न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची सहित पीठ की ये मौखिक टिप्पणियाँ अधिवक्ता अश्विनी कुमार उपाध्याय द्वारा किए गए मौखिक उल्लेख के जवाब में थीं, जिसमें चुनाव के समय मतदाताओं को लुभाने के लिए राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा दी जाने वाली अविवेकपूर्ण मुफ्त सुविधाओं को “भ्रष्ट आचरण” घोषित करने की न्यायिक घोषणा की मांग की गई थी।
- Mr. Upadhyay said when the petition was filed, the nation was in debt of **₹1.5 lakh crore**, which had since increased to **₹2.5 lakh crore**. Every Indian was in debt, and yet the state continued to rain freebies before polls, he submitted.
श्री उपाध्याय ने कहा कि जब याचिका दायर की गई थी तब देश पर **₹1.5 लाख करोड़** का कर्ज था, जो बढ़कर **₹2.5 लाख करोड़** हो गया है। हर भारतीय कर्ज में है, फिर भी चुनावों से पहले राज्य मुफ्त सुविधाएँ बाँटता रहता है, उन्होंने कहा।
- “This is a very, very important matter,” **Chief Justice Kant** reacted, agreeing to list it early for hearing.
“यह एक बहुत, बहुत महत्वपूर्ण मामला है,” मुख्य न्यायाधीश कांत ने प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए इसे शीघ्र सुनवाई के लिए सूचीबद्ध करने पर सहमति जताई।

‘Parasitic existence’ ‘परजीवी अस्तित्व’

- In January last year, a top court Bench headed by Justice (now retired) **B.R. Gavai** had asked whether untrammelled freebies lull the poor into a **parasitic existence**, depriving them of any initiative to find work, join the mainstream and contribute to **national development**.
पिछले वर्ष जनवरी में, न्यायमूर्ति (अब सेवानिवृत्त) बी.आर. गवई की अध्यक्षता वाली शीर्ष अदालत की पीठ ने पूछा था कि क्या अनियंत्रित मुफ्त सुविधाएँ गरीबों को परजीवी अस्तित्व में ढकेल देती हैं, जिससे वे काम खोजने, मुख्यधारा में शामिल होने और राष्ट्रीय विकास में योगदान देने की पहल से वंचित हो जाते हैं।
- The court has, in previous hearings in the case, made its anxiety plain about parties, which form the government riding the wave created by their pre-poll promises of “**free gifts**”, bleeding the **State finances** dry by actually trying to fulfil their “**wild**” promises of largesse using public money.
अदालत ने इस मामले की पिछली सुनवाईयों में उन दलों को लेकर अपनी चिंता स्पष्ट की है, जो चुनाव-पूर्व “मुफ्त उपहारों” के वादों की लहर पर सरकार बनाते हैं और सार्वजनिक धन से अपने “बेतुके” वादों को पूरा करने की कोशिश में राज्य की वित्तीय स्थिति को कमजोर कर देते हैं।
- **Amicus curiae**, senior advocate **Vijay Hansaria**, had submitted that the court had to decide whether “giving freebies would be a corrupt practice under **Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951** and become a ground for moving court in an **election petition**”.
एमिकस क्यूरी, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता विजय हंसारिया ने कहा था कि अदालत को यह तय करना होगा कि “मुफ्त सुविधाएँ देना जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 123 के तहत भ्रष्ट आचरण होगा या नहीं और क्या यह चुनावी याचिका दायर करने का आधार बनेगा।”
- Senior advocate **Arvind Datar**, for the petitioner side, had submitted that freebies ought to be considered as “**expenditure defrayable by the Union or a State out of its revenues**” under **Article 282**. Advocate **Prashant Bhushan** had said legitimate freebies must not be classed with discriminatory gifts.
याचिकाकर्ता पक्ष की ओर से वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता अरविंद दातार ने कहा था कि मुफ्त सुविधाओं को अनुच्छेद 282



के तहत “संघ या राज्य द्वारा अपनी आय से वहन किए जाने योग्य व्यय” माना जाना चाहिए। अधिवक्ता प्रशांत भूषण ने कहा था कि वैध मुफ्त सुविधाओं को भेदभावपूर्ण उपहारों के साथ नहीं रखा जाना चाहिए।

- Consistently, over the years, the court has been shifting away from its **2013 judgment** in the **S. Subramaniam Balaji versus Tamil Nadu** case, which held that making promises in election manifestos did not amount to a “corrupt practice” under **Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act**.

लगातार, वर्षों से, अदालत अपने **2013 के फैसले एस. सुब्रमण्यम बालाजी बनाम तमिलनाडु** मामले से दूर होती जा रही है, जिसमें कहा गया था कि चुनावी घोषणापत्रों में वादे करना **जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम की धारा 123** के तहत “भ्रष्ट आचरण” नहीं है।



Jailed MP Amritpal seeks parole to attend Parliament

जेल में बंद सांसद अमृतपाल संसद में शामिल होने के लिए पैरोल चाहते हैं

Jailed MP Amritpal seeks parole to attend Parliament

GS II: Polity: Budget Session

Jailed Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh has moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking parole to attend the upcoming budget session of Parliament. The budget session will commence on January 28 and will continue till February 13 in the first phase. The second phase will take place from March 9 to April 2. Singh's plea is expected to be taken up by the High Court on Thursday, his counsel Imaan Singh Khara said on Wednesday. The MP is currently lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh jail under the National Security Act since April 2023. Singh had fought the 2024 Lok Sabha poll as an independent and won from the Khadoor Sahib seat in Punjab. PTI

- Jailed Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh has moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking parole to attend the upcoming budget session of Parliament.

जेल में बंद खडूर साहिब सांसद अमृतपाल सिंह ने आगामी संसद के बजट सत्र में शामिल होने के लिए पैरोल की मांग करते हुए पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय का रुख किया है।

- The budget session will commence on **January 28** and will continue till **February 13** in the first phase. बजट सत्र 28 जनवरी से शुरू होगा और पहले चरण में 13 फरवरी तक चलेगा।

- The second phase will take place from **March 9 to April 2**.

दूसरा चरण 9 मार्च से 2 अप्रैल तक होगा।

- Singh's plea is expected to be taken up by the High Court on Thursday, his counsel Imaan Singh Khara

said on Wednesday.

सिंह की याचिका पर उच्च न्यायालय में गुरुवार को सुनवाई होने की उम्मीद है, उनके वकील इमान सिंह खरा ने बुधवार को कहा।

- The MP is currently lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh jail under the National Security Act since April 2023.

यह सांसद अप्रैल 2023 से राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम के तहत असम की डिब्रूगढ़ जेल में बंद है।

- Singh had fought the 2024 Lok Sabha poll as an independent and won from the Khadoor Sahib seat in Punjab.

सिंह ने 2024 लोकसभा चुनाव निर्दलीय के रूप में लड़ा था और पंजाब की खडूर साहिब सीट से जीत हासिल की थी।



GS II: Polity

Meaningless formality

The conduct of Governors has undermined their constitutional role

The actions of Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi and his Kerala counterpart Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar during their customary Legislative Assembly addresses on January 20 came as no surprise to those who have followed the conduct of Governors in non BJP-ruled States. In Chennai, Mr. Ravi declined to read the speech, which, his office said, had “unsubstantiated claims and misleading statements” to justify his walk out. In the past three years, the Governor has either digressed from the prepared speech or refused to read it out before walking out. In Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan corrected the policy address made by the Governor, who, according to Mr. Vijayan, had skipped portions, as cleared by the Cabinet, and made additions. As long-serving Governors, Mr. Ravi and Mr. Arlekar should be aware that it is a time-honoured constitutional convention for a Governor to read out the exact text of the speech or special address which informs the State of the policies of an elected government. There has never been an incident of the British monarch departing from the official speech; and the Indian system is based on the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy. Yet, they have chosen to violate the convention even though they have no option but to function as “mouthpieces”, to quote former President R. Venkataraman, of the State governments. Mr. Ravi’s penchant is to court controversies but Mr. Arlekar did not repeat what he did last year, when he stuck to the script, striking an officially punctilious tone.

Apparently tired of Mr. Ravi’s repeated violations of the convention, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has favoured a constitutional amendment to do away with the practice of commencing the first Assembly session of the year with the Governor’s address. Articles 87 and 176 of the Constitution require the President and Governors to make special addresses to Parliament and State legislatures, in the new year. About 35 years ago, President Venkataraman had repeatedly recommended to Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Chandra Shekhar that the practice be deleted through an amendment as he called it a “British anachronism” and a “meaningless formality”. This suggestion should be viewed in line with the thinking of the regime at the Centre, which seems to have taken upon itself the task of repealing “outdated colonial laws”. The language of the two Articles was borrowed from the rules of the House of Commons. Nothing would be lost if the Articles are scrapped, as the President and the Governors still retain their right to address the legislature under Articles 86 and 175. Importantly, Governors should not assume powers and functions that are not envisaged under the Constitution and should set an example of respecting the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

Meaningless formality अर्थहीन औपचारिकता

Articles 87 and 176 of the Constitution require the President and Governors to make special addresses to Parliament and State legislatures in the new year.

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 87 और 176 के तहत राष्ट्रपति और राज्यपालों को नए वर्ष में संसद और राज्य विधानसभाओं में विशेष अभिभाषण देना होता है।

About 35 years ago, President Venkataraman had repeatedly recommended to Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Chandra Shekhar that the practice be deleted through an amendment.

लगभग 35 वर्ष पहले, राष्ट्रपति वेंकटरमण ने प्रधानमंत्री राजीव गांधी और चंद्रशेखर को बार-बार सुझाव दिया था कि इस परंपरा को संशोधन के माध्यम से हटाया जाए।

He called it a “British anachronism” and a “meaningless formality”.

उन्होंने इसे “ब्रिटिश अवशेष” और “अर्थहीन औपचारिकता” कहा था।

This suggestion should be viewed in line with the thinking of the regime at the Centre, which seeks to repeal “outdated colonial laws”.

इस सुझाव को केंद्र की सरकार की उस सोच के अनुरूप देखा जाना चाहिए, जो “पुराने औपनिवेशिक कानूनों” को हटाने की बात करती है।

The language of the two Articles was borrowed from the rules of the House of Commons.

इन दोनों अनुच्छेदों की भाषा हाउस ऑफ कॉमन्स के नियमों से ली गई है।

Nothing would be lost if the Articles are scrapped, as the President and Governors still retain their right to address the legislature under Articles 86 and 175.

यदि इन अनुच्छेदों को हटाया भी जाए, तो कोई क्षति नहीं होगी, क्योंकि अनुच्छेद 86 और 175 के तहत राष्ट्रपति और राज्यपालों के पास अभी भी सदन को संबोधित करने का अधिकार रहेगा।

Importantly, Governors should not assume powers and functions not envisaged under the Constitution.

महत्वपूर्ण है कि राज्यपाल वे शक्तियाँ और कार्य न अपनाएँ, जो संविधान में परिकल्पित नहीं हैं।

They should set an example of respecting the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

उन्हें संविधान की शब्दशः और मूल भावना का सम्मान करने का उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करना चाहिए।



Judicial removal — tough law with a loophole

SS II Polity

MOB

There has been much attention on 107 Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha (the INDIA bloc) having given notice of an impeachment motion in December 2025, seeking the removal of Justice G.R. Swaminathan, Judge of the Madras High Court. The motion had 13 charges against the judge which included one that the judge has been acting against secular constitutional principles and favouring lawyers of a particular community. The notice of the motion was submitted to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Om Birla, on December 9.

The terms and conditions

Impeachment of a judge of the Supreme Court of India is provided for in Articles 124(4) and 124(5) of the Constitution and that of a High Court judge in Articles 217(1)(b) and 218. The term 'impeachment' is not used in the Constitution which instead uses the term 'removal' in the case of judges. The term 'impeachment' is used only in the context of the removal of the President of India from office (Article 61). The procedure laid down in Article 124 for the removal of a Supreme Court judge applies to a High Court judge as well.

Article 124(5) provides that Parliament may make law to regulate the procedure for the investigation of the charges against the judge. Accordingly, Parliament enacted the Judges (Inquiry) Act in 1968 which, together with the Judges Inquiry Rules, deals with the entire procedure for the impeachment of judges.

A judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court can be removed from office on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Misbehaviour has not been specifically defined in the Constitution. But the Court has in a number of judgments explained this term as conduct which brings dishonour to the judiciary, wilful misconduct, corruption, lack of integrity, offence involving moral turpitude, and wilful abuse of judicial office.

There have been very lofty pronouncements by the top court on the ideal conduct of judges. In *K. Veeraswami vs Union Of India And Others* (1991), the Court said that "... the society's demand for honesty in a judge is exacting and absolute. The standards of judicial behaviour both on and off the bench are normally extremely high. For a judge to deviate from such standards of honesty and impartiality is to betray the trust reposed on him. No excuse or no legal relativity can Condon such betrayal."

On the meaning of proven misbehaviour, the Court in *M. Krishna Swami vs Union Of India and Ors.* (1992) says "every act or conduct or even error of judgments or negligent acts by higher judiciary per se does not amount to misbehaviour. Wilful abuse of judicial office, wilful misconduct in the office, corruption, lack



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is former Secretary
General, Lok Sabha

of integrity or any other offence involving moral turpitude would be misbehaviour. Misconduct implies actuation of some degree of *mens rea* by the doer."

Procedures of the motion

An analysis of Articles 124(4) and (5), the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 and Rules would reveal that lawmakers were extremely careful about protecting the independence of the judiciary. So, the law relating to the removal of a judge of the superior courts was made as tough as possible. The main provisions of Articles 124(4) and (5) are: 'an address to be passed by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of each House and by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting which shall be sent to the President seeking the removal of the judge who shall thereupon pass an order removing the judge from his office'. It also provides for the enactment of a law by Parliament for regulating the procedure relating to the investigation of charges against the judge and for the presentation of an address to the President seeking his removal.

This Act provides for a motion to be submitted to either the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or the Chairman (Rajya Sabha) signed by Members of either House. The Act requires not less than 100 Members of the Lok Sabha to sign the notice of motion if given to the Speaker and not less than 50 Members of the Rajya Sabha to sign the notice if given to the Chairman. The motion seeks to present an address to the President for the removal of the judge.

The Act in fact introduces a procedure under which the motion given notice is required to be admitted by the Speaker/Chairman in the first place. The Act further says that the Speaker/Chairman may even disallow the motion. Of course, he will consider materials available to him and may also consult such persons as he thinks fit before admitting or rejecting the motion. The most crucial thing about this procedure is that if the Speaker/Chairman refuses to admit the motion, no further action will be taken in the matter and the motion will lapse.

This procedure needs closer examination. The Act does not mention the conditions of admissibility of the motion, which is the case in respect of all motions and resolutions under the Rules of Procedure of the Houses of Parliament. It may be noted here that the Speaker/Chairman while admitting or disallowing the motion under this Act is not performing the duty as the Presiding Officer of the House. On the contrary, he acts as a statutory authority and thus performs a statutory Act. Still, the basic conditions of admissibility of the motion need to be spelt out. Otherwise, the action of disallowing the motion

may attract the charge of arbitrariness especially when the Speaker is performing a statutory act. It is another matter that since disallowing the motion is a statutory Act, as distinct from a legislative Act performed in the House, it can be challenged in court.

Where the law lies

As a matter of fact, the charges against a judge are thoroughly investigated by a committee appointed by the Speaker/Chairman consisting of a judge of the Supreme court, the Chief Justice of a High Court and a distinguished jurist. This action is taken after the motion is admitted by the Speaker/Chairman. This will be a detailed investigation done by very experienced judicial officers. So, what exactly will be the examination which the Speaker/Chairman will do at the first stage? It may be mentioned here that under the law, the preliminary examination by the Speaker/Chairman is of such crucial importance that if the notice of motion signed by as many as 100 or more Members of Parliament is disallowed without assigning any reasons, the whole exercise which is undertaken by Parliament for the impeachment of a judge under a constitutional provision becomes infructuous because the motion does not survive. This points to a serious flaw in the law. Article 124(5) does not refer to any specific motion which is required to be admitted or disallowed by the presiding officer of the House. It may be noted here that under Article 61, there is a provision for a resolution which is mandatorily to be moved. But this Article does not empower the Speaker/Chairman to refuse to admit it on any grounds.

In fact, Article 124(5) which empowers Parliament to make a law to "regulate the procedure for the presentation of an address" and for "investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge" does not leave any space for the Speaker/Chairman to refuse admission of the motion. Proof of misbehaviour is to be established through investigation which is to be done by the high-level committee appointed by the Speaker/Chairman.

So, obviously, there is no ground on which a motion signed by as many as 100 Members of Parliament (MP) can be rejected at the threshold. There is no reason to think that the MPs who move a motion for impeaching a judge will do so without being serious about it. But there is every reason to think that a motion for impeaching a judge is most likely to be disallowed at the threshold if the government does not want it. Thus, the operation of a serious constitutional provision for removing an unworthy judge can be thwarted by the whims of a government.

Therefore, the provision which gives the Speaker/Chairman an option to disallow the motion needs to be revisited.

The operation of a serious constitutional provision for removing an unworthy judge can still be thwarted

Judicial removal — tough law with a loophole

न्यायिक पद से हटाना — एक सख्त क़ानून, लेकिन एक खामी के साथ

- There has been much attention on **107 Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha (the INDIA bloc)** having given notice of an impeachment motion in **December 2025**, seeking the removal of **Justice G.R. Swaminathan**, Judge of the **Madras High Court**.

लोकसभा के 107 सांसदों (INDIA गठबंधन) द्वारा **दिसंबर 2025** में **महाभियोग प्रस्ताव** का नोटिस दिए जाने पर काफ़ी ध्यान केंद्रित हुआ है, जिसमें **मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति जी.आर. स्वामीनाथन** को हटाने की मांग की गई है।

- The motion had **13 charges** against the judge which included one that the judge has been acting against **secular constitutional principles** and favouring lawyers of a **particular community**.

इस प्रस्ताव में न्यायाधीश के विरुद्ध **13 आरोप** लगाए गए हैं, जिनमें यह भी शामिल है कि उन्होंने **धर्मनिरपेक्ष संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों** के विरुद्ध कार्य किया और **एक विशेष समुदाय** के वकीलों का पक्ष लिया।

- The notice of the motion was submitted to the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Om Birla**, on **December 9**.

इस प्रस्ताव का नोटिस **लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला** को **9 दिसंबर** को सौंपा गया था।



- **The terms and conditions**
शर्तें और प्रावधान
- Impeachment of a judge of the **Supreme Court of India** is provided for in **Articles 124(4) and 124(5) of the Constitution** and that of a **High Court judge** in **Articles 217(1)(b) and 218**. **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** के न्यायाधीश के हटाने का प्रावधान संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 124(4) और 124(5)** में तथा **उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश** के लिए **अनुच्छेद 217(1)(b) और 218** में किया गया है।
- The term **'impeachment'** is not used in the Constitution which instead uses the term **'removal'** in the case of judges.
संविधान में न्यायाधीशों के लिए **'महाभियोग'** शब्द का प्रयोग नहीं किया गया है, बल्कि इसके स्थान पर **'हटाना'** शब्द का उपयोग किया गया है।
- The term **'impeachment'** is used only in the context of the removal of the **President of India from office (Article 61)**.
'महाभियोग' शब्द का प्रयोग केवल **भारत के राष्ट्रपति** को पद से हटाने के संदर्भ में (**अनुच्छेद 61**) किया गया है।
- The procedure laid down in **Article 124** for the removal of a **Supreme Court judge** applies to a **High Court judge** as well.
अनुच्छेद 124 में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश को हटाने की जो प्रक्रिया बताई गई है, वही **उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश** पर भी लागू होती है।
- **Article 124(5)** provides that **Parliament may make law** to regulate the procedure for the investigation of the charges against the judge.
अनुच्छेद 124(5) के अनुसार, न्यायाधीश के विरुद्ध आरोपों की जांच की प्रक्रिया को विनियमित करने के लिए **संसद कानून बना सकती है**।
- Accordingly, Parliament enacted the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** which, together with the **Judges Inquiry Rules**, deals with the entire procedure for the impeachment of judges.
इसी के तहत संसद ने **न्यायाधीश (जांच) अधिनियम, 1968** बनाया, जो **न्यायाधीश जांच नियमों** के साथ मिलकर न्यायाधीशों को हटाने की पूरी प्रक्रिया को नियंत्रित करता है।
- A judge of the **Supreme Court or the High Court** can be removed from office on the ground of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय या उच्च न्यायालय के किसी न्यायाधीश को **सिद्ध दुर्व्यवहार या अक्षमता** के आधार पर पद से हटाया जा सकता है।
- **Misbehaviour** has not been specifically defined in the Constitution.
दुर्व्यवहार को संविधान में विशेष रूप से परिभाषित नहीं किया गया है।
- But the Court has in a number of judgments explained this term as conduct which brings **dishonour to the judiciary, wilful misconduct, corruption, lack of integrity, offence involving moral turpitude, and wilful abuse of judicial office**.
लेकिन न्यायालय ने कई निर्णयों में इसे **न्यायपालिका की प्रतिष्ठा को ठेस पहुँचाने वाला आचरण, जानबूझकर कदाचार, भ्रष्टाचार, ईमानदारी की कमी, नैतिक पतन से जुड़े अपराध, और न्यायिक पद का जानबूझकर दुरुपयोग** बताया है।
- There have been very **lofty pronouncements** by the top court on the **ideal conduct of judges**.
शीर्ष न्यायालय द्वारा **न्यायाधीशों के आदर्श आचरण** पर कई **उच्चस्तरीय टिप्पणियाँ** की गई हैं।
- In **K. Veeraswami vs Union Of India And Others (1991)**, the Court said that **"the society's demand for honesty in a judge is exacting and absolute"** and that deviation from such standards is a **betrayal of trust**.
K. Veeraswami बनाम भारत संघ (1991) में न्यायालय ने कहा कि **"न्यायाधीश से समाज की ईमानदारी की अपेक्षा कठोर और पूर्ण होती है"** और इन मानकों से विचलन **विश्वासघात** है।
- The Court further held that **no excuse or legal relativity can condone such betrayal**.
न्यायालय ने आगे कहा कि **कोई भी बहाना या कानूनी तर्क** ऐसे विश्वासघात को **माफ नहीं कर सकता**।
- On the meaning of **proven misbehaviour**, the Court in **M. Krishna Swami vs Union Of India and Ors. (1992)** stated that **every act or error of judgment** does not amount to misbehaviour.
सिद्ध दुर्व्यवहार के अर्थ पर **M. Krishna Swami बनाम भारत संघ (1992)** में न्यायालय ने कहा कि **हर कार्य या निर्णय की त्रुटि** अपने आप में **दुर्व्यवहार नहीं होती**।
- **Wilful abuse of judicial office, wilful misconduct, corruption, lack of integrity, or any offence involving moral turpitude** would constitute misbehaviour.



न्यायिक पद का जानबूझकर दुरुपयोग, जानबूझकर कदाचार, भ्रष्टाचार, ईमानदारी की कमी, या नैतिक पतन से जुड़ा कोई भी अपराध दुर्व्यवहार की श्रेणी में आएगा।

- **Misconduct implies actuation of some degree of mens rea by the doer.**
कदाचार का अर्थ है कि कर्ता द्वारा किसी न किसी स्तर पर आपराधिक मंशा (mens rea) का होना।

Procedures of the motion प्रस्ताव की प्रक्रिया

- An analysis of **Articles 124(4) and (5)**, the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** and **Rules** would reveal that lawmakers were extremely careful about protecting the **independence of the judiciary.**
अनुच्छेद 124(4) और (5), **न्यायाधीश (जांच) अधिनियम, 1968** और **नियमों** का विश्लेषण यह दर्शाता है कि विधायकों ने **न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता** की रक्षा को लेकर अत्यंत सावधानी बरती।
- So, the law relating to the **removal of a judge of the superior courts** was made as tough as possible.
इसलिए, **उच्च न्यायालयों के न्यायाधीश को हटाने** से संबंधित कानून को यथासंभव कठोर बनाया गया।
- The main provisions of **Articles 124(4) and (5)** are:
अनुच्छेद 124(4) और (5) के मुख्य प्रावधान इस प्रकार हैं:
- 'An address to be passed by **each House of Parliament** supported by a **majority of the total membership** of each House and by a **majority of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting**, which shall be sent to the **President** seeking the removal of the judge who shall thereupon pass an order removing the judge from his office'.
'**संसद के प्रत्येक सदन** द्वारा पारित एक अभिभाषण, जिसे उस सदन की **कुल सदस्य संख्या के बहुमत** तथा **उपस्थित और मतदान करने वाले सदस्यों के कम से कम दो-तिहाई बहुमत** का समर्थन प्राप्त हो, **राष्ट्रपति** को भेजा जाएगा, जिसके बाद राष्ट्रपति न्यायाधीश को पद से हटाने का आदेश पारित करेंगे।'
- It also provides for the **enactment of a law by Parliament** for regulating the procedure relating to the **investigation of charges** against the judge and for the **presentation of an address to the President** seeking his removal.
यह **संसद द्वारा कानून बनाए जाने** का भी प्रावधान करता है, जिससे न्यायाधीश के विरुद्ध **आरोपों की जांच** की प्रक्रिया तथा **राष्ट्रपति को हटाने हेतु अभिभाषण प्रस्तुत करने** की व्यवस्था विनियमित हो।
- This Act provides for a motion to be submitted to either the **Speaker (Lok Sabha)** or the **Chairman (Rajya Sabha)** signed by Members of either House.
यह अधिनियम किसी भी सदन के सदस्यों द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित प्रस्ताव को **लोकसभा अध्यक्ष** या **राज्यसभा के सभापति** को प्रस्तुत करने का प्रावधान करता है।
- The Act requires **not less than 100 Members of the Lok Sabha** to sign the notice of motion if given to the Speaker and **not less than 50 Members of the Rajya Sabha** to sign the notice if given to the Chairman.
यदि प्रस्ताव **लोकसभा अध्यक्ष** को दिया जाता है तो उस पर **कम से कम 100 लोकसभा सदस्यों** के हस्ताक्षर आवश्यक हैं और यदि **सभापति** को दिया जाता है तो **कम से कम 50 राज्यसभा सदस्यों** के हस्ताक्षर आवश्यक हैं।
- The motion seeks to present an **address to the President** for the **removal of the judge.**
यह प्रस्ताव **न्यायाधीश को हटाने** के लिए **राष्ट्रपति को अभिभाषण प्रस्तुत करने** का आग्रह करता है।
- The Act in fact introduces a procedure under which the motion given notice is required to be **admitted by the Speaker/Chairman** in the first place.
यह अधिनियम वास्तव में ऐसी प्रक्रिया स्थापित करता है जिसमें प्रस्ताव को सबसे पहले **अध्यक्ष या सभापति द्वारा स्वीकार** किया जाना आवश्यक है।
- The Act further says that the **Speaker/Chairman may even disallow the motion.**
अधिनियम यह भी कहता है कि **अध्यक्ष या सभापति प्रस्ताव को अस्वीकार भी कर सकते हैं।**
- Of course, he will consider **materials available** to him and may also **consult such persons as he thinks fit** before admitting or rejecting the motion.
स्वाभाविक है कि वे अपने पास उपलब्ध **सामग्री पर विचार** करेंगे और प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने से पहले **उचित व्यक्तियों से परामर्श** भी कर सकते हैं।
- The most crucial thing about this procedure is that if the **Speaker/Chairman refuses to admit the motion**, no further action will be taken in the matter and the **motion will lapse.**



इस प्रक्रिया की सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यदि **अध्यक्ष या सभापति प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करने से इनकार कर देते हैं**, तो इस मामले में कोई आगे की कार्रवाई नहीं होगी और प्रस्ताव समाप्त हो जाएगा।

- This procedure needs **closer examination**.
इस प्रक्रिया का **और गहराई से परीक्षण** किया जाना आवश्यक है।
- The Act does not mention the **conditions of admissibility of the motion**, which is the case in respect of all motions and resolutions under the **Rules of Procedure of the Houses of Parliament**.
यह अधिनियम **प्रस्ताव की स्वीकार्यता की शर्तों** का उल्लेख नहीं करता, जबकि संसद के सदनों की **कार्यप्रणाली के नियमों** के अंतर्गत अन्य सभी प्रस्तावों और संकल्पों के लिए ऐसी शर्तें निर्धारित होती हैं।
- It may be noted here that the **Speaker/Chairman**, while admitting or disallowing the motion under this Act, is **not performing the duty as the Presiding Officer of the House**.
यहाँ यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि **अध्यक्ष या सभापति**, इस अधिनियम के अंतर्गत प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करते समय, **सदन के पीठासीन अधिकारी** के रूप में कार्य नहीं कर रहे होते।
- On the contrary, he acts as a **statutory authority** and thus performs a **statutory act**.
इसके विपरीत, वे **वैधानिक प्राधिकारी** के रूप में कार्य करते हैं और इस प्रकार एक **वैधानिक कार्य** का निर्वहन करते हैं।
- Still, the **basic conditions of admissibility** of the motion need to be **spelt out**.
फिर भी, प्रस्ताव की **मूल स्वीकार्यता शर्तों** को **स्पष्ट रूप से निर्धारित** किया जाना आवश्यक है।
- Otherwise, the action of **disallowing the motion may attract the charge of arbitrariness**, especially when the Speaker is performing a **statutory act**.
अन्यथा, विशेषकर जब अध्यक्ष **वैधानिक कार्य** कर रहे हों, तो प्रस्ताव को **अस्वीकार करने की कार्रवाई पर मनमानी का आरोप** लग सकता है।
- It is another matter that since disallowing the motion is a **statutory act**, as distinct from a **legislative act** performed in the House, it **can be challenged in court**.
यह अलग बात है कि चूंकि प्रस्ताव को अस्वीकार करना एक **वैधानिक कार्य** है, न कि सदन में किया गया **विधायी कार्य**, इसलिए इसे **न्यायालय में चुनौती दी जा सकती है**।

Where the flaw lies कानून में खामी कहाँ है

- As a matter of fact, the **charges against a judge** are thoroughly investigated by a **committee** appointed by the **Speaker/Chairman** consisting of a **judge of the Supreme Court**, the **Chief Justice of a High Court** and a **distinguished jurist**.
वास्तव में, किसी **न्यायाधीश के विरुद्ध आरोपों** की पूरी तरह से जाँच **स्पीकर/चेयरमैन** द्वारा नियुक्त एक **समिति** द्वारा की जाती है, जिसमें **सुप्रीम कोर्ट का एक न्यायाधीश**, किसी उच्च न्यायालय के **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** और एक **प्रतिष्ठित विधिवेत्ता** शामिल होते हैं।
- This action is taken after the **motion is admitted** by the **Speaker/Chairman**.
यह कार्रवाई **स्पीकर/चेयरमैन** द्वारा प्रस्ताव के स्वीकार किए जाने के बाद की जाती है।
- This will be a **detailed investigation** done by very experienced **judicial officers**.
यह एक **विस्तृत जाँच** होगी जो अत्यंत अनुभवी **न्यायिक अधिकारियों** द्वारा की जाएगी।
- So, what exactly will be the **examination** which the **Speaker/Chairman** will do at the **first stage**?
तो फिर **प्रथम चरण** में **स्पीकर/चेयरमैन** द्वारा की जाने वाली **जाँच** वास्तव में क्या होगी?
- It may be mentioned here that under the **law**, the **preliminary examination** by the **Speaker/Chairman** is of such **crucial importance** that if the **notice of motion** signed by as many as **100 or more Members of Parliament** is **disallowed without assigning any reasons**, the whole exercise which is undertaken by **Parliament** for the **impeachment of a judge** under a **constitutional provision** becomes **infructuous** because the **motion does not survive**.
यहाँ यह उल्लेख किया जा सकता है कि **कानून** के अंतर्गत **स्पीकर/चेयरमैन** द्वारा की जाने वाली **प्रारंभिक जाँच** इतनी **महत्वपूर्ण** है कि यदि **100 या अधिक सांसदों** द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित प्रस्ताव **सूचना** को **बिना कोई कारण बताए अस्वीकार** कर दिया जाता है, तो **संवैधानिक प्रावधान** के तहत **न्यायाधीश के महाभियोग** के लिए **संसद** द्वारा किया गया पूरा प्रयास **निष्फल** हो जाता है क्योंकि **प्रस्ताव अस्तित्व में नहीं रहता**।
- This points to a **serious flaw in the law**.
यह **कानून में एक गंभीर खामी** की ओर संकेत करता है।



- **Article 124(5)** does not refer to any **specific motion** which is required to be **admitted or disallowed** by the **presiding officer of the House**.
अनुच्छेद 124(5) किसी ऐसे विशिष्ट प्रस्ताव का उल्लेख नहीं करता जिसे सदन के पीठासीन अधिकारी द्वारा स्वीकृत या अस्वीकृत किया जाना आवश्यक हो।
- It may be noted here that under **Article 61**, there is a provision for a **resolution** which is **mandatorily to be moved**.
यहाँ यह ध्यान दिया जा सकता है कि **अनुच्छेद 61** के अंतर्गत एक प्रस्ताव का प्रावधान है जिसे **अनिवार्य रूप से प्रस्तुत** किया जाना होता है।
- But this **Article** does not empower the **Speaker/Chairman** to **refuse to admit it on any grounds**.
लेकिन यह **अनुच्छेद** स्पीकर/चेयरमैन को किसी भी आधार पर इसे अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार नहीं देता।
- In fact, **Article 124(5)** which empowers **Parliament** to make a **law to regulate the procedure for the presentation of an address** and for **investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge** does not leave any **space** for the **Speaker/Chairman** to **refuse admission of the motion**.
वास्तव में, **अनुच्छेद 124(5)** जो संसद को पते के प्रस्तुतीकरण की प्रक्रिया तथा न्यायाधीश के दुराचार या अक्षमता की जाँच और प्रमाण के लिए कानून बनाने का अधिकार देता है, स्पीकर/चेयरमैन को प्रस्ताव की स्वीकृति से इंकार करने के लिए कोई गुंजाइश नहीं छोड़ता।
- **Proof of misbehaviour** is to be established through **investigation** which is to be done by the **high-level committee** appointed by the **Speaker/Chairman**.
दुराचार का प्रमाण जाँच के माध्यम से स्थापित किया जाना है, जो स्पीकर/चेयरमैन द्वारा नियुक्त उच्चस्तरीय समिति द्वारा की जानी है।
- So, obviously, there is **no ground** on which a **motion signed by as many as 100 Members of Parliament (MP)** can be **rejected at the threshold**.
इसलिए, स्पष्ट रूप से ऐसा कोई आधार नहीं है जिसके तहत **100 सांसदों (MP)** द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित प्रस्ताव को प्रारंभिक स्तर पर अस्वीकार किया जा सके।
- There is **no reason to think** that the **MPs** who move a **motion for impeaching a judge** will do so **without being serious** about it.
यह मानने का कोई कारण नहीं है कि **न्यायाधीश के महाभियोग** के लिए प्रस्ताव लाने वाले सांसद इसे गंभीरता के बिना करेंगे।
- But there is **every reason to think** that a **motion for impeaching a judge** is most likely to be **disallowed at the threshold** if the **government does not want it**.
लेकिन यह मानने के पूरा कारण है कि यदि सरकार नहीं चाहती, तो **न्यायाधीश के महाभियोग** का प्रस्ताव प्रारंभिक स्तर पर ही अस्वीकृत हो सकता है।
- Thus, the operation of a **serious constitutional provision** for **removing an unworthy judge** can be **thwarted by the whims of a government**.
इस प्रकार, **अयोग्य न्यायाधीश को हटाने** हेतु बनाए गए गंभीर संवैधानिक प्रावधान का संचालन सरकार की इच्छा से अवरोधित किया जा सकता है।
- Therefore, the **provision** which gives the **Speaker/Chairman** an **option to disallow the motion** needs to be **revisited**.
अतः वह प्रावधान जो स्पीकर/चेयरमैन को प्रस्ताव अस्वीकार करने का विकल्प देता है, उसे पुनः विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।



A fight over figures: the constitutional debate over numerals

A forgotten but fiery debate in the Constituent Assembly once pitted cultural pride against pragmatic modernity over something as simple as numerals. This controversy reminds us how even digits became symbols of identity and plurality

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Faisal C.K.

December 22 of every year is celebrated as National Mathematics Day to honour the genius of Srinivasa Ramanujan. Upholding the same spirit a month later, it is worth revisiting a remarkable constitutional episode involving numerals.

One of the most passionate debates in the Constituent Assembly was not just about fundamental rights or federalism, but about the choice of numerals – Devanagari (१, २, ३) or international numerals (1, 2, 3). Two blocs emerged: the traditionalists who championed Devanagari, and the moderates who favoured international numerals. For the Hindi traditionalist group, numerals were cultural artefacts that affirmed India's civilisational identity. In that pursuit, they were willing to overlook national unity for linguistic uniformity. As Granville Austin writes in *The Constitution of India: Cornerstone of a Nation*, “The

Hindi-wallahs were ready to risk splitting the Assembly and the country in their unreasoning pursuit of uniformity. They thus denied the Assembly's belief in the concept of accommodation and in decision making by consensus. Assembly members preferred to take decisions by consensus or by as near to unanimity as possible. Not only was this method deeply embedded in the Indian tradition, it was manifestly the most practical way to frame the Constitution. A system of government would not work effectively, Assembly members knew, if large segments of population were opposed to it. Every attempt had to be made, therefore, to achieve the broadest possible agreement. The Hindi-wallahs, however, announced that they would impose Hindi on the country, if they had one-vote majority. To prevent this, the moderates went to great lengths to find a compromise.” That is, Hindi chauvinism was not confined to language and script but extended to numerals as well. The

traditionalists demanded Devanagari numerals and categorically rejected “Arabic” or “International” numerals. The dispute persisted throughout the framing of the Constitution.

The Hindu, in an editorial dated August 23, 1949, even suggested that after the inauguration of the Constitution, a language commission should be established to examine the choice of numerals, among other issues.

Pride versus pragmatism

On August 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly spent a tense and acrimonious three hours debating numerals, with Pattabhi Sitaramaya in the chair. When the issue was put to vote, the initial show of hands exposed a sharp polarisation – 63 members favoured international numerals and 54 supported Devanagari numerals. A revision was demanded, and the result was a dramatic 74-74 tie. At Sitaramaya's and Nehru's urging, the House concluded that Devanagari numerals could not be imposed on the republic by such a slender margin.

For days thereafter, the Hindi group, led by Purushottamdas Tandon, continued to resist international numerals. Their adamancy drove many Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali and even Bihar members away from the Hindi camp and into the ranks of the moderates. South Indian members were already firmly in favour of international numerals. Seth Govind Das, leading the traditionalists, thundered: “If we cannot even adopt our own numerals, what self-respect can this country claim? Countries which forget their culture lose everything.” For them, rejecting Devanagari numerals meant rejecting India's soul. But others viewed the proposal as exclusionary and impractical. Frank Anthony, speaking for minorities and linguistic pluralists, warned: “To impose Devanagari numerals is to impose a culture on those who do not share it. This will not unite; it will divide.” For many from the South and minority communities, the debate

symbolised a deeper anxiety – that a cultural majority might emboss its identity onto the Republic through symbolic dominance.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of India's scientific imagination, urged restraint and reason. He emphasised that science, commerce and international exchange depended on international numerals. Imposing Devanagari numerals, he argued, would burden a young nation with unnecessary complications. International numerals were already the backbone of modern administration – banking, education, telegraphy, engineering and trade. Replacing them would have disrupted governance and isolated India from global scientific practice.

The inclusive compromise

After months of tense negotiation, the Munshi-Ayyangar compromise resolved the impasse with constitutional wisdom. Article 343, reflecting this compromise, adopted the “international form of Indian numerals” (0-9). The Constitution gave the President only transitional and administrative powers in this domain. Under Article 343(2), the President could issue orders during the initial 15-year period (1950-1965) authorising the use of Hindi alongside English and prescribing related procedural arrangements, which implicitly covered allied matters such as numerals. However, the President had no independent authority to alter or prescribe the official numeral system. Article 343(3) vested exclusive power in Parliament to legislate, after the transition period, on whether the Union should use English or the Devanagari form of numerals for specified purposes. As Parliament never enacted such a law, international numerals continued by constitutional design. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, remarked of the compromise that “we have done the wisest possible thing.”

Article 343(1) uses the curious

expression “the international form of Indian numerals.” The phrase captures a long civilisational journey. The numerals used today – 1, 2, 3 – originated in India's place-value decimal system, travelled to West Asia, and eventually reached Europe. Their visual forms became international, but their intellectual roots remained Indian. By adopting them, the Constituent Assembly acknowledged India's mathematical heritage, embraced scientific universalism and ensured administrative efficiency – a decision shaped by both cultural pride and pragmatic foresight.

Unity in diversity

The numerals debate may seem quaint today, but its message is strikingly contemporary. In an era where cultural symbols are frequently deployed to assert majoritarian dominance, the Munshi-Ayyangar formula stands as a constitutional reminder that India's unity cannot be built on uniformity. It affirms that nation-building requires accommodation, not homogenisation; pluralism, not cultural conquest. By balancing Hindi in Devanagari script with the adoption of international numerals, the framers sent a quiet but profound signal: India's identity would be inclusive, layered and capacious – never the monopoly of a single culture, language or community. In the film *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, Professor Hardy tells Ramanujan, “We are merely explorers of infinity in the pursuit of absolute perfection.” So too were our Constitution-makers – explorers navigating the infinite diversity of India. Their choice of numerals reminds us that even the smallest symbols can carry the largest constitutional truths: that India thrives not when one identity triumphs, but when all identities find room to belong.

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A fight over figures: the constitutional debate over numerals

अंकों पर टकराव: अंकों को लेकर संवैधानिक बहस

National Mathematics Day and a constitutional debate on numerals

राष्ट्रीय गणित दिवस और अंकों पर संवैधानिक बहस

- December 22 of every year is celebrated as **National Mathematics Day** to honour the genius of **Srinivasa Ramanujan**. हर वर्ष 22 दिसंबर को राष्ट्रीय गणित दिवस मनाया जाता है, ताकि श्रीनिवास रामानुजन की प्रतिभा का सम्मान किया जा सके।
- Upholding the same spirit a month later, it is worth revisiting a **remarkable constitutional episode involving numerals**. इसी भावना को एक महीने बाद आगे बढ़ाते हुए, अंकों से जुड़ी एक उल्लेखनीय संवैधानिक घटना को फिर से देखना सार्थक है।



- One of the most passionate debates in the **Constituent Assembly** was not just about **fundamental rights** or **federalism**, but about the **choice of numerals — Devanagari or international numerals (1, 2, 3)**.
संविधान सभा की सबसे भावनात्मक बहसों में से एक केवल **मौलिक अधिकारों** या **संघवाद** पर नहीं थी, बल्कि **अंकों के चयन — देवनागरी या अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंक (1, 2, 3)** पर भी थी।
- **Two blocs emerged, the traditionalists who championed Devanagari, and the moderates who favoured international numerals.**
दो गुट उभरे, एक **परंपरावादी**, जो **देवनागरी** का समर्थन करते थे, और दूसरे **मध्यमार्गी**, जो **अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंकों** के पक्षधर थे।
- For the **Hindi traditionalist group**, numerals were **cultural artefacts** that affirmed India's **civilisational identity**.
हिंदी परंपरावादी समूह के लिए अंक **सांस्कृतिक प्रतीक** थे, जो **भारत की सभ्यतागत पहचान** को पुष्ट करते थे।
- In that pursuit, they were willing to **overlook national unity for linguistic uniformity**.
इस प्रयास में वे **भाषायी एकरूपता** के लिए **राष्ट्रीय एकता** को नज़रअंदाज़ करने को भी तैयार थे।
- **As Granville Austin writes in The Constitution of India: Cornerstone of a Nation, the Hindi-wallahs were ready to risk splitting the Assembly and the country in their pursuit of uniformity.**
जैसा कि **ग्रैनविल ऑस्टिन** ने **The Constitution of India: Cornerstone of a Nation** में लिखा है, **हिंदी समर्थक एकरूपता की चाह में सभा और देश को विभाजित करने का जोखिम उठाने को तैयार थे।**
- Thus, **Hindi chauvinism** extended beyond language and script to **numerals** as well.
इस प्रकार **हिंदी संकीर्णता** केवल भाषा और लिपि तक सीमित नहीं रही, बल्कि **अंकों** तक भी फैल गई।
- The **traditionalists demanded Devanagari numerals and rejected "Arabic" or "International" numerals.**
परंपरावादियों ने **देवनागरी अंकों** की मांग की और **"अरबी" या "अंतरराष्ट्रीय" अंकों** को पूरी तरह खारिज कर दिया।
- The dispute persisted throughout the **framing of the Constitution**.
यह विवाद **संविधान निर्माण की पूरी प्रक्रिया** के दौरान जारी रहा।
- **The Hindu**, in an editorial dated **August 23, 1949**, suggested that after the **inauguration of the Constitution, a language commission should examine the choice of numerals.**
23 अगस्त 1949 के एक संपादकीय में **द हिंदू** ने सुझाव दिया कि संविधान के लागू होने के बाद **भाषा आयोग** को अंकों के चयन की जांच करनी चाहिए।

Pride versus pragmatism गौरव बनाम व्यवहारिकता

- On **August 26, 1949**, the Constituent Assembly spent **three tense and acrimonious hours** debating numerals, with **Pattabhi Sitaramayya** in the chair.
26 अगस्त 1949 को, **पत्ताभि सीतारमैया** की अध्यक्षता में, संविधान सभा ने अंकों पर **तीन तनावपूर्ण और कटु घंटे** बहस की।
- The **initial vote showed 63 members in favour of international numerals and 54 supporting Devanagari numerals.**
प्रारंभिक मतदान में **63 सदस्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंकों** के पक्ष में और **54 सदस्य देवनागरी अंकों** के समर्थन में थे।
- **After a revision, the result was a dramatic 74–74 tie.**
पुनर्मतदान के बाद परिणाम **74–74 की बराबरी** पर आ गया।
- At the urging of **Sitaramayya and Nehru**, the House concluded that **Devanagari numerals could not be imposed** by such a slender margin.
सीतारमैया और नेहरू के आग्रह पर सदन ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि इतने **कम अंतर** से **देवनागरी अंक थोपे नहीं जा सकते।**
- For days, the **Hindi group led by Purushottamdas Tandon** resisted international numerals, driving many **Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali and Bihari members** towards the moderates.
कई दिनों तक **पुरुषोत्तमदास टंडन** के नेतृत्व में **हिंदी समूह** ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंकों का विरोध किया, जिससे अनेक **गुजराती, मराठी, बंगाली और बिहारी सदस्य** मध्यमार्गीयों की ओर चले गए।
- **South Indian members** were already firmly in favour of international numerals.
दक्षिण भारतीय सदस्य पहले से ही अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंकों के पक्ष में दृढ़ थे।



- **Seth Govind Das**, leading the traditionalists, argued that rejecting Devanagari numerals meant rejecting **India's self-respect and culture**.
परंपरावादियों के नेता **सेठ गोविंद दास** ने तर्क दिया कि देवनागरी अंकों को न अपनाना **भारत के आत्मसम्मान और संस्कृति** को ठुकराने के समान है।
- Others, including **Frank Anthony**, warned that imposing Devanagari numerals would **impose one culture and divide rather than unite the country**.
अन्य नेताओं, जिनमें **फ्रैंक एंथनी** शामिल थे, ने चेतावनी दी कि देवनागरी अंक थोपना **एक संस्कृति थोपने** जैसा होगा और यह देश को **एकजुट करने के बजाय विभाजित** करेगा।
- For many from the **South and minority communities**, the debate symbolised a deeper fear of **cultural dominance** in the Republic.
दक्षिण और अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों के कई सदस्यों के लिए यह बहस गणराज्य में **सांस्कृतिक प्रभुत्व** के गहरे भय का प्रतीक थी।

Jawaharlal Nehru and the question of numerals जवाहरलाल नेहरू और अंकों का प्रश्न

- Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of India's **scientific imagination**, urged **restraint and reason**.
भारत की **वैज्ञानिक कल्पना** के शिल्पकार **जवाहरलाल नेहरू** ने **संयम और तर्क** पर बल दिया।
- He emphasised that **science, commerce and international exchange depended on international numerals**.
उन्होंने जोर दिया कि **विज्ञान, वाणिज्य और अंतरराष्ट्रीय आदान-प्रदान अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंकों** पर निर्भर करते हैं।
- Imposing **Devanagari numerals**, he argued, would burden a **young nation** with **unnecessary complications**.
उनका तर्क था कि **देवनागरी अंकों** को थोपना एक **नवोदित राष्ट्र** पर **अनावश्यक जटिलताओं** का बोझ डालेगा।
- **International numerals** were already the backbone of **modern administration** such as **banking, education, telegraphy, engineering and trade**.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंक पहले से ही **आधुनिक प्रशासन** जैसे बैंकिंग, शिक्षा, तार व्यवस्था, इंजीनियरिंग और **व्यापार** की रीढ़ थे।
- Replacing them would have **disrupted governance** and **isolated India** from **global scientific practice**.
उन्हें बदलने से **शासन व्यवस्था बाधित** होती और भारत **वैश्विक वैज्ञानिक परंपरा** से **अलग-थलग** पड़ जाता।

The inclusive compromise समावेशी समझौता

- After months of **tense negotiation**, the **Munshi-Ayyangar compromise** resolved the impasse with **constitutional wisdom**.
कई महीनों की **तनावपूर्ण बातचीत** के बाद **मुंशी-अयंगर समझौते** ने **संवैधानिक विवेक** के साथ गतिरोध सुलझाया।
- **Article 343**, reflecting this compromise, adopted the **"international form of Indian numerals" (0-9)**.
इस समझौते को दर्शाते हुए **अनुच्छेद 343** ने **"भारतीय अंकों के अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूप" (0-9)** को अपनाया।
- The Constitution gave the **President** only **transitional and administrative powers** in this domain.
संविधान ने इस क्षेत्र में **राष्ट्रपति** को केवल **संक्रमणकालीन और प्रशासनिक शक्तियाँ** प्रदान कीं।
- **Under Article 343(2)**, the **President could issue orders during the initial 15-year period (1950-1965)** authorising the use of **Hindi alongside English** and related procedures, implicitly covering matters such as **numerals**.
अनुच्छेद 343(2) के तहत **प्रारंभिक 15 वर्ष (1950-1965)** की अवधि में राष्ट्रपति **अंग्रेज़ी के साथ हिंदी** के उपयोग और संबंधित प्रक्रियाओं पर आदेश दे सकते थे, जिसमें परोक्ष रूप से **अंकों** जैसे विषय शामिल थे।
- However, the President had **no independent authority** to alter or prescribe the **official numeral system**.
हालाँकि, राष्ट्रपति को **आधिकारिक अंक प्रणाली** बदलने या निर्धारित करने का **स्वतंत्र अधिकार** नहीं था।



- **Article 343(3)** vested **exclusive power in Parliament** to legislate, after the transition period, on whether the Union should use **English or the Devanagari form of numerals** for specified purposes.

अनुच्छेद 343(3) ने संक्रमण काल के बाद संसद को यह तय करने की विशेष शक्ति दी कि संघ अंग्रेज़ी या देवनागरी अंकों का उपयोग करेगा या नहीं।

- As **Parliament never enacted such a law**, international numerals continued by constitutional design.
चूँकि संसद ने ऐसा कोई कानून नहीं बनाया, इसलिए संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के अनुसार अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंक ही चलते रहे।
- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, remarked that “**we have done the wisest possible thing.**”
संविधान सभा के अध्यक्ष डॉ. राजेंद्र प्रसाद ने कहा कि “हमने सबसे बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण कार्य किया है।”

The meaning of “international form of Indian numerals” “भारतीय अंकों के अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूप” का अर्थ

- **Article 343(1)** uses the expression “**the international form of Indian numerals.**”
अनुच्छेद 343(1) में “भारतीय अंकों का अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूप” शब्दावली का प्रयोग किया गया है।
- The numerals **1, 2, 3** originated in India’s **place-value decimal system**, travelled to **West Asia**, and later reached **Europe**.
1, 2, 3 जैसे अंक भारत की स्थान-मूल्य दशमलव प्रणाली से उत्पन्न हुए, पश्चिम एशिया गए और फिर यूरोप पहुँचे।
- Their **visual forms** became international, but their **intellectual roots** remained **Indian**.
उनका दृश्य रूप अंतरराष्ट्रीय बन गया, पर उनकी बौद्धिक जड़ें भारतीय ही रहीं।
- By adopting them, the Constituent Assembly acknowledged **India’s mathematical heritage**, embraced **scientific universalism**, and ensured **administrative efficiency**.
उन्होंने अपनाकर संविधान सभा ने भारत की गणितीय विरासत को स्वीकार किया, वैज्ञानिक सार्वभौमिकता को अपनाया और प्रशासनिक दक्षता सुनिश्चित की।

Unity in diversity विविधता में एकता

- The numerals debate may seem **quaint today**, but its message is **deeply contemporary**.
अंकों पर हुई बहस आज पुरानी लग सकती है, लेकिन उसका संदेश आज भी प्रासंगिक है।
- The **Munshi–Ayyangar formula** reminds us that **India’s unity cannot be built on uniformity**.
मुंशी-अयंगर सूत्र यह याद दिलाता है कि भारत की एकता एकरूपता पर आधारित नहीं हो सकती।
- Nation-building requires **accommodation, not homogenisation, pluralism, not cultural conquest**.
राष्ट्र निर्माण के लिए समायोजन चाहिए, एकरूपता नहीं, और बहुलवाद चाहिए, सांस्कृतिक वर्चस्व नहीं।
- By balancing **Hindi in Devanagari script** with **international numerals**, the framers signalled that India’s identity would be **inclusive, layered and capacious**.
देवनागरी लिपि में हिंदी और अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंकों के संतुलन से संविधान निर्माताओं ने संकेत दिया कि भारत की पहचान समावेशी, बहुस्तरीय और व्यापक होगी।
- It would never be the monopoly of a **single culture, language or community**.
यह कभी भी किसी एक संस्कृति, भाषा या समुदाय की बपौती नहीं होगी।
- In the film **The Man Who Knew Infinity**, Professor Hardy tells Ramanujan that “**we are merely explorers of infinity.**”
फ़िल्म **The Man Who Knew Infinity** में प्रोफेसर हार्डी रामानुजन से कहते हैं कि “हम केवल अनंत के अन्वेषक हैं।”
- So too were our **Constitution-makers**, navigating the **infinite diversity of India**.
इसी तरह हमारे संविधान निर्माता भी भारत की अनंत विविधता में मार्ग खोज रहे थे।
- Their choice of numerals reminds us that **even the smallest symbols carry the largest constitutional truths**.
उनका अंकों का चयन हमें याद दिलाता है कि छोटे से प्रतीक भी बड़े संवैधानिक सत्य समेटे होते हैं।



- India thrives **not** when one identity triumphs, but when all identities find room to belong. भारत तब फलता-फूलता है जब एक पहचान विजयी न हो, बल्कि जब सभी पहचानों को स्थान मिले।

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- Should corruption charges need prior sanction?
क्या भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपों के लिए पूर्व स्वीकृति आवश्यक होनी चाहिए?

Should corruption charges need prior sanction

What does Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 mandate? Why was there a split verdict on deciding whether Section 17A was constitutionally valid? What do earlier rulings by the Supreme Court state? What are the systemic reforms needed to tackle corruption among public officials?

GS II: Governance

MOB

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (PCA, 1988) that requires prior approval from the appropriate government before investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant in discharge of official functions.

What is the PCA, 1988?

The Central government had constituted a committee on prevention of corruption under the chairmanship of K. Santhanam in 1962. The Santhanam committee submitted its report in 1964. It resulted in the strengthening of laws dealing with bribery and criminal misconduct. Finally, a comprehensive act was enacted to consolidate the law relating to prevention of corruption in the form of PCA, 1988.

The PCA, 1988 provides for punishment with respect to offences committed by public servants while performing public duties. 'Public servant' includes any government or local authority employee, any judge, any person who holds an office by virtue of which he is required to perform a public duty etc. 'Public duty' means a duty in the discharge of which the government, the public or the community at large has an interest. The type of offences punishable under the PCA, 1988 include bribery, undue advantage without consideration, criminal misconduct etc.

What is Section 17A?

Section 19 of the PCA, 1988 requires prior sanction from the appropriate government before prosecution of a public servant in a court of law. However, it was felt that there needs to be a distinction in dealing between intentional



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corruption and decisions taken in good-faith that could potentially go wrong. Officers become reluctant to take bold and timely decisions because of fear of wrongful prosecution. In order to address this issue, the Parliament inserted Section 17A through an amendment of the PCA in the year 2018.

This section requires prior approval from the appropriate government for initiating an inquiry or investigation into any alleged offence committed by a public servant which is related to any recommendation made or decision taken by a public servant in discharge of official function or duties.

What were earlier rulings?

In *Vineet Narain versus Union of India* (1998), the Supreme Court struck down an executive order, referred to as 'Single Directive', issued to the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI), that required prior sanction of the designated authority before initiating investigation against certain categories of public servants. Subsequently, in 2003, Parliament amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE Act), that governs the functioning of the CBI. Section 6A was added to this Act that required prior approval of the Central government to initiate any investigation against officers at the rank of Joint Secretary or above. This was also struck down by the SC in *Dr Subramaniam Swamy versus Director, CBI* (2014) as violative of Article 14 of the Constitution that guarantees equality before law.

What is the current split verdict?

The current verdict of a division Bench of the Supreme Court is on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the Centre for

Public Interest Litigation (CPII) against the Union of India. Justice K. V.

Viswanathan held that the requirement of obtaining prior approval before initiating investigation was necessary in order to protect honest officers from vexatious and frivolous complaints. His judgment cautioned that a 'play-it-safe syndrome' may set in the bureaucracy if such a protection was not available. However, he held that the constitutional validity of Section 17A would be sustained only if the approval is provided by an independent agency and not by the government itself. His order read Section 17A in conjunction with Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and held that the approval should be provided by the appropriate government based on a binding opinion given by Lokpal and Lokayuktas in respect of Central and State government employees respectively.

Justice B. V. Nagarathna on the other hand held that Section 17A was unconstitutional and tantamount to 'Old wine in new bottle' that was struck down in earlier cases by the court. She held that Article 14 requires intelligible differentia and rational nexus to the legislative object, and that Section 17A fails on both counts. She held that adequate protection for honest officers in the form of prior sanction from the government before prosecution by a court is already available under Section 19 of the PCA.

This matter will now be heard by a larger Bench for a conclusive decision. Meanwhile, there are two systemic reforms that are warranted. First, there must be swift disposal of cases and handing over punishments for guilty public servants that would act as a deterrent against corruption. Second, penalty may be imposed for false and malicious complaints. This would act as a deterrent against habitual and vexatious complaints.

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THE GIST

The PCA, 1988 provides for punishment with respect to offences committed by public servants while performing public duties.

Section 19 of the PCA, 1988 requires prior sanction from the appropriate government before prosecution of a public servant in a court of law.

In *Vineet Narain versus Union of India* (1998), the Supreme Court struck down an executive order, referred to as 'Single Directive', issued to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), that required prior sanction of the designated authority before initiating investigation against certain categories of public servants.

Should corruption charges need prior sanction? क्या भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपों के लिए पूर्व स्वीकृति आवश्यक होनी चाहिए?

Split verdict on Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1988 की धारा 17A पर विभाजित फैसला

- A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (PCA, 1988) that requires prior approval from the appropriate government before investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant in discharge of official functions.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट की दो-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1988 (PCA, 1988) की धारा 17A की संवैधानिक वैधता पर विभाजित फैसला दिया है, जिसमें किसी लोक सेवक द्वारा आधिकारिक



कार्यों के निर्वहन में किए गए कथित अपराध की जांच से पहले उपयुक्त सरकार की पूर्व स्वीकृति आवश्यक बताई गई है।

What is the PCA, 1988?

भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1988 क्या है

- The **Central government** had constituted a **committee on prevention of corruption** under the chairmanship of **K. Santhanam** in **1962**.
केंद्र सरकार ने 1962 में के. संधानम की अध्यक्षता में भ्रष्टाचार निवारण समिति का गठन किया था।
- The **Santhanam Committee** submitted its report in **1964**.
संधानम समिति ने 1964 में अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की।
- It resulted in the **strengthening of laws** dealing with **bribery and criminal misconduct**.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप रिश्वतखोरी और आपराधिक कदाचार से संबंधित कानूनों को सुदृढ़ किया गया।
- Finally, a **comprehensive Act** was enacted to consolidate the law relating to prevention of corruption in the form of **PCA, 1988**.
अंततः भ्रष्टाचार निवारण से संबंधित कानूनों को समेकित करने हेतु भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1988 के रूप में एक समग्र अधिनियम बनाया गया।
- The **PCA, 1988** provides for **punishment** with respect to offences committed by **public servants** while performing **public duties**.
PCA, 1988 में लोक सेवकों द्वारा सार्वजनिक कर्तव्यों के निर्वहन के दौरान किए गए अपराधों के लिए दंड का प्रावधान है।
- '**Public servant**' includes any **government or local authority employee**, any **Judge**, any person who holds an **office** by virtue of which he is required to perform a **public duty**, etc.
'लोक सेवक' में कोई भी सरकारी या स्थानीय प्राधिकरण का कर्मचारी, कोई भी न्यायाधीश, तथा ऐसा कोई भी व्यक्ति शामिल है जो किसी पद के कारण सार्वजनिक कर्तव्य निभाने के लिए बाध्य हो।
- '**Public duty**' means a duty in the discharge of which the **government, the public or the community at large** has an interest.
'सार्वजनिक कर्तव्य' वह कर्तव्य है जिसके निर्वहन में सरकार, जनता या व्यापक समुदाय की रुचि निहित हो।
- The type of offences punishable under the **PCA, 1988** include **bribery, undue advantage without consideration, criminal misconduct**, etc.
PCA, 1988 के अंतर्गत दंडनीय अपराधों में रिश्वत, बिना प्रतिफल अनुचित लाभ, आपराधिक कदाचार आदि शामिल हैं।

What is Section 17A?

धारा 17A क्या है

- **Section 19 of the PCA, 1988** requires **prior sanction** from the appropriate government before **prosecution of a public servant** in a court of law.
PCA, 1988 की धारा 19 के तहत किसी लोक सेवक के अभियोजन से पहले उपयुक्त सरकार की पूर्व स्वीकृति आवश्यक है।
- However, it was felt that there needs to be a **distinction** between **intentional corruption** and **good-faith decisions** that could potentially go wrong.
हालाँकि यह महसूस किया गया कि जानबूझकर किए गए भ्रष्टाचार और सद्भावना में लिए गए निर्णयों के बीच भेद होना चाहिए, जो गलत भी हो सकते हैं।
- Officers become **reluctant to take bold and timely decisions** because of fear of **wrongful prosecution**.
अधिकारी गलत अभियोजन के भय से साहसिक और समय पर निर्णय लेने से हिचकने लगते हैं।
- In order to address this issue, the **Parliament inserted Section 17A** through an **amendment** of the PCA in the year **2018**.
इस समस्या के समाधान हेतु संसद ने 2018 में संशोधन के माध्यम से धारा 17A जोड़ी।
- This section requires **prior approval** from the appropriate government for initiating an **inquiry or investigation** into any alleged offence committed by a public servant which is relatable to any **recommendation made or decision taken** by a public servant in discharge of **official function or duties**.



यह धारा किसी लोक सेवक द्वारा आधिकारिक कार्य या कर्तव्य के निर्वहन में की गई सिफारिश या निर्णय से संबंधित किसी कथित अपराध की जांच या अन्वेषण शुरू करने से पहले पूर्व स्वीकृति अनिवार्य करती है।

What were earlier rulings? पूर्व में क्या निर्णय दिए गए थे

- In **Vineet Narain versus Union of India (1998)**, the **Supreme Court** struck down an **executive order**, referred to as the '**Single Directive**', issued to the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**, that required **prior sanction** before initiating investigation against certain categories of public servants.
विनीत नारायण बनाम भारत संघ (1998) में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने CBI को जारी किए गए 'सिंगल डायरेक्टिव' नामक कार्यकारी आदेश को निरस्त कर दिया, जिसमें कुछ श्रेणियों के लोक सेवकों के विरुद्ध जांच से पहले पूर्व स्वीकृति आवश्यक थी।
- Subsequently, in **2003**, Parliament amended the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE Act)**, which governs the functioning of the **CBI**.
इसके बाद 2003 में संसद ने दिल्ली विशेष पुलिस स्थापना अधिनियम (DSPE Act) में संशोधन किया, जो CBI के कार्यकरण को नियंत्रित करता है।
- Section 6A** was added to this Act, requiring **prior approval of the Central government** to initiate any investigation against officers at the rank of **Joint Secretary or above**.
इस अधिनियम में धारा 6A जोड़ी गई, जिसके तहत संयुक्त सचिव या उससे ऊपर के पद के अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध जांच शुरू करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार की पूर्व स्वीकृति आवश्यक थी।
- This was also struck down by the **Supreme Court** in **Dr Subramaniam Swamy versus Director, CBI (2014)** as **violative of Article 14 of the Constitution**, which guarantees **equality before law**.
इसे भी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने डॉ. सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी बनाम निदेशक, CBI (2014) में संविधान के अनुच्छेद 14, जो कानून के समक्ष समानता की गारंटी देता है, का उल्लंघन मानते हुए निरस्त कर दिया।

What is the current split verdict? वर्तमान विभाजित फैसला क्या है

- The current verdict of a **division Bench of the Supreme Court** is on a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** filed by the **Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL)** against the **Union of India**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट की द्वि-न्यायाधीश पीठ का यह वर्तमान फैसला केंद्र लोकहित याचिका केंद्र (CPIL) द्वारा भारत संघ के विरुद्ध दायर जनहित याचिका (PIL) पर है।
- Justice K. V. Viswanathan** held that the requirement of obtaining **prior approval before initiating investigation** was necessary in order to protect **honest officers** from **vexatious and frivolous complaints**.
न्यायमूर्ति के. वी. विश्वनाथन ने माना कि जांच शुरू करने से पहले पूर्व स्वीकृति की आवश्यकता ईमानदार अधिकारियों को तुच्छ और दुर्भावनापूर्ण शिकायतों से बचाने के लिए जरूरी है।
- His judgment cautioned that a '**play-it-safe syndrome**' may set in the **bureaucracy** if such a protection was not available.
उनके निर्णय में चेतावनी दी गई कि यदि ऐसी सुरक्षा उपलब्ध नहीं होगी तो नौकरशाही में 'सेफ खेले मानसिकता' विकसित हो सकती है।
- However, he held that the **constitutional validity of Section 17A** would be sustained only if the approval is provided by an **independent agency** and not by the **government itself**.
हालाँकि उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि धारा 17A की संवैधानिक वैधता तभी बनी रह सकती है जब स्वीकृति सरकार के बजाय किसी स्वतंत्र एजेंसी द्वारा दी जाए।
- His order read **Section 17A** in conjunction with the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** and held that the approval should be provided by the **appropriate government** based on a **binding opinion** given by **Lokpal and Lokayuktas** in respect of **Central and State government employees** respectively.
उनके आदेश में धारा 17A को लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त अधिनियम, 2013 के साथ पढ़ते हुए कहा गया कि स्वीकृति उपयुक्त सरकार द्वारा दी जानी चाहिए, जो क्रमशः केंद्रीय और राज्य कर्मचारियों के मामलों में लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त की बाध्यकारी राय पर आधारित हो।



- **Justice B. V. Nagarathna**, on the other hand, held that **Section 17A was unconstitutional** and tantamount to 'old wine in a new bottle' that was struck down in earlier cases by the court.
दूसरी ओर, न्यायमूर्ति बी. वी. नागरत्ना ने माना कि धारा 17A असंवैधानिक है और यह 'नई बोतल में पुरानी शराब' के समान है, जिसे न्यायालय पहले ही मामलों में निरस्त कर चुका है।
- She held that **Article 14** requires **intelligible differentia** and a **rational nexus** to the **legislative object**, and that **Section 17A fails on both counts**.
उन्होंने कहा कि अनुच्छेद 14 के तहत समझने योग्य वर्गीकरण और विधायी उद्देश्य से तर्कसंगत संबंध आवश्यक है, और धारा 17A दोनों ही कसौटियों पर विफल रहती है।
- She held that **adequate protection for honest officers** in the form of **prior sanction before prosecution** by a court is already available under **Section 19 of the PCA**.
उन्होंने यह भी माना कि ईमानदार अधिकारियों के लिए न्यायालय में अभियोजन से पूर्व स्वीकृति के रूप में पर्याप्त सुरक्षा पहले से ही PCA की धारा 19 के अंतर्गत उपलब्ध है।
- This matter will now be heard by a **larger Bench** for a **conclusive decision**.
अब इस मामले की निश्चित निर्णय के लिए इसे बड़ी पीठ के समक्ष सुना जाएगा।
- Meanwhile, there are **two systemic reforms** that are warranted.
इस बीच, दो प्रणालीगत सुधारों की आवश्यकता बताई गई है।
- First, there must be **swift disposal of cases** and **punishment of guilty public servants**, which would act as a **deterrent against corruption**.
पहला, मामलों का त्वरित निपटारा और दोषी लोक सेवकों को दंड दिया जाना चाहिए, जो भ्रष्टाचार के विरुद्ध निवारक के रूप में कार्य करेगा।
- Second, **penalty may be imposed for false and malicious complaints**, which would act as a **deterrent against habitual and vexatious complaints**.
दूसरा, झूठी और दुर्भावनापूर्ण शिकायतों पर दंड लगाया जा सकता है, जिससे आदतन और तंग करने वाली शिकायतों पर रोक लगेगी।

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सेतु निर्माण
2. **Trump's Greenland quest unravels NATO and EU ties**
ट्रंप की ग्रीनलैंड की चाह से नाटो और यूरोपीय संघ के रिश्ते उलझे
3. **What is behind China's latest military drills around Taiwan?**
ताइवान के आसपास चीन के नवीनतम सैन्य अभ्यासों के पीछे क्या कारण है?
4. **QUIZ**
5. **As Trump covets Greenland, the Arctic island still holds hazardous U.S. waste**
ट्रंप की ग्रीनलैंड पर नजर के बीच, आर्कटिक द्वीप अब भी खतरनाक अमेरिकी कचरे को समेटे हुए है



GS II: IR

Building bridges

The benefits of cross-border CBDC payments could outweigh costs

The RBI's reported moves towards encouraging India's BRICS partners to link their digital currencies with the RBI's own Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) are sensible but one that could pose some risks. According to news reports, the RBI has recommended to the Centre that a proposal connecting the CBDCs of the BRICS countries be made part of the agenda for the 2026 BRICS summit in India. This is a natural progression of India's push during its presidency of the G-20 in 2023 for international cooperation and standardisation on cryptocurrencies. The RBI has historically been extremely conservative about private cryptocurrencies, repeatedly calling for a ban, and progressive about CBDCs, arguing that they have multiple uses. Its stance seems largely correct – it recognises the evident risks of cryptocurrencies as assets to invest in, but sees the advantages of the blockchain as the backbone of payments infrastructure. While a ban on private cryptocurrencies seems extreme, their widespread adoption does expose the public to extreme volatility, fraud potential, and an erosion of wealth. CBDCs have the advantage of a sovereign guarantee and are also not interest-bearing. They are not only safe but will also not attract people looking to make returns. That said, India in particular has little use for a domestic CBDC. As digital payments go, the UPI infrastructure has proven to be excellent but has also far too big a headstart for CBDC to overcome. This is why the RBI's attempts to use CBDCs for international payments are a sensible approach.

Cross-border payments are a significant channel for black and laundered money. Any attempts to bring further transparency to such flows are welcome. Blockchains are excellent instruments for this purpose. They form transparent and immutable records of transactions and can be coded to provide relevant details such as the points of origin and destination. A BRICS agreement on such a payment infrastructure could further mandate that payments be linked to national identity numbers or tax departments. CBDC payments would also help ease some of India's stickier international payments issues. Payments to Russia and Iran, for example, will become easier since the SWIFT network is not available to either country. On the other hand, exactly such payments and the related move away from the dollar will inevitably anger President Donald Trump. He has already warned of additional tariffs on BRICS countries should they move away from the dollar. That said, with 50% tariffs in place, India needs to see whether incremental tariffs will actually hurt. The benefits of cross-border CBDC payments could still outweigh the costs.

लेकिन उनका व्यापक उपयोग लोगों को अत्यधिक अस्थिरता, धोखाधड़ी की संभावना, और संपत्ति क्षरण के जोखिम में डालता है।

Building bridges सेतु निर्माण

RBI, BRICS and CBDC Linkages
आरबीआई, ब्रिक्स और सीबीडीसी का जुड़ाव

- The RBI's reported moves towards encouraging India's BRICS partners to link their digital currencies with the RBI's own Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) are sensible but one that could pose some risks.

आरबीआई द्वारा बताए गए कदम, जिनमें भारत के ब्रिक्स साझेदारों को अपनी डिजिटल मुद्राओं को आरबीआई की केंद्रीय बैंक डिजिटल मुद्रा (सीबीडीसी) से जोड़ने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना शामिल है, उचित हैं, लेकिन इनमें कुछ जोखिम भी हो सकते हैं।

- According to news reports, the RBI has recommended to the Centre that a proposal connecting the CBDCs of the BRICS countries be made part of the agenda for the 2026 BRICS summit in India.

समाचार रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, आरबीआई ने केंद्र सरकार को सिफारिश की है कि ब्रिक्स देशों की सीबीडीसी को जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव भारत में होने वाले 2026 ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन के एजेंडा में शामिल किया जाए।

- This is a natural progression of India's push during its presidency of the G-20 in 2023 for international cooperation and standardisation on cryptocurrencies.

यह 2023 में जी-20 की अध्यक्षता के दौरान क्रिप्टोकॉरेसी पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग और मानकीकरण के लिए भारत के प्रयासों की स्वाभाविक निरंतरता है।

- The RBI has historically been extremely conservative about private cryptocurrencies, repeatedly calling for a ban, and progressive about CBDCs, arguing that they have multiple uses. आरबीआई ऐतिहासिक रूप से निजी क्रिप्टोकॉरेसी को लेकर अत्यंत सतर्क रहा है और बार-बार प्रतिबंध की मांग करता रहा है, जबकि सीबीडीसी को लेकर वह प्रगतिशील रहा है और इनके कई उपयोग बताता रहा है।

- Its stance seems largely correct as it recognises the evident risks of cryptocurrencies as investment assets, but sees the advantages of blockchain as the backbone of payments infrastructure.

यह रुख काफी हद तक सही प्रतीत होता है, क्योंकि यह निवेश संपत्ति के रूप में क्रिप्टोकॉरेसी के स्पष्ट जोखिमों को स्वीकार करता है, लेकिन भुगतान अवसंरचना की रीढ़ के रूप में ब्लॉकचेन के लाभ भी देखता है।

- While a ban on private cryptocurrencies seems extreme, their widespread adoption does expose the public to extreme volatility, fraud potential, and an erosion of wealth.

हालांकि निजी क्रिप्टोकॉरेसी पर प्रतिबंध अत्यधिक लगता है,



- **CBDCs** have the advantage of a **sovereign guarantee** and are also **not interest-bearing**.
सीबीडीसी का लाभ यह है कि इनके पीछे **संप्रभु गारंटी** होती है और ये **ब्याज देने वाली** नहीं होतीं।
- They are **not only safe** but will also **not attract people looking to make returns**.
ये **सुरक्षित** ही नहीं हैं, बल्कि **मुनाफा कमाने की तलाश करने वालों** को आकर्षित भी नहीं करतीं।
- That said, **India in particular has little use for a domestic CBDC**.
फिर भी, **भारत के लिए घरेलू सीबीडीसी की उपयोगिता सीमित** है।
- As **digital payments** go, the **UPI infrastructure** has proven to be **excellent** and has far **too big a head start** for CBDC to overcome.
डिजिटल भुगतान के संदर्भ में, **यूपीआई अवसंरचना** अत्यंत **सफल** साबित हुई है और इसे **सीबीडीसी के लिए पीछे छोड़ना कठिन** है।
- This is why the **RBI's attempts to use CBDCs for international payments** are a **sensible approach**.
इसीलिए **अंतरराष्ट्रीय भुगतानों के लिए सीबीडीसी के उपयोग की आरबीआई की कोशिशें व्यावहारिक** मानी जाती हैं।
- **Cross-border payments** are a **significant channel for black and laundered money**.
सीमापार भुगतान काले धन और मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग का एक महत्वपूर्ण माध्यम हैं।
- Any attempts to bring **further transparency** to such **flows** are **welcome**.
ऐसे **प्रवाहों में अधिक पारदर्शिता** लाने के सभी प्रयास **स्वागतयोग्य** हैं।
- **Blockchains** are **excellent instruments** for this purpose as they form **transparent and immutable records of transactions**.
ब्लॉकचेन इस उद्देश्य के लिए **उत्कृष्ट साधन** हैं, क्योंकि ये **लेनदेन के पारदर्शी और अपरिवर्तनीय रिकॉर्ड** बनाते हैं।
- They can be **coded** to provide relevant details such as **points of origin and destination**.
इन्हें इस तरह **कोड** किया जा सकता है कि **उत्पत्ति और गंतव्य** जैसे विवरण उपलब्ध हों।
- A **BRICS agreement** on such a **payment infrastructure** could further mandate that payments be linked to **national identity numbers or tax departments**.
ऐसी **भुगतान अवसंरचना पर ब्रिक्स समझौता** भुगतानों को **राष्ट्रीय पहचान संख्या या कर विभागों से जोड़ना** अनिवार्य कर सकता है।
- **CBDC payments** would also help ease some of **India's stickier international payments issues**.
सीबीडीसी भुगतान भारत की कुछ जटिल अंतरराष्ट्रीय भुगतान समस्याओं को भी कम कर सकते हैं।
- Payments to **Russia and Iran**, for example, will become **easier** since the **SWIFT network** is not available to either country.
उदाहरण के लिए, **रूस और ईरान** को भुगतान **आसान** हो जाएगा, क्योंकि **स्विफ्ट नेटवर्क** इन दोनों देशों के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं है।
- On the other hand, exactly such payments and the **move away from the dollar** will inevitably **anger President Donald Trump**.
दूसरी ओर, ऐसे भुगतान और **डॉलर से दूरी बनाने की पहल** निश्चित रूप से **राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप को नाराज़** करेगी।
- He has already **warned of additional tariffs on BRICS countries** should they **move away from the dollar**.
उन्होंने पहले ही चेतावनी दी है कि यदि **ब्रिक्स देश डॉलर से दूर जाते हैं**, तो उन पर **अतिरिक्त शुल्क (टैरिफ)** लगाए जा सकते हैं।
- That said, with **50% tariffs in place**, **India needs to see whether incremental tariffs will actually hurt**.
फिर भी, जब **50% टैरिफ पहले से लागू** हैं, तो **भारत को यह आकलन करना होगा कि अतिरिक्त टैरिफ** वास्तव में कितना **नुकसान पहुंचाएंगे।**
- The **benefits of cross-border CBDC payments** could still **outweigh the costs**.
सीमापार सीबीडीसी भुगतानों के लाभ अब भी लागत से अधिक हो सकते हैं।



What is behind China's latest military drills around Taiwan?

How did the U.S. react? How is Taiwan furthering its own military capabilities?

GS II IR
Femy Francis

The story so far:

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted a military exercise around Taiwan from December 29-30, 2025. This is the second such drill of the year, with the aim being to safeguard China's sovereignty and national unity, and to serve as a warning to Taiwanese separatist forces and foreign interference, China's Ministry of National Defence (MND) said.

What are the latest military drills?
The military drill codenamed 'Justice Mission-2025' focussed on the sea and combat readiness of the troops, comprehensive superiority, blockade of key ports and territory, and three-dimensional external line deterrence using land, sea, and air forces. A press release by China's Ministry of National Defence reported that on day one the most tactical air drills with 130

sorties were conducted, of which 90 crossed the Taiwan Strait centreline. The second day focussed on long-range rocket firing, with 10 rockets landing in Taiwan's contiguous zone, which is the closest it has ever been. China claims Taiwan as its breakaway province, and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the mission a deterrence against "separatist forces."

What about other drills near Taiwan?
The first such military exercise was conducted in 2022 after U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan. China deployed carrier groups, nuclear submarines and fired II missiles into the water near Taiwan. The next time was in April 2023, when the then-Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen visited the U.S. and met then U.S. Speaker Kevin McCarthy. In August, 2023, another smaller-scale drill was held against then-Taiwanese Vice President William Lai Ching-te's diplomatic trip to the Americas. Furthermore, large-scale

military exercises happened in the East China Sea after William Lai Ching-te of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the Presidential election. In April 2025, the 'Strait Thunder-2025A' drill focused on advancing, deterrence, closure, destruction and paralysis as stated by PLA Eastern Theatre Command.

Justice Mission-2025 comes in light of the Trump administration's arms sale deal worth \$11 billion with Taiwan. The package, yet to be approved by the U.S. Congress, includes self-propelled howitzers, advanced rocket launchers and other missiles.

What has been Taiwan's response?
Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council called these drills "provocative and coercive military actions." To further advance its military capabilities, Taiwan proposed a multi-layered air defence system called the 'T-Dome.' This advancement is steady but slow, as Taiwan lacks a unified action plan to develop its military infrastructure.

This is due to the incongruence between the two major parties of Taiwan, with both currently holding political offices. While the DPP has the majority in the Executive Yuan, the highest administrative body, the Legislative Yuan is led by the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) and the Taiwan People's Party (TPP) together. The DPP strongly pushes for Taiwan independence and the protection of its sovereignty from China. But any defence legislation is thwarted by the opposition, KMT and TPP.

How did external actors respond?

While the U.S. underplayed the drills, other countries expressed concerns. The EU Commission believed that these drills increase cross-strait tensions and endanger international peace and stability. China's MND clearly noted that the presence and increasing involvement of foreign interference as one of the reasons for the exercise. The U.S. arms sale deal with Taiwan is an important development in light of which these drills happened. Similarly, the recent statement made by Japan's newly elected Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has escalated tensions in the East Asian region. Ms. Takaichi declared that a Chinese military attack on Taiwan constitutes a survival-threatening situation for Japan. China found Ms. Takaichi's comments egregious and demanded a retraction.

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THE GIST

▼ The military drill codenamed 'Justice Mission-2025' focussed on the sea and combat readiness of the troops, comprehensive superiority, blockade of key ports and territory, and three-dimensional external line deterrence using land, sea, and air forces.

▼ The first such military exercise was conducted in 2022 after U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan.

▼ While the U.S. underplayed the drills, other countries expressed concerns.

What is behind China's latest military drills around Taiwan?

ताइवान के आसपास चीन के नवीनतम सैन्य अभ्यासों के पीछे क्या कारण है?

China's PLA military drills around Taiwan

ताइवान के आसपास चीन की पीएलए सैन्य अभ्यास

- China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted a military exercise around Taiwan from December 29–30, 2025.
चीन की पीपुल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी (PLA) ने 29–30 दिसंबर 2025 को ताइवान के आसपास सैन्य अभ्यास किया।
- This was the second such drill of the year, aimed at safeguarding China's sovereignty and national unity, and serving as a warning to Taiwanese separatist forces and foreign interference, according to China's Ministry of National Defence (MND).
यह वर्ष का दूसरा ऐसा अभ्यास था, जिसका उद्देश्य चीन की संप्रभुता और राष्ट्रीय एकता की रक्षा करना तथा ताइवानी अलगाववादी ताकतों और विदेशी हस्तक्षेप को चेतावनी देना था, जैसा कि चीन के राष्ट्रीय रक्षा मंत्रालय (MND) ने कहा।

What are the latest military drills?

नवीनतम सैन्य अभ्यास क्या हैं

- The military drill codenamed 'Justice Mission-2025' focused on sea and combat readiness, comprehensive superiority, blockade of key ports and territory, and three-dimensional external line deterrence using land, sea, and air forces.
'जस्टिस मिशन-2025' नामक यह सैन्य अभ्यास समुद्री और युद्ध तैयारी, समग्र श्रेष्ठता, महत्वपूर्ण बंदरगाहों और क्षेत्रों की नाकेबंदी, तथा थल, जल और वायु सेनाओं द्वारा त्रि-आयामी बाह्य प्रतिरोध पर केंद्रित था।
- A press release by the MND reported that on day one, the most tactical air drills with 130 sorties were conducted, of which 90 crossed the Taiwan Strait centreline.
MND की प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार पहले दिन 130 उड़ानों के साथ सबसे अधिक सामरिक हवाई अभ्यास किए गए, जिनमें से 90 ने ताइवान जलडमरूमध्य की मध्य रेखा पार की।
- The second day focused on long-range rocket firing, with 10 rockets landing in Taiwan's contiguous zone, which is the closest it has ever been.
दूसरे दिन लंबी दूरी की रॉकेट फायरिंग पर ध्यान दिया गया, जिसमें 10 रॉकेट ताइवान के सन्निकट क्षेत्र में गिरे, जो अब तक की सबसे निकट दूरी थी।



Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1.

This country invaded Iran in 1980. **Ans: Iraq**

2. In 1981, Mohammad Ali Rajai and Mohammad Javad Bahonar were assassinated in a Tehran bombing. They held these positions in the Iranian government. **Ans: President and Prime Minister**

3. Iran began funding this Lebanese resistance movement. **Ans: Hezbollah**

4. In 1988, a U.S. navy vessel during this President's tenure shot down an Iranian civilian aircraft. **Ans: Ronald Reagan**

5. This major water body borders the region. **Ans: Caspian Sea**

6. Iran was a supporter of this military alliance during the Afghan Civil War. **Ans: Northern Alliance**

7. U.S. President George Bush labelled three countries, including Iran, as part of an 'axis of evil'. Name the other two nations. **Ans: Iraq and North Korea**

8. This malicious computer program sabotaged Iran's nuclear facilities in 2010. **Ans: Stuxnet**

Visual: Name the 2009 protest movement that emerged following disputed Presidential election results. **Ans: Green Movement**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Sunil Madhavan| Arun Kumar Singh| Parimal Das| Sudhir Thapa

QUIZ: This country invaded Iran in 1980 – Iraq

• Iraq invaded Iran in 1980, marking the beginning of the Iran–Iraq War.

• The invasion took place on **22 September 1980**, when Iraqi forces crossed the international border and launched air and ground attacks

Historical Background

• The invasion occurred shortly after the **1979 Iranian Revolution**, which overthrew the Shah and brought **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** to power.

• Iraq, under **Saddam Hussein**, feared:

• The spread of **Iran's Islamic revolutionary ideology**

• Political unrest among Iraq's **Shia population**

• Long-standing disputes over the **Shatt al-Arab waterway** also contributed to tensions.

• Seize disputed border territories, especially **Khuzestan**

province in Iran.

• The conflict ended in **1988** after Iran accepted **UN Security Council Resolution 598**.

• Iraq's later invasion of **Kuwait in 1990**

1981 Tehran Bombing and Assassinated Iranian Leaders

• In **1981**, **Mohammad Ali Rajai** and **Mohammad Javad Bahonar** were assassinated in a bombing in **Tehran**.

• At the time of their deaths:

• **Mohammad Ali Rajai** was the **President of Iran**.

• **Mohammad Javad Bahonar** was the **Prime Minister of Iran**.

Iran Began Funding This Lebanese Resistance Movement – Hezbollah

• **Hezbollah** is a **Lebanese resistance movement** that began receiving **financial, military, and ideological support from Iran** in the **early 1980s**.

• Iran's support to Hezbollah emerged in the context of **post-1979 Iranian Revolution geopolitics** and regional conflicts in West Asia.

• Hezbollah was formed around **1982–1985** during the **Lebanese Civil War**.

• Its emergence was closely linked to:

• **Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982**

• The presence of Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon's **Beqaa Valley**

• Iran viewed Hezbollah as a means to:

• Expand its **regional influence**

• Promote its **revolutionary ideology**

• Resist Israeli and Western presence in the region

• Hezbollah is a key part of Iran's so-called **"Axis of Resistance"**, which includes:

• Iran

• Syria

• Allied non-state actors

1988 Iranian Civilian Aircraft Shootdown during U.S. Presidency

• In **1988**, a **U.S. Navy vessel** shot down an **Iranian civilian passenger aircraft** during the presidency of **Ronald Reagan**.

• The incident involved **Iran Air Flight 655**, a commercial Airbus flying a scheduled civilian route



- The USS Vincennes mistakenly identified the civilian aircraft as a **hostile Iranian military jet**.
- The aircraft was shot down using **surface-to-air missiles**.
- At the time:
 - The plane was **ascending**
 - It was transmitting **civilian identification signals**
- The incident occurred during heightened tensions of the **Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988)**.

This Major Water Body Borders the Region – Caspian Sea

- The **Caspian Sea** is a **major water body** that **borders the region**.
- It is the **largest enclosed inland body of water in the world**, often described as the **world's largest lake**, though it is traditionally called a sea.

Geographical Significance

- The Caspian Sea lies at the **intersection of Europe and Asia**.
- It is bordered by **five countries**:
 - **Russia** (northwest)
 - **Kazakhstan** (northeast)
 - **Turkmenistan** (southeast)
 - **Iran** (south)
 - **Azerbaijan** (west)
- It has **no natural outlet to the world's oceans**, making it an **endorheic basin**.

Iran Was a Supporter of This Military Alliance During the Afghan Civil War – Northern Alliance

- **Northern Alliance**, formally known as the **United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan**, was a **military and political alliance** active during the **Afghan Civil War**.
- **Iran** was a **key supporter** of the Northern Alliance, especially during the period when the **Taliban** controlled most of Afghanistan.

Historical Background

- The Northern Alliance was formed in **1996**, after the **Taliban captured Kabul**.
- It brought together multiple anti-Taliban groups, mainly:
 - **Tajiks**
 - **Uzbeks**
 - **Hazaras**
- The alliance resisted Taliban rule until **2001**.

Why Iran Supported the Northern Alliance

- **Ideological opposition**
 - Iran, a **Shia-majority state**, opposed the **Sunni extremist ideology** of the Taliban.
- **Protection of Shia Hazaras**
 - The Taliban persecuted Afghanistan's **Hazara Shia population**, prompting Iranian concern.
- **Regional security**
 - Iran feared instability, refugee flows, and extremism along its **eastern border**.
- **1998 Mazar-i-Sharif incident**
 - Taliban fighters killed **Iranian diplomats**, sharply worsening Iran–Taliban relations.

'Axis of Evil' Speech by U.S. President George W. Bush

- The term "**Axis of Evil**" was used by **George W. Bush**, the **President of the United States**, to describe countries he accused of supporting **terrorism** and seeking **weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)**.



- Along with Iran, the other two countries labelled as part of the Axis of Evil were:
- Iraq
- North Korea

This Malicious Computer Program Sabotaged Iran's Nuclear Facilities in 2010 – Stuxnet

- Stuxnet was a highly sophisticated computer worm that sabotaged Iran's nuclear facilities in 2010.
- It is widely regarded as the first known cyberweapon designed to cause physical destruction of critical infrastructure.
- Stuxnet specifically targeted industrial control systems (ICS).
- It attacked Siemens PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers) used to control uranium enrichment centrifuges.
- The primary target was Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment facility.

As Trump covets Greenland, the Arctic island still holds hazardous U.S. waste

Deep within the island's ice sheet, the U.S. maintains a shadow inventory of Cold War infrastructure that climate change promises to unravel soon; transforming a frozen graveyard of nuclear reactors and toxic diesel into a high-stakes crisis of environmental ruin and diplomatic accountability

CS II IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vasudevan Mukunth

In 2019, when U.S. President Donald Trump first floated the idea of purchasing Greenland, experts and communities worldwide critiqued the proposition on diplomatic and postcolonial grounds. But if the U.S. acquires the territory, it would also inherit a large and complex clean-up exercise that climate change is about to make due.

In 1959, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers used large rotary milling machines to cut a system of trenches in the ice called Camp Century. The central trench, colloquially called Main Street, was 1,100 feet long, 26 feet wide, and 28 feet high. Camp Century was a pilot for Project Iceworm, a classified plan for the U.S. to bore 4,000 km of tunnels to house 600 Icbeman nuclear missiles. The military expected to use the opaque ice sheet to hide the launchers from Soviet reconnaissance.

The project flopped because the engineers had misunderstood the material properties of the ice: they treated it as a fixed solid whereas in reality, under the immense pressure of its own mass, glacial ice behaves like a visco-elastic fluid. That is, the trench walls flowed slowly rather than standing still, eventually twisting out of shape

and becoming much narrower, threatening to crush the launchers. The changes were so severe that the U.S. military abandoned the base in 1967.

But before it left, the U.S. Army had installed a portable pressurised light-water nuclear reactor here that used highly enriched uranium-235 as fuel. When Camp Century was decommissioned, the Army removed the reactor but not the associated nuclear waste. One 2016 study catalogued the inventory left behind, which the U.S. assumed the snow would entomb forever: 2 lakh litres of diesel, 2.4 lakh litres of wastewater and sewage, and large quantities of polychlorinated biphenyls and radioactive coolant.

Climate models have indicated that by the end of the century, this part of Greenland could lose more ice mass than it gains. When that happens, the toxic slurry will leach into the subglacial aquifers and start flowing towards the ocean.

Ancient thermometer

There's a bitter irony in the Camp Century failure: the military project that ignored the dynamics of the ice also inadvertently funded the discovery of climate dynamics. While the U.S. Army focused on the tunnels, the Danish palaeoclimatologist Willi Dansgaard was able to secure access to the ice cores that researchers had drilled at the



House of cards: The Pituffik Space Base hosts an early warning radar that's a critical node in the U.S. Missile Defence network. AP

site. In fact, the Camp Century core was able to reach the bedrock and extract a cylinder of ice 1.4 km long, containing the imprints of the earth's climate going back 100,000 years.

His analysis revealed the existence of Dansgaard-Oeschger events – rapid and violent fluctuations in the climate during the last glacial period when the region's temperature jumped by 8-10°C in just a few decades. The discovery was one of the earliest pieces of hard evidence that the world's climate is susceptible to drastic tipping points rather than evolving strictly based on how much carbon is pumped into the air.

If Camp Century is a ghost today, the U.S. faces an active engineering challenge at the Pituffik Space Base, a site that hosts an early warning radar that's a critical node in the U.S. Missile Defence network.

The instrument is a phased-array radar with no mechanical moving parts. Each of its two faces ra-

diates 870 kW of power; since the radar sits on permafrost, the heat in this power output could melt it and destabilise its own foundation, throwing it out of alignment. To mitigate the heat, the U.S. Army installed thermosyphons in the ice. These are passive heat exchange tubes that use a working fluid, such as ammonia, to draw heat from the ground and radiate it into the Arctic air.

The thermosyphons don't have motors or pumps and depend entirely on the temperature difference between ground and air, which means they become less effective as the air warms. Research has already shown that Arctic winters are becoming warmer and shorter, so in the not too distant future the ground will start accumulating heat.

Engineers have also noted a problem called cold-topping. In extremely cold conditions, the gas inside the thermosyphon condenses efficiently. But as

the temperature rises, the internal pressure of the system could change in a way that leads to non-condensable gases accumulating at the top of the radiator, blocking heat transfer.

While the radar is the priority, the airfield is also at risk. One U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study in 2013 found that the permafrost under the runway was thawing despite efforts to mitigate that.

In response, the Corps attempted to paint the runway white to reflect sunlight, but that then reduced the friction for landing aircraft and increased maintenance costs. A 2023 report from the U.S. Department of Defence to the U.S. Congress thus classified the airfield pavements at Pituffik as being at "moderate to considerable risk" of failure.

On thin ice

The sensitivity regarding U.S. operations here is heightened by Project Crested Ice. In 1968, a B-52 bomber crashed onto the sea ice near the base, and conventional explosives onboard detonated and dispersed plutonium, uranium, and americium across the ice. The cleanup, which was the project and which included removing large quantities of contaminated snow to a site in the U.S., was a U.S.-Denmark effort that also created a political dispute.

The operation was led by the U.S. Air Force and

Danish Atomic Energy Commission. But, because the ice was fragile in the area, the U.S. couldn't land its heavy equipment there. Manual labour was required, and more than 60% of those who performed it were Danish and Greenlandic civilians.

The issue? The Air Force monitored its own personnel for radiation exposure whereas the civilians received less protective gear and didn't receive the same long-term health monitoring. So, in the decades following the cleanup, many of the civilian workers developed cancers and other illnesses they attributed to radiation exposure.

While the U.S. compensated the Danish government in the 1990s, it has generally maintained that the radiation levels were too low to cause illness, a stance that continues to cause diplomatic friction.

For decades, the U.S. treated Greenland as a disposable utility; now, rather than remediate the hazardous waste at Camp Century or address the instability at Pituffik, the U.S. is demanding title to the very land it poisoned.

From Greenland's and Denmark's points of view, this is as much a question of sovereignty now as of dignity: the U.S. has proven itself a reckless tenant that trashed the property, and now it threatens to bankrupt the landlord and seize the deed.

As Trump covets Greenland, the Arctic island still holds hazardous U.S. waste ट्रंप की ग्रीनलैंड पर नजर के बीच, आर्कटिक द्वीप अब भी खतरनाक अमेरिकी कचरे को समेटे हुए है

- Deep within the island's ice sheet, the U.S. maintains a shadow inventory of Cold War infrastructure that climate change promises to unravel soon; transforming a frozen



graveyard of **nuclear reactors** and **toxic diesel** into a high-stakes crisis of **environmental ruin** and **diplomatic accountability**.

द्वीप की बर्फीली परत के भीतर गहराई में, अमेरिका **शीत युद्ध के ढांचे** का एक छिपा हुआ भंडार बनाए हुए है, जिसे **जलवायु परिवर्तन** जल्द ही उजागर कर सकता है; जिससे **परमाणु रिएक्टरों** और **विषैले डीज़ल** का जमे हुए कब्रिस्तान **पर्यावरणीय विनाश** और **कूटनीतिक जवाबदेही** के बड़े संकट में बदल सकता है।

- In **2019**, when U.S. President **Donald Trump** first floated the idea of purchasing **Greenland**, experts and communities worldwide critiqued the proposition on **diplomatic** and **postcolonial** grounds.

2019 में, जब अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने पहली बार **ग्रीनलैंड** को खरीदने का विचार रखा, तो दुनियाभर के विशेषज्ञों और समुदायों ने इस प्रस्ताव की **कूटनीतिक** और **उपनिवेशोत्तर** आधारों पर आलोचना की।

- But if the U.S. acquires the territory, it would also inherit a large and complex **clean-up exercise** that **climate change** is about to make due.

लेकिन यदि अमेरिका इस क्षेत्र को हासिल करता है, तो उसे एक बड़े और जटिल **सफाई अभियान** की जिम्मेदारी भी विरासत में मिलेगी, जिसे **जलवायु परिवर्तन** जल्द ही अनिवार्य बना देगा।

- In **1959**, the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** used large rotary milling machines to cut a system of trenches in the ice called **Camp Century**.

1959 में, **अमेरिकी सेना के इंजीनियर्स कोर** ने बड़ी रोटरी मिलिंग मशीनों का उपयोग कर बर्फ में खाइयों की एक प्रणाली बनाई, जिसे **कैम्प सेंचुरी** कहा गया।

- The central trench, colloquially called **Main Street**, was **1,100 feet long**, **26 feet wide**, and **28 feet high**.

केंद्रीय खाई, जिसे आमतौर पर **मेन स्ट्रीट** कहा जाता था, **1,100 फीट लंबी**, **26 फीट चौड़ी** और **28 फीट ऊंची** थी।

- Camp Century was a pilot for **Project Iceworm**, a classified plan for the U.S. to bore **4,000 km of tunnels** to house **600 Iceman nuclear missiles**.

कैम्प सेंचुरी, **प्रोजेक्ट आइसवर्म** के लिए एक पायलट था, जो अमेरिका की एक गोपनीय योजना थी, जिसके तहत **4,000 किमी सुरंगें** खोदकर **600 आइसमैन परमाणु मिसाइलें** तैनात की जानी थीं।

- The military expected to use the opaque ice sheet to hide the launchers from **Soviet reconnaissance**.

सेना को उम्मीद थी कि अपारदर्शी बर्फीली परत का उपयोग कर लॉन्चरों को **सोवियत निगरानी** से छिपाया जा सकेगा।

- The project flopped because the engineers had misunderstood the **material properties of the ice**: they treated it as a fixed solid whereas in reality, under immense pressure, **glacial ice behaves like a visco-elastic fluid**.

यह परियोजना इसलिए विफल हुई क्योंकि इंजीनियरों ने **बर्फ के भौतिक गुणों** को गलत समझा: उन्होंने इसे एक स्थिर ठोस माना, जबकि वास्तव में अत्यधिक दबाव में **हिमनदीय बर्फ एक विस्को-इलास्टिक द्रव** की तरह व्यवहार करती है।

- That is, the trench walls flowed slowly rather than standing still, eventually twisting out of shape and becoming much narrower, threatening to crush the launchers.

अर्थात्, खाइयों की दीवारें स्थिर रहने के बजाय धीरे-धीरे बहती रहीं, अंततः उनका आकार बिगड़ गया और वे काफी संकरी हो गईं, जिससे लॉन्चरों के कुचलने का खतरा पैदा हो गया।

- The changes were so severe that the U.S. military abandoned the base in **1967**.

ये परिवर्तन इतने गंभीर थे कि अमेरिकी सेना ने **1967** में इस बेस को छोड़ दिया।

- But before it left, the **U.S. Army** had installed a portable pressurised **light-water nuclear reactor** that used highly enriched **uranium-235** as fuel.

लेकिन जाने से पहले, **अमेरिकी सेना** ने एक पोर्टेबल प्रेशराइज्ड **लाइट-वॉटर परमाणु रिएक्टर** स्थापित किया था, जिसमें अत्यधिक समृद्ध **यूरेनियम-235** ईंधन के रूप में इस्तेमाल हुआ।

- When Camp Century was decommissioned, the Army removed the reactor but not the associated **nuclear waste**.

जब कैम्प सेंचुरी को निष्क्रिय किया गया, तो सेना ने रिएक्टर तो हटा लिया, लेकिन उससे जुड़ा **परमाणु कचरा** नहीं हटाया।

- One **2016-study** catalogued the inventory left behind, which the U.S. assumed the snow would entomb forever: **2 lakh litres of diesel**, **2.4 lakh litres of wastewater and sewage**, and large quantities of **polychlorinated biphenyls** and **radioactive coolant**.

एक **2016 के अध्ययन** ने पीछे छोड़ी गई सामग्री का विवरण दिया, जिसे अमेरिका ने मान लिया था कि बर्फ



हमेशा के लिए ढक देगी: **2 लाख लीटर डीज़ल, 2.4 लाख लीटर अपशिष्ट जल और सीवेज**, और बड़ी मात्रा में **पॉलीक्लोरीनेटेड बाइफिनाइल्स** तथा **रेडियोधर्मी क्लेंट**।

- Climate models have indicated that by the end of the **century**, this part of Greenland could lose more **ice mass** than it gains.
जलवायु मॉडलों ने संकेत दिया है कि **सदी** के अंत तक ग्रीनलैंड का यह हिस्सा जितनी बर्फ प्राप्त करेगा, उससे अधिक **बर्फ द्रव्यमान** खो सकता है।
- When that happens, the toxic slurry will leach into the **subglacial aquifers** and start flowing towards the **ocean**.
जब ऐसा होगा, तो विषैला मिश्रण **उप-हिमनदीय जलभृतों** में रिसेगा और **महासागर** की ओर बहना शुरू कर देगा।

Ancient thermometer प्राचीन थर्मामीटर

- There's a bitter irony in the Camp Century failure: the military project that ignored the **dynamics of the ice** also inadvertently funded the discovery of **climate dynamics**.
कैंप सेंचुरी की विफलता में एक कड़वी विडंबना है: जिस सैन्य परियोजना ने **बर्फ की गतिशीलता** को नज़रअंदाज़ किया, उसी ने अनजाने में **जलवायु गतिशीलता** की खोज को वित्तपोषित किया।
- While the U.S. Army focused on the tunnels, the Danish palaeoclimatologist **Willi Dansgaard** secured access to the **ice cores** drilled at the site.
जब अमेरिकी सेना सुरंगों पर ध्यान दे रही थी, तब डेनमार्क के पुरा-जलवायु वैज्ञानिक **विली डान्सगार्ड** को वहां निकाले गए **आइस कोर** तक पहुंच मिली।
- The Camp Century core reached the **bedrock** and extracted a cylinder of ice **1.4 km long**, containing climate imprints going back **1,00,000 years**.
कैंप सेंचुरी का कोर **बेडरॉक** तक पहुंचा और **1.4 किमी लंबा** बर्फ का सिलेंडर निकाला, जिसमें **1,00,000 वर्षों** पुरानी जलवायु की छाप मौजूद थी।
- His analysis revealed **Dansgaard-Oeschger events** — rapid climate fluctuations when temperatures jumped by **8–10°C** in a few decades.
उनके विश्लेषण से **डान्सगार्ड-ओएशगर घटनाओं** का पता चला — तेज़ जलवायु उतार-चढ़ाव, जिनमें कुछ दशकों में तापमान **8–10°C** तक बढ़ गया।
- The discovery showed that Earth's climate is vulnerable to **tipping points** rather than evolving strictly with **carbon emissions**.
इस खोज ने दिखाया कि पृथ्वी की जलवायु केवल **कार्बन उत्सर्जन** के आधार पर नहीं बदलती, बल्कि **टिपिंग पॉइंट्स** के प्रति भी संवेदनशील है।
- If Camp Century is a ghost today, the U.S. faces an active engineering challenge at the **Pituffik Space Base**, a critical node in the **U.S. Missile Defence network**.
यदि कैंप सेंचुरी आज एक भूतिया स्थल है, तो अमेरिका को **पिटुफ़िक स्पेस बेस** पर एक सक्रिय इंजीनियरिंग चुनौती का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जो **अमेरिकी मिसाइल रक्षा नेटवर्क** का एक अहम केंद्र है।
- The base hosts a **phased-array radar** radiating **870 kW of power** per face, sitting on **permafrost** that risks melting from heat.
यह बेस एक **फेज़्ड-एरे रडार** की मेज़बानी करता है, जिसकी प्रत्येक सतह से **870 किलोवाट शक्ति** निकलती है, और जो **परमाफ्रॉस्ट** पर स्थित है, जिसके पिघलने का खतरा है।
- To mitigate heat, the U.S. Army installed **thermosyphons**, but warming **Arctic winters** are reducing their effectiveness.
गर्मी को कम करने के लिए अमेरिकी सेना ने **थर्मोसाइफॉन** लगाए, लेकिन गर्म होती **आर्कटिक सर्दियां** उनकी प्रभावशीलता घटा रही हैं।
- A **2023 report** to the **U.S. Congress** classified the airfield pavements as at “**moderate to considerable risk**” of failure.
2023 की एक रिपोर्ट में **अमेरिकी कांग्रेस** को बताया गया कि हवाई पट्टी की सतहें “**मध्यम से गंभीर जोखिम**” में हैं।

On thin ice पतली बर्फ पर



- Sensitivity is heightened by **Project Crested Ice** after a **1968 B-52 crash** dispersed **plutonium, uranium, and americium**.
प्रोजेक्ट क्रेस्टेड आइस के कारण संवेदनशीलता बढ़ गई है, जब 1968 में एक बी-52 दुर्घटना से प्लूटोनियम, यूरेनियम और अमेरिसियम फैल गया।
- Cleanup involved Danish and Greenlandic civilians, many of whom later developed **cancers** and illnesses linked to **radiation exposure**.
सफाई अभियान में डेनमार्क और ग्रीनलैंड के नागरिक शामिल थे, जिनमें से कई बाद में **कैंसर** और **विकिरण संपर्क** से जुड़ी बीमारियों से ग्रस्त हुए।
- While the U.S. compensated Denmark, it maintains radiation levels were too low, causing ongoing **diplomatic friction**.
हालांकि अमेरिका ने डेनमार्क को मुआवज़ा दिया, लेकिन उसने यह रुख बनाए रखा कि विकिरण स्तर कम थे, जिससे लगातार **कूटनीतिक तनाव** बना हुआ है।
- For decades, the U.S. treated Greenland as a **disposable utility**; now it seeks title to land it **poisoned**.
दशकों तक अमेरिका ने ग्रीनलैंड को एक **उपयोग के बाद फेंकने योग्य संसाधन** की तरह देखा; अब वह उसी भूमि पर अधिकार चाहता है जिसे उसने **ज़हरीला** बनाया।
- From Greenland's and Denmark's view, this is about **sovereignty** and **dignity**: the U.S. proved a reckless tenant that trashed the property and now seeks the deed.
ग्रीनलैंड और डेनमार्क के नज़रिए से यह **संप्रभुता** और **गरिमा** का सवाल है: अमेरिका ने एक लापरवाह किरायेदार की तरह संपत्ति को नुकसान पहुंचाया और अब उसके स्वामित्व की मांग कर रहा है।

GS Paper III: S&T,	
TOPICS COVERED	22 January 2026
1.	Why AI infrastructure matters more AI अवसंरचना अधिक महत्वपूर्ण क्यों है



Why AI infrastructure matters more

GS III: S&T

MOB

India's artificial intelligence debate is often dominated by applications – automation, productivity tools, chatbots, and efficiency gains. But the Government of India's recent white paper, "Democratising Access to AI Infrastructure", makes a crucial intervention: the future of AI in India will not be decided by algorithms alone, but by who has access to the infrastructure that powers them.

At its core, the paper argues that compute power, datasets, and AI model ecosystems are becoming foundational economic assets. In a world where AI capabilities are increasingly concentrated among a handful of global corporations, access to infrastructure determines who innovates, who governs, and who merely consumes.

For India, this is not a technical issue. It is a question of competitiveness, inclusion, and sovereignty.

A public good

The paper makes a compelling case for treating AI infrastructure as a form of digital public utility. Just as roads enable commerce and electricity enables industry, AI infrastructure enables modern innovation, governance, and research. This infrastructure has two interlinked layers. The first is physical: data centres, GPUs, high-performance computing clusters, and energy systems. The second is digital: datasets, model repositories, governance frameworks, and access protocols.

India today faces a stark imbalance. While it generates nearly 20% of global data, it hosts only around 3% of global data centre capacity. This asymmetry means Indian researchers, start-ups, and public institutions often rely on foreign compute and platforms.

India's policy intent is strong. Initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission, National Supercomputing Mission, AIRAWAT, and emerging national GPU clusters reflect a



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The central insight of the white paper is simple but profound: AI access is destiny. Nations that control and democratise AI infrastructure will shape innovation; those that do not will remain dependent

clear recognition that AI infrastructure must be strategically developed.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) plays a central role in this vision. Platforms such as AI Kosh, Bhashini, and TGDeX demonstrate how shared, standards-based systems can democratise access to data and models while ensuring interoperability and accountability.

The risk of concentration

Globally, AI infrastructure is becoming increasingly centralised. A small number of firms control advanced chips, large-scale compute, and frontier models. This concentration creates high entry barriers and amplifies market power.

For India, the risk is not only economic but strategic. Dependence on external AI infrastructure can constrain domestic innovation, weaken bargaining power, and expose sensitive sectors to external vulnerabilities.

The white paper's insistence on sovereign AI infrastructure does not imply isolationism. Rather, it advocates for shared access pathways that allow Indian innovators to compete globally while retaining control over critical systems.

One of the paper's most important contributions is its emphasis on sustainability. As India expands AI capacity, energy efficiency and renewable integration are no longer optional – they are essential. Without careful planning, AI infrastructure could exacerbate environmental stress, particularly in water and power-constrained regions.

The paper rightly calls for energy-efficient architectures, advanced cooling systems, and alignment with India's renewable energy goals.

The scale of AI infrastructure required cannot be delivered by the State alone. The white paper highlights public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a critical lever for expanding regional data

centres, GPU clouds, and sovereign AI capacity.

Well-designed PPPs can combine public oversight with private efficiency – provided governance frameworks are clear, transparent, and aligned with public interest.

AI adoption in India remains uneven. Mature sectors such as finance, e-commerce, and IT have moved faster, while agriculture, healthcare, education, and public services lag behind. Democratised AI infrastructure can help correct this imbalance. Affordable access to compute and datasets can enable precision agriculture, diagnostic tools, language technologies, and citizen-facing public services – especially in regional and vernacular contexts.

This is where India's DPI approach offers a global template: shared infrastructure that enables innovation without privileging only the largest players.

Finally, the white paper underscores that access must be trust-centric. A phased, modular policy approach – grounded in clear governance standards – allows innovation to scale without eroding citizen trust.

Access is destiny

The central insight of the white paper is simple but profound: AI access is destiny. Nations that control and democratise AI infrastructure will shape innovation; those that do not will remain dependent.

India has the opportunity to chart a third path – neither laissez-faire concentration nor State monopolisation, but public-good infrastructure enabled by DPI, partnerships, and trust-based governance.

The question is no longer whether India will adopt AI. The real question is whether AI in India will remain the privilege of a few – or become a shared capability that powers inclusive growth, resilient governance, and digital sovereignty.

That choice will be made not in code, but in infrastructure.

Why AI infrastructure matters more AI अवसंरचना अधिक महत्वपूर्ण क्यों है

- India's **artificial intelligence** debate is often dominated by **applications** such as **automation, productivity tools, chatbots, and efficiency gains**.
भारत में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता पर बहस अक्सर ऑटोमेशन, उत्पादकता उपकरण, चैटबॉट्स और दक्षता वृद्धि जैसे अनुप्रयोगों तक सीमित रहती है।
- But the Government of India's recent **white paper**, "**Democratising Access to AI Infrastructure**", makes a crucial intervention.
लेकिन भारत सरकार के हालिया श्वेत पत्र "एआई अवसंरचना तक पहुंच का लोकतंत्रीकरण" ने एक महत्वपूर्ण हस्तक्षेप किया है।
- The paper argues that the future of AI in India will not be decided by **algorithms alone**, but by **who has access to the infrastructure** that powers them.



श्वेत पत्र का तर्क है कि भारत में एआई का भविष्य केवल एल्गोरिदम से नहीं, बल्कि उसे संचालित करने वाली अवसंरचना तक पहुंच से तय होगा।

- At its core, the paper argues that **compute power, datasets, and AI model ecosystems** are becoming **foundational economic assets**.

अपने मूल में, श्वेत पत्र बताता है कि **कम्प्यूट शक्ति, डेटासेट्स और एआई मॉडल इकोसिस्टम** अब **आधारभूत आर्थिक परिसंपत्तियां** बनते जा रहे हैं।

- In a world where AI capabilities are concentrated among a **handful of global corporations**, access to infrastructure determines **who innovates, who governs, and who merely consumes**.

ऐसी दुनिया में जहां एआई क्षमताएं कुछ **वैश्विक कॉर्पोरेशनों** तक सीमित हैं, वहां अवसंरचना तक पहुंच यह तय करती है कि **कौन नवाचार करता है, कौन शासन करता है, और कौन केवल उपभोक्ता बनता है**।

- For India, this is not merely a **technical issue**.
भारत के लिए यह केवल एक **तकनीकी मुद्दा** नहीं है।
- It is a question of **competitiveness, inclusion, and sovereignty**.
यह **प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता, समावेशन, और संप्रभुता** का प्रश्न है।

A Public Good एक सार्वजनिक वस्तु

- The paper makes a compelling case for treating **AI infrastructure** as a form of **digital public utility**.

श्वेत पत्र **एआई अवसंरचना** को **डिजिटल सार्वजनिक उपयोगिता** के रूप में देखने का सशक्त तर्क देता है।

- Just as **roads** enable commerce and **electricity** enables industry, **AI infrastructure** enables modern **innovation, governance, and research**.

जिस प्रकार **सड़कें** व्यापार को और **बिजली** उद्योग को सक्षम बनाती है, उसी प्रकार **एआई अवसंरचना** आधुनिक **नवाचार, शासन, और अनुसंधान** को सक्षम बनाती है।

- This infrastructure has **two interlinked layers**.
इस अवसंरचना की **दो परस्पर जुड़ी परतें** हैं।

- The first is **physical: data centres, GPUs, high-performance computing clusters, and energy systems**.

पहली परत **भौतिक** है, जिसमें **डेटा सेंटर, जीपीयू, उच्च-प्रदर्शन कम्प्यूटिंग क्लस्टर, और ऊर्जा प्रणालियां** शामिल हैं।

- The second is **digital: datasets, model repositories, governance frameworks, and access protocols**.

दूसरी परत **डिजिटल** है, जिसमें **डेटासेट, मॉडल रिपॉजिटरी, शासन ढांचे, और एक्सेस प्रोटोकॉल** शामिल हैं।

- India today faces a **stark imbalance**.

भारत आज एक **गंभीर असंतुलन** का सामना कर रहा है।

- While India generates nearly **20% of global data**, it hosts only around **3% of global data centre capacity**.

भारत जहां लगभग **20% वैश्विक डेटा** उत्पन्न करता है, वहीं उसके पास केवल लगभग **3% वैश्विक डेटा सेंटर क्षमता** है।

- This asymmetry means Indian **researchers, start-ups, and public institutions** often rely on **foreign compute and platforms**.

इस असमानता का अर्थ है कि भारतीय **शोधकर्ता, स्टार्ट-अप, और सार्वजनिक संस्थान** अक्सर **विदेशी कम्प्यूट संसाधनों और प्लेटफॉर्मों** पर निर्भर रहते हैं।

- India's **policy intent** is strong.

भारत की **नीतिगत मंशा** मजबूत है।

- Initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission, National Supercomputing Mission, AIRAWAT, and emerging national GPU clusters** reflect a clear recognition that **AI infrastructure** must be **strategically developed**.

इंडिया एआई मिशन, नेशनल सुपरकम्प्यूटिंग मिशन, AIRAWAT, और उभरते राष्ट्रीय जीपीयू क्लस्टर यह दर्शाते हैं कि **एआई अवसंरचना का रणनीतिक विकास** आवश्यक है।

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** plays a **central role** in this vision.

डिजिटल पब्लिक इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर (DPI) इस दृष्टि में **केंद्रीय भूमिका** निभाता है।



- Platforms such as **AI Kosh, Bhashini, and TGDeX** demonstrate how **shared, standards-based systems** can **democratise access** to data and models while ensuring **interoperability and accountability**.

AI Kosh, Bhashini, और TGDeX जैसे प्लेटफॉर्म यह दिखाते हैं कि कैसे **साझा, मानक-आधारित प्रणालियां** डेटा और मॉडलों तक **लोकतांत्रिक पहुंच** सुनिश्चित कर सकती हैं, साथ ही **इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी** और **जवाबदेही** भी बनाए रखती हैं।

The Risk of Concentration संकेंद्रण का जोखिम

- The risk of **concentration** is growing as, globally, **AI infrastructure** is becoming increasingly **centralised**.
वैश्विक स्तर पर **एआई अवसंरचना** का **केंद्रीकरण** बढ़ता जा रहा है, जिससे **संकेंद्रण** का जोखिम बढ़ रहा है।
- A **small number of firms** control **advanced chips, large-scale compute, and frontier models**.
कुछ **सीमित कंपनियां** ही **उन्नत चिप्स, बड़े पैमाने की कम्प्यूट क्षमता, और फ्रंटियर मॉडल्स** को नियंत्रित करती हैं।
- This concentration creates **high entry barriers** and amplifies **market power**.
यह संकेंद्रण **उच्च प्रवेश बाधाएं** पैदा करता है और **बाजार शक्ति** को और मजबूत करता है।
- The scale of **AI infrastructure** required cannot be delivered by the **State alone**.
आवश्यक **एआई अवसंरचना** का पैमाना केवल **राज्य** द्वारा अकेले पूरा नहीं किया जा सकता।
- The white paper highlights **public-private partnerships (PPPs)** as a **critical lever** for expanding **regional data centres, GPU clouds, and sovereign AI capacity**.
श्वेत पत्र **सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (PPP)** को **क्षेत्रीय डेटा सेंटर, जीपीयू क्लाउड, और संप्रभु एआई क्षमता** के विस्तार के लिए एक **महत्वपूर्ण साधन** के रूप में रेखांकित करता है।
- Well-designed **PPPs** can combine **public oversight** with **private efficiency**, provided **governance frameworks** are **clear, transparent, and aligned with public interest**.
अच्छी तरह से डिज़ाइन की गई **PPP** व्यवस्थाएं **सार्वजनिक निगरानी** और **निजी दक्षता** को जोड़ सकती हैं, बशर्ते **शासन ढांचे स्पष्ट, पारदर्शी, और लोकहित** के अनुरूप हों।
- **AI adoption** in India remains **uneven**.
भारत में **एआई का अपनाव** अभी भी **असमान** है।
- Mature sectors such as **finance, e-commerce, and IT** have moved faster, while **agriculture, healthcare, education, and public services** lag behind.
वित्त, ई-कॉमर्स, और आईटी जैसे परिपक्व क्षेत्रों ने तेज़ी से प्रगति की है, जबकि **कृषि, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, और सार्वजनिक सेवाएं** पीछे रह गई हैं।
- **Democratised AI infrastructure** can help correct this imbalance.
लोकतांत्रिक एआई अवसंरचना इस असंतुलन को दूर करने में मदद कर सकती है।
- **Affordable access to compute and datasets** can enable **precision agriculture, diagnostic tools, language technologies, and citizen-facing public services**, especially in **regional and vernacular contexts**.
कम्प्यूट और डेटासेट्स तक सुलभ पहुंच से **सटीक कृषि, निदान उपकरण, भाषा प्रौद्योगिकियां, और नागरिक-केंद्रित सार्वजनिक सेवाएं**, विशेष रूप से **क्षेत्रीय और स्थानीय भाषाई संदर्भों** में, संभव हो सकती हैं।
- This is where India's **DPI approach** offers a **global template**.
यहीं पर भारत का **DPI दृष्टिकोण** एक **वैश्विक मॉडल** प्रस्तुत करता है।
- It enables **shared infrastructure** that supports **innovation** without privileging only the **largest players**.
यह **साझा अवसंरचना** को सक्षम बनाता है, जो केवल **सबसे बड़े खिलाड़ियों** को लाभ पहुंचाए बिना **नवाचार** को बढ़ावा देती है।
- Finally, the white paper underscores that access must be **trust-centric**.
अंततः, श्वेत पत्र इस बात पर जोर देता है कि पहुंच **विश्वास-केंद्रित** होनी चाहिए।
- A **phased, modular policy approach**, grounded in **clear governance standards**, allows **innovation to scale** without eroding **citizen trust**.
स्पष्ट शासन मानकों पर आधारित एक **चरणबद्ध, मॉड्यूलर नीति दृष्टिकोण** नागरिक विश्वास को कमजोर किए बिना **नवाचार के विस्तार** को संभव बनाता है।



Access is Destiny

पहुंच ही भविष्य तय करती है

- Access is **destiny**, and this is the **central insight** of the white paper.
पहुंच ही भविष्य तय करती है, और यही श्वेत पत्र की **मुख्य अंतर्दृष्टि** है।
- The white paper conveys a simple but **profound idea** that **AI access** determines outcomes.
श्वेत पत्र एक सरल लेकिन **गहन विचार** प्रस्तुत करता है कि **एआई तक पहुंच** ही परिणाम तय करती है।
- Nations that **control** and **democratise AI infrastructure** will shape **innovation**.
वे देश जो **एआई अवसंरचना** को **नियंत्रित** और **लोकतांत्रिक** बनाते हैं, **नवाचार** की दिशा तय करेंगे।
- Those that fail to do so will remain **dependent**.
जो ऐसा नहीं कर पाएंगे, वे **निर्भर** बने रहेंगे।
- India has the **opportunity** to chart a **third path**.
भारत के पास एक **तीसरा मार्ग** चुनने का **अवसर** है।
- This path is neither **laissez-faire concentration** nor **State monopolisation**.
यह मार्ग न तो **बिना नियंत्रण वाले संकेंद्रण** का है और न ही **राज्य एकाधिकार** का।
- Instead, it is a vision of **public-good infrastructure**.
बल्कि यह **लोकहित आधारित अवसंरचना** की एक परिकल्पना है।
- This infrastructure is enabled by **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, **partnerships**, and **trust-based governance**.
यह अवसंरचना **डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (DPI)**, **भागीदारी**, और **विश्वास-आधारित शासन** द्वारा सक्षम होती है।
- The question is no longer **whether India will adopt AI**.
अब प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि **भारत एआई अपनाएगा या नहीं**।
- The real question is **who AI will serve in India**.
वास्तविक प्रश्न यह है कि **भारत में एआई किसकी सेवा करेगा**।
- Will AI remain the **privilege of a few**.
क्या एआई केवल **कुछ चुनिंदा लोगों का विशेषाधिकार** बना रहेगा।
- Or will it become a **shared capability**.
या फिर यह एक **साझा क्षमता** बनेगा।
- A shared capability that powers **inclusive growth**, **resilient governance**, and **digital sovereignty**.
एक ऐसी साझा क्षमता जो **समावेशी विकास**, **सुदृढ़ शासन**, और **डिजिटल संप्रभुता** को शक्ति दे।
- This decisive choice will not be made in **code**.
यह निर्णायक चुनाव **कोड** में नहीं किया जाएगा।
- It will be made in **infrastructure**.
यह चुनाव **अवसंरचना** में किया जाएगा।

GS Paper III: Environment,	
TOPICS COVERED	22 January 2026
1.	SC asks Centre, Delhi to submit action plan on curbing air pollution वायु प्रदूषण पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए कार्ययोजना सौंपने को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र, दिल्ली से कहा
2.	Study shows India's deltas sinking due to human activity अध्ययन दर्शाता है कि मानव गतिविधियों के कारण भारत के डेल्टा धँस रहे हैं



SC asks Centre, Delhi to submit action plan on curbing air pollution

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi government and other authorities to submit plans to implement long-term measures recommended by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to combat sources of air pollution in the national capital, at the foremost of which is vehicular emission.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, for CAQM, said the measures include phasing out polluting vehicles from Delhi-NCR, fortifying the Pollution Under Control (PUC) regime, augmentation of

rail transport and metro models, revised electric vehicle policy, etc.

Ms. Bhati submitted that a meta-analysis of studies from 2015 to 2025 attributed PM2.5 in Delhi to a mix of primary emissions and secondary particulate formation from sources within the National Capital Region.

Last-mile connectivity

The measures suggested by the CAQM include developing multi-modal transport hubs connecting the metro, Regional Rapid Transit System, last-mile connectivity with a real-time passenger information system, higher incentives to owners for scrapping their old vehicles, expansion in EV charging infrastructure, etc.

चरणबद्ध तरीके से हटाना, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण (PUC) व्यवस्था को मजबूत करना, रेल परिवहन और मेट्रो मॉडल का विस्तार, संशोधित इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन नीति आदि शामिल हैं।

- Ms. Bhati submitted that a meta-analysis of studies from 2015 to 2025 attributed PM2.5 in Delhi to a mix of primary emissions and secondary particulate formation from sources within the National Capital Region.

सुश्री भाटी ने प्रस्तुत किया कि 2015 से 2025 तक के अध्ययनों के मेटा-विश्लेषण में दिल्ली में PM2.5 को राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र के भीतर के स्रोतों से प्राथमिक उत्सर्जन और द्वितीयक कण निर्माण के मिश्रण से जोड़ा गया है।

Last-mile connectivity लास्ट-माइल कनेक्टिविटी

- The measures suggested by the CAQM include developing multi-modal transport hubs connecting the metro, Regional Rapid Transit System, last-mile connectivity with a real-time passenger information system, higher incentives to owners for scrapping their old vehicles, expansion in EV charging infrastructure, etc.

CAQM द्वारा सुझाए गए उपायों में मल्टी-मॉडल परिवहन हब विकसित करना शामिल है जो मेट्रो, रीजनल रैपिड ट्रांजिट सिस्टम, लास्ट-माइल कनेक्टिविटी को रीयल-टाइम यात्री सूचना प्रणाली से जोड़ते हैं, पुराने वाहनों को स्कैप कराने के लिए मालिकों को उच्च प्रोत्साहन, ईवी चार्जिंग अवसंरचना का विस्तार आदि शामिल हैं।

SC asks Centre, Delhi to submit action plan on curbing air pollution
वायु प्रदूषण पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए कार्ययोजना सौंपने को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र, दिल्ली से कहा

• The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi government and other authorities to submit plans to implement long-term measures recommended by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to combat sources of air pollution in the national capital, at the foremost of which is vehicular emission.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को दिल्ली सरकार और अन्य प्राधिकरणों को वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (CAQM) द्वारा सुझाए गए दीर्घकालिक उपायों को लागू करने के लिए योजनाएं प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया, ताकि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में वायु प्रदूषण के स्रोतों से निपटा जा सके, जिनमें सबसे प्रमुख वाहन उत्सर्जन है।

• Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, for CAQM, said the measures include phasing out polluting vehicles from Delhi-NCR, fortifying the Pollution Under Control (PUC) regime, augmentation of rail transport and metro models, revised electric vehicle policy, etc.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्या कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ के समक्ष CAQM की ओर से पेश अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल ऐश्वर्या भाटी ने कहा कि उपायों में दिल्ली-एनसीआर से प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले वाहनों को



Study shows India's deltas sinking due to human activity

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

An international research team has found a systemic drop in land elevation across India's river deltas driven mostly by human activities.

The researchers were motivated by the lack of high-resolution data of river deltas' subsidence worldwide even though they support more than 340 million people.

They used interferometric synthetic aperture radar data from the European Space Agency's Sentinel-1 satellite collected in 2014-2023. The study covered 40 major deltas around the world, including six in India, at a spatial resolution of 75 m.

Then, the team used a random forest machine learning model that correlated the subsidence rates with three stressors: groundwater storage (already measured by the NASA-German GRACE satellites), sediment flux, and urban expansion.

The Ganges-Brahmaputra, Brahmani, Mahanadi, Godavari, Cauvery, and Kabani deltas were all confirmed to be sinking, with more than 90% of the Ganges-Brahmaputra, Brahmani, and Mahanadi deltas' total area affected. In the Ganges, Brahmani, Mahanadi, Godavari, and Kabani deltas as well, the average rate of land subsidence exceeded the rate of regional sea-level rise.

The team also found that 77% of the Brahmani delta and 69% of the Mahanadi delta were sinking at more than 5 mm/year. Even under the worst future climate scenario, the 95th-percentile

The study using satellite data covered 40 major deltas around the world, including six in India, at a spatial resolution of 75 m

subsidence rates in the Godavari delta were expected to exceed the projected rate of global sea-level rise.

In Kolkata, the subsidence rates equalled or exceeded the delta's average because the weight of the city and its resource consumption were actively accelerating its descent relative to the sea.

The effects of such subsidence include worse coastal and river flooding, permanent loss of land, intrusion of saltwater that contaminates freshwater sources and degrades agricultural land (which can increase competition for dwindling resources and drive migration), and damage to ports and transport networks.

The analysis also indicated that the Ganges-Brahmaputra and Cauvery deltas are particularly affected by unsustainable groundwater extraction while the Brahmani delta bears the brunt of rapid urbanisation.

The study also found that the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta has shifted from being a "latent threat" in the 20th century to an "unprepared diver" in the 21st, meaning risk has increased significantly while the institutional capacity to manage it has stagnated.

The study was published in *Nature* on January 14. "All deltas, by their inherent nature, subside over time as recently deposited sediments or in situ organic material compact under their weight, a process further influenced by isostatic adjustments and tectonic activity," the team wrote in its paper, "the team wrote in the paper. "However, human interventions have accelerated subsidence rates in many of the major deltas of the world, transforming a gradual geological process into an urgent environmental crisis."

The team also acknowledged that among other issues, the groundwater storage trends might be off for small deltas due to limitations in the GRACE data, that the sediment flux data aren't up to date, and that, "although the 40 deltas represent a substantial portion of global delta area and population, they are not globally representative".

टीम ने यह भी पाया कि ब्राह्मणी डेल्टा का 77% और महानदी डेल्टा का 69% भाग 5 मिमी/वर्ष से अधिक की दर से धँस रहा था।

- Another effect is **intrusion of saltwater** that **contaminates freshwater sources and degrades agricultural land.**

एक अन्य प्रभाव खारे पानी का प्रवेश है, जो मीठे पानी के स्रोतों को दूषित करता है और कृषि भूमि को क्षतिग्रस्त करता है।

- This can **increase competition for dwindling resources and drive migration.**

इससे घटते संसाधनों के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ सकती है और प्रवास को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है।

- "All deltas, by their inherent nature, **subside over time as recently deposited sediments or in situ organic material compact under their weight,**" the team wrote in the paper.

टीम ने अपने पेपर में लिखा कि "सभी डेल्टा अपने स्वभाव के कारण समय के साथ धँसते हैं, क्योंकि हाल ही में जमा अवसाद या स्थल पर मौजूद जैविक पदार्थ अपने भार के नीचे संकुचित होते हैं।"

- This process is further influenced by **isostatic adjustments and tectonic activity.**

यह प्रक्रिया आइसोस्टैटिक समायोजन और विवर्तनिक गतिविधियों से और अधिक प्रभावित होती है।

- "However, **human interventions have accelerated subsidence rates in many of the major deltas of the world.**"

"हालाँकि, मानव हस्तक्षेपों ने विश्व के कई प्रमुख डेल्टाओं में धँसाव की दर को तेज़ कर दिया है।"

Study shows India's deltas sinking due to human activity

अध्ययन दर्शाता है कि मानव गतिविधियों के कारण भारत के डेल्टा धँस रहे हैं

- They used **interferometric synthetic aperture radar data from the European Space Agency's Sentinel-1 satellite** collected in **2014-2023.**

उन्होंने यूरोपीय अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी के Sentinel-1 उपग्रह से प्राप्त इंटरफेरोमेट्रिक सिंथेटिक अपर्चर रडार डेटा का उपयोग किया, जो 2014-2023 के बीच एकत्र किया गया था।

- The **Ganges-Brahmaputra, Brahmani, Mahanadi, Godavari, Cauvery, and Kabani deltas were all confirmed to be sinking.**

गंगा-ब्रह्मपुत्र, ब्राह्मणी, महानदी, गोदावरी, कावेरी और काबिनी डेल्टा सभी के धँसने की पुष्टि हुई।

- **More than 90% of the Ganges-Brahmaputra, Brahmani, and Mahanadi deltas' total area was affected.**

गंगा-ब्रह्मपुत्र, ब्राह्मणी और महानदी डेल्टाओं के कुल क्षेत्रफल का 90% से अधिक भाग प्रभावित पाया गया।

- In the **Ganges, Brahmani, Mahanadi, Godavari, and Kabani deltas, the average rate of land subsidence exceeded the rate of regional sea-level rise.**

गंगा, ब्राह्मणी, महानदी, गोदावरी और काबिनी डेल्टाओं में भूमि धँसाव की औसत दर, क्षेत्रीय समुद्र-स्तर वृद्धि की दर से अधिक थी।

- The team also found that **77% of the Brahmani delta and 69% of the Mahanadi delta were sinking at more than 5 mm/year.**