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PCS Special:	25 March
25Mar	No developments in Nimisha Priya case: SC adjourns petitions निमिषा प्रिया मामले में कोई प्रगति नहीं: सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने याचिकाएं स्थगित कीं
25Mar	China maps the ocean floor as it prepares for submarine warfare with the U.S. चीन समुद्र तल का मानचित्रण कर रहा है क्योंकि वह अमेरिका के साथ पनडुब्बी युद्ध की तैयारी कर रहा है
25Mar	Know your English अपनी अंग्रेज़ी जानिए

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Brains and brawn



Athletes attempt to control a zebu that has been brought into an arena during a Savika Omby competition in Antananarivo. Savika Omby, a form of bullfighting, is a traditional Malagasy sport most often practised in rural areas on the Highlands of Madagascar. #PatrioticIAS

Athletes attempt to control a **zebu** that has been brought into an arena during a **Savika Omby** competition in Antananarivo. **Savika Omby, a form of bullfighting, is a traditional Malagasy sport most often practised in rural areas on the Highlands of Madagascar.**

No developments in Nimisha Priya case: SC adjourns petitions

PCS
The Hindustan Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned petitions filed on behalf of **Nimisha Priya, a nurse from Kerala facing execution in Yemen for the murder of a local man, sine die** until any fresh development comes up.

A Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath was told by **Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee** that there has been no fresh progress to report. Senior advocate Raghenth Basant and advocate Subhash Chandran, appearing for the family of the nurse, also sought an adjournment. The Bench kept the case pending without giving a future date of hearing, saying the petitions

would be listed if an application is filed in the future signalling any new turn of events

In October last year, the court had been informed that a new mediator had stepped in to facilitate discussions with the victim's family members for payment of blood money, permissible under Sharia law, in return for a pardon.

The execution, which had been reportedly slated for July 16, 2025 had been postponed following diplomatic intervention by the Indian government and efforts by Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar, a Kerala-based Islamic scholar. Ms. Priya was sentenced to death by a Yemeni trial court in 2020 for the murder of her Yemeni business partner.

Islamic scholar.

फांसी, जो कथित रूप से **16 जुलाई 2025** को निर्धारित थी, भारतीय सरकार के **कूटनीतिक हस्तक्षेप** और केरल के इस्लामिक विद्वान **कंथापुरम ए.पी. अबूबक्कर मुसलियार** के प्रयासों के बाद स्थगित कर दी गई थी।

- Ms. Priya was sentenced to **death** by a **Yemeni trial court** in **2020** for the murder of her Yemeni business partner.
- सुश्री प्रिया को **2020** में एक **यमनी ट्रायल कोर्ट** द्वारा अपने यमनी व्यवसायिक साझेदार की हत्या के लिए **मृत्युदंड** दिया गया था।

25Mar. No developments in Nimisha Priya case: SC adjourns petitions

निमिषा प्रिया मामले में कोई प्रगति नहीं: सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने याचिकाएं स्थगित कीं

- The **Supreme Court** on Tuesday adjourned petitions filed on behalf of **Nimisha Priya, a nurse from Kerala facing execution in Yemen for the murder of a local man, sine die** until any fresh development comes up.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को **निमिषा प्रिया**, जो **केरल** की एक नर्स हैं और **यमन** में एक स्थानीय व्यक्ति की हत्या के मामले में फांसी का सामना कर रही हैं, की ओर से दायर याचिकाओं को **अनिश्चितकाल (sine die)** के लिए स्थगित कर दिया, जब तक कोई नया घटनाक्रम सामने न आए।

- In **October last year**, the court had been informed that a new **mediator** had stepped in to facilitate discussions with the victim's family members for payment of **blood money, permissible under Sharia law, in return for a pardon.**

पिछले वर्ष अक्टूबर में अदालत को बताया गया था कि एक नया **मध्यस्थ** पीड़ित के परिवार के साथ बातचीत के लिए आगे आया है, ताकि **शरिया कानून** के तहत अनुमत **ब्लड मनी (खून बहाली राशि)** के भुगतान के बदले माफी मिल सके।

- The **execution, which had been reportedly slated for July 16, 2025, had been postponed following diplomatic intervention by the Indian government and efforts by Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar, a Kerala-based**



China maps the ocean floor as it prepares for submarine warfare with U.S.

Reuters
SYDNEY

China is conducting a vast undersea mapping and monitoring operation across the Pacific, Indian and Arctic oceans, building detailed knowledge of marine conditions that naval experts say would be crucial for waging submarine warfare against the United States and its allies.

In one example, the *Dong Fang Hong 3*, a research vessel operated by Ocean University of China, spent 2024 and 2025 sailing back and forth in the seas near Taiwan and the U.S. stronghold of Guam, and around strategic stretches of the Indian Ocean, ship-tracking data reviewed by Reuters shows. In October 2024, it checked on a set of power-

ful Chinese ocean sensors capable of identifying undersea objects near Japan, according to Ocean University, and visited the same area again last May. And in March 2025, it crisscrossed the waters between Sri Lanka and Indonesia, covering approaches to the Malacca Strait, a critical chokepoint for maritime commerce.

According to the university, the ship was carrying out mud surveys and climate research. But a scientific paper co-written by Ocean University academics shows it has also conducted extensive deep-sea mapping. Naval-warfare experts and U.S. Navy officials say the type of deep-sea data being collected by the *Dong Fang Hong 3* - via mapping and placement of sensors in the ocean - is

giving China a picture of the subsea conditions it would need to deploy its submarines more effectively and hunt down those of its adversaries.

The *Dong Fang Hong 3* isn't operating alone. It is part of a broader ocean mapping and monitoring operation involving dozens of research vessels and hundreds of sensors. In tracing this effort, Reuters examined Chinese government and university records, including journal articles and scientific studies, and analysed more than five years of movement by 42 research vessels active in the Pacific, Indian or Arctic oceans using a ship-tracking platform built by New Zealand company Starboard Maritime Intelligence.

While the research has



Dong Fang Hong 3, a deep-sea research vessel, docks at a pier in Qingdao, Shandong province, China. REUTERS

civilian purposes - some of the surveying covers fishing grounds or areas where China has mineral prospecting contracts - it also serves a military one, according to nine naval-warfare experts who reviewed Reuters' findings.

To gather information about underwater terrain,

conducted seabed mapping, while another 10 have carried equipment used for mapping, according to a review of Chinese state media articles, vessel descriptions published by Chinese universities, and press releases by government organisations.

The vessels' survey data "would be potentially invaluable in preparation of the battlespace" for Chinese submarines, said Peter Scott, a former chief of Australia's submarine force. "Any military submariner worth his salt will put a great deal of effort into understanding the environment he's operating in."

The ship-tracking data show that China's seabed-surveying effort is focused in part on militarily important waters around the Phi-

lippines, near Guam and Hawaii, and near U.S. military facilities on Wake atoll in the north Pacific.

"The scale of what they're doing is about more than just resources," said Jennifer Parker, an adjunct professor of defence and security at the University of Western Australia and former Australian anti-submarine warfare officer. "If you look at the sheer extent of it, it's very clear that they intend to have an expeditionary blue-water naval capability that also is built around submarine operations."

In testimony to a congressional commission this month, Rear Admiral Mike Brookes, the commander of the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence, said China had dramatically expanded its surveying efforts,

providing data that "enables submarine navigation, concealment, and positioning of seabed sensors or weapons". He added that "potential military intelligence collection" by Chinese research vessels "represents a strategic concern". America recently overhauled its own efforts to map and monitor the ocean, but it typically does so with military vessels that are allowed to turn off the tracking system monitored by civilian software. China's civilian survey ships also sometimes disable tracking, meaning its campaign may go further than Reuters could determine. This is the first time the extent of China's mapping and monitoring across the Pacific, Indian and Arctic oceans has been reported.

25Mar. China maps the ocean floor as it prepares for submarine warfare with the U.S.

चीन समुद्र तल का मानचित्रण कर रहा है क्योंकि वह अमेरिका के साथ पनडुब्बी युद्ध की तैयारी कर रहा है

- China is conducting a vast undersea mapping and monitoring operation across the Pacific, Indian and Arctic oceans, building detailed knowledge of marine conditions that naval experts say would be crucial for waging submarine warfare against the United States and its allies.

चीन प्रशांत, हिंद और आर्कटिक महासागरों में एक विशाल समुद्र-तल मानचित्रण और निगरानी अभियान चला रहा है, जिससे समुद्री परिस्थितियों का विस्तृत ज्ञान तैयार हो रहा है, जिसे नौसैनिक विशेषज्ञ अमेरिका और उसके सहयोगियों के खिलाफ पनडुब्बी युद्ध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण मानते हैं।

- In one example, the *Dong Fang Hong 3*, a research vessel operated by Ocean University of China, spent 2024 and 2025 sailing back and forth in the seas near Taiwan and the U.S. stronghold of Guam, and around strategic stretches of the Indian Ocean, ship-tracking data reviewed by Reuters shows.

एक उदाहरण में, डोंग फांग होंग 3, जो ओशन यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ चाइना द्वारा संचालित एक शोध पोत है, ने 2024 और 2025 में ताइवान और गुआम के पास समुद्रों तथा हिंद महासागर के रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों में लगातार आवाजाही की, जैसा कि रॉयटर्स द्वारा देखे गए जहाज-ट्रैकिंग डेटा से पता चलता है।

- In October 2024, it checked on a set of powerful Chinese ocean sensors capable of identifying undersea objects near Japan, according to Ocean University, and visited the same area again last May.

अक्टूबर 2024 में, इसने जापान के पास समुद्र के नीचे की वस्तुओं की पहचान करने में सक्षम शक्तिशाली चीनी समुद्री सेंसर्स की जांच की और पिछले मई में उसी क्षेत्र का फिर दौरा किया।

- And in March 2025, it crisscrossed the waters between Sri Lanka and Indonesia, covering approaches to the **Malacca Strait**, a critical chokepoint for maritime commerce. और मार्च 2025 में, इसने श्रीलंका और इंडोनेशिया के बीच के जलक्षेत्र में बार-बार यात्रा की, जिसमें मलक्का जलडमरूमध्य के मार्ग शामिल थे, जो समुद्री व्यापार के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण बाधा बिंदु है।

- According to the university, the ship was carrying out mud surveys and climate research. विश्वविद्यालय के अनुसार, यह जहाज कीचड़ सर्वेक्षण और जलवायु अनुसंधान कर रहा था।

- But a scientific paper co-written by Ocean University academics shows it has also conducted extensive deep-sea mapping.

लेकिन ओशन यूनिवर्सिटी के शिक्षाविदों द्वारा सह-लिखित एक वैज्ञानिक पत्र से पता चलता है कि इसने व्यापक गहरे समुद्र का मानचित्रण भी किया है।

- Naval-warfare experts and U.S. Navy officials say the type of deep-sea data being collected by the *Dong Fang Hong 3* - via mapping and placement of sensors in the ocean - is giving China a picture of the subsea conditions it would need to deploy its submarines more effectively and hunt down those of its adversaries.

नौसैनिक युद्ध विशेषज्ञों और अमेरिकी नौसेना अधिकारियों का कहना है कि डोंग फांग होंग 3 द्वारा एकत्र



किया जा रहा **गहरे समुद्र का डेटा** चीन को समुद्र के नीचे की परिस्थितियों की जानकारी दे रहा है, जिससे वह अपनी **पनडुब्बियों को अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से तैनात** कर सके और दुश्मनों की पनडुब्बियों का पता लगा सके।

- The Dong Fang Hong 3 isn't operating alone.
डोंग फांग होंग 3 अकेले काम नहीं कर रहा है।
- It is part of a broader ocean mapping and monitoring operation involving dozens of research vessels and hundreds of sensors.
यह दर्जनों **शोध जहाजों** और सैकड़ों **सेंसरों** से जुड़े व्यापक समुद्री मानचित्रण और निगरानी अभियान का हिस्सा है।
- In tracing this effort, Reuters examined Chinese government and university records, including journal articles and scientific studies, and analysed more than five years of movement by 42 research vessels active in the Pacific, Indian or Arctic oceans using a ship-tracking platform built by New Zealand company Starboard Maritime Intelligence.
इस प्रयास का पता लगाने के लिए, **रॉयटर्स** ने चीनी सरकारी और विश्वविद्यालय रिकॉर्ड, जर्नल लेख और वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों की जांच की और **42 शोध जहाजों** की पांच साल से अधिक की गतिविधियों का विश्लेषण किया, जो **स्टारबोर्ड मैरीटाइम इंटेलिजेंस** प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से ट्रैक किए गए।
- While the research has civilian purposes – some of the surveying covers fishing grounds or areas where China has mineral prospecting contracts – it also serves a military one, according to nine naval-warfare experts who reviewed Reuters' findings.
हालांकि यह शोध **नागरिक उद्देश्यों** के लिए भी है—जैसे मछली पकड़ने के क्षेत्र या खनिज खोज—लेकिन नौ **नौसैनिक विशेषज्ञों** के अनुसार इसका **सैन्य उपयोग** भी है।
- To gather information about underwater terrain, providing data that “enables submarine navigation, concealment, and positioning of seabed sensors or weapons”.
यह **समुद्र के नीचे के भू-भाग** की जानकारी एकत्र करता है, जिससे ऐसा डेटा मिलता है जो **“पनडुब्बी नेविगेशन, छिपाव और समुद्र-तल सेंसर या हथियारों की तैनाती”** को सक्षम बनाता है।
- He added that “potential military intelligence collection” by Chinese research vessels “represents a strategic concern”.
उन्होंने कहा कि चीनी शोध जहाजों द्वारा **“संभावित सैन्य खुफिया संग्रह”** एक **“रणनीतिक चिंता”** का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।
- America recently overhauled its own efforts to map and monitor the ocean, but it typically does so with military vessels that are allowed to turn off the tracking system monitored by civilian software.
अमेरिका ने हाल ही में अपने समुद्री मानचित्रण और निगरानी प्रयासों को मजबूत किया, लेकिन वह आमतौर पर **सैन्य जहाजों** का उपयोग करता है, जिन्हें ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम बंद करने की अनुमति होती है।
- China's civilian survey ships also sometimes disable tracking, meaning its campaign may go further than Reuters could determine.
चीन के **नागरिक सर्वेक्षण जहाज** भी कभी-कभी ट्रैकिंग बंद कर देते हैं, जिससे उसका अभियान रॉयटर्स के अनुमान से भी आगे हो सकता है।
- This is the first time the extent of China's mapping and monitoring across the Pacific, Indian and Arctic oceans has been reported.
यह पहली बार है जब **प्रशांत, हिंद और आर्कटिक महासागरों** में चीन के मानचित्रण और निगरानी के विस्तार की रिपोर्ट दी गई है।



Know your English

English
S. Openuran

What is the difference between “hire” and “rent”? (C.G. Mallaiiah, Hospet, Karnataka)

The two words can be used in connection with things. When you “hire” or “rent” something, you take possession of it temporarily for a certain fee. In both cases, there is a payment involved. Nowadays, there is a tendency to use the two words interchangeably, especially in American English. Here are a few examples:

We hired/rented a car for the trip.

Sumathi hired/rented a room for three months.

The students were so bored that they rented/hired a VCR for the weekend.

Unlike the word “rent”, “hire” can be used with people as well. When you “hire” someone, you buy his/her services for a fee. One cannot “rent” an individual’s services.

We hired a cook for three months.

Mala hired herself out as a translator.

How is the word “kudos” pronounced? What does the word mean? (Dr. K. Sankara Narayana, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh)

This is an informal word meaning “honour and glory”. When you receive “kudos” for having done something, you get credit for it. It is an uncountable noun and is always followed by a singular verb. It is important to remember that there is no word “kudo”. Like the words “physics”, “statistics”, and “mathematics”, “kudos” always ends with an “s”. Here are a few examples:

Rajnikanth enjoys all the kudos that goes with being a successful movie star.

The soldier received a lot of kudos from the high command for his brave deeds.

करने की प्रवृत्ति है,

- Here are a few **examples**:

यहाँ कुछ उदाहरण दिए गए हैं:

- We hired/rented a **car** for the trip.

हमने यात्रा के लिए एक **कार** किराए पर ली।

- Sumathi hired/rented a **room** for three months.

सुमति ने तीन महीनों के लिए एक **कमरा** किराए पर लिया।

- The students were so bored that they rented/hired a **VCR** for the weekend.

छात्र इतने ऊब गए थे कि उन्होंने सप्ताहांत के लिए एक **VCR** किराए पर लिया।

- Unlike the word “rent”, “hire” can be used with **people** as well.

“rent” के विपरीत, “hire” का उपयोग **लोगों** के लिए भी किया जा सकता है।

- When you “hire” someone, you buy his/her **services** for a fee.

जब आप किसी को “hire” करते हैं, तो आप उसकी **सेवाएं** शुल्क देकर लेते हैं।

- One cannot “rent” an individual’s services.

किसी व्यक्ति की सेवाओं को “rent” नहीं किया जा सकता।

- We hired a **cook** for three months.

हमने तीन महीनों के लिए एक **रसोइया** रखा।

- Mala hired herself out as a **translator**.

माला ने खुद को एक **अनुवादक** के रूप में नियुक्त किया।

- How is the word “kudos” pronounced? What does the word mean? (Dr. K. Sankara Narayana, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh)

The word comes from the Greek “kudos” meaning “glory”. The students at Oxford and Cambridge Universities made the word popular in the 18th century. The “k” is pronounced like the letter “Q” and the “u” is like the “oo” in words like “cool” and “fool”. The “o” in the second syllable is like the “o” in “pot” and “hot”. The final “s” is like the “s” in “sit” and “sip”. The stress is on the first syllable.

Why are psychiatrists called “shrinks”? (S.S. Saravanan, Madurai)

The slang term “shrink” is applied not just to psychiatrists, but also to psychotherapists and psychologists.

“Shrink” is the shortened form of “headshrinker”. This was the term used to refer to the medicine men among cannibal tribes. It was common practice among the “doctors” in these tribes to cut off their victim’s head. When the head dried, it looked shrunk! Later, the skull was removed and this made the head look even smaller. Mercifully, our modern-day psychiatrists don’t attempt to shrink our heads using the same techniques! They try their level best to “shrink” the illusions floating around inside our heads.

What is the correct response to “thank you”? Is it “Don’t mention it”, or “You’re welcome”? (C.B.D. Rao, Bangalore)

Both are equally acceptable. “Don’t mention it” is one of the standard responses in British English – some of the others being “That’s all right” and “Not at all”. The response “You’re welcome” is considered very American. Thanks to the spread of American English, however, “you’re welcome” is becoming quite common in all varieties of English.

Published in *The Hindu* on January 11, 2000

25Mar. Know your English अपनी अंग्रेज़ी जानिए

- What is the difference between “hire” and “rent”? (C.G. Mallaiiah, Hospet, Karnataka)

“hire” और “rent” में क्या अंतर है? (सी.जी. मल्लैया, होस्पेट, कर्नाटक)

- The two words can be used in connection with **things**.

ये दोनों शब्द **वस्तुओं** के संदर्भ में उपयोग किए जा सकते हैं।

- When you “hire” or “rent” something, you take possession of it temporarily for a certain **fee**.

जब आप किसी चीज़ को “hire” या “rent” करते हैं, तो आप उसे कुछ समय के लिए एक निश्चित **शुल्क** पर लेते हैं।

- In both cases, there is a **payment** involved.

दोनों ही मामलों में **भुगतान** शामिल होता है।

- Nowadays, there is a tendency to use the two words **interchangeably**, especially in **American English**.

आजकल इन दोनों शब्दों का **परस्पर विनिमेय रूप से** उपयोग विशेषकर **अमेरिकी अंग्रेज़ी** में।



शब्द “kudos” का उच्चारण कैसे किया जाता है? इसका अर्थ क्या है? (डॉ. के. शंकर नारायण, कर्नूल, आंध्र प्रदेश)

- This is an informal word meaning “honour and glory”.
यह एक अनौपचारिक शब्द है जिसका अर्थ “सम्मान और गौरव” है।
- When you receive “kudos” for having done something, you get credit for it.
जब आपको किसी कार्य के लिए “kudos” मिलता है, तो आपको उसका श्रेय मिलता है।
- It is an uncountable noun and is always followed by a singular verb.
यह एक अगणनीय संज्ञा है और इसके साथ हमेशा एकवचन क्रिया आती है।
- It is important to remember that there is no word “kudo”.
यह याद रखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि “kudo” जैसा कोई शब्द नहीं है।
- Like the words “physics”, “statistics”, and “mathematics”, “kudos” always ends with an “s”.
“physics”, “statistics”, और “mathematics” की तरह, “kudos” हमेशा “s” पर समाप्त होता है।
- Here are a few examples:
यहाँ कुछ उदाहरण हैं:
- Rajnikanth enjoys all the kudos that goes with being a successful movie star.
रजनीकांत एक सफल फिल्म स्टार होने के साथ मिलने वाले सभी सम्मान (kudos) का आनंद लेते हैं।
- The soldier received a lot of kudos from the high command for his brave deeds.
सैनिक को उसके साहसी कार्यों के लिए उच्च कमान से बहुत प्रशंसा (kudos) मिली।
- The word comes from the Greek “kudos” meaning “glory”.
यह शब्द ग्रीक “kudos” से आया है, जिसका अर्थ “गौरव” है।
- The students at Oxford and Cambridge Universities made the word popular in the 18th century.
ऑक्सफोर्ड और कैम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालयों के छात्रों ने इस शब्द को 18वीं सदी में लोकप्रिय बनाया।
- The “k” is pronounced like the letter “Q” and the “u” is like the “oo” in words like “cool” and “fool”.
“k” का उच्चारण “Q” की तरह और “u” का उच्चारण “cool” और “fool” के “oo” जैसा होता है।
- The “o” in the second syllable is like the “o” in “pot” and “hot”.
दूसरे अक्षर का “o”, “pot” और “hot” के “o” जैसा होता है।
- The final “s” is like the “s” in “sit” and “sip”.
अंतिम “s” का उच्चारण “sit” और “sip” के “s” जैसा होता है।
- The stress is on the first syllable.
ज़ोर पहले अक्षर पर होता है।
- Why are psychiatrists called “shrinks”? (S.S. Saravanan, Madurai)
मनोचिकित्सकों को “shrinks” क्यों कहा जाता है? (एस.एस. सरवनन, मदुरै)
- The slang term “shrink” is applied not just to psychiatrists, but also to psychotherapists and psychologists.
“shrink” शब्द केवल मनोचिकित्सकों के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि मनोचिकित्सकों और मनोवैज्ञानिकों के लिए भी प्रयोग होता है।
- “Shrink” is the shortened form of “headshrinker”.
“shrink” शब्द “headshrinker” का छोटा रूप है।
- This was the term used to refer to the medicine men among cannibal tribes.
यह शब्द नरभक्षी जनजातियों के ओझाओं के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता था।
- It was common practice among these “doctors” to cut off their victim’s head.
इन “डॉक्टरों” के बीच अपने शिकार का सिर काटना सामान्य प्रथा थी।
- When the head dried, it looked shrunk.
जब सिर सूख जाता था, तो वह सिकुड़ा हुआ दिखता था।
- Later, the skull was removed and this made the head look even smaller.
बाद में खोपड़ी निकाल दी जाती थी, जिससे सिर और छोटा दिखता था।
- Mercifully, our modern-day psychiatrists don’t attempt to shrink our heads using the same techniques.
सौभाग्य से, आज के मनोचिकित्सक हमारे सिर को उसी तरह छोटा करने की कोशिश नहीं करते।
- They try their level best to “shrink” the illusions floating around inside our heads.
वे हमारे दिमाग में मौजूद भ्रमों को “कम करने (shrink)” की कोशिश करते हैं।
- What is the correct response to “thank you”? Is it “Don’t mention it”, or “You’re welcome”? (C.B.D. Rao, Bangalore)



“thank you” का सही उत्तर क्या है? क्या यह “Don’t mention it” है या “You’re welcome”? (सी.बी.डी. राव, बेंगलुरु)

- Both are equally **acceptable**.
दोनों ही समान रूप से **स्वीकार्य** हैं।
- “Don’t mention it” is one of the standard responses in **British English**.
“Don’t mention it” ब्रिटिश अंग्रेज़ी में एक सामान्य उत्तर है।
- Some others being “That’s all right” and “Not at all”.
इसके अन्य उदाहरण हैं “That’s all right” और “Not at all”।
- The response “You’re welcome” is considered very **American**.
“You’re welcome” को अधिक **अमेरिकी** माना जाता है।
- Thanks to the spread of **American English**, however, “you’re welcome” is becoming quite common in all varieties of **English**.
हालांकि **अमेरिकी अंग्रेज़ी** के प्रसार के कारण “you’re welcome” अब सभी प्रकार की अंग्रेज़ी में सामान्य होता जा रहा है।
- Published in **The Hindu** on **January 11, 2000**.
यह **The Hindu** में **11 जनवरी 2000** को प्रकाशित हुआ था।

GS Paper 1: History,

TOPICS COVERED

25 March 2026

25Mar QUIZ

25Mar Thailand-Cambodia fight has left ancient Hindu temple ruined
थाईलैंड-कंबोडिया संघर्ष ने प्राचीन हिंदू मंदिर को बर्बाद कर दिया

Questions and answers to the previous day’s daily quiz: 1.

The execution of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru followed their conviction in this case related to the assassination of John Saunders in Lahore. **Ans: Lahore Conspiracy Case**

2. The assassination of Saunders was intended as retaliation for the police assault on this nationalist leader who later died of injuries sustained during a lathi charge. **Ans: Lala Lajpat Rai**

3. The three revolutionaries were executed in this prison. **Ans: Lahore Central Jail in Lahore**

4. This pact between nationalist leaders and the British government was signed shortly before the executions in 1931. **Ans: Gandhi-Irwin Pact**

5. The title of the editorial published after the executions, by B. R. Ambedkar, in the Marathi weekly Janata on April 13, 1931? **Ans: Teen Bali (Three Victims)**

Visual: The Indian revolutionary, commander-in-chief of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, who died in a gun battle with the British police at Alfred Park in 1931. **Ans: Chandra Shekhar Azad**

Early Birds: C. Saravanan | Sudhir Thapa | Parimal Das | Prem Nath Tiwari | Pranav Shailesh K.

25Mar. QUIZ

Lahore Conspiracy Case (1929–1931)

- The execution of **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru** followed their conviction in the **Lahore Conspiracy Case**, which was linked to the assassination of **British officer John Saunders in Lahore (1928)**.
 - The case was a landmark in India’s freedom struggle and reflected revolutionary resistance against British rule.
 - The **Lahore Conspiracy Case** arose after **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev** assassinated **J.P. Saunders** on **17 December 1928** to avenge the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**, who died due to police lathi charge.
- The British government constituted a **Special Tribunal (1930)** under an ordinance to fast-track the trial.
- Despite legal appeals, all three revolutionaries were **executed on 23 March 1931** in **Lahore Central Jail**, making them enduring symbols of sacrifice and revolutionary nationalism in India’s freedom movement.

Lala Lajpat Rai and Saunders Assassination (1928)

- The assassination of **John Saunders** was carried out as retaliation for the brutal police assault on **Lala Lajpat Rai**, a prominent nationalist leader.
- This incident became a turning point in revolutionary activities during the Indian freedom struggle.
- On **30 October 1928**, **Lala Lajpat Rai** led a peaceful protest against the **Simon Commission** in **Lahore**.
- The protest was met with a severe **lathi charge** ordered by **Superintendent James A. Scott**, causing serious injuries to Rai.



- He succumbed to these injuries on **17 November 1928**.
- To avenge his death, **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev** assassinated **J.P. Saunders** (mistaking him for Scott) on **17 December 1928**, marking a significant revolutionary act.

Lahore Central Jail and Execution (1931)

- The **three revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru** were executed in **Lahore Central Jail (Lahore)**.
- Their execution became a defining moment in India's freedom struggle.
- After being convicted in the **Lahore Conspiracy Case, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev** were sentenced to death by a **Special Tribunal in 1930**.
- They were executed on **23 March 1931** in **Lahore Central Jail**, a day earlier than the scheduled date to avoid public unrest.
- Their bodies were secretly cremated near the **Sutlej River (Hussainiwala)**.
- The event intensified nationalist sentiments and immortalised them as martyrs in India's independence movement.

Gandhi–Irwin Pact (1931)

- The **Gandhi–Irwin Pact** was an agreement between **Mahatma Gandhi** and **Viceroy Lord Irwin**, signed shortly before the execution of Bhagat Singh and his associates in **1931**.
- It marked a temporary truce between the British government and the Indian National Congress.
- The **Gandhi–Irwin Pact** was signed on **5 March 1931** to end the **Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- The British agreed to release political prisoners (except those involved in violence) and allow peaceful protests, while the Congress agreed to suspend the movement and participate in the **Second Round Table Conference**.
- Despite public expectations, the pact did not include clemency for **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev**, leading to widespread criticism and disappointment among nationalists.

'Teen Bali' Editorial by B.R. Ambedkar (1931)

- The editorial titled **"Teen Bali" (Three Victims)** was written by **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** in the Marathi weekly **Janata** on **13 April 1931**, after the execution of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev.
- It reflected Ambedkar's analytical perspective on revolutionary actions and their implications.
- In the editorial **"Teen Bali"**, **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** critically examined the execution of the three revolutionaries on **23 March 1931**.
- He acknowledged their sacrifice but questioned the effectiveness of **violent revolutionary methods** in achieving long-term political goals.
- Ambedkar emphasised the need for **constitutional and organised political struggle** over individual acts of heroism, arguing that systemic change required broader social and political mobilisation rather than isolated revolutionary actions.



Thailand-Cambodia fight has left ancient Hindu temple ruined

GS I: History

Associated Press

PREAH VIHEAR, CAMBODIA

It has been three months since a ceasefire ended the bitter border fighting between Cambodia and Thailand, but signs of combat are cut deep in this 11th-century Hindu temple atop a 525-metre cliff in the Dangrek Mountains.

The neighbouring Southeast Asian countries have been fighting over Preah Vihear temple on and off for decades, and that has put the ancient holy site in danger.

Built by the same Khmer Empire that constructed Angkor Wat 160 km southwest, the temple, which is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008 and is held as an important cultural relic by Cambodians. The empire was Hindu, but gradually converted to Buddhism, the state religion of modern Cambodia.

But after two rounds of major combat last year, much of the structure is damaged and Cambodian officials say that parts of the temple may be in danger of collapse.

"The temple has turned quiet, and its beauty looks so sorrowful because of the tragedy," Hem Sinath, archaeologist and deputy director-general of the National Authority for Preah Vihear, told AP journalists. The site is closed to tourism.

The temple has been at the centre of a long-standing boundary dispute since the 1950s. In 1962, the International Court of Justice ruled that the temple and surrounding area of less than five sq. km belong to Cambodia. The Court reaffirmed this ruling in 2013.

India, China and the United States were involved in previous renovation efforts, but funding has been on hold since fighting broke out.

25Mar. Thailand-Cambodia fight has left ancient Hindu temple ruined थाईलैंड-कंबोडिया संघर्ष ने प्राचीन हिंदू मंदिर को बर्बाद कर दिया

It has been three months since a ceasefire ended the bitter border fighting between Cambodia and Thailand, but signs of combat are cut deep in this **11th-century Hindu temple** atop a 525-metre cliff in the **Dangrek Mountains**.

कंबोडिया और थाईलैंड के बीच कड़वी सीमा लड़ाई को **सीजफायर** खत्म हुए तीन महीने हो चुके हैं, लेकिन **डांगरेक पर्वत** में 525 मीटर ऊंची चट्टान पर स्थित इस **11वीं सदी के हिंदू मंदिर** में युद्ध के निशान गहरे दिखाई देते हैं।

The neighbouring Southeast Asian countries have been fighting over Preah Vihear temple on and off for decades, and that has put the ancient holy site in danger.

ये पड़ोसी **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई देश** दशकों से **प्रेह विहार मंदिर** को लेकर लड़ते रहे हैं, जिससे यह प्राचीन **पवित्र स्थल खतरे में** पड़ गया है।

Built by the same Khmer Empire that constructed Angkor Wat 160 km southwest, the temple, which is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008 and is held as an important cultural relic by Cambodians.

यह मंदिर उसी **खमेर साम्राज्य** द्वारा बनाया गया था जिसने 160 किमी दक्षिण-पश्चिम में **अंगकोर वाट** का निर्माण किया था, और यह **भगवान शिव** को समर्पित है, जिसे 2008 में **यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल** घोषित किया गया और कंबोडियाई इसे महत्वपूर्ण सांस्कृतिक धरोहर मानते हैं।

The empire was Hindu, but gradually converted to Buddhism, the state religion of modern Cambodia.

यह साम्राज्य **हिंदू** था, लेकिन धीरे-धीरे **बौद्ध धर्म** में परिवर्तित हो गया, जो आधुनिक कंबोडिया का **राज्य धर्म** है।

- But after two rounds of major combat last year, much of the structure is damaged and Cambodian officials say that parts of the temple may be in danger of collapse.
लेकिन पिछले साल दो बड़े युद्धों के बाद संरचना का अधिकांश हिस्सा क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया है और **कंबोडियाई अधिकारियों** का कहना है कि मंदिर के कुछ हिस्से **गिरने के खतरे में** हैं।
- "The temple has turned quiet, and its beauty looks so sorrowful because of the tragedy," Hem Sinath, archaeologist and deputy director-general of the National Authority for Preah Vihear, told AP journalists.
"मंदिर अब शांत हो गया है और इसकी सुंदरता इस त्रासदी के कारण बहुत **दुखद** लगती है," **हेम सिनाथ**, पुरातत्वविद और **प्रेह विहार राष्ट्रीय प्राधिकरण** के उप महानिदेशक ने एपी पत्रकारों को बताया।
- The site is closed to tourism.
यह स्थल **पर्यटन के लिए बंद** कर दिया गया है।
- The temple has been at the centre of a longstanding boundary dispute since the 1950s.
यह मंदिर 1950 के दशक से एक लंबे समय से चल रहे **सीमा विवाद** का केंद्र रहा है।
- In 1962, the International Court of Justice ruled that the temple and surrounding area of less than five sq. km belong to Cambodia.
1962 में, **अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालय** ने फैसला दिया कि मंदिर और उसके आसपास का 5 वर्ग किमी से कम क्षेत्र **कंबोडिया** का है।
- The Court reaffirmed this ruling in 2013.
अदालत ने इस फैसले की **2013 में पुनः पुष्टि** की।
- India, China and the United States were involved in previous renovation efforts, but funding has been on hold since fighting broke out





भारत, चीन और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका पहले के पुनर्निर्माण प्रयासों में शामिल थे, लेकिन संघर्ष शुरू होने के बाद से फंडिंग रोक दी गई है।

GS Paper 1: Society

TOPICS COVERED

25 March 2026

25Mar	Women short-changed yet again as Kerala parties refuse to change course महिलाओं को फिर किया गया नजरअंदाज, केरल की पार्टियां बदलाव को तैयार नहीं
25Mar	LS passes new transgender Bill as MPs stage walkout लोकसभा ने नया ट्रांसजेंडर विधेयक पारित किया, सांसदों का वॉकआउट

Women short-changed yet again as Kerala parties refuse to change course

Though Kerala is only State where women outnumber men, this demographic strength has never translated into political power; the LDF has fielded 17 women candidates, the UDF 12, and the NDA 14; support across party lines for reservation Bill is yet to catalyse a practical shift in political culture

GS I: Society

IN FOCUS

Navamy Sudhish
KOLLAM

As Kerala marches towards the Assembly election, a stark and familiar contradiction has once again taken centre stage. Despite women outnumbering men on the final electoral rolls, the candidate lists released by the major fronts tell a story of exclusion.

Across the 140 constituencies, women remain a decimal point in a male-dominated power struggle, raising urgent questions about whether the State's high literacy and social progress are merely veneer-deep when it comes to political empowerment. This persistent gender paradox suggests that while women are the primary drivers of Kerala's high voter turnout, the winnability argument continues to be used by male-dominated party machineries to keep them away from the corridors of power.

The United Democratic Front has faced sharp internal and external criti-

cism for fielding only nine women out of 92 Congress candidates. When the candidates from constituent parties such as the Revolutionary Marxist Party and the Muslim League are also included, the total number of women candidates in the UDF reaches 12.

The situation is equally grim within the Left Democratic Front, which, despite its progressive rhetoric, has nominated only 17 women.

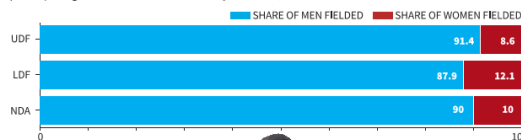
While this 12% representation is a marginal improvement over previous years, it remains far below the threshold of meaningful empowerment, leaving the State's legislative diversity stagnant. The National Democratic Alliance has fielded around 14 women, and the overall narrative across all fronts remains one of exclusion.

Patriarchal structures

Since the first Kerala Assembly in 1957, only 100 women have ever been elected to the House, a sobering statistic that highlights a glass ceiling. While Kerala often stands as a beacon for human development, the gap between

Gender imbalance

The chart shows the gender-wise share of candidates fielded by the three major coalitions participating in the 2026 Kerala Assembly election (in %)



For every 1,000 male voters in Kerala's electorate, there are **1,053** female voters

Since the first Kerala Assembly in 1957, **only 100** women have ever been elected to the house

Women have yet to cross the **10%** threshold in both Kerala's State Assembly or Parliament

social indicators and political representation remains a stark irony, R.M. Amritraj, a specialist in women's studies at the Kerala Institute of Local Administration, points out.

"Although it is the only Indian State where women outnumber men, this demographic strength has never translated into political power; women have yet to cross the 10% threshold in either the State Assembly or Parliament," he says. He adds that this dispar-

ity serves as a sobering reminder that high social indicators do not automatically dismantle patriarchal structures. "In a society that prides itself on constant discourse regarding gender justice, inclusivity, and progressive politics, the continued absence of women from major decision-making bodies is a significant systemic failure," he observes.

According to senior CPI (M) leader G.S. Sujatha, the deeply rooted patriarchal

nature of Kerala society acts as a barrier to rapid progress. "While we see minor shifts in the right direction, they fall short of what is necessary. Achieving a truly equitable society demands a more rigorous and sustained struggle," she says.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Deepthi Mary Varghese says parties celebrate women's empowerment in rhetoric, yet often hesitate to share actual

power when there isn't a legal mandate forcing them to do so.

Genuine conviction

"Political parties must develop a genuine conviction regarding the need for women in politics. There are highly capable and strong women leaders who have excelled as local body heads. So the barrier isn't a lack of capable women," she says.

BJP spokesperson T.P. Sindhumol says despite the opportunity for parties to demonstrate their commitment to gender justice voluntarily, the status quo remains largely undisturbed.

"While the introduction of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was met with unanimous support across party lines, this symbolic consensus has yet to catalyse a practical shift in political culture. Women are the backbone of day-to-day party activities, leading cultural initiatives, social welfare programmes, and grassroots mobilisation. But these women who are deemed indispensable for party are often overlooked when ticket distribution is discussed," she says.

25Mar. Women short-changed yet again as Kerala parties refuse to change course

महिलाओं को फिर किया गया नजरअंदाज, केरल की पार्टियां बदलाव को तैयार नहीं

- Though Kerala is the only State where women outnumber men, this demographic strength has never translated into **political power**.
हालांकि केरल एकमात्र राज्य है जहां महिलाओं की संख्या पुरुषों से अधिक है, लेकिन यह जनसंख्या शक्ति कभी भी राजनीतिक शक्ति में नहीं बदल पाई।
- The LDF has fielded 17 women candidates, the UDF 12, and the NDA 14.
LDF ने 17 महिला उम्मीदवार, UDF ने 12, और NDA ने 14 महिला उम्मीदवार उतारे हैं।
- Support across party lines for the **reservation Bill** is yet to catalyse a practical shift in **political culture**.



आरक्षण विधेयक को सभी दलों का समर्थन मिलने के बावजूद **राजनीतिक संस्कृति** में व्यावहारिक बदलाव अभी नहीं हुआ है।

- As Kerala marches towards the **Assembly election**, a stark and familiar contradiction has once again taken centre stage.
जैसे-जैसे केरल **विधानसभा चुनाव** की ओर बढ़ रहा है, एक स्पष्ट और पुराना विरोधाभास फिर सामने आ गया है।
- Despite women outnumbering men on the **final electoral rolls**, the candidate lists released by the **major fronts** tell a story of **exclusion**.
अंतिम मतदाता सूची में महिलाओं की संख्या अधिक होने के बावजूद **मुख्य राजनीतिक मोर्चों** की उम्मीदवार सूची **बहिष्कार** की कहानी बताती है।
- Across the **140 constituencies**, women remain a decimal point in a **male-dominated power struggle**.
140 विधानसभा क्षेत्रों में महिलाएं अभी भी **पुरुष-प्रधान सत्ता संघर्ष** में बहुत कम संख्या में हैं।
- This raises urgent questions about whether the State's **high literacy and social progress** are merely **vaneer-deep** when it comes to **political empowerment**.
इससे यह सवाल उठता है कि क्या राज्य की **उच्च साक्षरता और सामाजिक प्रगति** केवल **ऊपरी दिखावा** है, खासकर **राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण** के मामले में।
- This persistent **gender paradox** suggests that while women are the primary drivers of Kerala's **high voter turnout**, the **winnability argument** continues to be used by male-dominated party machineries to keep them away from **power**.
यह लगातार बना **लैंगिक विरोधाभास** दिखाता है कि महिलाएं केरल में **उच्च मतदान प्रतिशत** की मुख्य वजह हैं, लेकिन **जीतने की संभावना (winnability)** का तर्क देकर पुरुष-प्रधान पार्टियां उन्हें **सत्ता से दूर** रखती हैं।
- The **United Democratic Front** has faced sharp criticism for fielding only **nine women** out of **92 Congress candidates**.
यूनाइटेड डेमोक्रेटिक फ्रंट को **92 कांग्रेस उम्मीदवारों** में से केवल **9 महिलाओं** को टिकट देने पर कड़ी आलोचना का सामना करना पड़ा।
- When candidates from parties like the **Revolutionary Marxist Party** and the **Muslim League** are included, the total number of women candidates in the **UDF** reaches **12**.
जब **रिवोल्यूशनरी मार्क्सिस्ट पार्टी** और **मुस्लिम लीग** जैसी पार्टियों को शामिल किया जाता है, तो **UDF** में कुल महिला उम्मीदवारों की संख्या **12** हो जाती है।
- The situation is equally grim within the **Left Democratic Front**, which has nominated only **17 women**.
स्थिति **लेफ्ट डेमोक्रेटिक फ्रंट** में भी उतनी ही खराब है, जिसने केवल **17 महिलाओं** को टिकट दिया है।
- While this **12% representation** is a marginal improvement, it remains far below meaningful **empowerment**.
हालांकि **12% प्रतिनिधित्व** थोड़ा सुधार है, लेकिन यह वास्तविक **सशक्तिकरण** से बहुत कम है।
- The **National Democratic Alliance** has fielded around **14 women**, and the overall narrative remains one of **exclusion**.
नेशनल डेमोक्रेटिक अलायंस ने लगभग **14 महिलाओं** को टिकट दिया है और कुल मिलाकर स्थिति अभी भी **बहिष्कार** की ही है।

Patriarchal structures पितृसत्तात्मक संरचनाएं

- Since the first **Kerala Assembly in 1957**, only **100 women** have ever been elected to the House.
1957 की पहली केरल विधानसभा से अब तक केवल **100 महिलाएं** ही सदन में चुनी गई हैं।
- Kerala often stands as a **beacon for human development**, yet the gap between **social indicators and political representation** remains a stark irony.
केरल अक्सर **मानव विकास का उदाहरण** माना जाता है, लेकिन **सामाजिक सूचकांक और राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व** के बीच का अंतर एक बड़ी विडंबना है।
- Although women outnumber men, this **demographic strength** has never translated into **political power**.
हालांकि महिलाओं की संख्या अधिक है, लेकिन यह **जनसंख्या शक्ति** कभी **राजनीतिक शक्ति** में नहीं बदली।



- Women have yet to cross the **10% threshold** in either the **State Assembly or Parliament**.
महिलाएं अभी तक **विधानसभा या संसद में 10% की सीमा** भी पार नहीं कर पाई हैं।
- This disparity shows that high **social indicators** do not automatically dismantle **patriarchal structures**.
यह असमानता दिखाती है कि उच्च **सामाजिक सूचकांक** अपने आप **पितृसत्तात्मक संरचनाओं** को खत्म नहीं करते।
- “In a society that prides itself on **gender justice** and **progressive politics**, the absence of women from major decision-making bodies is a significant **systemic failure**.”
“एक ऐसे समाज में जो **लैंगिक न्याय** और **प्रगतिशील राजनीति** पर गर्व करता है, वहां निर्णय लेने वाली संस्थाओं में महिलाओं की अनुपस्थिति एक बड़ी **प्रणालीगत विफलता** है।”
- According to **CPI(M) leader C.S. Sujatha**, the deeply rooted **patriarchal nature** of Kerala society acts as a barrier.
CPI(M) नेता सी.एस. सुजाता के अनुसार केरल समाज की गहरी **पितृसत्तात्मक सोच** ही सबसे बड़ी बाधा है।
- “While we see minor shifts, they fall short of what is necessary to achieve a truly **equitable society**.”
“कुछ छोटे बदलाव दिख रहे हैं, लेकिन वे एक वास्तविक **समान समाज** बनाने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं हैं।”

Genuine conviction वास्तविक प्रतिबद्धता

- Political parties must develop a genuine **conviction regarding the need for women in politics**.
राजनीतिक दलों को **राजनीति में महिलाओं की जरूरत** को लेकर वास्तविक **प्रतिबद्धता** विकसित करनी होगी।
- There are highly capable **women leaders**, and the barrier is not the lack of talent.
कई सक्षम **महिला नेता** मौजूद हैं, इसलिए समस्या प्रतिभा की कमी नहीं है।
- Parties celebrate **women's empowerment** in speeches but hesitate to share **actual power**.
पार्टियां भाषणों में **महिला सशक्तिकरण** की बात करती हैं, लेकिन **वास्तविक सत्ता** देने से हिचकती हैं।
- Despite support for the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam**, there has been no practical shift in **political culture**.
नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम को समर्थन मिलने के बावजूद **राजनीतिक संस्कृति** में कोई वास्तविक बदलाव नहीं हुआ है।
- Women are the backbone of **grassroots mobilisation**, social welfare programmes, and party activities.
महिलाएं **जमीनी स्तर पर संगठन**, सामाजिक कल्याण कार्यक्रमों और पार्टी गतिविधियों की रीढ़ हैं।
- But these women are often **overlooked during ticket distribution**.
लेकिन टिकट वितरण के समय इन्हीं महिलाओं को अक्सर **नजरअंदाज कर दिया जाता है**।



LS passes new transgender Bill as MPs stage walkout

GS I: Society
Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Amid an Opposition-led walkout, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed by voice vote the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, which proposes to remove transgender people's right to self-determination of gender, and introduces a clause for examination by a medical board to determine their gender.

The MPs who walked out of the House were from parties such as the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, DMK, Shiv Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party, and the CPI(M). Congress whip Manickam Tagore said they walked out as they were "not satisfied with the reply" of the Minister on the Bill. Transgender rights groups, civil society leaders, and several prominent members of the community condemned the passing of the Bill as an "injustice".

Union Minister for Social Justice Virendra Kumar said the Bill sought to stop adults and children from being "forced or compelled" to become or present as transgender persons through hormone therapy or other interventions, and strengthened punishments for crimes against transgender persons. He said the Bill was aimed at empowering the transgender community.

25Mar. LS passes new transgender Bill as MPs stage walkout लोकसभा ने नया ट्रांसजेंडर विधेयक पारित किया, सांसदों का वॉकआउट

• Amid an **Opposition-led walkout**, the **Lok Sabha** on Tuesday passed by **voice vote** the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**.

विपक्ष के वॉकआउट के बीच, लोकसभा ने मंगलवार को वॉयस वोट से ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 पारित किया।

• The Bill proposes to remove **transgender people's right to self-determination of gender**, and introduces a clause for examination by a **medical board** to determine their gender.

यह विधेयक ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों के लिंग की आत्म-निर्धारण के अधिकार को हटाने का प्रस्ताव करता है और उनके लिंग निर्धारण के लिए मेडिकल बोर्ड द्वारा जांच का प्रावधान करता है।

• The MPs who walked out of the House were from parties such as the **Congress, Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, DMK, Shiv Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party, and CPI(M)**.

जो सांसद सदन से बाहर गए, वे कांग्रेस, समाजवादी पार्टी, तृणमूल कांग्रेस, DMK, शिवसेना (UBT), राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी और CPI(M) जैसे दलों से थे।

• **Congress whip Manickam Tagore** said they walked out as they were "not satisfied with the reply" of the **Minister** on the Bill.

कांग्रेस व्हिप मणिकम टैगोर ने कहा कि वे इसलिए बाहर गए क्योंकि वे विधेयक पर मंत्री के जवाब से संतुष्ट नहीं थे।

• **Transgender rights groups**, civil society leaders, and several prominent members of the community condemned the passing of the Bill as an "**injustice**".

ट्रांसजेंडर अधिकार समूहों, सिविल सोसाइटी नेताओं और समुदाय के कई प्रमुख सदस्यों ने इस विधेयक को "अन्याय" बताया।

• **Union Minister for Social Justice Virendra Kumar** said the Bill sought to stop adults and children from being "**forced or compelled**" to become or present as transgender persons through **hormone therapy** or other interventions.

सामाजिक न्याय मंत्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार ने कहा कि यह विधेयक वयस्कों और बच्चों को हॉर्मोन थेरेपी या अन्य तरीकों से ट्रांसजेंडर बनने के लिए "मजबूर किए जाने" से रोकने के लिए लाया गया है।

• He added that the Bill strengthened **punishments for crimes against transgender persons**.

उन्होंने कहा कि यह विधेयक ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ अपराधों के लिए सख्त सजा का प्रावधान करता है।

• He said the Bill was aimed at **empowering the transgender community**.

उन्होंने कहा कि यह विधेयक ट्रांसजेंडर समुदाय को सशक्त बनाने के उद्देश्य से लाया गया है।

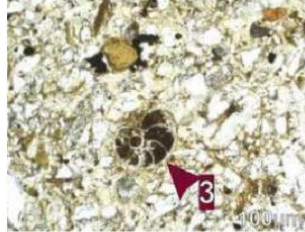


GS Paper 1: Geography	
TOPICS COVERED	25 March 2026
25Mar	Dwarka Basin: an ancient haven द्वारका बेसिन: एक प्राचीन आश्रय स्थल
25Mar	New jihadist attack on military post in Burkina kills 14 soldiers बुर्किना फासो में सैन्य चौकी पर नए जिहादी हमले में 14 सैनिकों की मौत
25Mar	Israel to 'take control of security zone' up to Litani River in Lebanon इज़राइल लेबनान में लितानी नदी तक 'सुरक्षा क्षेत्र पर नियंत्रण' करेगा

Dwarka Basin: an ancient haven

GS I: Geography

In February, researchers from IIT-Bombay, the Indian Statistical Institute, and IISER-Kolkata reported that fossil beds in the Dwarka Basin date back to the early Miocene epoch. They identified 42 species of snails, including four new to science, that indicated the area was once warm and rich in nutrients. The findings are expected to help scientists better understand the ancient marine environments and biodiversity of western India. The Dwarka Basin is a significant geological and archaeological region located off the coast of Gujarat. It mainly refers to a sedimentary basin in the Kathiawar Peninsula that contains layers of marine rocks and fossils. Geologists are interested in the Basin to understand the earth's history over millions of years. The Basin features rock layers such as the Gaj and Dwarka formations dating back to the Miocene epoch (23 million to 5.3 million years ago). These layers hold a wealth of marine fossils, including ancient snails and foraminifera. Energy companies are also exploring the basin for potential signs of oil and gas deposits beneath the volcanic rock. The area's popularity surged in the 1980s when marine archaeologists



Petrographic thin-section image of an Ammonia sp. microfossil in the Gaj formation of the Dwarka Basin. DOI: 10.1017/JPA.2025.10198

found submerged pillars and over 120 stone anchors on the seafloor near the modern city of Dwarka. Experts from the Archaeological Survey of India continue to dive into the basin to map these structures. The Gujarat government has also announced plans to launch submarine tourism here to allow visitors to see the structures firsthand.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

25Mar. Dwarka Basin: an ancient haven

द्वारका बेसिन: एक प्राचीन आश्रय स्थल

In February, researchers from IIT-Bombay, the Indian Statistical Institute, and IISER-Kolkata reported that fossil beds in the Dwarka Basin date back to the early Miocene epoch.

फरवरी में आईआईटी-बॉम्बे, भारतीय सांख्यिकी संस्थान, और आईआईएसईआर-कोलकाता के शोधकर्ताओं ने बताया कि द्वारका बेसिन में जीवाश्म परतें प्रारंभिक मायोसीन युग की हैं।

They identified 42 species of snails, including four new to science, that indicated the area was once warm and rich in nutrients.

उन्होंने घोषों की 42 प्रजातियों की पहचान की, जिनमें चार नई प्रजातियाँ शामिल हैं, जो दर्शाती हैं कि यह क्षेत्र कभी गर्म और पोषक तत्वों से भरपूर था।

The findings are expected to help scientists better understand the ancient marine environments and biodiversity of western

India.

इन निष्कर्षों से वैज्ञानिकों को प्राचीन समुद्री पर्यावरण और पश्चिमी भारत की जैव विविधता को बेहतर समझने में मदद मिलेगी।

- The Dwarka Basin is a significant geological and archaeological region located off the coast of Gujarat.

द्वारका बेसिन एक महत्वपूर्ण भूवैज्ञानिक और पुरातात्विक क्षेत्र है, जो गुजरात के तट के पास स्थित है।

- It mainly refers to a sedimentary basin in the Kathiawar Peninsula that contains layers of marine rocks and fossils.

यह मुख्य रूप से काठियावाड़ प्रायद्वीप में स्थित एक अवसादी बेसिन को संदर्भित करता है, जिसमें समुद्री चट्टानों और जीवाश्मों की परतें हैं।

- Geologists are interested in the Basin to understand the earth's history over millions of years.

भूवैज्ञानिक इस बेसिन में रुचि रखते हैं ताकि वे लाखों वर्षों में पृथ्वी के इतिहास को समझ सकें।

- The Basin features rock layers such as the Gaj and Dwarka formations dating back to the Miocene epoch (23 million to 5.3 million years ago).

इस बेसिन में गज और द्वारका संरचनाएँ जैसी चट्टानी परतें हैं, जो मायोसीन युग (23 मिलियन से 5.3 मिलियन वर्ष पूर्व) की हैं।

- These layers hold a wealth of marine fossils, including ancient snails and foraminifera.

इन परतों में प्रचुर मात्रा में समुद्री जीवाश्म पाए जाते हैं, जिनमें प्राचीन घोघे और फोरामिनिफेरा शामिल हैं।

- Energy companies are also exploring the basin for potential signs of oil and gas deposits beneath the volcanic rock.



ऊर्जा कंपनियों इस बेसिन में ज्वालामुखीय चट्टानों के नीचे संभावित तेल और गैस भंडार की खोज भी कर रही हैं।

- The area's popularity surged in the 1980s when marine archaeologists found submerged pillars and over 120 stone anchors on the seafloor near the modern city of Dwarka.

इस क्षेत्र की लोकप्रियता 1980 के दशक में बढ़ी जब समुद्री पुरातत्वविदों ने आधुनिक द्वारका शहर के पास समुद्र तल पर डूबे हुए स्तंभ और 120 से अधिक पत्थर के लंगर खोजे।

- Experts from the Archaeological Survey of India continue to dive into the basin to map these structures.

भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण के विशेषज्ञ इन संरचनाओं का मानचित्रण करने के लिए अभी भी बेसिन में गोताखोरी करते हैं।

- The Gujarat government has also announced plans to launch submarine tourism here to allow visitors to see the structures firsthand.

गुजरात सरकार ने यहाँ पनडुब्बी पर्यटन शुरू करने की योजना की घोषणा की है ताकि पर्यटक इन संरचनाओं को सीधे देख सकें।

ABIDJAN

New jihadist attack on military post in Burkina kills 14 soldiers



GS I: Geography: Mapping

A jihadist attack on a military post killed at least 14 soldiers in northern Burkina Faso, which has seen a flare-up in violence in recent weeks, security officials said on Tuesday. Al-Qaeda's branch in the Sahel, the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), claimed responsibility for the attack in Bagade on Saturday. AFP

इस्लाम एंड मुस्लिम्स (JNIM) ने शनिवार को बगाडे में हुए हमले की जिम्मेदारी ली।

25Mar. New jihadist attack on military post in Burkina kills 14 soldiers

बुर्किना फासो में सैन्य चौकी पर नए जिहादी हमले में 14 सैनिकों की मौत

- A jihadist attack on a military post killed at least 14 soldiers in northern Burkina Faso, which has seen a flare-up in violence in recent weeks, security officials said on Tuesday.

एक जिहादी हमला एक सैन्य चौकी पर हुआ जिसमें उत्तरी बुर्किना फासो में कम से कम 14 सैनिकों की मौत हो गई, जहां हाल के हफ्तों में हिंसा में वृद्धि देखी गई है, सुरक्षा अधिकारियों ने मंगलवार को कहा।

- Al-Qaeda's branch in the Sahel, the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), claimed responsibility for the attack in Bagade on Saturday.

अल-कायदा की साहेल शाखा, ग्रुप फॉर द सपोर्ट ऑफ



Israel to 'take control of security zone' up to Litani River in Lebanon

IDF has destroyed all five bridges over the Litani River, 'used by Hezbollah for transporting terrorists, weapons, rockets, and launchers,' says Katz; Israeli military is applying the 'Rafah and Beit Hanoun model' from Gaza, adds Defence Minister

GS 1: Geography

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Tuesday that the military would take control of south Lebanon all the way to the Litani River.

"All five bridges over the Litani that were used by Hezbollah for the passage of terrorists and weapons have been blown up, and the IDF (Israeli military) will control the rest of the bridges and the security zone up to the Litani," Mr. Katz said during a visit to a military command centre in Israel.

The military said it had destroyed a bridge across



First aid responders work at the site of an Israeli air strike that targeted the southern Lebanese city of Tyre on Tuesday. AFP

the Litani river overnight, which it says was used by Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah "for transferring weapons, rockets and launchers".

Mr. Katz added that the hundreds of thousands of south Lebanon residents who were displaced by the West Asia war this month "will not return south of

the Litani River until security is guaranteed for the residents of the north" of Israel.

He said that Israel's military was "following the model of Rafah and Beit Hanoun", two cities that were largely destroyed during more than two years of war in Gaza, and which remain under Israeli military control.

In southern Lebanon, Mr. Katz said this meant that the military was destroying Hezbollah infrastructure "as well as the houses in the Lebanese contact villages near the border which serve as actual terror outposts".

Meanwhile, Lebanon's

Health Ministry said that an Israeli strike on Bshamoun, south of Beirut, killed two persons on Tuesday, while strikes on the capital's southern suburbs continued throughout the night.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, in an interview, said that Israel should "refrain" from sending in forces to take control of a zone in south Lebanon, warning that such a move would have "major humanitarian consequences".

Lebanon was pulled into the West Asia war when Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on March 2.

25Mar. Israel to 'take control of security zone' up to Litani River in Lebanon इज़राइल लेबनान में लितानी नदी तक 'सुरक्षा क्षेत्र पर नियंत्रण' करेगा

- IDF has destroyed all five bridges over the Litani River, 'used by Hezbollah for transporting terrorists, weapons, rockets, and launchers,' says Katz; Israeli military is applying the 'Rafah and Beit Hanoun model' from Gaza, adds Defence Minister

आईडीएफ ने लितानी नदी पर बने सभी पांच पुलों को नष्ट कर दिया है, जिनका उपयोग हिज़्बुल्लाह द्वारा आतंकवादियों, हथियारों, रॉकेट और लॉन्चरों के परिवहन के लिए किया जाता था, कैटज़ ने कहा; रक्षा मंत्री ने जोड़ा कि इज़राइली सेना गाज़ा के 'रफाह और बेत हनौन मॉडल' को लागू कर रही है।

- Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Tuesday that the military would take control of south Lebanon all the way to the Litani River.

इज़राइल के रक्षा मंत्री इज़राइल कैटज़ ने मंगलवार को कहा कि सेना दक्षिण लेबनान पर लितानी नदी तक नियंत्रण कर लेगी।

- "All five bridges over the Litani that were used by Hezbollah for the passage of terrorists and weapons have been blown up, and the IDF (Israeli military) will control the rest of the bridges and the security zone up to the Litani," Mr. Katz said during a visit to a military command centre in Israel.

"लितानी पर बने सभी पांच पुल, जिनका उपयोग हिज़्बुल्लाह द्वारा आतंकवादियों और हथियारों के आवागमन के लिए किया जाता था, उड़ा दिए गए हैं, और आईडीएफ (इज़राइली सेना) बाकी पुलों और सुरक्षा क्षेत्र पर लितानी तक नियंत्रण करेगी," श्री कैटज़ ने इज़राइल के एक सैन्य कमांड सेंटर के दौरे के दौरान कहा।

- The military said it had destroyed a bridge across the Litani river overnight, which it says was used by Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah "for transferring weapons, rockets and launchers".

सेना ने कहा कि उसने रातोंरात लितानी नदी पर एक पुल को नष्ट कर दिया, जिसका उपयोग ईरान समर्थित लेबनानी उग्रवादी समूह हिज़्बुल्लाह द्वारा "हथियार, रॉकेट और लॉन्चर" स्थानांतरित करने के लिए किया जाता था।

- Mr. Katz added that the hundreds of thousands of south Lebanon residents who were displaced by the West Asia war this month "will not return south of the Litani River until security is guaranteed for the residents of the north" of Israel.

श्री कैटज़ ने जोड़ा कि इस महीने पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध के कारण विस्थापित हुए दक्षिण लेबनान के लाखों लोग "लितानी नदी के दक्षिण में तब तक नहीं लौटेंगे जब तक इज़राइल के उत्तरी निवासियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित नहीं हो जाती।"



- He said that Israel's military was "following the model of Rafah and Beit Hanoun", two cities that were largely destroyed during more than two years of war in Gaza, and which remain under Israeli military control.
उन्होंने कहा कि इज़राइल की सेना "रफ़ाह और बेत हनौन मॉडल" का पालन कर रही है, ये दो शहर हैं जो गाज़ा में दो साल से अधिक के युद्ध के दौरान काफी हद तक नष्ट हो गए थे और अभी भी इज़राइली सैन्य नियंत्रण में हैं।
- In southern Lebanon, Mr. Katz said this meant that the military was destroying Hezbollah infrastructure "as well as the houses in the Lebanese contact villages near the border which serve as actual terror outposts".
दक्षिण लेबनान में, श्री कैटज़ ने कहा कि इसका मतलब है कि सेना हिज़्बुल्लाह के बुनियादी ढांचे के साथ-साथ सीमा के पास स्थित लेबनानी संपर्क गांवों के घरों को भी नष्ट कर रही है, जो "वास्तविक आतंकी ठिकानों" के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- Meanwhile, Lebanon's Health Ministry said that an Israeli strike on Bshamoun, south of Beirut, killed two persons on Tuesday, while strikes on the capital's southern suburbs continued throughout the night.
इस बीच, लेबनान के स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने कहा कि बेरूत के दक्षिण में बशमौन पर इज़राइली हमले में मंगलवार को दो लोगों की मौत हो गई, जबकि राजधानी के दक्षिणी उपनगरों पर हमले रात भर जारी रहे।
- France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, in an interview, said that Israel should "refrain" from sending in forces to take control of a zone in south Lebanon, warning that such a move would have "major humanitarian consequences".
फ़्रांस के विदेश मंत्री जीन-नोएल बारो ने एक साक्षात्कार में कहा कि इज़राइल को दक्षिण लेबनान में किसी क्षेत्र पर नियंत्रण लेने के लिए सेना भेजने से "बचना चाहिए", और चेतावनी दी कि ऐसा कदम "गंभीर मानवीय परिणाम" ला सकता है।
- Lebanon was pulled into the West Asia war when Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on March 2.
लेबनान को पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध में तब खींच लिया गया जब हिज़्बुल्लाह ने 2 मार्च को इज़राइल पर रॉकेट दागने शुरू किए।

GS Paper II: Polity,	
TOPICS COVERED	25 March 2026
25Mar	SC status 'only for Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs' एससी दर्जा 'केवल हिंदू, बौद्ध, सिखों के लिए'
25Mar	Court cannot sit in judgment on a community's belief: TDB अदालत किसी समुदाय की मान्यताओं पर निर्णय नहीं दे सकती: TDB
25Mar	Meghalaya mandates ST proof for Garo polls मेघालय ने गारो चुनावों के लिए ST प्रमाण अनिवार्य किया
25Mar	When the Chief Justice steps away जब मुख्य न्यायाधीश अलग हो जाते हैं



SC status 'only for Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs'

Top court says conversion to any other religion will lead to loss of Scheduled Caste status

Petitioner filed an appeal under the SC Act of 1989, alleging he suffered repeated attacks and caste slurs

HC had held that the petitioner could not claim protection under SC Act as he is a Christian now

ISS II: Polity

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held in a judgment that a person professing any religion other than Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism should not be considered a member of a Scheduled Caste community. The court concluded that conversion to any other religion would result in "immediate and complete loss of Scheduled Caste status from the moment of conversion, regardless of birth".

A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan invoked Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, which mandates that "no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste". The

Sikh religion was added to the ambit of Clause 3 in 1956. The provision was further amended in 1990 to include persons professing Buddhism.

"This bar under Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 is categorical and absolute," Justice Mishra, who authored the judgment, interpreted the 1950 Order.

Appeal by convert

The court was hearing an appeal filed by Chinthada Anand, who was born a Hindu-Madiga (Scheduled Caste) but converted to Christianity to become a pastor.

Mr. Anand had filed a case under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989 after he alleged that he had suffered repeated attacks and caste slurs.

The Andhra Pradesh

Identity question

The top court said that a person professing a religion other than those mentioned in Clause 3 cannot be part of a scheduled caste

- Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, mandates that "no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste"
- The Sikh religion was added to the ambit of Clause 3 in 1956
- The provision was further amended in 1990 to include persons professing Buddhism
- The top court observed that the bar in Clause 3 is "categorical and absolute"



High Court, in a decision in April last year, quashed the criminal proceedings on the ground that Mr. Anand could no longer claim protection under the 1989 Act as he professed Christianity. The High Court was of the view that the caste system was not recognised in Christianity.

The top court drew attention to the term "pro-

fess" in Clause 3 of the 1950 Order.

"The term 'profess' connotes to publicly declare or practice a religion. Its essence lies in the open avowal of one's religious beliefs in a manner discernible to the public at large. It is not merely a question of personal belief or private conviction, but requires an outward manifi-

estation of one's faith. Christianity, by its very theological foundation, does not recognise or incorporate the institution of caste," Justice Mishra agreed with the High Court.

The top court said a convert who did not profess any of the three religions – Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism – in Clause 3 of the 1950 Order could not claim any "statutory benefit, protection, reservation or entitlement" of a Scheduled Caste (SC) member. Justice Mishra said the bar admitted no exception.

"A person who professes and practices such religion for personal, social and spiritual purposes cannot, in law, assert membership of a Scheduled Caste for the purpose of securing statutory benefits. The two positions are mutually exclusive and contrary to the Constitutional scheme,"

Justice Mishra observed.

A person claiming to have "re-converted" to Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism must "cumulatively and conclusively establish" clear proof of his earlier caste; provide credible and unimpeachable evidence of bona fide re-conversion to the original religion; and show satisfactory evidence that members of his original caste have accepted and assimilated him into the community.

The court said renunciation of the new religion by the convert should translate to the actual adoption and observance of the customs, usages, practices, rituals, and religious obligations of the original caste.

Scheduled Tribes Order

The judgment also dealt with the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, which did not pre-

scribe religion-based exclusion as in the case of the Scheduled Caste community. Justice Mishra said a person could claim benefits under the Constitution (ST) Order, 1950, only if he or she continued to belong to that particular tribe "in substance".

"If, due to conversion or long-term abandonment of tribal customs, his/her tribal identity is in doubt, that question becomes a factual matter to be determined at trial. If it is proved that the person in question has completely renounced himself from the customs, rituals and other traits of his tribe, and has assimilated into the converted religion following the practices and customs of that particular religion, a reasonable inference can be drawn that such a person shall not be considered a part of the tribe," the court held.

25Mar. SC status 'only for Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs'

एससी दर्जा 'केवल हिंदू, बौद्ध, सिखों के लिए'

- The top court says conversion to any other religion will lead to loss of **Scheduled Caste status**.
शीर्ष अदालत ने कहा कि किसी अन्य धर्म में परिवर्तन करने से **अनुसूचित जाति का दर्जा** समाप्त हो जाएगा।
- Petitioner filed an appeal under the **SC Act of 1989**, alleging he suffered repeated attacks and caste slurs.
याचिकाकर्ता ने **SC अधिनियम 1989** के तहत अपील दायर की, यह आरोप लगाते हुए कि उसने बार-बार हमले और जातिगत अपमान झेले।
- HC had held that the petitioner could not claim protection under **SC Act** as he is a **Christian now**.
उच्च न्यायालय ने कहा था कि याचिकाकर्ता **SC अधिनियम** के तहत संरक्षण का दावा नहीं कर सकता क्योंकि वह अब **ईसाई** है।
- The **Supreme Court** on Tuesday held in a judgment that a person professing any religion other than **Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism** should not be considered a member of a **Scheduled Caste community**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को अपने निर्णय में कहा कि जो व्यक्ति **हिंदू, बौद्ध या सिख धर्म** के अलावा किसी अन्य धर्म को मानता है, उसे **अनुसूचित जाति समुदाय** का सदस्य नहीं माना जाएगा।
- The court concluded that conversion to any other religion would result in "immediate and complete loss of **Scheduled Caste status** from the moment of conversion, regardless of birth".
अदालत ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि किसी अन्य धर्म में परिवर्तन करने से "तुरंत और पूर्ण रूप से **अनुसूचित जाति का दर्जा** समाप्त हो जाएगा, चाहे जन्म कुछ भी हो।"
- A Bench of Justices **Prashant Kumar Mishra** and **Manmohan** invoked **Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950**, which mandates that "no person who professes a religion different from **Hinduism** shall be deemed to be a member of a **Scheduled Caste**".
न्यायमूर्ति **प्रशांत कुमार मिश्रा** और **मनमोहन** की पीठ ने **संविधान (अनुसूचित जाति) आदेश, 1950** की धारा 3 का हवाला दिया, जो कहती है कि "जो व्यक्ति **हिंदू धर्म** से अलग धर्म को मानता है, उसे **अनुसूचित जाति** का सदस्य नहीं माना जाएगा।"
- The **Sikh religion** was added to the ambit of Clause 3 in **1956**.
सिख धर्म को **1956** में धारा 3 के दायरे में जोड़ा गया।



- The provision was further amended in **1990** to include persons professing **Buddhism**. इस प्रावधान में **1990** में संशोधन कर **बौद्ध धर्म** को भी शामिल किया गया।
- “This bar under Clause 3 of the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** is categorical and absolute,” Justice Mishra, who authored the judgment, interpreted the 1950 Order. **“संविधान (अनुसूचित जाति) आदेश, 1950** की धारा 3 के तहत यह प्रतिबंध स्पष्ट और पूर्ण है,” निर्णय लिखने वाले न्यायमूर्ति मिश्रा ने कहा।

Appeal by convert धर्मांतरित द्वारा अपील

- The court was hearing an appeal filed by **Chinthada Anand**, who was born a **Hindu-Madiga (Scheduled Caste)** but converted to **Christianity** to become a pastor. अदालत **चिंथाडा आनंद** की अपील सुन रही थी, जो जन्म से **हिंदू-मडिगा (अनुसूचित जाति)** थे लेकिन पादरी बनने के लिए **ईसाई धर्म** में परिवर्तित हो गए।
- Mr. Anand had filed a case under the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989** after he alleged that he had suffered repeated attacks and caste slurs. श्री आनंद ने **अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989** के तहत मामला दर्ज किया था, यह आरोप लगाते हुए कि उन्होंने बार-बार हमले और जातिगत अपमान झेले।
- The **Andhra Pradesh High Court**, in a decision in April last year, quashed the criminal proceedings on the ground that Mr. Anand could no longer claim protection under the **1989 Act** as he professed **Christianity**. **आंध्र प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय** ने पिछले वर्ष अप्रैल में आपराधिक कार्यवाही को रद्द कर दिया था, यह कहते हुए कि श्री आनंद अब **ईसाई धर्म** मानते हैं, इसलिए वे **1989 अधिनियम** के तहत संरक्षण का दावा नहीं कर सकते।
- The High Court was of the view that the **caste system** was not recognised in **Christianity**. उच्च न्यायालय का मत था कि **ईसाई धर्म** में **जाति व्यवस्था** को मान्यता नहीं है।
- The top court drew attention to the term “**profess**” in Clause 3 of the **1950 Order**. सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **1950 आदेश** की धारा 3 में “**profess (घोषित करना/मानना)**” शब्द पर ध्यान दिलाया।
- “The term ‘profess’ connotes to publicly declare or practice a religion. “‘profess’ शब्द का अर्थ है सार्वजनिक रूप से किसी धर्म को घोषित करना या उसका पालन करना।
- Its essence lies in the open avowal of one’s religious beliefs in a manner discernible to the public at large. इसका सार अपने धार्मिक विश्वासों को सार्वजनिक रूप से स्पष्ट रूप में व्यक्त करना है।
- It is not merely a question of personal belief or private conviction, but requires an outward manifestation of one’s faith. यह केवल व्यक्तिगत विश्वास का प्रश्न नहीं है, बल्कि अपने धर्म का बाहरी प्रदर्शन भी आवश्यक है।
- Christianity**, by its very theological foundation, does not recognise or incorporate the institution of **caste**,” Justice Mishra agreed with the High Court. **ईसाई धर्म** अपनी मूल धार्मिक संरचना में **जाति व्यवस्था** को मान्यता नहीं देता,” न्यायमूर्ति मिश्रा ने उच्च न्यायालय से सहमति जताई।
- The top court said a convert who did not profess any of the three religions — **Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism** — in Clause 3 of the 1950 Order could not claim any “**statutory benefit, protection, reservation or entitlement**” of a **Scheduled Caste (SC)** member. सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि जो व्यक्ति **हिंदू, बौद्ध या सिख धर्म** को नहीं मानता, वह **अनुसूचित जाति** के किसी भी **“कानूनी लाभ, संरक्षण, आरक्षण या अधिकार”** का दावा नहीं कर सकता।
- Justice Mishra said the bar admitted no exception. न्यायमूर्ति मिश्रा ने कहा कि इस प्रतिबंध में कोई अपवाद नहीं है।
- “A person who professes and practices such religion for personal, social and spiritual purposes cannot, in law, assert membership of a **Scheduled Caste** for the purpose of securing statutory benefits. “जो व्यक्ति व्यक्तिगत, सामाजिक और आध्यात्मिक उद्देश्यों के लिए ऐसा धर्म अपनाता है, वह कानूनन **अनुसूचित जाति** की सदस्यता का दावा नहीं कर सकता।
- The two positions are mutually exclusive and contrary to the **Constitutional scheme**,” Justice Mishra observed. ये दोनों स्थितियां एक-दूसरे के विपरीत हैं और **संवैधानिक व्यवस्था** के खिलाफ हैं,” न्यायमूर्ति मिश्रा ने कहा।



- A person claiming to have “**re-converted**” to **Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism** must “cumulatively and conclusively establish” clear proof of his earlier caste.
जो व्यक्ति **पुनः धर्म परिवर्तन (re-conversion)** का दावा करता है, उसे अपने पूर्व जाति का स्पष्ट प्रमाण देना होगा।
- Provide credible and unimpeachable evidence of bona fide reconversion to the original religion.
मूल धर्म में वास्तविक पुनः परिवर्तन का विश्वसनीय और ठोस प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करना होगा।
- And show satisfactory evidence that members of his original caste have accepted and assimilated him into the community.
और यह भी साबित करना होगा कि उसकी मूल जाति के लोगों ने उसे समुदाय में स्वीकार कर लिया है।
- The court said renunciation of the new religion by the convert should translate to the actual adoption and observance of the **customs, usages, practices, rituals, and religious obligations** of the original caste.
अदालत ने कहा कि नए धर्म का त्याग केवल औपचारिक नहीं होना चाहिए, बल्कि मूल जाति के **रीति-रिवाजों, परंपराओं, प्रथाओं और धार्मिक कर्तव्यों** को अपनाना आवश्यक है।

Scheduled Tribes Order अनुसूचित जनजाति आदेश

- The judgment also dealt with the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950**, which did not prescribe **religion-based exclusion** as in the case of the Scheduled Caste community.
निर्णय में **संविधान (अनुसूचित जनजाति) आदेश, 1950** का भी उल्लेख किया गया, जिसमें **धर्म आधारित बहिष्कार** का प्रावधान नहीं है।
- Justice Mishra said a person could claim benefits under the **ST Order, 1950** only if he or she continued to belong to that particular tribe “in substance”.
न्यायमूर्ति मिश्रा ने कहा कि कोई व्यक्ति **ST आदेश 1950** के तहत लाभ तभी ले सकता है जब वह वास्तव में उस जनजाति से जुड़ा रहे।
- “If, due to conversion or long-term abandonment of tribal customs, his/her tribal identity is in doubt, that question becomes a factual matter to be determined at trial...
“यदि धर्म परिवर्तन या लंबे समय तक जनजातीय परंपराओं को छोड़ने के कारण उसकी पहचान संदिग्ध हो जाती है, तो यह तथ्यात्मक प्रश्न होगा जिसे परीक्षण में तय किया जाएगा...”
- If it is proved that the person in question has completely renounced himself from the **customs, rituals and other traits** of his tribe, and has assimilated into the converted religion following the practices and customs of that particular religion, a reasonable inference can be drawn that such a person shall not be considered a part of the tribe,” the court held.
यदि यह साबित हो जाए कि व्यक्ति ने अपनी जनजाति की **परंपराओं, रीति-रिवाजों और विशेषताओं** को पूरी तरह छोड़ दिया है और नए धर्म में पूरी तरह समाहित हो गया है, तो यह निष्कर्ष निकाला जा सकता है कि वह व्यक्ति उस जनजाति का हिस्सा नहीं माना जाएगा।”



Court cannot sit in judgment on a community's belief: TDB

Temple board files submissions in SC regarding entry of women of all ages into Sabarimala shrine; court is slated to hold review hearing from April 7; Kerala govt. had softened its stance on the issue

GS II: Polity
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, filed written submissions in the Supreme Court on Tuesday saying that beliefs and practices of a community have to be judged on the basis of the subjective belief of that community.

The submissions come ahead of the court's review hearing from April 7 on the entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine.

"The Supreme Court is bound to accept the belief of the community, and it is not for the court to sit in



Spiritual stage: Pilgrims wait to ascend the sacred steps at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple. FILE PHOTO

judgment on that belief," the TDB said.

Recently, the Kerala government had delicately moderated its earlier cast-iron stance in the Supreme Court in favour of entry of women of menstrual age

into the shrine. The State government, in submissions filed before the Supreme Court on March 14, said a judicial review of whether the age-old restriction on entry for women between menarche

and menopause was an essential religious practice must not be guided by either reason or sentiment alone. The State had said the court, instead, must assess whether the belief – that women of that age group should not appear before the temple deity, Lord Ayyappa in the celibate or *Naishtika Brahmachari* form – was a "genuine and conscientiously" held one.

The submissions of senior advocate A.M. Singhvi filed by advocate P.S. Sudheer for the TDB, said the limited question the top court could determine was whether a belief or practice of the community was in fact a part of its religion.

25Mar. Court cannot sit in judgment on a community's belief: TDB अदालत किसी समुदाय की मान्यताओं पर निर्णय नहीं दे सकती: TDB

- **Temple board** files submissions in **SC** regarding entry of women of all ages into **Sabarimala shrine**; court is slated to hold **review hearing from April 7**; **Kerala govt.** had softened its stance on the issue.

मंदिर बोर्ड ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सबरीमाला मंदिर में सभी आयु की महिलाओं के प्रवेश पर अपनी दलीलें दाखिल कीं; अदालत 7 अप्रैल से समीक्षा सुनवाई करेगी; केरल सरकार ने इस मुद्दे पर अपना रुख नरम किया था।

- The **Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB)**, which manages the **Sabarimala temple** in **Kerala**, filed written submissions in the **Supreme Court** on Tuesday saying that beliefs and practices of a community have to be judged on the basis of the **subjective belief** of that community.

त्रावणकोर देवस्वोम बोर्ड (TDB), जो केरल के सबरीमाला मंदिर का प्रबंधन करता है, ने मंगलवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में लिखित दलीलें दाखिल करते हुए कहा कि किसी समुदाय की मान्यताओं और प्रथाओं का मूल्यांकन उसी समुदाय के व्यक्तिपरक विश्वास के आधार पर होना चाहिए।

- The submissions come ahead of the court's **review hearing from April 7** on the entry of women of **menstrual age** into the shrine.
ये दलीलें 7 अप्रैल से होने वाली समीक्षा सुनवाई से पहले आई हैं, जिसमें मासिक धर्म आयु की महिलाओं के मंदिर में प्रवेश पर विचार होगा।
- "The **Supreme Court** is bound to accept the belief of the community, and it is not for the court to sit in judgment on that belief," the **TDB** said.
"TDB** ने कहा कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट समुदाय की मान्यताओं को स्वीकार करने के लिए बाध्य है और अदालत को उन पर निर्णय नहीं देना चाहिए।
- Recently, the **Kerala government** had delicately moderated its earlier cast-iron stance in the **Supreme Court** in favour of entry of women of **menstrual age** into the shrine.



हाल ही में केरल सरकार ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपने पहले के कठोर रुख को नरम किया, जो मासिक धर्म आयु की महिलाओं के प्रवेश के पक्ष में था।

- The State government, in submissions filed before the **Supreme Court** on **March 14**, said a judicial review of whether the age-old restriction on entry for women between **menarche and menopause** was an **essential religious practice** must not be guided by either reason or sentiment alone.

राज्य सरकार ने **14 मार्च** को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दायर दलीलों में कहा कि **मेनार्के और मेनोपॉज** के बीच की महिलाओं के प्रवेश पर पुराने प्रतिबंध की **अनिवार्य धार्मिक प्रथा** के रूप में समीक्षा केवल तर्क या भावना से निर्देशित नहीं होनी चाहिए।

- The State had said the court, instead, must assess whether the belief — that women of that age group should not appear before the temple deity, **Lord Ayyappa** in the celibate or **Naishtika Brahmachari** form — was a “**genuine and conscientiously**” held one.

राज्य ने कहा कि अदालत को यह आकलन करना चाहिए कि यह विश्वास — कि उस आयु वर्ग की महिलाएं मंदिर के देवता **भगवान अयप्पा** के सामने, जो **नैष्ठिक ब्रह्मचारी** रूप में हैं, उपस्थित नहीं होनी चाहिए — वास्तव में “**ईमानदारी और सच्चाई से**” माना गया है या नहीं।

- The submissions of senior advocate **A.M. Singhvi** filed by advocate **P.S. Sudheer** for the **TDB**, said the limited question the top court could determine was whether a belief or practice of the community was in fact a part of its **religion**.

TDB की ओर से अधिवक्ता **पी.एस. सुधीर** द्वारा दायर वरिष्ठ वकील **ए.एम. सिंहवी** की दलीलों में कहा गया कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय केवल यह तय कर सकता है कि किसी समुदाय की कोई मान्यता या प्रथा वास्तव में उसके धर्म का हिस्सा है या नहीं।

Meghalaya mandates ST proof for Garo polls

GS II: Polity

Press Trust of India
SHILLONG

Meghalaya Governor C.H. Vijayashankar on Tuesday approved a new legislation of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) barring non-tribals from contesting the tribal council elections, officials said.

The GHADC on Monday approved a key amendment mandating that only Scheduled Tribe members can contest the polls, effectively ending the participation of non-tribals after over seven decades.

The amendment effectively ends the participation of non-tribals after over seven decades

The April 10 elections to the tribal council were earlier postponed following incidents of violence in parts of the Garo Hills region, prompting authorities to review legal and administrative provisions related to the polls.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma welcomed the development and thanked

the Governor for approving the legislation and the amended rules mandating candidates to possess Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates to contest the council polls. “I would like to thank the Hon’ble Governor for approving the amended rules, making it mandatory for candidates to have ST certificates to contest the GHADC elections,” Mr. Sangma said.

‘Safeguarding rights’

He said the move would strengthen the legal framework governing the elections and ensure that the

intent of the law is upheld. “This will remove any ambiguity and ensure that only eligible candidates as per the provisions of the council can contest the elections,” the CM added.

Officials said the legislation was aimed at reinforcing existing provisions and safeguarding the rights and representation of indigenous tribal communities in Garo Hills. The GHADC, constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, is tasked with protecting the governance systems of the tribals in the Garo Hills region.

25Mar. Meghalaya mandates ST proof for Garo polls मेघालय ने गारो चुनावों के लिए ST प्रमाण अनिवार्य किया

- Meghalaya Governor C.H. Vijayashankar on Tuesday approved a new **legislation** of the **Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC)** barring **non-tribals** from contesting the tribal council elections, officials said.

मेघालय के राज्यपाल सी.एच. विजयाशंकर ने मंगलवार को गारो हिल्स स्वायत्त जिला परिषद (GHADC) के नए कानून को मंजूरी दी, जो गैर-आदिवासियों को जनजातीय परिषद चुनाव लड़ने से रोकता है, अधिकारियों ने कहा।



- The **GHADC** on Monday approved a key **amendment** mandating that only **Scheduled Tribe members** can contest the polls, effectively ending the participation of non-tribals after over **seven decades**.
GHADC ने सोमवार को एक महत्वपूर्ण **संशोधन** को मंजूरी दी, जिसमें केवल **अनुसूचित जनजाति के सदस्य** ही चुनाव लड़ सकते हैं, जिससे **सात दशकों** से अधिक समय के बाद गैर-आदिवासियों की भागीदारी समाप्त हो गई।
- The **April 10 elections** to the tribal council were earlier postponed following incidents of **violence** in parts of the **Garro Hills region**, prompting authorities to review **legal and administrative provisions** related to the polls.
जनजातीय परिषद के **10 अप्रैल के चुनाव** पहले **गारो हिल्स क्षेत्र** के कुछ हिस्सों में हुई **हिंसा** के कारण स्थगित कर दिए गए थे, जिससे अधिकारियों को चुनाव से संबंधित **कानूनी और प्रशासनिक प्रावधानों** की समीक्षा करनी पड़ी।
- **Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma** welcomed the development and thanked the **Governor** for approving the legislation and the amended rules mandating candidates to possess **Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates** to contest the council polls.
मुख्यमंत्री कॉनराड के. संगमा ने इस विकास का स्वागत किया और **राज्यपाल** को धन्यवाद दिया कि उन्होंने इस कानून और संशोधित नियमों को मंजूरी दी, जो उम्मीदवारों के लिए **अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) प्रमाणपत्र** अनिवार्य करते हैं।
- "I would like to thank the **Hon'ble Governor** for approving the amended rules, making it mandatory for candidates to have **ST certificates** to contest the **GHADC elections**," Mr. Sangma said.
"मैं **माननीय राज्यपाल** को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने संशोधित नियमों को मंजूरी दी, जिससे **GHADC चुनावों** में भाग लेने के लिए उम्मीदवारों के पास **ST प्रमाणपत्र** होना अनिवार्य हो गया है," श्री संगमा ने कहा।

'Safeguarding rights' 'अधिकारों की सुरक्षा'

- He said the move would strengthen the **legal framework** governing the elections and ensure that the intent of the law is upheld.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह कदम चुनावों को नियंत्रित करने वाले **कानूनी ढांचे** को मजबूत करेगा और कानून के उद्देश्य को बनाए रखेगा।
- "This will remove any ambiguity and ensure that only **eligible candidates** as per the provisions of the council can contest the elections," the **CM** added.
"यह किसी भी अस्पष्टता को दूर करेगा और सुनिश्चित करेगा कि केवल परिषद के प्रावधानों के अनुसार **योग्य उम्मीदवार** ही चुनाव लड़ सकें," **मुख्यमंत्री** ने कहा।
- Officials said the legislation was aimed at reinforcing existing provisions and safeguarding the **rights and representation of indigenous tribal communities in Garro Hills**.
अधिकारियों ने कहा कि यह कानून मौजूदा प्रावधानों को मजबूत करने और **गारो हिल्स में स्वदेशी जनजातीय समुदायों के अधिकारों और प्रतिनिधित्व** की रक्षा के लिए लाया गया है।
- The **GHADC**, constituted under the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution**, is tasked with protecting the **governance systems** of the tribals in the **Garro Hills region**.
GHADC, जो **संविधान की छठी अनुसूची** के तहत गठित है, का कार्य **गारो हिल्स क्षेत्र** में जनजातियों की **शासन व्यवस्था** की रक्षा करना है।



When the Chief Justice steps away

The recusal of CJI Surya Kant from the Chief Election Commissioner appointment law challenge case raises important questions about conflict of interest, the doctrine of necessity, and the limits of pre-emptive judicial direction, as well as the need for a statute governing judicial recusal

ISS II: Polity

MOE

LETTER AND SPIRIT

V. Venkatesan

In March 20, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant stepped away from hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. The legislation replaced the Chief Justice of India with a Union Minister, on the selection panel for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, superseding the Supreme Court's 2023 interim arrangement. "I will be accused of conflict of interest," the CJI remarked before directing that the case be listed on April 7 before a bench comprising judges not in the line of succession to the office of the Chief Justice. While the order directs the Registry to list the case before a Bench to be earmarked separately by the Chief Justice of India, his oral remarks while hearing the case, *Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Union of India* (2024), raises questions that will linger long after the Bench is constituted. CJI Surya Kant is the second CJI to recuse from hearing the case. Earlier, CJI Sanjay Khanna recused from hearing the same case in 2024.

The doctrine and its foundations
Recusal flows from one of the oldest maxims of natural justice: *nemo iudex in causa sua* – no one shall be a judge in their own cause. In its modern form, the Supreme Court has moved from strict automatic disqualification for pecuniary interest, as in *Manak Lal v. Dr. Prem Chand* (1957), toward a standard of real likelihood of bias. *Ranjit Thakur v. Union of India* (1987) refined this further, holding that a reasonable apprehension of bias, and not merely a remote possibility, justifies withdrawal.

Every court to have addressed the question has held that the decision to recuse, rests on the judge's own conscience. No party can compel it, and no statute in India codifies the standard, unlike in the United States where Section 455 of Title 28 of the United States Code requires a federal judge to disqualify themselves in any proceeding in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

The NJAC precedent

The most directly relevant Indian precedent cuts the other way. When the validity of the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 was before a five-judge Constitution Bench in *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India* (2015), recusal was sought against Justice J.S. Khehar on the ground that he would eventually become Chief Justice and therefore had an institutional stake in whether the Collegium or the NJAC governed future appointments. Justice Khehar refused. His reasoning rested on two pillars. First, the conflict infected every judge on the bench, since all would eventually be part of the Collegium if the petitioners succeeded, or subject to the NJAC if they failed. Second, and more fundamentally, he invoked what legal systems call the doctrine of necessity: when the only available forum is also the forum that faces a disqualifying conflict, the conflict must yield to institutional obligation. "If I were to accede to the prayer for my recusal, I would be initiating a wrong practice, and laying



Judicial discretion: No party can compel recusal, and no statute in India codifies when a judge must step aside. GETTY IMAGES

down a wrong precedent," he held. In his concurring opinion, Justice Kurian Joseph added that a judge choosing to recuse bears a constitutional duty of transparency, that indicating reasons for withdrawal is itself part of the oath of office taken under the Third Schedule of the Constitution.

The present case

The structural logic of NJAC applies equally to the CEC law challenge, and arguably with less force for recusal. Every sitting judge of the Supreme Court is a potential future Chief Justice under the seniority convention established by the Second Judges case. The conflict of interest that moved Chief Justice Surya Kant to step aside, therefore, afflicts every member of the court simultaneously. The doctrine of necessity then compels the conclusion that the Supreme Court must hear the case regardless, since no alternative court of equivalent jurisdiction exists, while acknowledging the conflict openly, as the NJAC Bench did. The CJI's recusal, viewed through this lens, represents a departure from a principle the court itself laid down a decade ago.

A direction that binds successors
More troubling than the recusal itself is the accompanying oral direction (as reported by the media, though the order uploaded is silent on this). By specifying that the replacement bench must exclude judges in line to become Chief Justice, the CJI has made a prospective determination

about the disqualification obligations of judges who have not yet considered the question for themselves. Recusal is an act of individual judicial conscience. It cannot be mandated in advance by a predecessor. To pre-assign a conflict of interest to judges who have not adjudicated whether one exists is to collapse the distinction between institutional incapacity and personal disqualification.

There is a further problem the direction does not account for: the office of the Chief Justice has occasionally passed to judges outside the expected seniority line due to the resignation, health, or death of those ahead of them. A judge constituted on the replacement bench as someone outside the line of succession could, through such contingency, subsequently reach the office of Chief Justice. The prophylactic rule, designed to eliminate the appearance of self-interest, cannot account for the accidents of judicial mortality.

CJI Surya Kant's decision suggests another incongruity. If the CJI's recusal of himself and the other judges, who are in line to become CJI in the future is justified, can he, as Master of the Roster, decide which of the other judges can hear this case, given that the order authorises him to earmark the bench? In the recent debate on the no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, many members from the Opposition queried whether he could choose the

person who would preside over the House during the proceedings, even while choosing to recuse himself. The answer from the government, that the Speaker's post does not envisage a vacancy in office, may be accurate, but it still fails to satisfy the doubts on conflict of interest, which led to the decision to recuse in the first place.

The need for codification

India has no statute governing judicial recusal, no binding code of conduct enforceable against Supreme Court judges, and no mechanism to review a recusal decision once made. The American experience illustrates both the value of clear rules and their limits without an external review mechanism: Section 455 provides a codified objective standard, but at the apex level it remains entirely self-enforced.

The CEC law dispute, in which two successive Chief Justices have now recused from the same case, underscores the urgency. When the question of who appoints the guardians of elections is left to a bench constituted by informal direction rather than principled rule, the deficit is institutional as much as it is individual.

India's constitutional framework is well-served by judges who exercise their discretion with care. It would be better served still by a framework that transforms that discretion into obligation. (V. Venkatesan is a senior legal journalist and researcher.)

THE GIST

On March 20, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant stepped away from hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner appointment law, citing 'conflict of interest'.

The accompanying oral direction on constituting a replacement bench excluding judges in line to become Chief Justice, amounts to a prospective determination by the CJI on disqualification obligations of judges.

The conflict of interest that led CJI Surya Kant to step aside, can be said to affect every member of the court. However, the doctrine of necessity compels the Supreme Court to hear the case, since no alternative court of equivalent jurisdiction exists.

25Mar. When the Chief Justice steps away जब मुख्य न्यायाधीश अलग हो जाते हैं

- On March 20, Chief Justice of India **Surya Kant** stepped away from hearing a batch of petitions challenging the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023**.
- 20 मार्च को भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश **सूर्य कांत** ने **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्त अधिनियम, 2023** को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं की सुनवाई से खुद को अलग कर लिया।
- The legislation replaced the **Chief Justice of India** with a **Union Minister** on the selection panel.
- इस कानून ने चयन समिति में **भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश** की जगह एक **केंद्रीय मंत्री** को शामिल कर दिया।



- It superseded the **Supreme Court's 2023 interim arrangement**.
इसने **सुप्रीम कोर्ट की 2023 की अंतरिम व्यवस्था** को निरस्त कर दिया।
- "I will be accused of **conflict of interest**," the CJI remarked.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि उन पर **हितों के टकराव** का आरोप लगाया जाएगा।
- The case was directed to be listed on **April 7** before a Bench not in the **line of succession**.
मामले को **7 अप्रैल** को ऐसे पीठ के सामने सूचीबद्ध करने का निर्देश दिया गया जो **उत्तराधिकार क्रम** में नहीं है।
- The Registry was directed to list the case before a Bench earmarked separately by the **CJI**.
रजिस्ट्री को निर्देश दिया गया कि मामला **मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा निर्धारित अलग पीठ** के सामने सूचीबद्ध किया जाए।
- Oral remarks were made during **Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Union of India (2024)**.
मौखिक टिप्पणियाँ **डॉ. जया ठाकुर बनाम भारत संघ (2024)** के दौरान की गईं।
- These remarks raise questions that will linger even after the Bench is constituted.
ये टिप्पणियाँ ऐसे प्रश्न उठाती हैं जो पीठ के गठन के बाद भी बने रहेंगे।
- **CJI Surya Kant** is the **second CJI** to recuse from the case.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्य कांत इस मामले से अलग होने वाले **दूसरे मुख्य न्यायाधीश** हैं।
- Earlier, **CJI Sanjiv Khanna** also recused in **2024**.
इससे पहले **मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना** ने भी **2024** में स्वयं को अलग कर लिया था।

The doctrine and its foundations सिद्धांत और उसकी आधारशिला

- **Recusal flows from the maxim "nemo judex in causa sua" — no one shall be a judge in their own cause.**
रिक्यूज़ल का सिद्धांत **"निमो ज्यूडेक्स इन काँज़ा सुआ"** से आता है — कोई व्यक्ति अपने ही मामले में न्यायाधीश नहीं हो सकता।
- The Supreme Court moved from strict disqualification for **pecuniary interest** to **real likelihood of bias**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **आर्थिक हित** के आधार पर स्वतः अयोग्यता से हटकर **पूर्वाग्रह की वास्तविक संभावना** के मानक को अपनाया।
- **Manak Lal v. Dr. Prem Chand (1957)** dealt with pecuniary interest.
मनक लाल बनाम डॉ. प्रेम चंद (1957) में आर्थिक हित का मुद्दा उठाया गया था।
- **Ranjit Thakur v. Union of India (1987)** held that **reasonable apprehension of bias justifies recusal**.
रणजीत ठाकुर बनाम भारत संघ (1987) में कहा गया कि **पूर्वाग्रह की उचित आशंका** रिक्यूज़ल को उचित ठहराती है।
- The decision to recuse rests on the **judge's own conscience**.
रिक्यूज़ल का निर्णय **न्यायाधीश के स्वयं के विवेक** पर निर्भर करता है।
- No party can compel recusal.
कोई भी पक्ष न्यायाधीश को रिक्यूज़ल के लिए बाध्य नहीं कर सकता।
- No statute in India codifies this standard.
भारत में इस मानक को किसी कानून में संहिताबद्ध नहीं किया गया है।
- In the **United States**, Section **455 of Title 28** requires recusal if impartiality is questioned.
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में **टाइटल 28 की धारा 455** के तहत यदि निष्पक्षता पर सवाल हो तो न्यायाधीश को अलग होना पड़ता है।

The NJAC precedent एनजेएसी मिसाल

- The most directly relevant Indian precedent cuts the other way.
सबसे प्रासंगिक भारतीय मिसाल **विपरीत दिशा** में जाती है।
- When the validity of the **National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014** was **before a five-judge Constitution Bench**.
जब **राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति आयोग अधिनियम, 2014** की वैधता **पांच न्यायाधीशों की संविधान पीठ** के सामने थी।



- In **Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015)**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट एडवोकेट्स-ऑन-रिकॉर्ड एसोसिएशन बनाम भारत संघ (2015) में।
- Recusal was sought against **Justice J.S. Khehar**.
न्यायमूर्ति जे.एस. खेहर के खिलाफ रिक्वज़ल की मांग की गई थी।
- On the grounds that he would become **Chief Justice** and had an **institutional stake**.
इस आधार पर कि वे भविष्य में **मुख्य न्यायाधीश बनेंगे** और उनका **संस्थागत हित** है।
- Whether the **Collegium or NJAC** governed future appointments.
भविष्य की नियुक्तियों में **कोलेजियम या एनजेएसी** लागू होगा।
- **Justice Khehar refused** to recuse.
न्यायमूर्ति खेहर ने मना कर दिया।
- His reasoning rested on **two pillars**.
उनका तर्क **दो आधारों** पर आधारित था।
- First, the conflict affected **every judge on the bench**.
पहला, यह टकराव **पीठ के सभी न्यायाधीशों को प्रभावित करता था**।
- Since all would be part of **Collegium or NJAC** eventually.
क्योंकि सभी भविष्य में **कोलेजियम या एनजेएसी** का हिस्सा बनते।
- Second, he invoked the **doctrine of necessity**.
दूसरा, उन्होंने **आवश्यकता का सिद्धांत** लागू किया।
- When the only forum faces conflict, **conflict must yield to duty**.
जब एकमात्र मंच में टकराव हो, तो **कर्तव्य को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है**।
- "Recusal would create a **wrong precedent**," he held.
उन्होंने कहा कि रिक्वज़ल से **गलत मिसाल** बनेगी।
- **Justice Kurian Joseph** added the duty of **transparency**.
न्यायमूर्ति कुरियन जोसेफ ने **पारदर्शिता के कर्तव्य** पर जोर दिया।
- Giving reasons for withdrawal is part of the constitutional **oath (Third Schedule)**.
कारण बताना **संवैधानिक शपथ (तीसरी अनुसूची)** का हिस्सा है।

The present case वर्तमान मामला

- The structural logic of **NJAC applies** to the CEC law challenge.
एनजेएसी का तर्क इस मामले पर भी लागू होता है।
- And arguably with **less force for recusal**.
और यहाँ रिक्वज़ल का आधार **और कमजोर** है।
- Every Supreme Court judge is a potential **future Chief Justice**.
हर न्यायाधीश संभावित **भविष्य का मुख्य न्यायाधीश** है।
- Under the **seniority convention** of the **Second Judges case**.
द्वितीय न्यायाधीश मामला के वरिष्ठता सिद्धांत के तहत।
- The conflict affects **every member of the court**.
यह टकराव **पूरे न्यायालय को प्रभावित करता है**।
- The **doctrine of necessity** compels hearing the case.
आवश्यकता का सिद्धांत सुनवाई को अनिवार्य बनाता है।
- Since no alternative court of **equal jurisdiction** exists.
क्योंकि समान अधिकार वाला कोई अन्य न्यायालय नहीं है।
- While acknowledging the conflict **openly**.
साथ ही टकराव को **खुले रूप में स्वीकार करना चाहिए**।
- The CJI's recusal marks a **departure from past principles**.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश का निर्णय **पूर्व सिद्धांत से विचलन दर्शाता है**।

A direction that binds successors उत्तराधिकारियों को बाध्य करने वाला निर्देश

- More troubling is the **oral direction** accompanying recusal.
अधिक चिंताजनक है रिक्वज़ल के साथ दिया गया **मौखिक निर्देश**।



- The direction excludes judges in line to become **Chief Justice**.
इसमें उन न्यायाधीशों को बाहर किया गया जो **मुख्य न्यायाधीश बनने की कतार में हैं**।
- It makes a **prospective determination** of disqualification.
यह भविष्य के लिए **अयोग्यता का पूर्व निर्धारण** करता है।
- Recusal is an act of **individual judicial conscience**.
रिक्वूज़ल **व्यक्तिगत न्यायिक विवेक** का निर्णय है।
- It cannot be **mandated in advance** by a predecessor.
इसे पहले से **थोपा नहीं जा सकता**।
- Assigning conflict beforehand collapses distinction between **institutional incapacity and personal disqualification**.
पहले से टकराव तय करना **संस्थागत अक्षमता और व्यक्तिगत अयोग्यता** के बीच अंतर को समाप्त कर देता है।
- There is a further problem the direction does not account for: the **office of the Chief Justice** has occasionally passed to judges outside the expected **seniority line** due to **resignation, health, or death**.
एक और समस्या है जिसे यह निर्देश ध्यान में नहीं रखता: **मुख्य न्यायाधीश का पद** कभी-कभी अपेक्षित **वरिष्ठता क्रम** से बाहर के न्यायाधीशों को भी मिल जाता है, जैसे **त्यागपत्र, स्वास्थ्य या मृत्यु** के कारण।
- A judge on the replacement bench, though outside the line of succession, could later become **Chief Justice** due to such contingencies.
प्रतिस्थापन पीठ का कोई न्यायाधीश, भले ही उत्तराधिकार क्रम में न हो, ऐसी परिस्थितियों में बाद में **मुख्य न्यायाधीश बन सकता है**।
- The **prophylactic rule** cannot account for such **accidents of judicial mortality**.
यह **रोकथाम नियम** न्यायिक पदों में होने वाली ऐसी **अप्रत्याशित घटनाओं** को ध्यान में नहीं रख सकता।
- **CJI Surya Kant's decision** suggests another **incongruity**.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्य कांत का निर्णय एक और **असंगति** दर्शाता है।
- If recusal of judges in line to become **CJI** is justified, can he as **Master of the Roster** decide the bench?
यदि भविष्य के **मुख्य न्यायाधीश बनने वाले न्यायाधीशों का रिक्वूज़ल उचित है**, तो क्या वे **रोस्टर के प्रमुख** के रूप में यह तय कर सकते हैं कि कौन पीठ में बैठेगा?
- The order allows him to **earmark the bench**.
आदेश उन्हें **पीठ निर्धारित करने** की अनुमति देता है।
- A similar issue arose during the **no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla**.
इसी तरह का मुद्दा **लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिड़ला के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव** के दौरान उठा था।
- The opposition questioned whether the Speaker could choose who presides while **recusing himself**.
विपक्ष ने सवाल उठाया कि क्या अध्यक्ष खुद को अलग करते हुए भी यह तय कर सकते हैं कि कार्यवाही कौन संचालित करेगा।
- The Government said the Speaker's post does not envisage a **vacancy**.
सरकार ने कहा कि अध्यक्ष का पद **रिक्त नहीं माना जाता**।
- Yet, this did not resolve the **conflict of interest concerns**.
फिर भी इससे **हितों के टकराव की चिंता** दूर नहीं हुई।

The need for codification संहिताकरण की आवश्यकता

- India has **no statute** governing judicial recusal.
भारत में न्यायिक रिक्वूज़ल को नियंत्रित करने वाला **कोई कानून नहीं है**।
- There is no **binding code of conduct** for Supreme Court judges.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीशों के लिए कोई **अनिवार्य आचार संहिता** नहीं है।
- There is no mechanism to **review a recusal decision**.
रिक्वूज़ल के निर्णय की **समीक्षा का कोई तंत्र नहीं है**।
- The **American experience** shows the value of clear rules but also limits.
अमेरिकी अनुभव स्पष्ट नियमों के महत्व और उनकी सीमाओं दोनों को दिखाता है।



- **Section 455** provides a codified standard but remains **self-enforced** at apex level.
धारा 455 एक संहिताबद्ध मानक देती है, लेकिन उच्च स्तर पर यह स्वयं लागू होती है।
- The **CEC law dispute** highlights urgency as two CJIs have recused themselves.
सीईसी कानून विवाद में दो मुख्य न्यायाधीशों के रिक्जूसल से इसकी तात्कालिकता स्पष्ट होती है।
- The issue of appointing **guardians of elections** is being decided without a principled rule.
चुनावों के संरक्षकों की नियुक्ति का प्रश्न बिना ठोस सिद्धांत के तय हो रहा है।
- The deficit is both **institutional and individual**.
यह कमी संस्थागत और व्यक्तिगत दोनों स्तरों पर है।
- India's framework is served by judges exercising **careful discretion**.
भारत की व्यवस्था को ऐसे न्यायाधीशों से लाभ मिलता है जो सावधानीपूर्वक विवेक का उपयोग करते हैं।
- It would be better served by converting discretion into **obligation**.
लेकिन इसे और बेहतर बनाया जा सकता है यदि विवेक को अनिवार्यता में बदला जाए।

GS Paper II: Governance,	
TOPICS COVERED	25 March 2026
25Mar	Deepening global corruption as a pointer for India वैश्विक भ्रष्टाचार का गहराना भारत के लिए संकेत
25Mar	NCLAT declines interim stay on plea against nod for Adani's bid for JAL एनसीएलएटी ने अडानी की जेएएल बोली को मंजूरी के खिलाफ याचिका पर अंतरिम रोक से इनकार किया

Deepening global corruption as a pointer for India

GS II: Governance

MCQ

The **Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 (CPI)** published by Transparency International delivers an unmistakable message. Corruption is not receding. It is deepening in ways that erode democratic accountability and hollow out public institutions. For the first time in over a decade, the global average score has dropped to 42 out of 100, with 122 of 182 countries in the 2025 index, with only five countries now score above 80, compared with 12 a decade ago. The direction is clear and troubling. Where oversight weakens and civic freedoms narrow, corruption perceptions worsen.

What the data show

India's position must be assessed within this global decline. With a score of 39 and a rank of 91 out of 182 countries in the 2025 index, India remains in the lower half of the table. Over the past decade, India's score has fluctuated narrowly between 38 and 41. In 2014, it stood at 38. A decade later, it remains broadly similar. For a country that has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy and aspires to achieve developed nation status by 2047, this stagnation is revealing. While the economic scale has expanded dramatically over time, the governance perception has not kept pace.

Global comparisons sharpen the picture. China scores 42. Sri Lanka stands close to India's level, while Bangladesh and Pakistan score lower. India performs better than some of its neighbours, yet it trails several upper-middle-income democracies and many East Asian and European countries that once operated at comparable development levels. Those countries strengthened institutional independence, transparency frameworks and regulatory predictability over time. Their CPI trajectories reflect sustained reform.

Why does India's CPI score matter? First, the index measures perceived public sector integrity rather than recorded incidents. It draws on 13 independent data sources that assess public procurement, regulatory enforcement, judicial effectiveness and institutional safeguards. A score of 39 signals persistent weaknesses in



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Transparency must become a national priority as governance credibility is now a competitive economic variable

transparency, oversight and accountability. Perceptions influence investment decisions, sovereign risk assessments and long-term capital allocation. Governance credibility has now become a competitive economic variable.

Second, corruption carries measurable economic costs. It increases transaction uncertainty, raises compliance expenses and diverts entrepreneurial energy toward navigating rent-seeking systems rather than creating value. These distortions reduce productivity and discourage investment. A widely cited global estimate suggests that corruption costs at least 5% of global GDP annually, equivalent to more than \$2.6 trillion in lost output each year. This figure includes bribes, illicit financial flows and inefficiencies in public spending. While precise quantification varies across studies, the scale of the drag is undeniable.

For developing economies such as India, the impact is significant. Research linked to multilateral institutions suggests that corruption may cost India roughly 0.5% of GDP annually in direct terms, with broader estimates placing total losses between 1% and 1.5% of GDP once indirect growth effects are included. At current output levels, this represents tens of billions of dollars each year. These are resources that could finance infrastructure, health, education or industrial upgrading.

Hurdles in compliance architecture

A third structural concern lies in the complexity of India's compliance architecture. A recent report indicates that entrepreneurs operate under the shadow of 26,134 imprisonment provisions embedded across India's business regulations. The scale of the burden becomes clearer at the industry level. Even as the Union Budget 2026-27 proposes the Biopharma Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation (SHAKTI) initiative with an allocation of ₹10,000 crore over five years, a pharmaceutical start-up with a single manufacturing unit is required to navigate 998 separate compliance obligations before commencing operations, with nearly 49% bearing potential criminal liability. Such extensive

criminalisation within regulatory frameworks not only raises the cost of doing business but also expands discretionary power in ways that can inadvertently create conditions for rent seeking.

Encouraging trends

Yet, the picture is not uniformly bleak, as there are also positive counter-currents. India's digital public infrastructure has reduced leakages in certain welfare schemes through direct benefit transfers linked to bank accounts and digital identity. The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI), with March 2018 as the base, has been tracking the extent of digitisation of payments across the country since January 1, 2021. The index for September 2025 stands at 516.76 as against 493.22 for March 2025. The Goods and Services Tax network has increased formalisation and traceability in indirect taxation.

E-procurement portals and digital payment systems have reduced opportunities for some forms of rent seeking. These reforms demonstrate that institutional design and the use of technology can reduce discretion. Corruption, therefore, is not merely a moral or legal problem. It is an economic constraint and a strategic vulnerability. It weakens fiscal efficiency, undermines regulatory credibility and reduces social trust. For a country that envisions becoming a \$10 trillion economy within the next decade, governance quality cannot remain static. Rapid economic expansion without parallel institutional strengthening creates an imbalance.

The 2025 Index should be read as a benchmark rather than a verdict. India possesses strong constitutional foundations, competitive elections, a capable judiciary and growing digital capacity. Even modest but sustained improvements in transparency, judicial efficiency, regulatory simplification and institutional independence could materially improve perceptions over time. Countries that climbed the CPI rankings did so through cumulative reform, not episodic crackdowns.

India's economic ascent has been decisive. Its governance evolution must now match that ambition with equal resolve.



25Mar. Deepening global corruption as a pointer for India वैश्विक भ्रष्टाचार का गहराना भारत के लिए संकेत

- The **Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 (CPI)** published by **Transparency International** delivers an unmistakable message.
भ्रष्टाचार धारणा सूचकांक 2025 (CPI), जिसे ट्रांसपेरेंसी इंटरनेशनल ने प्रकाशित किया है, एक स्पष्ट संदेश देता है।
- **Corruption is not receding, it is deepening** in ways that erode **democratic accountability** and hollow out **public institutions**.
भ्रष्टाचार घट नहीं रहा है, बल्कि यह इस तरह गहराता जा रहा है कि लोकतांत्रिक जवाबदेही को कमजोर कर रहा है और सार्वजनिक संस्थानों को खोखला बना रहा है।
- **For the first time in over a decade, the global average score has dropped to 42 out of 100.**
एक दशक से अधिक समय में पहली बार वैश्विक औसत स्कोर घटकर 100 में से 42 हो गया है।
- **With 122 of 182 countries scoring below 50.**
जिसमें 182 में से 122 देश 50 से नीचे स्कोर कर रहे हैं।
- **Only five countries now score above 80, compared with 12 a decade ago.**
अब केवल पाँच देश 80 से ऊपर स्कोर करते हैं, जबकि एक दशक पहले यह संख्या 12 थी।
- The direction is clear and **troubling**.
दिशा स्पष्ट और चिंताजनक है।
- **Where oversight weakens and civic freedoms narrow, corruption perceptions worsen.**
जहाँ निगरानी कमजोर होती है और नागरिक स्वतंत्रताएँ घटती हैं, वहाँ भ्रष्टाचार की धारणा खराब होती है।

What the data show आंकड़े क्या दर्शाते हैं

- India's position must be assessed within this **global decline**.
भारत की स्थिति को इस वैश्विक गिरावट के संदर्भ में समझना चाहिए।
- **With a score of 39 and a rank of 91 out of 182 countries in the 2025 index.**
2025 सूचकांक में भारत का स्कोर 39 और रैंक 182 में से 91 है।
- India remains in the **lower half of the table**.
भारत अभी भी निचले आधे हिस्से में बना हुआ है।
- Over the past decade, India's score has fluctuated narrowly between **38 and 41**.
पिछले एक दशक में भारत का स्कोर 38 से 41 के बीच सीमित रहा है।
- **In 2014, it stood at 38.**
2014 में यह 38 था।
- A decade later, it remains broadly **similar**.
एक दशक बाद भी यह लगभग समान है।
- **For a country that has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy and aspires to achieve developed nation status by 2047, this stagnation is revealing.**
एक ऐसे देश के लिए जो दुनिया की चौथी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन चुका है और 2047 तक विकसित राष्ट्र बनने का लक्ष्य रखता है, यह ठहराव महत्वपूर्ण संकेत देता है।
- While the **economic scale** has expanded dramatically, the **governance perception** has not kept pace.
जहाँ आर्थिक आकार तेजी से बढ़ा है, वहीं शासन की धारणा उसी गति से नहीं बढ़ी है।
- **Global comparisons** sharpen the picture.
वैश्विक तुलना इस स्थिति को और स्पष्ट करती है।
- **China scores 42.**
चीन का स्कोर 42 है।
- **Sri Lanka** stands close to India's level.
श्रीलंका भारत के स्तर के करीब है।
- While **Bangladesh and Pakistan** score lower.
जबकि बांग्लादेश और पाकिस्तान का स्कोर इससे कम है।
- India performs better than some of its **neighbours**.
भारत अपने कुछ पड़ोसी देशों से बेहतर प्रदर्शन करता है।



- Yet it trails several **upper-middle-income democracies** and many **East Asian and European countries**.
फिर भी यह कई उच्च-मध्यम आय वाले लोकतंत्रों और कई पूर्वी एशियाई व यूरोपीय देशों से पीछे है।
- **Those countries strengthened institutional independence, transparency frameworks and regulatory predictability over time.**
उन देशों ने समय के साथ संस्थागत स्वतंत्रता, पारदर्शिता तंत्र और नियामकीय स्थिरता को मजबूत किया।
- Their CPI trajectories reflect **sustained reform**.
उनके सूचकांक में सुधार निरंतर सुधारों को दर्शाता है।
- Why does India's CPI score matter?
भारत का यह सूचकांक क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?
- First, the index measures **perceived public sector integrity** rather than recorded incidents.
पहला, यह सूचकांक दर्ज घटनाओं के बजाय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की धारणा आधारित ईमानदारी को मापता है।
- **It draws on 13 independent data sources.**
यह 13 स्वतंत्र स्रोतों पर आधारित है।
- **That assess public procurement, regulatory enforcement, judicial effectiveness and institutional safeguards.**
जो सार्वजनिक खरीद, नियामकीय प्रवर्तन, न्यायिक प्रभावशीलता और संस्थागत सुरक्षा उपायों का आकलन करते हैं।
- A score of **39** signals persistent weaknesses in **transparency, oversight and accountability**.
39 का स्कोर पारदर्शिता, निगरानी और जवाबदेही में लगातार कमजोरियों को दर्शाता है।
- **Perceptions influence investment decisions**, sovereign risk assessments and **long-term capital allocation**.
धारणाएँ निवेश निर्णयों, संप्रभु जोखिम आकलन और दीर्घकालिक पूंजी आवंटन को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- Governance credibility has now become a **competitive economic variable**.
शासन की विश्वसनीयता अब एक प्रतिस्पर्धी आर्थिक कारक बन गई है।
- Second, corruption carries measurable **economic costs**.
दूसरा, भ्रष्टाचार के स्पष्ट आर्थिक लागत होते हैं।
- It increases **transaction uncertainty**, raises **compliance expenses** and diverts entrepreneurial energy.
यह लेन-देन की अनिश्चितता बढ़ाता है, अनुपालन लागत बढ़ाता है, और उद्यमशील ऊर्जा को भटकाता है।
- Toward navigating **rent-seeking systems** rather than creating value.
जिससे मूल्य सृजन के बजाय रेंट-सीकिंग प्रणालियों से निपटना पड़ता है।
- These distortions reduce **productivity** and discourage **investment**.
ये विकृतियाँ उत्पादकता घटाती हैं और निवेश को हतोत्साहित करती हैं।
- A global estimate suggests corruption costs at least **5% of global GDP annually**.
एक वैश्विक अनुमान के अनुसार, भ्रष्टाचार की लागत प्रति वर्ष वैश्विक सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का कम से कम 5% है।
- Equivalent to more than **\$2.6 trillion** in lost output each year.
जो हर वर्ष 2.6 ट्रिलियन डॉलर से अधिक के उत्पादन नुकसान के बराबर है।
- This includes **bribes, illicit financial flows and inefficiencies in public spending**.
इसमें रिश्वत, अवैध वित्तीय प्रवाह और सार्वजनिक खर्च की अक्षमताएँ शामिल हैं।
- While precise quantification varies, the scale of the drag is **undeniable**.
यद्यपि सटीक आंकड़े अलग-अलग हो सकते हैं, लेकिन इसका प्रभाव अस्वीकार्य नहीं है।
- For developing economies such as India, the impact is **significant**.
भारत जैसी विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के लिए इसका प्रभाव महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Research suggests corruption may cost India roughly **0.5% of GDP annually** in direct terms.
शोध के अनुसार, भ्रष्टाचार भारत को प्रत्यक्ष रूप से प्रति वर्ष लगभग जीडीपी का 0.5% नुकसान पहुँचाता है।
- With broader estimates placing total losses between **1% and 1.5% of GDP**.
व्यापक अनुमान के अनुसार कुल नुकसान जीडीपी का 1% से 1.5% तक हो सकता है।
- At current output levels, this represents **tens of billions of dollars each year**.
वर्तमान उत्पादन स्तर पर यह हर वर्ष दसियों अरब डॉलर के बराबर है।
- These are resources that could finance **infrastructure, health, education or industrial upgrading**.



ये वे संसाधन हैं जिनसे अवसंरचना, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और औद्योगिक उन्नयन को वित्तपोषित किया जा सकता था।

Hurdles in compliance architecture

अनुपालन संरचना में बाधाएँ

- A third structural concern lies in the complexity of India's **compliance architecture**. तीसरी संरचनात्मक चिंता भारत की **अनुपालन प्रणाली की जटिलता** में निहित है।
- A recent report indicates that entrepreneurs operate under the shadow of **26,134 imprisonment provisions** embedded across India's business regulations. एक हालिया रिपोर्ट बताती है कि उद्यमी भारत के व्यापार नियमों में निहित **26,134 कारावास प्रावधानों** के दबाव में काम करते हैं।
- The scale of the burden becomes clearer at the **industry level**. इस बोझ का स्तर **उद्योग स्तर** पर और स्पष्ट हो जाता है।
- The **Union Budget 2026-27** proposes the **Biopharma SHAKTI initiative** with an allocation of **₹10,000 crore over five years**. जबकि **केंद्रीय बजट 2026-27** में **बायोफार्मा शक्ति** पहल के लिए **पाँच वर्षों में ₹10,000 करोड़** का प्रावधान किया गया है।
- A pharmaceutical start-up with a single manufacturing unit is required to navigate **998 separate compliance obligations** before commencing operations. एक औषधि स्टार्टअप को संचालन शुरू करने से पहले **998 अलग-अलग अनुपालन दायित्वों** को पूरा करना पड़ता है।
- With nearly **49% bearing potential criminal liability**. जिनमें लगभग **49% में संभावित आपराधिक दायित्व** शामिल है।
- Such extensive **criminalisation within regulatory frameworks** raises the **cost of doing business**. नियामक ढांचे में इस प्रकार का व्यापक **आपराधिककरण** व्यापार की **लागत बढ़ाता है**।
- And also expands **discretionary power**, creating conditions for **rent seeking**. और **विवेकाधीन शक्तियों** को बढ़ाकर **रेंट-सीकिंग** की स्थितियाँ पैदा करता है।

Encouraging trends

प्रोत्साहन देने वाले रुझान

- Yet, the picture is not uniformly bleak. फिर भी, स्थिति पूरी तरह निराशाजनक नहीं है।
- India's **digital public infrastructure** has reduced **leakages** in certain welfare schemes. भारत की **डिजिटल सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना** ने कुछ कल्याणकारी योजनाओं में **रिसाव को कम किया है**।
- Through **direct benefit transfers** linked to **bank accounts and digital identity**. यह **प्रत्यक्ष लाभ हस्तांतरण** के माध्यम से हुआ है, जो **बैंक खातों और डिजिटल पहचान** से जुड़ा है।
- The **Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index**, with **March 2018 as the base**, tracks digitisation of payments since **January 1, 2021**. **भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक का डिजिटल भुगतान सूचकांक**, जिसका आधार **मार्च 2018** है, **1 जनवरी 2021** से भुगतान के डिजिटलीकरण को माप रहा है।
- The index for **September 2025** stands at **516.76** as against **493.22 for March 2025**. **सितंबर 2025** में यह सूचकांक **516.76** था, जबकि **मार्च 2025** में **493.22** था।
- The **Goods and Services Tax network** has increased **formalisation and traceability** in indirect taxation. **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर नेटवर्क** ने अप्रत्यक्ष कर व्यवस्था में **औपचारिकता और पारदर्शिता** बढ़ाई है।
- **E-procurement portals and digital payment systems** have reduced opportunities for some forms of **rent seeking**. **ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल और डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणालियों** ने कुछ प्रकार के **रेंट-सीकिंग** के अवसरों को कम किया है।
- These reforms demonstrate that **institutional design and technology** can reduce **discretion**. ये सुधार दर्शाते हैं कि **संस्थागत ढांचा और तकनीक विवेकाधीनता को कम कर सकते हैं**।



- Corruption is not merely a **moral or legal problem**.
भ्रष्टाचार केवल **नैतिक या कानूनी समस्या** नहीं है।
- It is an **economic constraint** and a **strategic vulnerability**.
यह एक **आर्थिक बाधा** और **रणनीतिक कमजोरी** है।
- It weakens **fiscal efficiency**, undermines **regulatory credibility** and reduces **social trust**.
यह **राजकोषीय दक्षता को कमजोर** करता है, **नियामक विश्वसनीयता को घटाता है** और **सामाजिक विश्वास को कम करता है**।
- For a country aiming to become a **\$10 trillion economy**, governance quality cannot remain **static**.
एक ऐसे देश के लिए जो **10 ट्रिलियन डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था** बनने का लक्ष्य रखता है, शासन की गुणवत्ता **स्थिर नहीं रह सकती**।
- Rapid economic expansion without **institutional strengthening** creates an imbalance.
संस्थागत मजबूती के बिना आर्थिक विस्तार असंतुलन पैदा करता है।
- The **2025 Index** should be read as a **benchmark rather than a verdict**.
2025 सूचकांक को निर्णय नहीं बल्कि मानक के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।
- India possesses strong **constitutional foundations**, **competitive elections**, a capable **judiciary** and growing **digital capacity**.
भारत के पास मजबूत **संवैधानिक आधार**, **प्रतिस्पर्धी चुनाव**, सक्षम **न्यायपालिका** और बढ़ती **डिजिटल क्षमता** है।
- Even modest but sustained improvements in **transparency**, **judicial efficiency**, **regulatory simplification** and **institutional independence** could improve perceptions.
पारदर्शिता, **न्यायिक दक्षता**, **नियामक सरलीकरण** और **संस्थागत स्वतंत्रता** में निरंतर सुधार से धारणा बेहतर हो सकती है।
- Countries that improved CPI rankings did so through **cumulative reform**, not **episodic crackdowns**.
जिन देशों ने सूचकांक में सुधार किया, उन्होंने यह **निरंतर सुधारों** के माध्यम से किया, न कि **अस्थायी कार्रवाइयों** से।
- India's **economic ascent** has been decisive.
भारत की **आर्थिक उन्नति** निर्णायक रही है।
- Its **governance evolution** must now match that ambition with equal **resolve**.
अब इसकी **शासन व्यवस्था का विकास** उसी **दृढ़ संकल्प** के साथ होना चाहिए।

NCLAT declines interim stay on plea against nod for Adani's bid for JAL

GS II: Governance

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The insolvency appellate tribunal on Tuesday declined any interim stay over the Vedanta Group's plea against the order passed by the NCLT approving ₹14,535 crore bid by Adani Group's bid for acquiring Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (JAL).

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) two-member bench sought a response from the Committee of Creditors (CoC) of JAL within a week. It also directed to list the matter on

April 10 for the next hearing. Vedanta group was in the race to acquire JAL through an insolvency process, but the lenders in November last year approved the resolution plan of Adani Enterprises Ltd. Last week, the NCLT approved the Adani Group's bid.

Challenging the NCLT order, the Vedanta group has filed two appeals before the NCLAT.

In its hearing on Tuesday, NCLAT said all the parties agree that, looking to the nature of the issues raised in the appeal, this matter needs to be decided at an early date.

25Mar. NCLAT declines interim stay on plea against nod for Adani's bid for JAL एनसीएलएटी ने अडानी की जेएएल बोली को मंजूरी के खिलाफ याचिका पर अंतरिम रोक से इनकार किया

The insolvency appellate tribunal on Tuesday declined any interim stay over the Vedanta Group's plea against the order passed by the NCLT approving ₹14,535 crore bid by Adani Group's bid for acquiring Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (JAL).

दिवालियापन अपीलिय न्यायाधिकरण ने मंगलवार को वेदांता समूह की उस याचिका पर कोई अंतरिम रोक लगाने से इनकार कर दिया, जिसमें एनसीएलटी द्वारा अडानी समूह की ₹14,535 करोड़ की बोली को जयप्रकाश एसोसिएट्स लिमिटेड (JAL) के अधिग्रहण के लिए मंजूरी देने के आदेश को चुनौती दी गई थी।

The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT)** two-member bench sought a response from the **Committee of Creditors (CoC)** of



JAL within a week.

राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (NCLAT) की दो सदस्यीय पीठ ने जेएएल की कर्जदाता समिति (CoC) से एक सप्ताह के भीतर जवाब मांगा।

- It also directed to list the matter on April 10 for the next hearing.
इसने मामले को अगली सुनवाई के लिए 10 अप्रैल को सूचीबद्ध करने का निर्देश भी दिया।
- Vedanta group was in the race to acquire JAL through an insolvency process, but the lenders in November last year approved the resolution plan of Adani Enterprises Ltd.
वेदांता समूह दिवालियापन प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से जेएएल के अधिग्रहण की दौड़ में था, लेकिन पिछले साल नवंबर में ऋणदाताओं ने अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज लिमिटेड की समाधान योजना को मंजूरी दे दी।
- Last week, the NCLT approved the Adani Group's bid.
पिछले सप्ताह, एनसीएलटी ने अडानी समूह की बोली को मंजूरी दे दी।
- Challenging the NCLT order, the Vedanta group has filed two appeals before the NCLAT.
एनसीएलटी के आदेश को चुनौती देते हुए, वेदांता समूह ने एनसीएलटी के समक्ष दो अपील दायर की हैं।
- In its hearing on Tuesday, NCLAT said all the parties agree that, looking at the nature of the issues raised in the appeal, this matter needs to be decided at an early date.
मंगलवार की सुनवाई में, एनसीएलटी ने कहा कि सभी पक्ष सहमत हैं कि अपील में उठाए गए मुद्दों की प्रकृति को देखते हुए, इस मामले का जल्द निर्णय किया जाना आवश्यक है।

GS Paper II: International Relations

TOPICS COVERED

25 March 2026

25Mar **Rebels in Congo held journalists in containers in brutal conditions: RSF**
कांगो में विद्रोहियों ने पत्रकारों को कंटेनरों में क्रूर परिस्थितियों में रखा: RSF

25Mar **In Lebanon's historic city of Tyre, ancient site is threatened by Israeli bombs**
लेबनान के ऐतिहासिक शहर टायर में, प्राचीन स्थल इज़राइली बमों से खतरे में



Rebels in Congo held journalists in containers in brutal conditions: RSF

CS II: IR

Associated Press
DAKAR, SENEGAL

A rebel group in eastern Congo has detained civilians, including two journalists, in metal shipping containers without light or ventilation, an advocacy group said on Tuesday.

Reporters Without Borders, or RSF, said the Rwanda-backed M23, which controls parts of eastern Congo, used the containers in the city of Goma as makeshift detention cells under "inhumane" and "degrading" conditions.

Using witness accounts, satellite imagery and photos collected in 2025, RSF said at least two journalists were among those detained in the containers, which were installed at the compound of the province's



Under watch: A member of the M23 rebel group stands guard as Muslims attend Id-ul-Fitr prayers in Goma on March 20. REUTERS

legislative assembly in Goma. Witnesses' identities have been withheld for security reasons.

As many as 80 detainees at a time were placed inside a container, without light or ventilation and allowed out only once a day. Witnesses said they received minimal food, while

some reported routine beatings. According to the testimonies, conditions were extreme – suffocating heat by day and cold at night – with deaths reported. Survivors were often held for weeks before being transferred to other locations.

The M23 did not immediately

respond to a request by The Associated Press for comment.

The rebels' takeover of Goma last year has worsened conditions for journalists operating in eastern Congo, where threats and attacks were already widespread. RSF said the M23 has tightened control over media coverage, including imposing restrictions on the language used to describe its presence.

The mineral-rich eastern Congo has been battered by decades of unrest as government forces fight more than 100 armed groups, the most potent being M23 rebels backed by Rwanda. The group made an unprecedented advance into the region early last year, seizing key cities as they quickly expanded their presence.

25Mar. Rebels in Congo held journalists in containers in brutal conditions: RSF

कांगो में विद्रोहियों ने पत्रकारों को कंटेनरों में क्रूर परिस्थितियों में रखा: RSF

- A rebel group in eastern Congo has detained civilians, including two journalists, in metal shipping containers without light or ventilation, an advocacy group said on Tuesday.
पूर्वी कांगो में एक विद्रोही समूह ने दो पत्रकारों सहित नागरिकों को धातु कंटेनरों में बिना रोशनी और वेंटिलेशन के बंद कर रखा है, एक वकालत समूह ने मंगलवार को कहा।
- Reporters Without Borders, or RSF, said the Rwanda-backed M23, which controls parts of eastern Congo, used the containers in the city of Goma as makeshift detention cells under "inhumane" and "degrading" conditions.
रिपोर्टर्स विदाउट बॉर्डर्स (RSF) ने कहा कि रवांडा समर्थित M23, जो पूर्वी कांगो के कुछ हिस्सों को नियंत्रित करता है, ने गोमा शहर में इन कंटेनरों को "अमानवीय" और "अपमानजनक" परिस्थितियों में अस्थायी हिरासत कक्ष के रूप में उपयोग किया।
- Using witness accounts, satellite imagery and photos collected in 2025, RSF said at least two journalists were among those detained in the containers, which were installed at the compound of the province's legislative assembly in Goma.
गवाहों के बयान, सैटेलाइट चित्रों और 2025 में एकत्रित तस्वीरों के आधार पर, RSF ने कहा कि कंटेनरों में बंद लोगों में कम से कम दो पत्रकार शामिल थे, जिन्हें गोमा में प्रांतीय विधानसभा परिसर में रखा गया था।
- Witnesses' identities have been withheld for security reasons.
सुरक्षा कारणों से गवाहों की पहचान गुप्त रखी गई है।
- As many as 80 detainees at a time were placed inside a container, without light or ventilation and allowed out only once a day.
एक समय में लगभग 80 बंदियों को एक कंटेनर में रखा जाता था, बिना रोशनी और हवा के, और उन्हें दिन में केवल एक बार बाहर निकलने की अनुमति दी जाती थी।



- Witnesses said they received minimal food, while some reported routine beatings. गवाहों ने बताया कि उन्हें बहुत कम भोजन मिलता था और कुछ ने नियमित मारपीट की भी शिकायत की।
- According to the testimonies, conditions were extreme — suffocating heat by day and cold at night — with deaths reported. गवाहियों के अनुसार, परिस्थितियां बेहद खराब थीं—दिन में दम घोटने वाली गर्मी और रात में ठंड—और मौतों की भी खबर है।
- Survivors were often held for weeks before being transferred to other locations. बचे हुए लोगों को अक्सर हफ्तों तक बंद रखा जाता था, उसके बाद उन्हें अन्य स्थानों पर स्थानांतरित किया जाता था।
- The M23 did not immediately respond to a request by The Associated Press for comment. **M23 ने एसोसिएटेड प्रेस की टिप्पणी के अनुरोध पर तुरंत कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी।**
- The rebels' takeover of Goma last year has worsened conditions for journalists operating in eastern Congo, where threats and attacks were already widespread. पिछले साल गोमा पर विद्रोहियों के कब्जे के बाद, पूर्वी कांगो में काम कर रहे पत्रकारों की स्थिति और खराब हो गई है, जहां पहले से ही खतरे और हमले आम थे।
- RSF said the M23 has tightened control over media coverage, including imposing restrictions on the language used to describe its presence. **RSF ने कहा कि M23 ने मीडिया कवरेज पर नियंत्रण कड़ा कर दिया है, जिसमें उसकी उपस्थिति को वर्णित करने के लिए इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली भाषा पर प्रतिबंध शामिल है।**
- The mineral-rich eastern Congo has been battered by decades of unrest as government forces fight more than 100 armed groups, the most potent being M23 rebels backed by Rwanda. **खनिज-समृद्ध पूर्वी कांगो दशकों से अशांति से जूझ रहा है, जहां सरकारी बल 100 से अधिक सशस्त्र समूहों से लड़ रहे हैं, जिनमें सबसे शक्तिशाली रवांडा समर्थित M23 विद्रोही हैं।**
- The group made an unprecedented advance into the region early last year, seizing key cities as they quickly expanded their presence. इस समूह ने पिछले साल की शुरुआत में क्षेत्र में अभूतपूर्व बढ़त बनाई, महत्वपूर्ण शहरों पर कब्जा किया और तेजी से अपनी उपस्थिति का विस्तार किया।

In Lebanon's historic city of Tyre, ancient site is threatened by Israeli bombs

Agence France-Presse
TYRE, LEBANON

At an archaeological site in southern Lebanon's Tyre, small signs bearing a blue and white emblem provide a symbolic shield, meant to protect the ancient ruins from bombardment.

One of the oldest cities on the Mediterranean coast, Tyre is located around 20 km from the Israeli border, and has been the target of several strikes since Lebanon was drawn into the West Asia war by Hezbollah's March 2 rocket attack on Israel.

The Al-Bass site is centred on a necropolis that dates back three millennia to Tyre's time as a major Phoenician city and

was still in use until the Arab conquests of the 7th Century.

An organisation linked to UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural heritage agency, launched the signs initiative near the site, part of a push that covers more than 30 locations across the country.

It is a reminder that the 1954 Hague Convention obliges warring parties to protect cultural property.

On March 6, an Israeli strike hit just a few metres away, killing eight people according to Lebanon's health ministry.

The target, a family home, is now a pile of rubble. "They were our neighbours... They thought that being close to an archaeo-

logical site protected them, that because this is a World Heritage site it would not be struck," said Nader Saqlawi, director of archaeological excavations in the south for Lebanon's culture ministry.

Human remains

The team from the ministry that came to inspect possible damage to the monuments found human remains - "a hand and pieces of flesh" - on the roof of the site's museum, which is still under construction, he said.

The museum suffered damage, its windows were blown out, but the explosion did not reach the necropolis nor the Roman-era triumphal arch, aque-



Off guard: A view of the archaeological site of Roman hippodrome in the southern Lebanese city of Tyre. AFP

ducts and hippodrome that are also part of the site.

In antiquity, the city of Tyre was at various times Phoenician, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine.

While many of its inhab-

sites do not contain any military or security presence. Therefore, this argument cannot be used to justify their bombing," he said.

There was no immediate comment in response to AFP's request from the Israeli army, which usually says it is targeting Hezbollah sites or operatives with its attacks.

"Lebanon is full of archaeological riches... and the Beirut depots do not have the capacity to accommodate all these threatened objects," said David Sassine, an expert at the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage.

There is also no guarantee that the objects would be safer in the capital,

which is itself regularly bombed by Israel, and transporting the items from the south of the country, even under military escort, "remains risky", Sassine said.

'No one cares'

During the previous Israel-Hezbollah conflict in 2024, gold coins, millennia-old amphorae and valuable sarcophagi were transferred to Beirut, where they remain.

Tyre was heavily damaged by Israeli strikes during that war, while much of the population evacuated at the time.

Closer to the border, the citadel in the village of Shama was also partly destroyed by Israeli strikes.

Mr. Saqlawi of the culture ministry said he believed attacks on historic sites were intentional.

"The Israelis know everything. They know your shoe size... and they know very well this is an archaeological site," he said.

Mustapha Najdi, a guard at the archaeological sites, was at the Al-Bass site when the March 6 strike hit. "I heard a very violent impact. I fled and alerted the authorities," he said.

"No one cares about us", Mr. Najdi lamented, calling on "everyone who can to exert pressure to stop this barbarity".

"This civilisation represents history, represents us all, Lebanese and non-Lebanese."

25Mar. In Lebanon's historic city of Tyre, ancient site is threatened by Israeli bombs

लेबनान के ऐतिहासिक शहर टायर में, प्राचीन स्थल इज़राइली बमों से खतरे में

- At an archaeological site in southern Lebanon's Tyre, small signs bearing a blue and white emblem provide a symbolic shield, meant to protect the ancient ruins from bombardment. **दक्षिणी लेबनान के टायर में एक पुरातात्विक स्थल पर नीले और सफेद प्रतीक वाले छोटे संकेत एक प्रतीकात्मक सुरक्षा प्रदान करते हैं, जो प्राचीन खंडहरों को बमबारी से बचाने के लिए लगाए गए हैं।**
- One of the oldest cities on the Mediterranean coast, Tyre is located around 20 km from the Israeli border, and has been the target of several strikes since Lebanon was drawn into the West Asia war by Hezbollah's March 2 rocket attack on Israel.



भूमध्य सागर तट के सबसे पुराने शहरों में से एक, **टायर** इज़राइल सीमा से लगभग 20 किमी दूर स्थित है और **हिज़्बुल्लाह** के 2 मार्च के रॉकेट हमले के बाद **पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध** में शामिल होने के बाद से कई हमलों का लक्ष्य रहा है।

- The Al-Bass site is centred on a necropolis that dates back three millennia to Tyre's time as a major Phoenician city and was still in use until the Arab conquests of the 7th Century.

अल-बास स्थल एक **नेक्रोपोलिस** पर केंद्रित है, जो तीन हजार साल पुराना है और तब का है जब टायर एक प्रमुख **फोनीशियन शहर** था, और यह 7वीं सदी के **अरब विजय** तक उपयोग में था।

- An organisation linked to UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural heritage agency, launched the signs initiative near the site, part of a push that covers more than 30 locations across the country.

यूनेस्को से जुड़ी एक संस्था ने इस स्थल के पास संकेत लगाने की पहल शुरू की, जो पूरे देश में 30 से अधिक स्थानों को कवर करती है।

- It is a reminder that the 1954 Hague Convention obliges warring parties to protect cultural property.

यह **1954 हेग कन्वेंशन** की याद दिलाता है, जो युद्धरत पक्षों को **सांस्कृतिक संपत्ति की रक्षा** के लिए बाध्य करता है।

- On March 6, an Israeli strike hit just a few metres away, killing eight people according to Lebanon's health ministry.

6 मार्च को एक **इज़राइली हमला** कुछ मीटर की दूरी पर हुआ, जिसमें **लेबनान के स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय** के अनुसार **आठ लोगों की मौत** हो गई।

- The target, a family home, is now a pile of rubble.

लक्ष्य एक **परिवार का घर** था, जो अब मलबे का ढेर बन चुका है।

- "They were our neighbours... They thought that being close to an archaeological site protected them, that because this is a World Heritage site it would not be struck," said Nader Saqlawi, director of archaeological excavations in the south for Lebanon's culture ministry.

"वे हमारे पड़ोसी थे... उन्होंने सोचा कि **पुरातात्विक स्थल के पास** होने से वे सुरक्षित रहेंगे, क्योंकि यह **विश्व धरोहर स्थल** है, इसलिए इस पर हमला नहीं होगा," लेबनान के संस्कृति मंत्रालय के दक्षिण क्षेत्र के खुदाई निदेशक **नादेर साक्लावी** ने कहा।

Human remains

मानव अवशेष

- The team from the ministry that came to inspect possible damage to the monuments found human remains – "a hand and pieces of flesh" – on the roof of the site's museum, which is still under construction, he said.

मंत्रालय की टीम, जो स्मारकों को हुए नुकसान का निरीक्षण करने आई थी, ने स्थल के निर्माणाधीन **संग्रहालय की छत पर मानव अवशेष**—"एक हाथ और मांस के टुकड़े"—पाए, उन्होंने कहा।

- The museum suffered damage, its windows were blown out, but the explosion did not reach the necropolis nor the Roman-era triumphal arch, aqueducts and hippodrome that are also part of the site.

संग्रहालय को नुकसान हुआ, उसकी खिड़कियां उड़ गईं, लेकिन विस्फोट **नेक्रोपोलिस, रोमन काल के विजय द्वार, जलसेतु और हिप्पोड्रोम** तक नहीं पहुंचा।

- In antiquity, the city of Tyre was at various times Phoenician, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine.

प्राचीन काल में **टायर शहर** विभिन्न समयों पर **फोनीशियन, फारसी, हेलेनिस्टिक, रोमन और बीजान्टिन** रहा है।

- While many of its inhabitants have fled the latest war, others remain alongside the city's precious relics.

जहां कई निवासी **हालिया युद्ध** से भाग गए हैं, वहीं कुछ लोग शहर की **कीमती धरोहरों** के साथ अभी भी वहीं हैं।

- Lebanese Culture Minister Ghassan Salame condemned what he called Israel's aggression. **लेबनान के संस्कृति मंत्री घासन सलामे** ने इसे **इज़राइल की आक्रामकता** बताते हुए निंदा की।

- "The archaeological sites do not contain any military or security presence. Therefore, this argument cannot be used to justify their bombing," he said.



उन्होंने कहा, “पुरातात्विक स्थलों पर कोई सैन्य या सुरक्षा उपस्थिति नहीं है, इसलिए इनके बमबारी को उचित ठहराने के लिए यह तर्क इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा सकता।”

- There was no immediate comment in response to AFP’s request from the Israeli army, which usually says it is targeting Hezbollah sites or operatives with its attacks.

एफएफपी के अनुरोध पर इज़राइली सेना की ओर से तत्काल कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं आई, जो आमतौर पर कहती है कि वह हिज़्बुल्लाह ठिकानों को निशाना बना रही है।

- “Lebanon is full of archaeological riches... and the Beirut depots do not have the capacity to accommodate all these threatened objects,” said David Sassine, an expert at the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage.

“लेबनान पुरातात्विक संपदा से भरा है... और बेरूत के भंडार इन सभी खतरे में पड़ी वस्तुओं को समायोजित करने में सक्षम नहीं हैं,” डेविड सैसीन, अंतरराष्ट्रीय विरासत संरक्षण संगठन के विशेषज्ञ ने कहा।

- There is also no guarantee that the objects would be safer in the capital, which is itself regularly bombed by Israel, and transporting the items from the south of the country, even under military escort, “remains risky”, Sassine said.

यह भी निश्चित नहीं है कि वस्तुएं राजधानी में सुरक्षित रहेंगी, जिसे स्वयं नियमित रूप से इज़राइल द्वारा बमबारी का सामना करना पड़ता है, और देश के दक्षिण से वस्तुओं को ले जाना, भले ही सैन्य सुरक्षा में हो, “जोखिम भरा” बना रहता है।

‘No one cares’

‘किसी को परवाह नहीं’

- During the previous Israel-Hezbollah conflict in 2024, gold coins, millennia-old amphorae and valuable sarcophagi were transferred to Beirut, where they remain.

2024 के इज़राइल-हिज़्बुल्लाह संघर्ष के दौरान, सोने के सिक्के, हजारों साल पुराने अम्फोरा और मूल्यवान सरकोफेगी को बेरूत स्थानांतरित किया गया, जहां वे अभी भी हैं।

- Tyre was heavily damaged by Israeli strikes during that war, while much of the population evacuated at the time.

उस युद्ध के दौरान टायर को इज़राइली हमलों से भारी नुकसान हुआ और उस समय अधिकांश आबादी ने पलायन कर लिया।

- Closer to the border, the citadel in the village of Shamaa was also partly destroyed by Israeli strikes.

सीमा के पास शमाआ गांव का किला भी इज़राइली हमलों से आंशिक रूप से नष्ट हो गया।

- Mr. Saqlawi of the culture ministry said he believed attacks on historic sites were intentional. संस्कृति मंत्रालय के श्री साक्लावी ने कहा कि उनका मानना है कि ऐतिहासिक स्थलों पर हमले जानबूझकर किए गए।

- “The Israelis know everything. They know your shoe size... and they know very well this is an archaeological site,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “इज़राइली सब कुछ जानते हैं, वे आपके जूते का आकार भी जानते हैं... और वे अच्छी तरह जानते हैं कि यह एक पुरातात्विक स्थल है।”

- Mustapha Najdi, a guard at the archaeological sites, was at the Al-Bass site when the March 6 strike hit.

मुस्तफा नज्दी, जो पुरातात्विक स्थल के गार्ड हैं, 6 मार्च के हमले के समय अल-बास स्थल पर मौजूद थे।

- “I heard a very violent impact. I fled and alerted the authorities,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “मैंने एक बहुत जोरदार धमाका सुना, मैं भाग गया और अधिकारियों को सूचित किया।”

- “No one cares about us”, Mr. Najdi lamented, calling on “everyone who can to exert pressure to stop this barbarity”.

“किसी को हमारी परवाह नहीं है,” श्री नज्दी ने दुख जताते हुए कहा और “हर किसी से इस बर्बरता को रोकने के लिए दबाव बनाने” की अपील की।

- “This civilisation represents history, represents us all, Lebanese and non-Lebanese.”

“यह सभ्यता इतिहास का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, हम सभी का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है—लेबनानी और गैर-लेबनानी।”



GS Paper III: Economy,

TOPICS COVERED

25 March 2026

25Mar

Benchmark indices up 1.7% in relief after continued rout
लगातार गिरावट के बाद राहत में बेंचमार्क सूचकांक 1.7% ऊपर

Benchmark indices up 1.7% in relief after continued rout

GS III: Economy

Ashokamithran T.

MUMBAI

Markets bounced back by more than 1.5% on Tuesday after weeks of continued rout since the beginning of the Iran-U.S. war and after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a temporary halt on strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,372.06 points or 1.89% to settle at 74,068.45. During the day, it soared 1,793 points or 2.46% to 74,489.39.

The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 399.75 points or 1.78% to end at 22,912.40.

Despite being the best session of the week, the Nifty has slipped 11.45% since February 24, when it closed at 25,424.65 points.

Markets have also become considerably cheaper in terms of price-to-earnings ratio in the past month. Unlike in the past weeks when an improving market did not keep up the optimism, both indices traded consistently up by 0.8% to 1.5% throughout



The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,372.06 points or 1.89% to settle at 74,068.45

the day before closing.

The rally was broad-based with 2,480 shares improving and just 805 declining of the 3,369 stocks that traded on Tuesday.

Brent oil futures also dipped slightly to ₹99.57 a barrel, coming below ₹100 after touching \$114 a barrel last week.

"Today's bounce [back] kindles hopes for a sustained pull-back, but follow-through gains are needed to signal a trend reversal," said Vinay Rajani, Senior Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

(With PTI inputs)

काफी सस्ता हो गया है।

- Unlike in the past weeks when an improving market did not keep up the optimism, both indices traded consistently up by 0.8% to 1.5% throughout the day before closing. पिछले हफ्तों के विपरीत, जब सुधार के बावजूद बाजार टिक नहीं पाया, इस बार दोनों सूचकांक पूरे दिन 0.8% से 1.5% तक लगातार बढ़त में रहे।
- The rally was broadbased with 2,480 shares improving and just 805 declining of the 3,369 stocks that traded on Tuesday. यह बढ़त व्यापक रही, जिसमें 3,369 शेयरों में से 2,480 बढ़े और केवल 805 गिरे।
- Brent oil futures also dipped slightly to ₹99.57 a barrel, coming below ₹100 after touching \$114 a barrel last week. ब्रेट ऑयल फ्यूचर्स भी थोड़ा गिरकर ₹99.57 प्रति बैरल पर आ गया, जो पिछले सप्ताह \$114 तक पहुंचने के बाद ₹100 से नीचे आया।

25Mar. Benchmark indices up 1.7% in relief after continued rout

लगातार गिरावट के बाद राहत में बेंचमार्क सूचकांक 1.7% ऊपर

• Markets bounced back by more than 1.5% on Tuesday after weeks of continued rout since the beginning of the Iran-U.S. war and after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a temporary halt on strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure.

बाजार मंगलवार को 1.5% से अधिक उछले, क्योंकि ईरान-अमेरिका युद्ध की शुरुआत से जारी गिरावट के बाद और डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा ईरानी ऊर्जा ढांचे पर हमलों को अस्थायी रूप से रोकने की घोषणा के बाद राहत मिली।

• The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,372.06 points or 1.89% to settle at 74,068.45.

30 शेयरों वाला BSE Sensex 1,372.06 अंक या 1.89% बढ़कर 74,068.45 पर बंद हुआ।

• During the day, it soared 1,793 points or 2.46% to 74,489.39.

दिन के दौरान यह 1,793 अंक या 2.46% बढ़कर 74,489.39 तक पहुंच गया।

• The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 399.75 points or 1.78% to end at 22,912.40.

50 शेयरों वाला NSE Nifty 399.75 अंक या 1.78% बढ़कर 22,912.40 पर बंद हुआ।

• Despite being the best session of the week, the Nifty has slipped 11.45% since February 24, when it closed at 25,424.65 points.

सप्ताह का सबसे अच्छा सत्र होने के बावजूद, निफ्टी 24 फरवरी से 11.45% गिर चुका है, जब यह 25,424.65 पर बंद हुआ था।

• Markets have also become considerably cheaper in terms of price-to-earnings ratio in the past month.

पिछले महीने में प्राइस-टू-अर्निंग अनुपात के हिसाब से बाजार

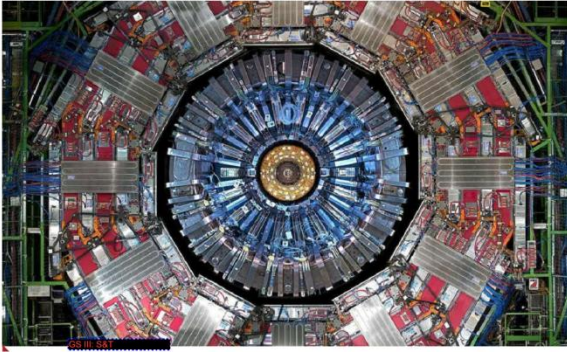


- “Today’s bounce [back] kindles hopes for a sustained pull-back, but follow-through gains are needed to signal a trend reversal,” said Vinay Rajani, Senior Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

विनय राजानी (HDFC Securities) ने कहा, “आज की तेजी से निरंतर सुधार की उम्मीद जगी है, लेकिन ट्रेड बदलने के संकेत के लिए आगे भी बढ़त जरूरी है।”

GS Paper III: S&T,	
TOPICS COVERED	25 March 2026
25Mar	PSLV setbacks will help in learning, says ISRO chief PSLV की असफलताएँ सीखने में मदद करेगी, ISRO प्रमुख का बयान
25Mar	Days after SC allows withdrawal of care, Rana passes away सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा देखभाल हटाने की अनुमति के कुछ दिन बाद राणा का निधन
25Mar	How BioPharma SHAKTI can transform biologics with non-animal models BioPharma SHAKTI कैसे गैर-पशु मॉडल के साथ बायोलॉजिक्स को बदल सकता है

BIG SHOT



Quantum discovery: A side-on view of the world's largest superconducting solenoid magnet at the CMS detector on the Large Hadron Collider, near Geneva. The Collider has discovered a new particle, its 80th so far, that has been named 'Xi-cc-plus'. Scientists hope the particle, which is similar to a proton but four times heavier, will reveal more about the strange behaviour of quantum mechanics. www.cern.ch

Quantum discovery: A side-on view of the world's largest superconducting solenoid magnet at the CMS detector on the Large Hadron Collider, near Geneva. The Collider has discovered a new particle, its 80th so far, that has been named 'Xi-cc-plus'. Scientists hope the particle, which is similar to a proton but four times heavier, will reveal more about the strange behaviour of quantum mechanics.



PSLV setbacks will help in learning, says ISRO chief

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman V. Narayanan on Tuesday said he did not consider the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C61 and C62 missions as failures, but as opportunities to learn.

“Whenever there is a setback we don’t consider it as a failure, but we consider it an opportunity to learn and strengthen our system,” Dr. Narayanan said while inaugurating the 11th biennial conference of the ISRO Pensioners’ Association here.

The PSLV-C61/EOS-09 was launched on May 18, 2025, but the mission could not be accomplished due to what the ISRO called at the time, “an observation in the third stage”. The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission, launched on January this year, also had proved to be a disappointment following “an anomaly” at the end of the PS3 stage.

Dr. Narayanan said the two PSLV flights had “marginally missed” their objectives. He recalled how the ISRO overcame the setback of first Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) mission in the late 1970s, which failed to achieve its goal, and went on to script a major milestone with its 100th launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on January 29, 2025.

की।

25Mar.PSLV setbacks will help in learning, says ISRO chief

PSLV की असफलताएँ सीखने में मदद करेंगी, ISRO प्रमुख का बयान

• Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman V. Narayanan on Tuesday said he did not consider the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C61 and C62 missions as failures, but as opportunities to learn. भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन के अध्यक्ष वी. नारायणन ने मंगलवार को कहा कि वे PSLV C61 और C62 मिशनों को असफलता नहीं बल्कि सीखने का अवसर मानते हैं।

• “Whenever there is a setback we don’t consider it as a failure, but we consider it an opportunity to learn and strengthen our system,” Dr. Narayanan said while inaugurating the 11th biennial conference of the ISRO Pensioners’ Association here.

“जब भी कोई झटका लगता है, हम उसे असफलता नहीं मानते बल्कि इसे सीखने और अपने सिस्टम को मजबूत करने का अवसर मानते हैं,” डॉ. नारायणन ने यहां ISRO पेंशनर्स एसोसिएशन के 11वें द्विवार्षिक सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा।

• The PSLV-C61/EOS-09 was launched on May 18, 2025, but the mission could not be accomplished due to what the ISRO called at the time, “an observation in the third stage”.

PSLV-C61/EOS-09 को 18 मई 2025 को लॉन्च किया गया था, लेकिन ISRO के अनुसार यह मिशन तीसरे चरण में “एक समस्या” के कारण सफल नहीं हो पाया।

• The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission, launched in January this year, also proved to be a disappointment following “an anomaly” at the end of the PS3 stage.

PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 मिशन, जिसे इस वर्ष जनवरी में लॉन्च किया गया, वह भी PS3 चरण के अंत में “एक अनियमितता (anomaly)” के कारण असफल रहा।

• Dr. Narayanan said the two PSLV flights had “marginally missed” their objectives.

डॉ. नारायणन ने कहा कि दोनों PSLV उड़ानें अपने उद्देश्यों को “थोड़े अंतर से चूक गईं”।

• He recalled how ISRO overcame the setback of the first Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) mission in the late 1970s, which failed to achieve its goal.

उन्होंने याद किया कि कैसे ISRO ने 1970 के दशक के अंत में अपने पहले SLV मिशन की असफलता से उबरकर आगे बढ़ा।

• He said ISRO went on to script a major milestone with its 100th launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on January 29, 2025.

उन्होंने कहा कि इसके बाद ISRO ने 29 जनवरी 2025 को श्रीहरिकोटा स्थित सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र से अपने 100वें प्रक्षेपण के साथ एक बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल



Days after SC allows withdrawal of care, Rana passes away

GS III: S&T
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after the Supreme Court passed a judgment – the first of its kind in the country – allowing withdrawal of clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH) to Harish Rana, who had been in a vegetative state for 13 years, he passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi on Tuesday. The hospital, in a statement, said that Mr. Rana passed away at 4.10 p.m., adding that he was under the care of a dedicated team of doctors.

The judgment had been welcomed by the family, who said that no parent



Harish Rana as a student.

wanted to “see their son suffer”.

Mr. Rana was 32. He had sustained severe injuries and had 100% quadriplegic disability after a fall from the fourth floor of a building when he was a student in 2013. After his death, his family is learnt to have donated his corneas and heart valves.

25Mar. Days after SC allows withdrawal of care, Rana passes away

सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा देखभाल हटाने की अनुमति के कुछ दिन बाद राणा का निधन

• Days after the Supreme Court passed a judgment — the first of its kind in the country — allowing withdrawal of clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH) to Harish Rana, who had been in a vegetative state for 13 years, he passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi on Tuesday.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा — देश में अपनी तरह का पहला फैसला — क्लिनिकली असिस्टेड न्यूट्रिशन एंड हाइड्रेशन (CANH) हटाने की अनुमति दिए जाने के कुछ दिनों बाद, हरीश राणा, जो 13 वर्षों से वेजिटेटिव स्थिति में थे, का मंगलवार को एम्स, दिल्ली में निधन हो गया।

• The hospital, in a statement, said that Mr. Rana passed away at 4.10 p.m., adding that he was under the care of a dedicated team of doctors.

अस्पताल ने एक बयान में कहा कि श्री राणा का निधन शाम 4:10 बजे हुआ और वे डॉक्टरों की समर्पित टीम की देखरेख में थे।

• The judgment had been welcomed by the family,

who said that no parent wanted to “see their son suffer”.

इस फैसले का परिवार ने स्वागत किया और कहा कि कोई भी माता-पिता अपने बेटे को “कष्ट में नहीं देखना चाहता”।

• Mr. Rana was 32.

श्री राणा की आयु 32 वर्ष थी।

• He had sustained severe injuries and had 100% quadriplegic disability after a fall from the fourth floor of a building when he was a student in 2013.

उन्हें 2013 में छत्र रहते हुए इमारत की चौथी मंजिल से गिरने के कारण गंभीर चोटें आईं और वे 100% क्वाड्रिप्लेजिक विकलांगता के शिकार हो गए।

• After his death, his family is learnt to have donated his corneas and heart valves.

उनकी मृत्यु के बाद, उनके परिवार ने उनके कॉर्निया और हृदय वाल्व दान किए।



How BioPharma SHAKTI can transform biologics with non-animal models

A class of drugs called biologics is becoming more popular worldwide against many chronic diseases; on the flip side, animal models do not reliably predict their safety and efficacy, prompting scientists to shift to bioengineered, human-relevant systems such as organoids, organ-on-a-chip, and 3D bioprinting

25Mar. 2024
Mohit Nikalje
HYDERABAD

In 2006, London woke up to a tragedy. Six healthy men involved in a phase I clinical trial of **theralizumab, a monoclonal antibody (mAb) designed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, developed multiple organ failure.** The antibody triggered an intense immune reaction that the researchers did not observe in rhesus monkeys in preclinical tests because their immune cells responded differently from human immune cells.

The Northwick Park Tragedy, as it was called, became a textbook example of why animals cannot be used as proxies to test human drugs. Similarly, in 2022, the mAb semorinemab failed to work in 457 patients with Alzheimer's disease during phase II trials despite demonstrating effectiveness in a preclinical mouse model.

These mAbs, vaccines, and insulin all belong to a growing class of drugs called biologics – large, complex molecules produced by living cells. Their use is rising worldwide as they treat many chronic diseases.

Recognising their importance, the 2026 Union Budget of India announced the Biopharma SHAKTI strategy to boost domestic production of biologics and their generic counterparts, biosimilars.

However, animal models may not reliably predict the safety and efficacy of biologics. This has prompted a shift towards bioengineered, human-relevant systems such as organoids, organ-on-a-chip, and 3D bioprinting, which are derived from human cells and thus replicate human biology more faithfully.

Human-relevant models

These models are collected under the term non-animal methodologies (NAMs) and are used worldwide to reduce the use of experiments in animals. For example, last year, the U.K. published a roadmap to phase out animal experiments and promote the adoption of NAMs.

Thanks to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials (Amendment) Rules 2023, India is also promoting the use of NAMs in the development of novel drugs. However, their potential remains untapped in the domain of biologics and biosimilars.

"Biologics are highly specific," University of Illinois adjunct professor Sarfaraz Niazi said. "They bind to particular receptors in the human body. But those receptors are sometimes missing or function differently in animals, which makes animal testing less predictive."

One 2024 study in *Cell* reported a breast cancer-on-chip model to study the effectiveness of CAR T-cell therapy, a leading biologic therapy, against solid tumours.

While CAR T-cell therapy has proven effective against blood cancers, solid tumours like breast cancers pose additional challenges like abnormal blood vessel formation and difficulties for T-cells



Even if non-animal methodologies are promising models, they are not as accessible as animal systems. GETTY IMAGES

to find and attack the cancerous cells. The breast cancer-on-chip model recreated this tumour environment in the lab, and the authors of the 2024 study perfused T-cells through it to observe whether they could enter the tumour and mount an immune attack, assessing both treatment benefit and potential safety risks without animals.

These models can also reduce costs and shorten development timelines, making them attractive to pharmaceutical companies. A 2019 analysis in *Drug Discovery Today* estimated that organ-on-chip technologies could lower overall drug development costs by 10-26%. They also found the time required for lead optimisation, when scientists identify a promising drug candidate from a pool of molecules, could drop by 19%.

Future of biologics

Even if NAMs are promising models, they are not as accessible as animal systems. More than 90 academic labs in India are working on these models. However, the innovation here is not translating into industry use. "Translating NAMs into industry-ready assays requires a clear context of use, robust documentation, and standardised, reproducible protocols, even before qualification. While institutions support entrepreneurship, sustained commercialisation needs stronger, modern policy support," Kasturi Mahadik, Chief Manager at the Centre for Predictive Human Model Systems (CPHMS), AIC-CMB, said. (Note: the author works at CPHMS.)

The development of NAMs also

Biopharma SHAKTI also supports biosimilars – generic versions of biologics reverse-engineered once the original product goes off patent. However, regulatory adjustments are involved here, which require greater attention from the government

requires sustained funding and infrastructure. With an outlay of ₹10,000 crore, Biopharma SHAKTI can provide the necessary backing.

"I think the best use of these funds would be not to develop a single product but to build systems that enable many companies to do so," Dr. Niazi added. "The culture of entrepreneurship is also a challenge in India," Narendra Chirmule, CEO of SymphonyTech Biologics, said. "Although there is an increase in the number of start-ups and MSMEs in biologics (supported by DBT, ICMR, and other grants), exponentially greater investment, as well as support for the development of supply chain materials, is needed to create real impact. Additionally, investors are not well versed in the risks and potentials of the biologics industry."

Regulatory, market challenges

Another area supported by Biopharma SHAKTI is biosimilars, generic versions of biologics that are reverse-engineered once the original product goes off patent. However, there are additional financial risks and regulatory adjustments

involved, which require greater attention from the government. One challenge is patent evergreening, which allows the exclusive rights of an original biologic to be extended. For example, although the intravenous form of the cancer drug trastuzumab was approved in 2000, the manufacturer later introduced a subcutaneous formulation with a separate patent. Because of this prolonged market exclusivity, cheaper biosimilar versions were not available until 2018.

Before being commercialised, biosimilars also have to receive a nod from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's apex regulatory body. These approvals are based on set guidelines; however, the updated guidelines are still in draft form.

"While India has been updating its biosimilars guidelines to accommodate NAMs, implementation has been slow, and regulatory confidence in independently validated NAM models is still evolving. If accelerated, this would expedite the adoption of NAMs in the biologics and biosimilars field, helping Biopharma SHAKTI achieve its goals," says Dr. Mahadik.

Therefore, aligning with industry realities and securing regulatory clarity for their use will make biosimilars and biologics manufacturing in India faster, more predictive, and cost-efficient, thus realising the vision set by Biopharma SHAKTI. (Mohit Nikalje is a science communicator at the Centre for Predictive Human Model Systems, Hyderabad. mohitnikalje123@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Monoclonal antibodies, vaccines, and insulin all belong to the growing class of biologics – large, complex molecules produced by living cells

Recognising their importance, the 2026 Union Budget of India announced the Biopharma SHAKTI strategy to boost domestic production of biologics and their generic counterparts, biosimilars

Thanks to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials (Amendment) Rules 2023, India is also promoting the use of non-animal methodologies in the development of novel drugs. However, their potential remains untapped in the domain of biologics and biosimilars

25Mar. How BioPharma SHAKTI can transform biologics with non-animal models

BioPharma SHAKTI कैसे गैर-पशु मॉडल के साथ बायोलॉजिक्स को बदल सकता है

- In 2006, London woke up to a tragedy. 2006 में लंदन एक त्रासदी के साथ जागा।
- Six healthy men involved in a phase I clinical trial of **theralizumab, a monoclonal antibody (mAb) designed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, developed multiple organ failure.** छह स्वस्थ पुरुष, जो प्रथम चरण के नैदानिक परीक्षण में शामिल थे, जिसमें **theralizumab** (एक एकल-प्रतिरक्षी एंटीबॉडी) का परीक्षण हो रहा था, जिसे **रूमेटाईड गठिया** के इलाज के लिए बनाया गया था, उनमें बहु-अंग विफलता हो गई।
- The antibody triggered an intense immune reaction that the researchers did not observe in rhesus monkeys in preclinical tests because their immune cells responded differently from human immune cells.

इस एंटीबॉडी ने एक तीव्र प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया उत्पन्न की, जिसे शोधकर्ताओं ने रीसस बंदरों में पूर्व-नैदानिक परीक्षणों में नहीं देखा क्योंकि उनके प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाएं मानव प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाओं से अलग प्रतिक्रिया करती हैं।



- The **Northwick Park Tragedy**, as it was called, became a textbook example of why animals cannot be used as **proxies to test human drugs**.
इसे **नॉर्थविक पार्क त्रासदी** कहा गया और यह एक उदाहरण बन गया कि क्यों जानवरों को **मानव दवाओं के परीक्षण के लिए प्रतिनिधि** के रूप में उपयोग नहीं किया जा सकता।
- Similarly, in **2022**, the **mAb semorinemab** failed to work in **457 patients with Alzheimer's disease** during **phase II trials** despite demonstrating effectiveness in a **preclinical mouse model**.
इसी तरह, **2022** में **semorinemab** **457 मरीजों** में **अल्जाइमर रोग** के उपचार में **द्वितीय चरण के परीक्षणों** के दौरान विफल रहा, जबकि यह **पूर्व-नैदानिक चूहे मॉडल** में प्रभावी था।
- These **mAbs, vaccines, and insulin** all belong to a growing class of drugs called **biologics** — large, complex molecules produced by **living cells**.
ये **एंटीबॉडी, टीके और इंसुलिन** एक बढ़ती हुई दवाओं की श्रेणी **जैविक औषधियाँ** में आते हैं — जो **जीवित कोशिकाओं** द्वारा निर्मित बड़े और जटिल अणु होते हैं।
- Their use is rising worldwide as they treat many **chronic diseases**.
इनका उपयोग विश्वभर में बढ़ रहा है क्योंकि ये कई **दीर्घकालिक बीमारियों** का इलाज करते हैं।
- Recognising their importance, the **2026 Union Budget of India** announced the **Biopharma SHAKTI strategy** to boost domestic production of **biologics** and their generic counterparts, **biosimilars**.
इनके महत्व को समझते हुए, **भारत के 2026 के केंद्रीय बजट** में **बायोफार्मा शक्ति रणनीति** की घोषणा की गई, ताकि **जैविक औषधियाँ** और उनके समकक्ष **जैव-समान दवाओं** का घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाया जा सके।
- However, **animal models** may not reliably predict the **safety and efficacy of biologics**.
हालांकि, **पशु मॉडल** हमेशा **जैविक औषधियों की सुरक्षा और प्रभावशीलता** का सही अनुमान नहीं लगा सकते।
- This has prompted a shift towards **bioengineered, human-relevant systems** such as **organoids, organ-on-a-chip, and 3D bioprinting**, which are derived from **human cells** and thus replicate human biology more faithfully.
इससे **जैव-इंजीनियर्ड, मानव-संबंधित प्रणालियों** जैसे **अंगिकाएँ, सूक्ष्म-अंग चिप, और त्रि-आयामी जैव मुद्रण** की ओर बदलाव हुआ है, जो **मानव कोशिकाओं** से बने होते हैं और मानव जीवविज्ञान की बेहतर नकल करते हैं।

Human-relevant models

मानव-संबंधित मॉडल

- These models are collected under the term **non-animal methodologies (NAMs)** and are used worldwide to reduce the use of **experiments in animals**.
इन मॉडलों को **गैर-पशु विधियाँ** कहा जाता है और इनका उपयोग विश्वभर में **जानवरों पर प्रयोग कम करने** के लिए किया जाता है।
- For example, last year, the **U.K.** published a roadmap to **phase out animal experiments** and promote the adoption of **NAMs**.
उदाहरण के लिए, पिछले वर्ष **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** ने **पशु प्रयोगों को समाप्त करने** और **गैर-पशु विधियों को बढ़ावा देने** के लिए एक रोडमैप प्रकाशित किया।
- Thanks to the **New Drugs and Clinical Trials (Amendment) Rules 2023**, **India is also promoting the use of NAMs in the development of novel drugs**.
नए औषधि और नैदानिक परीक्षण (संशोधन) नियम 2023 के कारण **भारत भी नई दवाओं के विकास में गैर-पशु विधियों को बढ़ावा दे रहा है।**
- However, their potential remains **untapped** in the domain of **biologics and biosimilars**.
हालांकि, **जैविक औषधियाँ और जैव-समान दवाओं** के क्षेत्र में इनकी क्षमता अभी भी **अप्रयुक्त** है।
- **“Biologics are highly specific,”** University of Illinois adjunct professor **Sarfaraz Niazi** said. **“जैविक औषधियाँ अत्यधिक विशिष्ट होती हैं,”** University of Illinois के सहायक प्रोफेसर **Sarfaraz Niazi** ने कहा।
- **“They bind to particular receptors in the human body.”**
“वे मानव शरीर के विशेष ग्राहकों से जुड़ते हैं।”
- **“But those receptors are sometimes missing or function differently in animals, which makes animal testing less predictive.”**



“लेकिन ये ग्राहक कभी-कभी जानवरों में अनुपस्थित होते हैं या अलग तरह से कार्य करते हैं, जिससे पशु परीक्षण कम विश्वसनीय हो जाता है।”

- One 2024 study in Cell reported a **breast cancer-on-chip model** to study the effectiveness of **CAR T-cell therapy**, a leading biologic therapy, against **solid tumours**.

एक 2024 के अध्ययन (Cell) ने स्तन कैंसर-ऑन-चिप मॉडल की रिपोर्ट दी, जिससे CAR T-सेल थेरेपी (एक प्रमुख जैविक चिकित्सा) की **ठोस ट्यूमर** के खिलाफ प्रभावशीलता का अध्ययन किया गया।

- While **CAR T-cell therapy** has proven effective against **blood cancers**, **solid tumours** like breast cancers pose additional challenges like **abnormal blood vessel formation** and **difficulties for T-cells** to find and attack the cancerous cells.

जबकि **CAR T-सेल थेरेपी रक्त कैंसर** के खिलाफ प्रभावी साबित हुई है, लेकिन **ठोस ट्यूमर** जैसे स्तन कैंसर में **असामान्य रक्त वाहिका निर्माण** और **टी-कोशिकाओं** के लिए कैंसर कोशिकाओं को ढूँढने और उन पर हमला करने में कठिनाई जैसी अतिरिक्त चुनौतियाँ होती हैं।

- The **breast cancer-on-chip model** recreated this tumour environment in the lab, and the authors of the 2024 study **perfused T-cells** through it to observe whether they could enter the tumour and mount an immune attack, assessing both treatment benefit and potential safety risks without animals.

स्तन कैंसर-ऑन-चिप मॉडल ने प्रयोगशाला में इस ट्यूमर वातावरण को पुनः निर्मित किया, और 2024 अध्ययन के लेखकों ने इसमें **टी-कोशिकाओं** को प्रवाहित किया ताकि देखा जा सके कि वे ट्यूमर में प्रवेश कर सकती हैं और प्रतिरक्षा हमला कर सकती हैं या नहीं, जिससे बिना पशुओं के उपचार लाभ और संभावित सुरक्षा जोखिम का आकलन किया जा सके।

- These models can also reduce **costs** and shorten **development timelines**, making them attractive to **pharmaceutical companies**.

ये मॉडल **लागत को कम** कर सकते हैं और **विकास समय** को घटा सकते हैं, जिससे वे **औषधि कंपनियों** के लिए आकर्षक बनते हैं।

- A 2019 analysis in **Drug Discovery Today** estimated that **organ-on-chip technologies** could lower overall drug development costs by **10-26%**.

2019 के विश्लेषण (Drug Discovery Today) के अनुसार, **अंग-ऑन-चिप तकनीकें** दवा विकास लागत को **10-26%** तक कम कर सकती हैं।

- They also found the time required for **lead optimisation**, when scientists identify a promising drug candidate from a pool of molecules, could drop by **19%**.

उन्होंने यह भी पाया कि **लीड ऑप्टिमाइजेशन** का समय, जब वैज्ञानिक संभावित दवा उम्मीदवार की पहचान करते हैं, **19%** तक कम हो सकता है।

- **Future of biologics**
जैविक औषधियों का भविष्य

- Even if **NAMs** are promising models, they are not as accessible as **animal systems**.

भले ही **गैर-पशु विधियाँ** आशाजनक मॉडल हैं, लेकिन वे **पशु प्रणालियों** जितनी सुलभ नहीं हैं।

- More than **90 academic labs in India** are working on these models.

भारत में **90 से अधिक शैक्षणिक प्रयोगशालाएँ** इन मॉडलों पर काम कर रही हैं।

- However, the innovation here is not translating into **industry use**.

हालांकि, यहाँ की नवाचार गतिविधियाँ **उद्योग उपयोग** में परिवर्तित नहीं हो रही हैं।

- “Translating NAMs into industry-ready assays requires a clear **context of use**, robust documentation, and **standardised, reproducible protocols**, even before qualification.

“गैर-पशु विधियों को उद्योग-उपयुक्त परीक्षणों में बदलने के लिए स्पष्ट **उपयोग संदर्भ**, मजबूत दस्तावेजीकरण और **मानकीकृत, पुनरुत्पादक प्रक्रियाएँ** आवश्यक हैं, यहां तक कि योग्यता से पहले भी।

- While institutions support **entrepreneurship**, sustained commercialisation needs stronger, modern **policy support**,” **Kasturi Mahadik**, Chief Manager at the **Centre for Predictive Human Model Systems**, said.

जबकि संस्थान **उद्यमिता** का समर्थन करते हैं, लेकिन स्थायी व्यावसायीकरण के लिए मजबूत और आधुनिक **नीति समर्थन** की आवश्यकता है,” **Kasturi Mahadik**, **मानव मॉडल प्रणाली केंद्र** की मुख्य प्रबंधक ने कहा।

- (Note: the author works at **CPHMS**.)

(नोट: लेखक **सीपीएचएमएस** में कार्य करते हैं।)

- The development of **NAMs** also requires sustained **funding and infrastructure**.

गैर-पशु विधियों के विकास के लिए निरंतर **वित्तपोषण और अवसंरचना** की आवश्यकता होती है।

- With an outlay of **₹10,000 crore**, **Biopharma SHAKTI** can provide the necessary backing. **₹10,000 करोड़** के बजट के साथ, **बायोफार्मा शक्ति** आवश्यक समर्थन प्रदान कर सकता है।



- “I think the best use of these funds would be not to develop a single product but to build systems that enable many companies to do so,” **Dr. Niazi** added.
“मेरा मानना है कि इन निधियों का सर्वोत्तम उपयोग एक उत्पाद विकसित करने के बजाय ऐसी प्रणालियाँ बनाने में होगा जो कई कंपनियों को ऐसा करने में सक्षम बनाएँ,” **डॉ. निआज़ी** ने कहा।
- “The culture of **entrepreneurship** is also a challenge in India,” **Narendra Chirmule**, CEO of **SymphonyTech Biologics**, said.
“भारत में **उद्यमिता की संस्कृति** भी एक चुनौती है,” **Narendra Chirmule**, **SymphonyTech Biologics** के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी ने कहा।
- “Although there is **an increase in the number of start-ups and MSMEs in biologics (supported by DBT, ICMR, and other grants)**, exponentially greater **investment as well as support for the development of supply chain materials** is needed to create real impact.
“हालांकि **जैविक क्षेत्र में स्टार्टअप और सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यमों** की संख्या बढ़ रही है (जिसे **डीबीटी, आईसीएमआर** और अन्य अनुदानों का समर्थन है), लेकिन वास्तविक प्रभाव के लिए कहीं अधिक **निवेश और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला सामग्री** के विकास का समर्थन आवश्यक है।
- Additionally, **investors are not well versed in the risks and potentials of the biologics industry**.
इसके अलावा, निवेशक **जैविक उद्योग के जोखिम और संभावनाओं** को अच्छी तरह नहीं समझते हैं।

Regulatory, market challenges नियामक और बाजार संबंधी चुनौतियाँ

- **Another area supported by Biopharma SHAKTI is biosimilars, generic versions of biologics that are reverse-engineered once the original product goes off patent.**
बायोफार्मा शक्ति द्वारा समर्थित एक अन्य क्षेत्र **जैव-समान दवाएँ** हैं, जो मूल उत्पाद के पेटेंट समाप्त होने के बाद तैयार की जाती हैं।
- However, there are additional **financial risks and regulatory adjustments** involved, which require greater attention from the government.
हालांकि, इसमें अतिरिक्त **वित्तीय जोखिम और नियामक समायोजन** शामिल हैं, जिन पर सरकार को अधिक ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।
- One challenge is **patent evergreening, which allows the exclusive rights of an original biologic to be extended.**
एक चुनौती **पेटेंट सदाबहारकरण** है, जो मूल जैविक उत्पाद के विशेष अधिकारों को बढ़ाने की अनुमति देता है।
- **For example, although the intravenous form of the cancer drug trastuzumab was approved in 2000, the manufacturer later introduced a subcutaneous formulation with a separate patent.**
उदाहरण के लिए, कैंसर की दवा **trastuzumab** का अंतःशिरा रूप **2000** में स्वीकृत हुआ था, लेकिन बाद में निर्माता ने एक अलग पेटेंट के साथ त्वचा के नीचे दी जाने वाली विधि प्रस्तुत की।
- Because of this prolonged **market exclusivity**, cheaper biosimilar versions were not available until **2018**.
इस लंबे **बाजार एकाधिकार** के कारण, सस्ती जैव-समान दवाएँ **2018** तक उपलब्ध नहीं थीं।
- **Before being commercialised, biosimilars also have to receive a nod from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's apex regulatory body.**
व्यावसायिकरण से पहले, जैव-समान दवाओं को भारत के शीर्ष नियामक निकाय **केंद्रीय औषधि मानक नियंत्रण संगठन** से स्वीकृति लेनी होती है।
- These approvals are based on set guidelines; however, the updated guidelines are still in **draft form**.
ये स्वीकृतियाँ निर्धारित दिशानिर्देशों पर आधारित होती हैं, लेकिन अद्यतन दिशानिर्देश अभी भी **प्रारूप अवस्था** में हैं।
- “While India has been updating its biosimilars guidelines to accommodate **NAMs**, implementation has been **slow**, and regulatory confidence is still evolving.
“हालांकि भारत **जैव-समान दिशानिर्देशों** को गैर-पशु विधियों के अनुसार अद्यतन कर रहा है, लेकिन उनका कार्यान्वयन **धीमा** है और नियामक विश्वास अभी विकसित हो रहा है।
- If accelerated, this would expedite the adoption of NAMs in the biologics and biosimilars field, helping **Biopharma SHAKTI** achieve its goals,” says **Dr. Mahadik**.
यदि इसे तेज किया जाए, तो यह जैविक और जैव-समान क्षेत्र में गैर-पशु विधियों को अपनाने में तेजी लाएगा और **बायोफार्मा शक्ति** को अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में मदद करेगा,” **डॉ. महादिक** ने कहा।



- Therefore, aligning with **industry realities** and securing **regulatory clarity** for their use will make biosimilars and biologics manufacturing in India faster, more predictive, and **cost-efficient**, thus realising the vision set by **Biopharma SHAKTI**.
इसलिए, उद्योग की वास्तविकताओं के साथ तालमेल और उपयोग के लिए नियामक स्पष्टता सुनिश्चित करने से भारत में जैविक और जैव-समान दवाओं का निर्माण तेज, अधिक विश्वसनीय और लागत-कुशल बनेगा, जिससे बायोफार्मा शक्ति का लक्ष्य पूरा होगा।

GS Paper III: Environment,	
TOPICS COVERED	25 March 2026
25Mar	The judicial push for environmental CSR पर्यावरणीय CSR के लिए न्यायिक पहल

The judicial push for environmental CSR

GS II: Environment

MOB

India emerged as a pioneer for mandating profit-sharing for social good through the Companies Act, 2013 – a visionary move to channel corporate earnings for crucial societal objectives. However, the environment remains largely neglected, often sidelined by prevailing corporate priorities. Despite India's commitment to net-zero emissions by 2070 at COP26, and escalating climate challenges from air pollution, water scarcity, and poor waste management, ecological needs continue to be underrepresented in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding.

However, recent Supreme Court observations have reframed environmental spending – not as mere discretionary charity, but as a constitutional mandate. By invoking Article 51A (g), the judiciary underscored that the right to conduct business is inseparably linked to the responsibility to restore our planet. The neglect of the habitats of the Great Indian Bustard by energy firms catalysed the Court to issue this mandate.

Skewed funding

An analysis of CSR data exposes a lopsided spending pattern that favours human-centric development at the expense of the environment. Over the past seven years, funds have been overwhelmingly allocated to social sectors, with education receiving approximately 38%, healthcare 22%, and rural development 10%. Conversely, the environment averaged between 7%-9%, creating an unbalanced ledger that critically underfunds vital sustainability projects. This disparity suggests that corporations view environmental crises as distant threats compared to immediate social needs. Yet, there are commendable exceptions that prove large-scale restoration is possible.

Mahindra's 'Project Hariyali' has planted almost 25 million trees, focusing on survival rates



Mohan Chandra Pargaen

Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana and adviser to SCLL

By invoking Article 51A (g), the judiciary underscored that the right to conduct business is inseparably linked to the responsibility to restore our planet

rather than just sapling counts; ITC's forestry program spans 1.3 million acres, integrating livelihoods with conservation; the Tata Group leads water conservation through massive watershed management; Coca-Cola and Hindustan Unilever have undertaken circular waste management projects; and JSW has advanced mangrove restoration. These initiatives demonstrate that prioritising the environment yields significant, and measurable impact. Nevertheless, most companies still pursue 'quick wins' such as one-off awareness drives, and sidestep the arduous processes of forest restoration and natural resource recovery.

Challenges of restoration

Much needed environmental restoration, including afforestation, has been neglected in India as is evidenced in the country's report on the Bonn Challenge (a global, voluntary effort to restore 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2030). While the nation aims to restore 26 million hectares by 2030, private companies have contributed a negligible 2% to the 9.8 million hectares restored so far.

There is a massive 'restoration gap' between the damage caused by industrial activity and the investment made to fix it. Companies prefer social projects such as environmental awareness campaigns, renewable energy, or basic green initiatives. These give quick visibility, clear results, and facilitate easy reporting. In contrast, land-based projects such as forest restoration with tree planting, habitat recovery, water conservation, and waste management take a long time. In addition, they also require expert skills in tree-growing, soil health, and biodiversity checks – skills that most CSR partners don't have. Corporations often support initiatives such as the recently popular Miyawaki plantations, which offer rapid growth and look

excellent in annual reports, but often compromise native ecology and biodiversity. The situation is worsened by an urban bias in the selection of the target area; a lack of practical policies for degraded lands; and poor collaboration with forest departments and other organisations.

Need for reimagining strategy

The current judicial push demands an urgent transition to a 'ecosystem recovery' strategy. This requires reimagining corporate accountability, and replacing conventional auditing with time-bound restoration initiatives and their ecological assessments.

Indicators of success should be tangible ecological services such as soil carbon sequestration, water retention, and biodiversity recovery. To achieve this, India must prioritise degraded and remote forest lands lacking resources through appropriate restoration initiatives. Further, the country needs to build alliances between forest departments, universities, conservation NGOs and joint forest management committees. These partnerships can establish dedicated restoration units under scientific supervision, giving due regard to native species and ecology. Furthermore, the challenge of long-term financing for landscape-scale projects and restoration challenges can be solved by establishing a restoration trust or an escrow fund. This would guarantee continuity and provide the long-term security necessary for real ecological impact.

Corporate governance in India must evolve from being shareholder-centric to ecosystem-centric, with directors acting as fiduciaries for the environment and moving past the ease of basic compliance. When the health of our planet is treated as a mandatory, non-negotiable part of business strategy, the country moves toward a future where sustainable development becomes a lived reality.



25Mar. The judicial push for environmental CSR पर्यावरणीय CSR के लिए न्यायिक पहल

- **India emerged as a pioneer for mandating profit-sharing for social good through the Companies Act, 2013.**
भारत सामाजिक हित के लिए लाभ साझा करने को अनिवार्य बनाने में कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 के माध्यम से एक अग्रणी देश के रूप में उभरा।
- **A visionary move to channel corporate earnings for crucial societal objectives.**
यह एक दूरदर्शी कदम था, जिसका उद्देश्य कॉर्पोरेट आय को महत्वपूर्ण सामाजिक उद्देश्यों की ओर निर्देशित करना था।
- However, the **environment remains largely neglected**, often sidelined by prevailing **corporate priorities**.
हालांकि, पर्यावरण काफी हद तक उपेक्षित बना हुआ है, जिसे अक्सर कॉर्पोरेट प्राथमिकताओं के कारण नजरअंदाज किया जाता है।
- Despite India's commitment to **net-zero emissions by 2070 at COP26**.
सीओपी 26 में 2070 तक नेट-जीरो उत्सर्जन के भारत के संकल्प के बावजूद।
- And escalating climate challenges from **air pollution, water scarcity, and poor waste management**.
तथा बढ़ती जलवायु चुनौतियाँ जैसे वायु प्रदूषण, जल संकट और खराब अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन।
- Ecological needs continue to be **underrepresented in CSR funding**.
पारिस्थितिक आवश्यकताएँ अभी भी कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व फंडिंग में कम प्रतिनिधित्व पाती हैं।
- However, recent **Supreme Court observations** have reframed environmental spending.
हालांकि, हाल के **सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अवलोकनों** ने पर्यावरणीय खर्च को नए रूप में प्रस्तुत किया है।
- Not as mere **discretionary charity**, but as a **constitutional mandate**.
इसे केवल **स्वैच्छिक दान** नहीं बल्कि एक **संवैधानिक दायित्व** के रूप में देखा गया है।
- By invoking **Article 51A(g)**, the **judiciary underscored the responsibility to restore our planet**.
अनुच्छेद 51A(ग) का हवाला देते हुए न्यायपालिका ने **पर्यावरण संरक्षण की जिम्मेदारी** को रेखांकित किया।
- The right to conduct business is inseparably linked to the **responsibility towards environment**.
व्यापार करने का अधिकार **पर्यावरण के प्रति जिम्मेदारी** से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- The neglect of habitats of the **Great Indian Bustard** by energy firms catalysed this mandate.
ऊर्जा कंपनियों द्वारा **ग्रेट इंडियन बस्टर्ड के आवास की उपेक्षा** ने इस निर्देश को प्रेरित किया।

Skewed funding असंतुलित फंडिंग

- An analysis of **CSR data** exposes a **lopsided spending pattern**.
सीएसआर डेटा के विश्लेषण से एक **असंतुलित खर्च पैटर्न** सामने आता है।
- That favours **human-centric development** at the expense of the **environment**.
जो **मानव-केंद्रित विकास** को प्राथमिकता देता है और **पर्यावरण की अनदेखी** करता है।
- Over the past **seven years**, funds have been overwhelmingly allocated to **social sectors**.
पिछले **सात वर्षों** में अधिकांश धन **सामाजिक क्षेत्रों** को दिया गया है।
- With **education receiving 38%**, **healthcare 22%**, and **rural development 10%**.
जिसमें **शिक्षा को 38%**, **स्वास्थ्य को 22%**, और **ग्रामीण विकास को 10%** मिला।
- Conversely, the environment averaged only **7%-9%**.
जबकि पर्यावरण को केवल **7%-9%** ही मिला।
- Creating an **unbalanced ledger** that underfunds sustainability projects.
इससे एक **असंतुलित स्थिति** बनती है, जिसमें स्थिरता परियोजनाओं को कम धन मिलता है।
- This disparity suggests corporations view environmental crises as **distant threats**.
यह अंतर दर्शाता है कि कंपनियाँ पर्यावरणीय संकटों को **दूरस्थ खतरा** मानती हैं।
- Compared to immediate **social needs**.
जबकि तत्काल **सामाजिक आवश्यकताओं** को प्राथमिकता देती हैं।
- Yet, there are **commendable exceptions**.
फिर भी कुछ **सराहनीय उदाहरण** मौजूद हैं।



- **Mahindra's Project Hariyali** has planted nearly **25 million trees**.
महिंद्रा का प्रोजेक्ट हरियाली लगभग **2.5 करोड़ पेड़** लगा चुका है।
- Focusing on **survival rates** rather than just sapling counts.
जो केवल पौधों की संख्या नहीं बल्कि **जीवित रहने की दर** पर ध्यान देता है।
- **ITC's forestry program** spans **1.3 million acres**.
आईटीसी का वानिकी कार्यक्रम **13 लाख एकड़** में फैला है।
- Integrating **livelihoods with conservation**.
जिसमें **आजीविका और संरक्षण** को जोड़ा गया है।
- The **Tata Group** leads **water conservation** through watershed management.
टाटा समूह जल संरक्षण में **जलागम प्रबंधन** के माध्यम से अग्रणी है।
- **Coca-Cola and Hindustan Unilever** have undertaken **circular waste management projects**.
कोका-कोला और हिंदुस्तान यूनिलीवर ने परिपत्र अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन परियोजनाएँ शुरू की हैं।
- **JSW** has advanced **mangrove restoration**.
जेएसडब्ल्यू ने मैंग्रोव पुनर्स्थापन में प्रगति की है।
- These initiatives demonstrate **measurable environmental impact**.
ये पहल **मापनीय पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव** दिखाती हैं।
- Nevertheless, most companies still pursue **quick wins** like awareness drives.
फिर भी अधिकांश कंपनियाँ अभी भी **त्वरित परिणाम** जैसे जागरूकता अभियानों पर ध्यान देती हैं।
- And sidestep long-term processes like **forest restoration and natural resource recovery**.
और वन पुनर्स्थापन तथा प्राकृतिक संसाधनों की पुनर्प्राप्ति जैसे दीर्घकालिक प्रयासों से बचती हैं।

Challenges of restoration पुनर्स्थापन की चुनौतियाँ

- Much needed **environmental restoration**, including **afforestation**, has been neglected in India.
भारत में अत्यंत आवश्यक **पर्यावरणीय पुनर्स्थापन**, जिसमें **वनीकरण** शामिल है, की उपेक्षा की गई है।
- As is evidenced in the country's report on the **Bonn Challenge**.
जैसा कि देश की **बॉन चैलेंज** पर रिपोर्ट से स्पष्ट होता है।
- A global, voluntary effort to restore **350 million hectares** of degraded land by **2030**.
यह एक वैश्विक स्वैच्छिक प्रयास है, जिसका लक्ष्य **2030 तक 350 मिलियन हेक्टेयर** क्षतिग्रस्त भूमि को पुनर्स्थापित करना है।
- While the nation aims to restore **26 million hectares by 2030**.
जबकि भारत का लक्ष्य **2030 तक 26 मिलियन हेक्टेयर** भूमि को पुनर्स्थापित करना है।
- Private companies have contributed a negligible **2%** to the **9.8 million hectares restored so far**.
निजी कंपनियों ने अब तक पुनर्स्थापित **9.8 मिलियन हेक्टेयर** में केवल **2%** योगदान दिया है।
- There is a massive **restoration gap** between industrial damage and investment.
औद्योगिक क्षति और निवेश के बीच एक बड़ा **पुनर्स्थापन अंतर** मौजूद है।
- Companies prefer **social projects** such as awareness campaigns and renewable energy.
कंपनियाँ **सामाजिक परियोजनाओं** जैसे जागरूकता अभियान और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को प्राथमिकता देती हैं।
- These give **quick visibility, clear results, and easy reporting**.
ये परियोजनाएँ **त्वरित दृश्यता, स्पष्ट परिणाम और आसान रिपोर्टिंग** प्रदान करती हैं।
- In contrast, land-based projects like **forest restoration, habitat recovery, water conservation, waste management** take a long time.
इसके विपरीत, **वन पुनर्स्थापन, आवास पुनर्प्राप्ति, जल संरक्षण, अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन** जैसे कार्यों में अधिक समय लगता है।
- They require expert skills in **tree-growing, soil health, biodiversity checks**.
इन कार्यों के लिए **वृक्षारोपण, मृदा स्वास्थ्य और जैव विविधता परीक्षण** जैसी विशेषज्ञता की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Skills that most **CSR partners do not have**.
ऐसी विशेषज्ञता अधिकांश **सीएसआर साझेदारों के पास नहीं होती**।
- Corporations often support initiatives such as **Miyawaki plantations**.
कंपनियाँ अक्सर **मियावाकी पद्धति के वृक्षारोपण** का समर्थन करती हैं।



- Which offer **rapid growth** and look impressive in reports.
जो तेजी से वृद्धि दिखाते हैं और रिपोर्ट में प्रभावशाली लगते हैं।
- But often compromise **native ecology and biodiversity**.
लेकिन ये अक्सर **स्थानीय पारिस्थितिकी और जैव विविधता** को नुकसान पहुँचाते हैं।
- The situation is worsened by **urban bias** in selecting target areas.
स्थिति **शहरी पक्षपात** के कारण और खराब हो जाती है।
- A lack of practical policies for **degraded lands**.
क्षतिग्रस्त भूमि के लिए व्यावहारिक नीतियों की कमी है।
- And poor collaboration with **forest departments and organisations**.
तथा **वन विभाग और अन्य संगठनों** के साथ कमजोर समन्वय।

Need for reimagining strategy रणनीति के पुनर्विचार की आवश्यकता

- The current **judicial push** demands a transition to an **ecosystem recovery strategy**.
वर्तमान **न्यायिक पहल** एक **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पुनर्स्थापन रणनीति** की मांग करती है।
- This requires reimagining **corporate accountability**.
इसके लिए **कॉर्पोरेट जवाबदेही** को पुनर्परिभाषित करना होगा।
- And replacing traditional auditing with **time-bound restoration initiatives**.
तथा पारंपरिक लेखा प्रणाली को **समयबद्ध पुनर्स्थापन परियोजनाओं** से बदलना होगा।
- Indicators of success should include **soil carbon sequestration, water retention, biodiversity recovery**.
सफलता के मापदंडों में **मृदा कार्बन संचयन, जल संरक्षण और जैव विविधता पुनर्प्राप्ति** शामिल होने चाहिए।
- India must prioritise **degraded and remote forest lands**.
भारत को **क्षतिग्रस्त और दूरस्थ वन क्षेत्रों** को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।
- Through appropriate **restoration initiatives**.
उचित **पुनर्स्थापन प्रयासों** के माध्यम से।
- The country needs to build alliances between **forest departments, universities, NGOs and joint forest committees**.
देश को **वन विभाग, विश्वविद्यालयों, गैर-सरकारी संगठनों और संयुक्त वन समितियों** के बीच सहयोग बढ़ाना होगा।
- These partnerships can establish **dedicated restoration units under scientific supervision**.
ये साझेदारियाँ **वैज्ञानिक निगरानी में विशेष पुनर्स्थापन इकाइयाँ** स्थापित कर सकती हैं।
- Giving due regard to **native species and ecology**.
जिससे **स्थानीय प्रजातियों और पारिस्थितिकी** को महत्व दिया जा सके।
- The challenge of long-term financing can be addressed by a **restoration trust or escrow fund**.
दीर्घकालिक वित्तपोषण की चुनौती को **पुनर्स्थापन ट्रस्ट या एस्करो फंड** से हल किया जा सकता है।
- This would ensure **continuity and long-term ecological impact**.
इससे **निरंतरता और दीर्घकालिक पारिस्थितिक प्रभाव** सुनिश्चित होगा।
- Corporate governance must evolve from **shareholder-centric to ecosystem-centric**.
कॉर्पोरेट शासन को **शेयरधारक-केंद्रित से पारिस्थितिकी-केंद्रित** बनना होगा।
- With directors acting as **fiduciaries for the environment**.
जहाँ निदेशक **पर्यावरण के संरक्षक** के रूप में कार्य करें।
- Moving beyond the ease of **basic compliance**.
और **सामान्य अनुपालन** से आगे बढ़ें।
- When the health of the planet becomes a **non-negotiable business strategy**.
जब पृथ्वी का स्वास्थ्य **अपरिहार्य व्यापार रणनीति** बन जाए।
- The country moves toward **sustainable development as a reality**.
तब देश **सतत विकास को वास्तविकता** बना सकता है।



GS Paper III: DM,

TOPICS COVERED

25 March 2026

25Mar

Assam floats tender for satellites to monitor floods

असम ने बाढ़ निगरानी के लिए उपग्रहों के लिए निविदा जारी की

Assam floats tender for satellites to monitor floods

Chief Minister Sarma announced the project in the 2025-26 State Budget; The procurement is for at least five satellites in low-earth orbit

GS III: Disaster Management

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

Assam has become the first Indian State to float a tender for a group of earth-observation satellites that it says will strengthen disaster response along the flood-prone Brahmaputra valley and help survey the State's borders.

The Assam Science Technology and Environment Council issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) on March 16 inviting private aerospace companies to design, build, launch, operate, and eventually transfer the satellites to State ownership. The mission has been named AssamSAT.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the project in the 2025-26 State Budget as a means to achieve what he has repeatedly described as an "infiltration-free Assam".

Mr. Sarma has argued that conventional border fencing is inadequate for the State's chars, the seasonally inundated river islands along the Bangladesh border, and that real-time satellite monitoring is the sole practical alternative.

The procurement is structured around at least five satellites in low-earth orbit. The brief EOI doesn't say whether the satellites

Third eye

Assam has become the first Indian State to float a tender for a group of earth-observation satellites

■ The move is aimed at strengthening disaster response along the flood-prone Brahmaputra valley

■ Chief Minister Biswa Sarma argued that conventional border fencing is inadequate, and real-time satellite monitoring is the sole practical alternative



■ The satellites will be able to scan the same part of the ground once every few hours and map it at high resolution

will operate separately or together, in a constellation. Per the brief, qualifying parties can avail the full EOI for a fee of ₹30,000.

Assuming it's a constellation, the satellites will be able to scan the same part of the ground once every few hours and map it at high resolution – a useful task for disaster response during floods, where the extent of waters can change within hours.

The EOI also doesn't specify the sensors the satellites will carry. But since the State has cloudy weather for almost half the year, the satellites may carry synthetic aperture radars (SAR), whose gaze can pierce clouds and darkness.

Currently, State disaster management agencies seeking satellite data must submit requests to the National Remote Sensing Centre, which will process and fulfill those requests.

The State sits close to the Siliguri Corridor, a strip of land colloquially called the chicken's neck that physically connects the Northeast to the rest of India, and which State and Central security agencies have been preoccupied with monitoring.

Mr. Sarma has also extended the satellite's mandate to include tracking drug-trafficking routes and monitoring poaching in the Kaziranga National Park.

In 2024, NewSpace India, Ltd. cleared a private-sector earth observation constellation led by Dhruva Space and Pixxel.

The plan combines small satellites carrying optical and hyperspectral sensors in low-earth orbit to deliver near real-time imagery for agriculture, disaster response, and national security users while being owned and operated by industry.

25Mar. Assam floats tender for satellites to monitor floods

असम ने बाढ़ निगरानी के लिए उपग्रहों के लिए निविदा जारी की

• Chief Minister Sarma announced the project in the 2025-26 State Budget; मुख्यमंत्री सरमा ने इस परियोजना की घोषणा 2025-26 राज्य बजट में की;

• The procurement is for at least five satellites in low-earth orbit

यह खरीद कम से कम पांच उपग्रहों के लिए है जो निम्न पृथ्वी कक्षा में होंगे

• Assam has become the first Indian State to float a tender for a group of earth-observation satellites that it says will strengthen disaster response along the flood-prone Brahmaputra valley and help survey the State's borders.

असम पहला भारतीय राज्य बन गया है जिसने पृथ्वी अवलोकन उपग्रहों के समूह के लिए निविदा जारी की है, जिससे ब्रह्मपुत्र घाटी में आपदा प्रतिक्रिया मजबूत होगी और राज्य की सीमाओं का सर्वेक्षण किया जा सकेगा।

• The Assam Science Technology and Environment Council issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) on March 16 inviting private aerospace companies to design, build, launch, operate, and eventually transfer the satellites to State ownership.

असम विज्ञान प्रौद्योगिकी एवं पर्यावरण परिषद ने 16 मार्च को EOI (Expression of Interest) जारी किया, जिसमें निजी एयरोस्पेस कंपनियों को उपग्रहों के डिज़ाइन, निर्माण, प्रक्षेपण, संचालन और हस्तांतरण के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया।

• The mission has been named AssamSAT.

इस मिशन का नाम AssamSAT रखा गया है।

• Chief Minister Himanta Biswa

Sarma announced the project in the 2025-26 State Budget as a means to achieve what he has repeatedly described as an "infiltration-free Assam".

मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने इस परियोजना को "घुसपैठ-मुक्त असम" के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के साधन के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया।

- Mr. Sarma has argued that conventional border fencing is inadequate for the State's chars, the seasonally inundated river islands along the Bangladesh border, and that real-time satellite monitoring is the sole practical alternative.



श्री सरमा ने तर्क दिया कि पारंपरिक सीमा बाड़बंदी राज्य के चार (नदी द्वीप) के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है और रियल-टाइम उपग्रह निगरानी ही व्यावहारिक विकल्प है।

- The procurement is structured around at least five satellites in low-earth orbit. यह खरीद निम्न पृथ्वी कक्षा में कम से कम पांच उपग्रहों पर आधारित है।
- The brief EOI doesn't say whether the satellites will operate separately or together, in a constellation. संक्षिप्त EOI में यह नहीं बताया गया कि उपग्रह अलग-अलग काम करेंगे या समूह (constellation) में।
- Per the brief, qualifying parties can avail the full EOI for a fee of ₹30,000. संक्षेप के अनुसार, पात्र पक्ष ₹30,000 शुल्क देकर पूरा EOI प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
- Assuming it's a constellation, the satellites will be able to scan the same part of the ground once every few hours and map it at high resolution — a useful task for disaster response during floods, where the extent of waters can change within hours. यदि यह constellation है, तो उपग्रह हर कुछ घंटों में एक ही क्षेत्र को स्कैन कर उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन में मैप बना सकेंगे — जो बाढ़ के दौरान आपदा प्रबंधन में उपयोगी है।
- The EOI also doesn't specify the sensors the satellites will carry. EOI में यह भी स्पष्ट नहीं है कि उपग्रह कौन से सेंसर लेकर जाएंगे।
- But since the State has cloudy weather for almost half the year, the satellites may carry synthetic aperture radars (SAR), whose gaze can pierce clouds and darkness. चूंकि राज्य में आधे साल बादल छाए रहते हैं, इसलिए उपग्रहों में SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) हो सकता है, जो बादलों और अंधेरे को पार कर सकता है।
- Currently, State disaster management agencies seeking satellite data must submit requests to the National Remote Sensing Centre, which will process and fulfill those requests. वर्तमान में, राज्य की आपदा एजेंसियों को उपग्रह डेटा के लिए National Remote Sensing Centre को अनुरोध भेजना पड़ता है।
- The State sits close to the Siliguri Corridor, a strip of land colloquially called the chicken's neck that physically connects the Northeast to the rest of India, and which State and Central security agencies have been preoccupied with monitoring. यह राज्य सिलीगुड़ी कॉरिडोर (चिकन नेक) के पास स्थित है, जो पूर्वोत्तर को भारत के बाकी हिस्सों से जोड़ता है और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Mr. Sarma has also extended the satellite's mandate to include tracking drug-trafficking routes and monitoring poaching in the Kaziranga National Park. श्री सरमा ने उपग्रहों का उपयोग ड्रग तस्करी मार्गों और काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में शिकार की निगरानी के लिए भी प्रस्तावित किया है।
- In 2024, NewSpace India, Ltd. cleared a private-sector earth observation constellation led by Dhruva Space and Pixxel. 2024 में NewSpace India Ltd. ने निजी क्षेत्र के पृथ्वी अवलोकन उपग्रह समूह को मंजूरी दी, जिसका नेतृत्व Dhruva Space और Pixxel कर रहे हैं।
- The plan combines small satellites carrying optical and hyperspectral sensors in low-earth orbit to deliver near real-time imagery for agriculture, disaster response, and national security users while being owned and operated by industry. यह योजना छोटे उपग्रहों को जोड़ती है जो ऑप्टिकल और हाइपरस्पेक्ट्रल सेंसर लेकर निम्न पृथ्वी कक्षा में कार्य करेंगे और कृषि, आपदा प्रबंधन और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए लगभग रियल-टाइम चित्र प्रदान करेंगे।