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PCS Special:		13 June 2026
13J6	David Hockney, iconic British artist known for landscapes, dies at 88 परिदृश्य चित्रों के लिए प्रसिद्ध प्रतिष्ठित ब्रिटिश कलाकार डेविड हॉकनी का 88 वर्ष की आयु में निधन	
13J6	Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who was known for her legal work, dies अपने कानूनी कार्यों के लिए प्रसिद्ध थाई राजकुमारी बज्रकितियाभा का निधन	



David Hockney, iconic British artist known for landscapes, dies at 88



PCS British artist David Hockney, famed for his shimmering pool paintings and colourful iPad drawings, has died at his London home aged 88. Over a seven-decade career, he became one of Britain's most celebrated contemporary artists, with record-breaking auction sales and global acclaim for his innovative work. AP

AFP

most celebrated **contemporary artists**, with record-breaking **auction sales** and global acclaim for his innovative work.

अपने सात दशकों के करियर के दौरान वे ब्रिटेन के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित समकालीन कलाकारों में से एक बन गए, जिन्हें रिकॉर्ड तोड़ नीलामी बिक्री और उनके नवोन्मेषी कार्यों के लिए वैश्विक प्रशंसा प्राप्त हुई।

13J6. David Hockney, iconic British artist known for landscapes, dies at 88

परिदृश्य चित्रों के लिए प्रसिद्ध प्रतिष्ठित ब्रिटिश कलाकार डेविड हॉकनी का 88 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- British artist **David Hockney**, famed for his shimmering **pool paintings** and colourful **iPad drawings**, has died at his **London home** aged 88.

ब्रिटिश कलाकार डेविड हॉकनी, जो अपनी चमकदार **पूल पेंटिंग्स** और रंगीन **आईपैड चित्रों** के लिए प्रसिद्ध थे, का लंदन स्थित उनके घर पर 88 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- Over a **seven-decade career**, he became one of Britain's most celebrated **contemporary artists**, with record-breaking **auction sales** and global acclaim for his innovative work.

अपने सात दशकों के करियर के दौरान वे ब्रिटेन के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित समकालीन कलाकारों में से एक बन गए, जिन्हें रिकॉर्ड तोड़ नीलामी बिक्री और उनके नवोन्मेषी कार्यों के लिए वैश्विक प्रशंसा प्राप्त हुई।

Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who was known for her legal work, dies



PCS Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, a lawyer and the eldest of King Maha Vajiralongkorn's children, has died at 47, the Bureau of the Royal Household said. She died on Thursday evening at a Bangkok hospital where she had been cared for since falling unconscious due to illness three years ago, it said. AP

AFP

ब्यूरो के अनुसार, उनका निधन गुरुवार शाम एक **बैंकॉक अस्पताल** में हुआ, जहाँ तीन वर्ष पहले बीमारी के कारण बेहोश हो जाने के बाद से उनका उपचार और देखभाल की जा रही थी।

13J6. Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who was known for her legal work, dies

अपने कानूनी कार्यों के लिए प्रसिद्ध थाई राजकुमारी बज्रकितियाभा का निधन

- Thailand's Princess **Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol**, a **lawyer** and the eldest of **King Maha Vajiralongkorn's** children, has died at 47, the **Bureau of the Royal Household** said.

थाईलैंड की राजकुमारी **बज्रकितियाभा महिदोल**, जो एक **वकील** थीं और **राजा महा वजिरालोंगकोर्न** की सबसे बड़ी संतान थीं, का 47 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया है, ऐसा **रॉयल हाउसहोल्ड ब्यूरो** ने कहा।

- She died on Thursday evening at a **Bangkok hospital** where she had been cared for since falling unconscious due to illness three years ago, it said.

GS Paper 1: Society		13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
13J6	Deep-seated' bias for male child persists in society: SC पुरुष बच्चे के प्रति 'गहरी जड़ें जमाए' पक्षपात समाज में अब भी मौजूद: सुप्रीम कोर्ट	



'Deep-seated' bias for male child persists in society: SC

GS I: Society
Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has observed that though the country's child sex ratio has shown "clear signs of improvement", the continued prevalence of sex selection practices reflects "deep-seated patriarchal preferences" for a male child.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and P.K. Mishra made the observation while dismissing a Maharashtra doctor's appeal challenging criminal proceedings against him under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act).

Referring to various schemes introduced by State governments to curb female foeticide, the court said these reflected sustained efforts to address

The court noted that the country continues to face significant gaps in gender parity

the systemic discrimination faced by "the girl child in an inherently patriarchal" society.

However, it pointed out that several States continue to record sex ratios at birth below the national average. "...the country's sex ratio has shown clear signs of improvement in recent years... Nonetheless, several States still report sex ratios at birth below the national average. This shows the continuing presence of deep-seated patriarchal preferences towards a male child and the 'behind the curtains' prevalence of sex selection practices," the Bench said.

Accordingly, the top

court stressed that strict enforcement of the PCPNDT Act would remain essential until entrenched social attitudes towards the girl child undergo change.

The judges also noted the country continues to face significant challenges in achieving gender parity when assessed against global indicators. "On a global level though, unfortunately, the data does not present a positive outlook. The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025 records a drop in our ranking in terms of overall gender parity score from the previous year to 131 out of 148, from 129 the previous year", the Bench said.

Accordingly, the Bench refused to quash the criminal proceedings against the doctor, underlining that "letting infractions slide" would defeat the purpose of the PCPNDT Act.

observation while dismissing a Maharashtra doctor's appeal challenging criminal proceedings against him under the **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act)**.

न्यायमूर्ति संजय करोल और पी.के. मिश्रा की पीठ ने यह टिप्पणी महाराष्ट्र के एक डॉक्टर की उस अपील को खारिज करते हुए की, जिसमें उसने पूर्व गर्भाधान एवं प्रसवपूर्व निदान तकनीक (लिंग चयन निषेध) अधिनियम, 1994 (PCPNDT Act) के तहत उसके विरुद्ध चल रही आपराधिक कार्यवाही को चुनौती दी थी।

- Referring to various schemes introduced by State governments to curb female foeticide, the court said these reflected sustained efforts to address the systemic discrimination faced by "the girl child in an inherently patriarchal" society.

कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकने के लिए राज्य सरकारों द्वारा शुरू की गई विभिन्न योजनाओं का उल्लेख करते हुए न्यायालय ने कहा कि ये एक स्वाभाविक रूप से पितृसत्तात्मक समाज में "बालिका" द्वारा झेले जाने वाले व्यवस्थित भेदभाव को दूर करने के निरंतर प्रयासों को दर्शाती हैं।

- However, it pointed out that several States continue to record sex ratios at birth below the national average.

हालाँकि, न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा कि कई राज्य अब भी जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात के मामले में राष्ट्रीय औसत से नीचे हैं।

- "...the country's sex ratio has shown clear signs of improvement in recent years... Nonetheless, several States still report sex ratios at birth below the national average. This shows the continuing presence of deep-seated patriarchal preferences towards a male child and the 'behind the curtains' prevalence of sex selection practices," the Bench said. पीठ ने कहा, "...देश के लिंगानुपात में हाल के वर्षों में सुधार के स्पष्ट संकेत दिखाई दिए हैं... फिर भी कई राज्य अब भी जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात के मामले में राष्ट्रीय औसत से नीचे हैं। यह पुरुष बच्चे के प्रति गहरी जड़ें जमाए पितृसत्तात्मक प्राथमिकताओं तथा पर्दे के पीछे जारी लिंग चयन की प्रथाओं की मौजूदगी को दर्शाता है।"
- Accordingly, the top court stressed that strict enforcement of the PCPNDT Act would remain essential until entrenched social attitudes towards the girl child undergo change.

13J6. 'Deep-seated' bias for male child persists in society: SC

पुरुष बच्चे के प्रति 'गहरी जड़ें जमाए'

पक्षपात समाज में अब भी मौजूद:

सुप्रीम कोर्ट

- The Supreme Court has observed that though the country's child sex ratio has shown "clear signs of improvement", the continued prevalence of sex selection practices reflects "deep-seated patriarchal preferences" for a male child.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा है कि यद्यपि देश के बाल लिंगानुपात में "सुधार के स्पष्ट संकेत" दिखाई दिए हैं, फिर भी लिंग चयन की प्रथाओं का लगातार बने रहना पुरुष बच्चे के प्रति "गहरी जड़ें जमाए पितृसत्तात्मक प्राथमिकताओं" को दर्शाता है।

- A Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and P.K. Mishra made the



तदनुसार, शीर्ष अदालत ने जोर देकर कहा कि **बालिका** के प्रति समाज में जमी हुई सोच में परिवर्तन आने तक **PCPNDT Act** का सख्ती से पालन आवश्यक रहेगा।

- The judges also noted the country continues to face significant challenges in achieving **gender parity** when assessed against global indicators.
न्यायाधीशों ने यह भी कहा कि वैश्विक संकेतकों के आधार पर आकलन करने पर देश को **लैंगिक समानता** प्राप्त करने में अब भी महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
- "On a global level though, unfortunately, the data does not present a positive outlook. The **World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025** records a drop in our ranking in terms of overall **gender parity score** from the previous year to **131 out of 148**, from **129 the previous year**", the Bench said.
पीठ ने कहा, "वैश्विक स्तर पर दुर्भाग्यवश आँकड़े सकारात्मक तस्वीर प्रस्तुत नहीं करते। **विश्व आर्थिक मंच की ग्लोबल जेंडर गैप रिपोर्ट 2025** के अनुसार समग्र **लैंगिक समानता स्कोर** के मामले में हमारी रैंकिंग पिछले वर्ष के **129** से घटकर **148 देशों में 131वें स्थान** पर आ गई है।"
- Accordingly, the Bench refused to quash the criminal proceedings against the doctor, underlining that "letting infractions slide" would defeat the purpose of the **PCPNDT Act**.
तदनुसार, पीठ ने डॉक्टर के विरुद्ध आपराधिक कार्यवाही को समाप्त करने से इनकार कर दिया और कहा कि उल्लंघनों को "अनदेखा करना" **PCPNDT Act** के उद्देश्य को विफल कर देगा।

GS Paper II: Polity	13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
13J6	SC dismisses Congress leader's plea on rejection of Rajya Sabha nomination राज्यसभा नामांकन खारिज होने के खिलाफ कांग्रेस नेता की याचिका SC ने खारिज की

SC dismisses Congress leader's plea on rejection of Rajya Sabha nomination

GS II: Polity

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Observing that courts should refrain from intervening in electoral processes, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's plea challenging the rejection of her Rajya Sabha nomination papers from Madhya Pradesh.

A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and A.S. Chandurkar observed that in view of Article 329(b) of the Constitution, it had no jurisdiction to interfere with the order of the Returning Officer (RO) and that an election petition was the only remedy available in such cases.

The provision stipulates that no election to either



Whenever an attempt is made to invoke this court's or the High Court's writ jurisdiction to interject during the conduct of elections, on every occasion the court has rejected such an attempt, keeping in view the principles contained in Article 329 of the Constitution

SUPREME COURT



House of Parliament or a State legislature can be called in question except through an election petition.

"...Whenever an attempt is made to invoke this court's or the High Court's writ jurisdiction to interject during the conduct of elections, on every

occasion, the court has rejected such an attempt, keeping in view the principles contained in Article 329 of the Constitution," the Bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Ms. Natarajan, the Congress's sole candidate for one of the three Rajya Sabha seats

from Madhya Pradesh, challenging a June 9 order of the RO and Madhya Pradesh Assembly Principal Secretary Arvind Sharma rejecting her nomination on the ground that she had failed to disclose a pending criminal case in Hyderabad in her affidavit. BJP candidates Tarun Chugh, Rajneesh Agrawal and Mahesh Kewat were declared elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Appearing for Ms. Natarajan, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi argued that the RO's decision suffered from a "patent error" and warranted interference by the court. He also questioned the EC's decision to proceed with the results despite the top court being cognisant of the matter.

13J6. SC dismisses Congress leader's plea on rejection of Rajya Sabha nomination

राज्यसभा नामांकन खारिज होने के खिलाफ कांग्रेस नेता की याचिका SC ने खारिज की

- A Bench of Justices **Prashant Kumar Mishra** and **A.S. Chandurkar** observed that in view of **Article 329(b)** of the Constitution, it had no jurisdiction to interfere with the order of the **Returning Officer (RO)** and that an **election petition** was the only remedy available in such cases.

न्यायमूर्ति प्रशांत कुमार मिश्रा और ए.एस. चंदुरकर की पीठ ने कहा कि संविधान के अनुच्छेद 329(b) को देखते हुए उसके पास रिटर्निंग ऑफिसर (RO) के आदेश में हस्तक्षेप करने का अधिकार क्षेत्र नहीं है तथा ऐसे मामलों में केवल निर्वाचन याचिका ही उपलब्ध उपाय है।

- The provision stipulates that no election to either House of Parliament or a State legislature can be called in question except through an election petition.
यह प्रावधान निर्धारित करता है कि संसद के किसी भी सदन या किसी राज्य विधानमंडल के चुनाव को केवल निर्वाचन याचिका के माध्यम से ही चुनौती दी जा सकती है।
- The top court was hearing a plea filed by **Ms. Natarajan**, the Congress's sole candidate for one of the three **Rajya Sabha** seats from **Madhya Pradesh**, challenging a **June 9** order of the **RO** and **Madhya Pradesh Assembly Principal Secretary Arvind Sharma** rejecting her nomination on the ground that she had failed to disclose a pending criminal case in **Hyderabad** in her affidavit.
शीर्ष न्यायालय मीनाक्षी नटराजन द्वारा दायर याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रहा था, जो मध्य प्रदेश से तीन राज्यसभा सीटों में से एक के लिए कांग्रेस की एकमात्र उम्मीदवार थीं। उन्होंने 9 जून के उस आदेश को चुनौती दी थी जिसमें RO तथा मध्य प्रदेश विधानसभा के प्रधान सचिव अरविंद शर्मा ने उनका नामांकन इस आधार पर खारिज कर दिया था कि उन्होंने अपने शपथपत्र में हैदराबाद में लंबित एक आपराधिक मामले का खुलासा नहीं किया था।
- BJP** candidates **Tarun Chugh**, **Rajneesh Agrawal** and **Mahesh Kewat** were declared elected unopposed to **Rajya Sabha** on Thursday.

भाजपा उम्मीदवार तरुण चुघ, रजनीश अग्रवाल और महेश केवट को गुरुवार को राज्यसभा के लिए निर्विरोध निर्वाचित घोषित किया गया।

GS Paper II: Governance		13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
13J6	Minimum one Sanskrit batch required for Classes 6 & 9 in KV schools केवी विद्यालयों में कक्षा 6 और 9 के लिए कम से कम एक संस्कृत बैच अनिवार्य	
13J6	Govt. opens draft telecom rules on TV, radio for feedback सरकार ने टीवी और रेडियो के लिए मसौदा दूरसंचार नियमों पर सुझाव आमंत्रित किए	
13J6	Equality of treatment for Persons with Disabilities दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए समान व्यवहार	

Minimum one Sanskrit batch required for Classes 6 & 9 in KV schools

GS II: Governance
Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Every Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) must maintain a minimum of one dedicated section of students learning Sanskrit as a third language in Classes 6 and 9, according to a circular issued by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), an autonomous body under the Union Education Ministry.

There are currently 1,288 functional KVs across the country, along with three operating internationally in Moscow, Kathmandu, and Tehran. The circular, dated May 29 and accessed by *The Hindu*, is meant for all KVs in India and abroad.

"KVS has ensured that the policy remains sensitive to its transferable student population by maintaining Sanskrit as a common option across all KVs, while offering regional languages as an alternative for those who are not subject to frequent transfers," a senior KVS official said, on the condition of anonymity.

The circular clarifies that the R3 choice (Sanskrit or a regional or State language from the scheduled languages) must be distinct from R1 (Hindi) and R2 (English).

Staffing and resources

The official acknowledged that a few KVs face challenges such as limited teacher availability and resource constraints, but insisted that the use of contractual teachers for regional languages, phased roll-out, and adoption of SCERT materials will help mitigate these constraints.

13J6. Minimum one Sanskrit batch required for Classes 6 & 9 in KV schools

केवी विद्यालयों में कक्षा 6 और 9 के लिए कम से कम एक संस्कृत बैच अनिवार्य

- Every **Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV)** must maintain a minimum of one dedicated section of students learning **Sanskrit** as a third language in **Classes 6 and 9**, according to a circular issued by **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)**, an autonomous body under the **Union Education Ministry**.

केंद्रीय विद्यालय (KV) में कक्षा 6 और 9 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए तीसरी भाषा के रूप में संस्कृत पढ़ने वाला कम से कम एक समर्पित सेक्शन होना अनिवार्य होगा। यह निर्देश केंद्रीय विद्यालय संगठन (KVS) द्वारा जारी एक परिपत्र में दिया गया है, जो केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्रालय के अधीन एक स्वायत्त निकाय है।

- There are currently **1,288 functional KVs** across the country, along with **three operating internationally in Moscow, Kathmandu, and Tehran**.

वर्तमान में देशभर में 1,288 कार्यरत केंद्रीय विद्यालय हैं, जबकि तीन विद्यालय अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मॉस्को, काठमांडू और तेहरान में संचालित हो रहे हैं।

- The circular, dated **May 29** and accessed by *The Hindu*, is meant for all KVs in India and abroad.

29 मई दिनांकित यह परिपत्र, जिसे *द हिन्दू* ने प्राप्त किया, भारत तथा विदेशों में स्थित सभी केंद्रीय विद्यालयों के लिए लागू है।

- "KVS has ensured that the policy remains sensitive to its transferable student population by maintaining **Sanskrit** as a common option across all KVs, while offering **regional languages** as an alternative for those who are not subject to frequent transfers," a senior **KVS official** said, on the condition of anonymity.

"केवीएस ने यह सुनिश्चित किया है कि यह नीति स्थानांतरण होने वाले विद्यार्थियों की आवश्यकताओं के प्रति संवेदनशील बनी रहे। इसके लिए सभी केंद्रीय विद्यालयों में संस्कृत को एक समान विकल्प के रूप में बनाए रखा गया है, जबकि जिन विद्यार्थियों का बार-बार स्थानांतरण नहीं होता, उनके लिए क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं का विकल्प भी उपलब्ध कराया गया है," एक वरिष्ठ केवीएस अधिकारी ने गुमनाम रहने की शर्त पर कहा।

- The circular clarifies that the **R3 choice (Sanskrit or a regional or State language from the scheduled languages)** must be distinct from **R1 (Hindi)** and **R2 (English)**.

परिपत्र में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि **R3 विकल्प (संस्कृत अथवा अनुसूचित भाषाओं में से कोई क्षेत्रीय या राज्य भाषा)** **R1 (हिंदी)** और **R2 (अंग्रेज़ी)** से भिन्न होना चाहिए।

Staffing and resources

स्टाफिंग और संसाधन

- The official acknowledged that a few KVs face challenges such as **limited teacher availability** and **resource constraints**, but insisted that the use of **contractual teachers** for regional languages, phased roll-out, and adoption of **SCERT materials** will help mitigate these constraints.

अधिकारी ने स्वीकार किया कि कुछ केंद्रीय विद्यालयों में शिक्षकों की सीमित उपलब्धता और संसाधनों की कमी जैसी चुनौतियाँ हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के लिए संविदा शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति, चरणबद्ध क्रियान्वयन तथा **SCERT सामग्री** को अपनाने से इन

समस्याओं को कम करने में सहायता मिलेगी।



Govt. opens draft telecom rules on TV, radio for feedback

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Centre has published the draft **Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026**, for public consultation. They have been framed to consolidate the various guidelines issued for television and radio services under the erstwhile Telegraph Act, within the framework of the newly enacted Telecommunications Act, 2023. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry administers the provisions relating to television, radio, and associated services.

Unified rule-book

In the draft rules, existing terms and conditions of authorisation have been harmonised and rationalised to facilitate continuity,

while enabling reforms and provision for a single regulatory framework in place of multiple guidelines. "With this set of rules, the industry will now have a unified and significantly simplified rule book. These rules are designed to simplify the existing regime while promoting ease of doing business in the television and radio broadcasting sector," said the Ministry.

Once notified, the rules will replace various existing guidelines governing broadcasting services.

Digital implementation of the authorisation process, simplified authorisation procedures, removal of the requirement for signing Grant of Permission Agreement, and provision of transparent adjudication mechanism are the other key features.

13J6. Govt. opens draft telecom rules on TV, radio for feedback

सरकार ने टीवी और रेडियो के लिए मसौदा दूरसंचार नियमों पर सुझाव आमंत्रित किए

- The Centre has published the draft **Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026**, for public consultation.

केंद्र सरकार ने सार्वजनिक परामर्श के लिए दूरसंचार (टेलीविजन, रेडियो और संबद्ध सेवाएं) नियम, 2026 का मसौदा प्रकाशित किया है।

- They have been framed to consolidate the various guidelines issued for television and radio services under the erstwhile Telegraph Act, within the framework of the newly enacted **Telecommunications Act, 2023**.

इन नियमों को पूर्व टेलीग्राफ अधिनियम के तहत टेलीविजन और रेडियो सेवाओं के लिए जारी विभिन्न दिशानिर्देशों को नव अधिनियमित दूरसंचार अधिनियम, 2023 के ढांचे में समेकित करने के लिए तैयार किया गया है।

- The **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** administers the provisions relating to television, radio, and associated services.

सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय टेलीविजन, रेडियो और संबद्ध सेवाओं से संबंधित प्रावधानों का प्रशासन करता है।

Unified rule-book

एकीकृत नियम-पुस्तिका

- In the draft rules, existing terms and conditions of **authorisation** have been harmonised and rationalised to facilitate continuity, while enabling reforms and provision for a single **regulatory framework** in place of multiple guidelines.

मसौदा नियमों में प्राधिकरण की मौजूदा शर्तों एवं नियमों को निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए समन्वित और युक्तिसंगत बनाया गया है, साथ ही सुधारों को सक्षम करते हुए अनेक दिशानिर्देशों के स्थान पर एकल नियामक ढांचे का प्रावधान किया गया है।

- "With this set of rules, the industry will now have a **unified** and significantly **simplified rule book**.

"इन नियमों के साथ अब उद्योग के पास एक एकीकृत और काफी हद तक सरलीकृत नियम-पुस्तिका होगी।

- These rules are designed to simplify the existing regime while promoting **ease of doing business** in the television and radio broadcasting sector," said the Ministry.
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि ये नियम मौजूदा व्यवस्था को सरल बनाने के साथ-साथ टेलीविजन और रेडियो प्रसारण क्षेत्र में व्यवसाय सुगमता (**Ease of Doing Business**) को बढ़ावा देने के लिए तैयार किए गए हैं।
- Once notified, the rules will replace various existing guidelines governing **broadcasting services**.
अधिसूचित होने के बाद ये नियम प्रसारण सेवाओं को नियंत्रित करने वाले विभिन्न मौजूदा दिशानिर्देशों का स्थान ले लेंगे।

- Digital implementation** of the authorisation process, simplified authorisation procedures, removal of the requirement for signing **Grant of Permission Agreement**, and provision of



transparent **adjudication mechanism** are the other key features.

प्राधिकरण प्रक्रिया के डिजिटल कार्यान्वयन, सरलीकृत प्राधिकरण प्रक्रियाएं, Grant of Permission Agreement पर हस्ताक्षर की आवश्यकता को समाप्त करना तथा पारदर्शी न्ययनिर्णय तंत्र (Adjudication Mechanism) का प्रावधान इसकी अन्य प्रमुख विशेषताएं हैं।

Equality of treatment for Persons with Disabilities

GS II: Governance

Addressing the digital divide through the Digital India Mission, India has marched on towards becoming a global "best practice" model of a digital welfare state. Yet, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) remain largely excluded from this promise of universal outreach. Disability pensions, contrary to the very principles underlying disability rights, are determined not by the nature or extent of disability but by domicile, the discretionary decisions of State governments, and cumbersome bureaucratic processes. As a result, a vulnerable section of citizens continues to remain outside the ambit of a welfare architecture that otherwise prides itself on inclusivity and last-mile delivery.

An inadequate safety net

The 2011 Census recorded 2.68 crore PwDs. Today, accounting for population growth and changing disease profiles, their number is conservatively estimated at 4.5 crore-6 crore. Although the Supreme Court of India has recognised the right to live with dignity as a fundamental right and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides legal protection, disability benefits – especially pensions – remain fragmented, discretionary, and inadequate. As a result, the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme covers only a small fraction of PwDs, while pension amounts in most States range from just ₹300 to ₹500 a month, with a few offering ₹1,000-₹3,000.

India spends barely 0.02% of GDP on disability welfare including pensions. South Africa spends 0.12%-0.15% of GDP (six times more); Brazil 0.45%-0.50% (20 times more); OECD countries 2.2% (110 times more) and Australia 0.35%-0.40% (20 times more).

Beyond politics, sound economics demands the inclusion of PwDs. The World Bank and UNDP estimate that low- and middle-income countries lose 3%-7% of GDP when PwDs are excluded from education, employment, and social security. Disability income improves household stability, rural consumption, and labour participation. Studies show fiscal multipliers of 1.4-1.6, while the 2025 Pro Bono Economics report found that the socio-economic returns from disability pensions exceed their costs by nearly 48%. Far from being a welfare expense, disability pensions are an investment and an effective economic stimulus.

India must establish a **Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor Rate (MUDPFR)** to give effect to the state's constitutional obligation, under Article 41, to provide public assistance to persons with disabilities, and to operationalise Section 24 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which guarantees adequate



Sushil Kumar

Former Secretary,
Government of India,
and an Advocate in
the Supreme Court
and High Court

social security, including pension benefits. Such a measure would translate the promise of inclusive growth and "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" into reality by shifting disability pensions from a matter of charity and discretion to a matter of citizenship rights. While ensuring that no disabled person receives less than a minimum pension regardless of where they live, a MUDPFR would still allow States to provide additional top-ups.

This is not an unrealistic proposal. South Africa provides a national disability grant with uniform eligibility norms; Brazil's BPC guarantees a national minimum income; and Australia and New Zealand operate nationwide disability pension systems. Several developing countries, including Kenya, Rwanda, Thailand and Indonesia, also provide disability income support at the national level. International experience shows that centrally set standards promote uniformity, universality and portability.

A MUDPFR of ₹8,000 per month for 40 lakh beneficiaries would cost about ₹38,400 crore annually (0.08% of GDP), while ₹10,000 for 65 lakh beneficiaries would cost ₹78,000 crore. Even a pension of ₹15,000 per month would keep expenditure below 0.2% of GDP. Such spending is fiscally manageable when compared with allocations for food subsidies (₹2.05 lakh crore), rural development (₹1.80 lakh crore), tax concessions and revenue foregone (₹1.72 lakh crore), and infrastructure (₹11.11 lakh crore). Yet, disability pensions and inclusion continue to receive only a tiny fraction of public expenditure.

From fragmentation to integration

The current disability pension system, shared between the Ministry of Rural Development and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, leads to duplication, delays and diffused accountability. Countries that have faced similar challenges have addressed them through a single national authority – South Africa's SASSA, Australia's NDIA, Brazil's INSS and Ireland's Department of Social Protection. India too needs a National Disability Pension Authority to oversee eligibility norms, a national registry, portability, digital integration, grievance redress and State-wise performance monitoring – one standard, one system, one nation.

Implementing a robust disability pension system would strengthen India's bid for a UN Security Council seat by translating its commitments into action under Article 28 of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ILO Recommendation No. 202, SDG 1.3, and the G-20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, all of which endorse social protection as a cornerstone of inclusive development.

Combining pensions with employment

support can move persons with disabilities from mere survival to productive participation. A MUDPFR could also yield economic benefits. Countries such as Singapore, South Korea, South Africa and Brazil integrate disability pensions with employment and social security systems. India should similarly strengthen its fragmented Disability Employment Incentive Scheme. Models abroad include employer tax incentives in Nigeria, the U.K.'s Access to Work programme, and Australia's wage subsidies. Existing schemes such as PM-DAKSH, NAPS and State-level employer incentives provide a foundation for expansion.

Constitutional imperative

A MUDPFR would give effect to the Constitution's guarantees of equality, equal protection, dignity and the right to life. India has already standardised major welfare programmes – from food security and health care to PM-KISAN and pensions – and delivers benefits at scale through DBT and UPI. The capacity and technology exist. What is needed is the political will to prioritise dignity. Disability pensions remain one of the few entitlements determined by where a person lives. If dignity is a constitutional right, geography cannot decide the minimum support for survival.

More than an economic or administrative reform, a MUDPFR is a moral one. It affirms that persons with disabilities are rights-bearing citizens, not recipients of charity. By transforming the state from a benevolent provider into a constitutional guarantor, it strengthens dignity, inclusion and citizenship.

Should India continue with a system in which disability pensions vary according to State budgets, political priorities and bureaucratic complexities, leaving persons with disabilities vulnerable to hardship? Or should the Republic guarantee a minimum level of support for all? A Viksit Bharat cannot leave its most vulnerable citizens at the mercy of a postcode lottery. Federalism cannot be a justification for inequality.

A MUDPFR is the next logical step in India's welfare architecture, building on rights-based entitlements enabled by digital inclusion and DBT. It would humanise the state, uphold the dignity of persons with disabilities and strengthen the Republic.

Over the past 75 years, India has steadily expanded its welfare state in pursuit of social justice. With the necessary platforms and delivery systems now in place, the time has come to secure the foundation. The real question is whether India recognises dignity for persons with disabilities as a constitutional right and a collective obligation. That promise is long overdue, and a MUDPFR offers a way to fulfil it.

India must
adopt a
minimum
universal
disability
pension
floor rate

13J6. Equality of treatment for Persons with Disabilities दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए समान व्यवहार

- Addressing the **digital divide** through the **Digital India Mission**, India has marched on towards becoming a global "best practice" model of a **digital welfare state**.
डिजिटल इंडिया मिशन के माध्यम से डिजिटल विभाजन को कम करते हुए भारत एक वैश्विक "सर्वोत्तम उदाहरण" वाले डिजिटल कल्याणकारी राज्य के रूप में आगे बढ़ा है।

- Yet, **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** remain largely excluded from this promise of universal outreach.
फिर भी दिव्यांगजन (PwDs) इस सार्वभौमिक पहुँच के वादे से बड़े पैमाने पर वंचित बने हुए हैं।
- **Disability pensions**, contrary to the very principles underlying disability rights, are determined not by the nature or extent of disability but by **domicile**, the discretionary decisions of **State governments**, and cumbersome bureaucratic processes.
दिव्यांग पेंशन, जो दिव्यांग अधिकारों के मूल सिद्धांतों के विपरीत है, दिव्यांगता की प्रकृति या गंभीरता के आधार पर नहीं, बल्कि निवास, राज्य सरकारों के विवेकाधीन निर्णयों और जटिल नौकरशाही प्रक्रियाओं के आधार पर निर्धारित की जाती है।
- As a result, a vulnerable section of citizens continues to remain outside the ambit of a welfare architecture that otherwise prides itself on **inclusivity** and **last-mile delivery**.
परिणामस्वरूप नागरिकों का एक संवेदनशील वर्ग उस कल्याणकारी व्यवस्था से बाहर बना हुआ है जो अन्यथा समावेशिता और अंतिम छोर तक सेवा पहुँचाने पर गर्व करती है।

An inadequate safety net अपर्याप्त सामाजिक सुरक्षा तंत्र

- The **2011 Census** recorded **2.68 crore PwDs**.
2011 की जनगणना में **2.68 करोड़ दिव्यांगजन** दर्ज किए गए थे।
- Today, accounting for population growth and changing disease profiles, their number is conservatively estimated at **4.5 crore-6 crore**.
आज जनसंख्या वृद्धि और बदलते रोग-परिदृश्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए उनकी संख्या का अनुमान **4.5 करोड़ से 6 करोड़** के बीच लगाया जाता है।
- Although the **Supreme Court of India** has recognised the right to live with dignity as a **fundamental right** and the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** provides legal protection, disability benefits — especially pensions — remain fragmented, discretionary, and inadequate.
यद्यपि भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने गरिमा के साथ जीवन जीने के अधिकार को मौलिक अधिकार माना है और दिव्यांगजन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2016 कानूनी संरक्षण प्रदान करता है, फिर भी दिव्यांग लाभ — विशेषकर पेंशन — खंडित, विवेकाधीन और अपर्याप्त बने हुए हैं।
- As a result, the **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme** covers only a small fraction of PwDs, while pension amounts in most States range from just **₹300 to ₹500 a month**, with a few offering **₹1,000-₹3,000**.
परिणामस्वरूप इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय दिव्यांग पेंशन योजना केवल सीमित संख्या में दिव्यांगजनों को कवर करती है, जबकि अधिकांश राज्यों में पेंशन राशि केवल **₹300 से ₹500 प्रति माह** है, और कुछ राज्य **₹1,000 से ₹3,000 तक** प्रदान करते हैं।
- India spends barely **0.02% of GDP** on disability welfare including pensions.
भारत दिव्यांग कल्याण और पेंशन पर अपने **GDP का केवल 0.02%** व्यय करता है।
- **South Africa** spends **0.12%-0.15% of GDP** (six times more); **Brazil** **0.45%-0.50%** (20 times more); **OECD countries** **2.2%** (110 times more) and **Australia** **0.35%-0.40%** (20 times more).
दक्षिण अफ्रीका अपने GDP का **0.12%-0.15%** (लगभग छह गुना अधिक), ब्राज़ील **0.45%-0.50%** (लगभग 20 गुना अधिक), **OECD देश** **2.2%** (लगभग 110 गुना अधिक) तथा ऑस्ट्रेलिया **0.35%-0.40%** (लगभग 20 गुना अधिक) व्यय करते हैं।
- Beyond politics, sound economics demands the inclusion of **PwDs**.
राजनीति से परे, सुदृढ़ अर्थशास्त्र भी दिव्यांगजनों के समावेशन की मांग करता है।
- The **World Bank** and **UNDP** estimate that low- and middle-income countries lose **3%-7% of GDP** when PwDs are excluded from education, employment, and social security.

विश्व बैंक और यूएनडीपी का अनुमान है कि निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देश शिक्षा, रोजगार और सामाजिक सुरक्षा से दिव्यांगजनों के बहिष्कार के कारण GDP का 3%-7% तक खो देते हैं।

- Disability income improves household stability, rural consumption, and labour participation.

दिव्यांग आय परिवारिक स्थिरता, ग्रामीण उपभोग और श्रम भागीदारी में सुधार लाती है।

- Studies show fiscal multipliers of 1.4-1.6, while the 2025 Pro Bono Economics report found that the socio-economic returns from disability pensions exceed their costs by nearly 48%.

अध्ययनों से 1.4-1.6 के राजकोषीय गुणक प्राप्त हुए हैं, जबकि 2025 प्रो बोनो इकोनॉमिक्स रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दिव्यांग पेंशन से मिलने वाला सामाजिक-आर्थिक प्रतिफल उसकी लागत से लगभग 48% अधिक है।

- Far from being a welfare expense, disability pensions are an investment and an effective economic stimulus.

दिव्यांग पेंशन केवल कल्याणकारी व्यय नहीं बल्कि एक महत्वपूर्ण निवेश और प्रभावी आर्थिक प्रोत्साहन है।

- India must establish a Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor Rate (MUDPFR) to give effect to the state's constitutional obligation, under Article 41, to provide public assistance to persons with disabilities, and to operationalise Section 24 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which guarantees adequate social security, including pension benefits.

भारत को न्यूनतम सार्वभौमिक दिव्यांग पेंशन आधार दर (MUDPFR) स्थापित करनी चाहिए ताकि अनुच्छेद 41 के अंतर्गत दिव्यांगजनों को सार्वजनिक सहायता प्रदान करने के राज्य के संवैधानिक दायित्व तथा दिव्यांगजन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 24 को प्रभावी बनाया जा सके, जो पर्याप्त सामाजिक सुरक्षा और पेंशन लाभों की गारंटी देती है।

- Such a measure would translate the promise of inclusive growth and “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas” into reality by shifting disability pensions from a matter of charity and discretion to a matter of citizenship rights.

ऐसा कदम समावेशी विकास और “सबका साथ, सबका विकास” के वादे को वास्तविकता में बदल देगा तथा दिव्यांग पेंशन को दान या विवेकाधीन सहायता के बजाय नागरिक अधिकार का स्वरूप प्रदान करेगा।

- While ensuring that no disabled person receives less than a minimum pension regardless of where they live, a MUDPFR would still allow States to provide additional top-ups.

यह सुनिश्चित करते हुए कि किसी भी दिव्यांग व्यक्ति को उसके निवास स्थान की परवाह किए बिना न्यूनतम पेंशन से कम राशि न मिले, MUDPFR राज्यों को अतिरिक्त पेंशन वृद्धि (टॉप-अप) प्रदान करने की स्वतंत्रता भी देगा।

- This is not an unrealistic proposal.

यह कोई अवास्तविक प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

- South Africa provides a national disability grant with uniform eligibility norms.

दक्षिण अफ्रीका समान पात्रता मानदंडों के साथ राष्ट्रीय दिव्यांग अनुदान प्रदान करता है।

- Brazil's BPC guarantees a national minimum income.

ब्राज़ील की BPC योजना राष्ट्रीय न्यूनतम आय की गारंटी देती है।

- Australia and New Zealand operate nationwide disability pension systems.

ऑस्ट्रेलिया और न्यूज़ीलैंड देशव्यापी दिव्यांग पेंशन प्रणालियाँ संचालित करते हैं।

- Several developing countries, including Kenya, Rwanda, Thailand and Indonesia, also provide disability income support at the national level.

केन्या, रवांडा, थाईलैंड और इंडोनेशिया सहित कई विकासशील देश भी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर दिव्यांग आय सहायता प्रदान करते हैं।

- International experience shows that centrally set standards promote uniformity, universality and portability.

अंतरराष्ट्रीय अनुभव दर्शाता है कि केंद्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित मानक एकरूपता, सार्वभौमिकता और पोर्टेबिलिटी को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

- A MUDPFR of ₹8,000 per month for 40 lakh beneficiaries would cost about ₹38,400 crore annually (0.08% of GDP).
40 लाख लाभार्थियों के लिए ₹8,000 प्रतिमाह की MUDPFR व्यवस्था पर लगभग ₹38,400 करोड़ प्रतिवर्ष (GDP का 0.08%) व्यय होगा।
- While ₹10,000 for 65 lakh beneficiaries would cost ₹78,000 crore.
वहीं 65 लाख लाभार्थियों के लिए ₹10,000 प्रतिमाह की व्यवस्था पर ₹78,000 करोड़ का व्यय होगा।
- Even a pension of ₹15,000 per month would keep expenditure below 0.2% of GDP.
यहाँ तक कि ₹15,000 प्रतिमाह की पेंशन भी कुल व्यय को GDP के 0.2% से नीचे रखेगी।
- Such spending is fiscally manageable when compared with allocations for food subsidies (₹2.05 lakh crore), rural development (₹1.80 lakh crore), tax concessions and revenue foregone (₹1.72 lakh crore), and infrastructure (₹11.11 lakh crore).
ऐसा व्यय खाद्य सब्सिडी (₹2.05 लाख करोड़), ग्रामीण विकास (₹1.80 लाख करोड़), कर रियायतों एवं राजस्व हानि (₹1.72 लाख करोड़) तथा अवसंरचना (₹11.11 लाख करोड़) पर होने वाले व्यय की तुलना में वित्तीय रूप से प्रबंधनीय है।
- Yet, disability pensions and inclusion continue to receive only a tiny fraction of public expenditure.
फिर भी दिव्यांग पेंशन और समावेशन को सार्वजनिक व्यय का केवल अत्यंत छोटा हिस्सा ही प्राप्त होता है।

From fragmentation to integration विखंडन से एकीकरण की ओर

- The current disability pension system, shared between the Ministry of Rural Development and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, leads to duplication, delays and diffused accountability.
वर्तमान दिव्यांग पेंशन प्रणाली, जो ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय और दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग के बीच विभाजित है, दोहराव, विलंब और उत्तरदायित्व के बिखराव को जन्म देती है।
- Countries that have faced similar challenges have addressed them through a single national authority.
जिन देशों ने इसी प्रकार की चुनौतियों का सामना किया है, उन्होंने उनका समाधान एकल राष्ट्रीय प्राधिकरण के माध्यम से किया है।
- South Africa's SASSA, Australia's NDIA, Brazil's INSS and Ireland's Department of Social Protection are examples.
दक्षिण अफ्रीका का SASSA, ऑस्ट्रेलिया का NDIA, ब्राज़ील का INSS और आयरलैंड का सामाजिक संरक्षण विभाग इसके उदाहरण हैं।
- India too needs a National Disability Pension Authority to oversee eligibility norms, a national registry, portability, digital integration, grievance redress and State-wise performance monitoring — one standard, one system, one nation.
भारत को भी पात्रता मानदंडों, राष्ट्रीय रजिस्ट्री, पोर्टेबिलिटी, डिजिटल एकीकरण, शिकायत निवारण और राज्यवार प्रदर्शन निगरानी के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय दिव्यांग पेंशन प्राधिकरण की आवश्यकता है — एक मानक, एक प्रणाली, एक राष्ट्र।
- Implementing a robust disability pension system would strengthen India's bid for a UN Security Council seat by translating its commitments into action under Article 28 of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ILO Recommendation No. 202, SDG 1.3, and the G-20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.
एक सुदृढ़ दिव्यांग पेंशन प्रणाली लागू करने से संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की सदस्यता के लिए भारत की दावेदारी मजबूत होगी, क्योंकि इससे दिव्यांगजन अधिकारों पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र अभिसमय के अनुच्छेद 28, ILO अनुशंसा संख्या 202, SDG 1.3 और G-20 नई दिल्ली नेता घोषणा के अंतर्गत की गई प्रतिबद्धताओं को व्यवहार में लागू किया जा सकेगा।



- All of these endorse **social protection** as a cornerstone of inclusive development.
ये सभी **सामाजिक सुरक्षा** को समावेशी विकास की आधारशिला मानते हैं।
- Combining pensions with **employment support** can move persons with disabilities from mere survival to productive participation.
पेंशन को **रोजगार सहायता** के साथ जोड़ने से दिव्यांगजन केवल जीवित रहने की स्थिति से आगे बढ़कर उत्पादक भागीदारी की ओर बढ़ सकते हैं।
- A **MUDPFR** could also yield economic benefits.
MUDPFR आर्थिक लाभ भी प्रदान कर सकती है।
- Countries such as **Singapore, South Korea, South Africa and Brazil** integrate disability pensions with employment and social security systems.
सिंगापुर, दक्षिण कोरिया, दक्षिण अफ्रीका और ब्राज़ील जैसे देश दिव्यांग पेंशन को रोजगार और सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रणालियों के साथ एकीकृत करते हैं।
- India should similarly strengthen its fragmented **Disability Employment Incentive Scheme**.
भारत को भी अपनी खंडित **दिव्यांग रोजगार प्रोत्साहन योजना** को सुदृढ़ बनाना चाहिए।
- Models abroad include **employer tax incentives** in **Nigeria**, the **Access to Work programme** in the **United Kingdom**, and **wage subsidies** in **Australia**.
विदेशों में **नाइजीरिया** में **नियोक्ता कर प्रोत्साहन**, **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** का **एक्सेस टू वर्क कार्यक्रम**, तथा **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** में **वेतन सब्सिडी** जैसे मॉडल उपलब्ध हैं।
- Existing schemes such as **PM-DAKSH, NAPS** and **State-level employer incentives** provide a foundation for expansion.
PM-DAKSH, NAPS तथा **राज्य स्तरीय नियोक्ता प्रोत्साहन योजनाएँ** विस्तार के लिए एक मजबूत आधार प्रदान करती हैं।

Constitutional imperative संवैधानिक अनिवार्यता

- A **MUDPFR** would give effect to the Constitution's guarantees of **equality, equal protection, dignity** and the **right to life**.
एक **MUDPFR** संविधान द्वारा प्रदत्त **समानता, समान संरक्षण, गरिमा** तथा **जीवन के अधिकार** की गारंटियों को वास्तविक रूप से लागू करेगा।
- India has already standardised major welfare programmes — from **food security** and **health care** to **PM-KISAN** and **pensions** — and delivers benefits at scale through **DBT** and **UPI**.
भारत पहले ही **खाद्य सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, पीएम-किसान** तथा **पेंशन** जैसी प्रमुख कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का मानकीकरण कर चुका है और **डीबीटी** तथा **यूपीआई** के माध्यम से बड़े पैमाने पर लाभ पहुँचा रहा है।
- The capacity and technology exist.
आवश्यक क्षमता और प्रौद्योगिकी पहले से उपलब्ध हैं।
- What is needed is the political will to prioritise **dignity**.
आवश्यकता केवल **गरिमा** को प्राथमिकता देने की राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति की है।
- Disability pensions** remain one of the few entitlements determined by where a person lives.
दिव्यांग पेंशन उन कुछ अधिकारों में से एक है जो अब भी व्यक्ति के निवास स्थान के आधार पर निर्धारित होते हैं।
- If dignity is a constitutional right, geography cannot decide the minimum support for survival.
यदि गरिमा एक संवैधानिक अधिकार है, तो भौगोलिक स्थिति यह निर्धारित नहीं कर सकती कि जीवित रहने के लिए न्यूनतम सहायता कितनी होगी।
- More than an economic or administrative reform, a **MUDPFR** is a moral one.
एक **MUDPFR** केवल आर्थिक या प्रशासनिक सुधार नहीं, बल्कि एक नैतिक सुधार भी है।
- It affirms that **persons with disabilities** are **rights-bearing citizens**, not recipients of charity.
यह पुष्टि करता है कि **दिव्यांगजन** दया या परोपकार के पात्र नहीं, बल्कि **अधिकार-संपन्न नागरिक** हैं।



- By transforming the state from a benevolent provider into a constitutional guarantor, it strengthens **dignity, inclusion** and **citizenship**.
राज्य को एक दयालु प्रदाता से संवैधानिक संरक्षक में परिवर्तित करके यह गरिमा, समावेशन और नागरिकता को सुदृढ़ बनाता है।
- Should India continue with a system in which disability pensions vary according to **State budgets, political priorities** and **bureaucratic complexities**, leaving persons with disabilities vulnerable to hardship?
क्या भारत ऐसी व्यवस्था जारी रखे जिसमें दिव्यांग पेंशन राज्य के बजट, राजनीतिक प्राथमिकताओं और नौकरशाही जटिलताओं के अनुसार बदलती रहे तथा दिव्यांगजन कठिनाइयों के प्रति असुरक्षित बने रहें?
- Or should the Republic guarantee a minimum level of support for all?
या फिर गणराज्य सभी के लिए न्यूनतम स्तर की सहायता की गारंटी दे?
- A **Viksit Bharat** cannot leave its most vulnerable citizens at the mercy of a **postcode lottery**.
एक विकसित भारत अपने सबसे कमजोर नागरिकों को उनके निवास क्षेत्र के आधार पर मिलने वाली अनिश्चित सुविधाओं के भरोसे नहीं छोड़ सकता।
- Federalism** cannot be a justification for **inequality**.
संघवाद को असमानता का औचित्य नहीं बनाया जा सकता।
- A **MUDPF** is the next logical step in India's welfare architecture, building on **rights-based entitlements** enabled by **digital inclusion** and **DBT**.
MUDPF भारत की कल्याणकारी संरचना का अगला तार्किक कदम है, जो डिजिटल समावेशन और डीबीटी द्वारा समर्थित अधिकार-आधारित लाभों पर आधारित है।
- It would humanise the state, uphold the dignity of **persons with disabilities** and strengthen the Republic.
यह राज्य को अधिक मानवीय बनाएगा, दिव्यांगजनों की गरिमा को बनाए रखेगा और गणराज्य को सशक्त करेगा।
- Over the past **75 years**, India has steadily expanded its welfare state in pursuit of **social justice**.
पिछले 75 वर्षों में भारत ने सामाजिक न्याय की प्राप्ति के लिए अपने कल्याणकारी राज्य का निरंतर विस्तार किया है।
- With the necessary platforms and delivery systems now in place, the time has come to secure the foundation.
अब जब आवश्यक मंच और सेवा वितरण प्रणालियाँ स्थापित हो चुकी हैं, तो समय आ गया है कि इस आधार को मजबूत किया जाए।
- The real question is whether India recognises **dignity for persons with disabilities** as a **constitutional right** and a **collective obligation**.
वास्तविक प्रश्न यह है कि क्या भारत दिव्यांगजनों की गरिमा को एक संवैधानिक अधिकार और सामूहिक दायित्व के रूप में स्वीकार करता है।
- That promise is long overdue, and a **MUDPF** offers a way to fulfil it.
यह वादा बहुत पहले पूरा हो जाना चाहिए था, और **MUDPF** उसे पूरा करने का एक प्रभावी माध्यम प्रदान करता है।

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GS III: Economy

Long overdue

Coal exchanges can balance out energy scarcities across India

Unveiled at a time of record domestic coal production, the Coal Exchange Rules, 2026, are a case of better-late-than-never. They will create a broad market-based mechanism through regulated trading platforms for the lynchpin of India's energy system – coal. They are aimed at enhancing price discovery, transparency, access for small consumers, as well as, one would hope, reduce bilateral agreements that are often opaque and come with a whiff of graft, too often. Today, most coal transactions between producers and buyers take place through long-term contracts, primarily for the power sector, followed by auctions, imports and captive mining. While India's commodity exchanges are well established, they function largely as financial markets rather than physical delivery platforms. Coal exchanges, however, appear closer in design to power exchanges, which, despite modest volumes, play a role in price discovery, market signalling and the development of secondary markets. As if to prove this point, coal exchanges are expected to serve the non-regulated sector, which relies on Coal India auctions where coal is often sold at a premium to the highest bidder. Power exchanges are not merely niche trading platforms; they serve as points of reference for the broader power market. They have enhanced price discovery and served as a balancing market without replacing long-term power purchase agreements. Initially the power exchanges were only balancing shortages, but eventually the spot prices became a barometer of the broader power market indicating scarcity, surplus and system stresses for all electricity stakeholders. Perhaps the first role of coal exchanges could be to open up inventories, allowing surpluses to balance out shortages across India.

The templates for the two exchanges are not very different though the specific rules framed by the Coal Controller Organisation of India will determine the success of coal exchanges. Just as with the successes, the failures of power exchanges can also serve as lessons learned for coal. Coal is not as fungible as electricity, which once generated is the same everywhere requiring only minimum standards. Coal quality varies widely. Therefore, robust standards and quality assurance are as important as contract design, liquidity creation and enforcement. The latter set of requirements will ensure that major producers and consumers are drawn to the coal exchanges. The emphasis should be on facilitating participation of retail consumers unlike power exchanges, which are dominated by discoms. Coal India's stance will be crucial. Besides safeguards against volatility, dispute resolution mechanisms and improved transportation logistics will be important too, since the coal exchanges will be physical delivery platforms.

than physical delivery platforms.

यद्यपि भारत के वस्तु विनिमय बाज़ार अच्छी तरह स्थापित हैं, वे मुख्यतः वित्तीय बाज़ारों के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, न कि भौतिक आपूर्ति मंचों के रूप में।

- **Coal exchanges**, however, appear closer in design to **power exchanges**, which, despite modest volumes, play a role in **price discovery**, **market signalling** and the development of

13J6. Long overdue

बहुत समय से अपेक्षित

- **Coal exchanges** can balance out **energy scarcities** across India.

कोयला विनिमय मंच भारत भर में ऊर्जा की कमी को संतुलित कर सकते हैं।

Coal Exchange Rules, 2026: A market-based mechanism for coal trading

कोयला विनिमय नियम, 2026: कोयला व्यापार के लिए बाज़ार-आधारित तंत्र

- Unveiled at a time of record domestic **coal** production, the **Coal Exchange Rules, 2026**, are a case of **better-late-than-never**.

रिकॉर्ड स्तर के घरेलू कोयला उत्पादन के समय प्रस्तुत किए गए

कोयला विनिमय नियम, 2026, "देर आए दुस्त आए" की कहावत का उदाहरण हैं।

- They will create a broad **market-based mechanism** through regulated trading platforms for the lynchpin of India's energy system — **coal**.

ये नियम भारत की ऊर्जा व्यवस्था की आधारशिला कोयला के लिए

विनियमित व्यापारिक मंचों के माध्यम से एक व्यापक बाज़ार-

आधारित तंत्र स्थापित करेंगे।

- They are aimed at enhancing **price discovery**, **transparency**, access for **small consumers**, as well as, one would hope, reduce bilateral agreements that are often opaque and come with a whiff of graft, too often.

इनका उद्देश्य मूल्य निर्धारण की पारदर्शिता, पारदर्शकता, छोटे

उपभोक्ताओं की पहुँच बढ़ाना तथा उन द्विपक्षीय समझौतों को कम

करना है जो प्रायः अपारदर्शी होते हैं और जिनमें भ्रष्टाचार की आशंका बनी रहती है।

- Today, most coal transactions between producers and buyers take place through **long-term contracts**, primarily for the **power sector**, followed by auctions, imports and captive mining.

वर्तमान में उत्पादकों और खरीदारों के बीच अधिकांश कोयला लेन-देन

दीर्घकालिक अनुबंधों के माध्यम से होता है, विशेष रूप से विद्युत क्षेत्र

के लिए, इसके बाद नीलामी, आयात और कैप्टिव खनन का स्थान आता है।

- While India's **commodity exchanges** are well established, they function largely as financial markets rather

secondary markets.

हालाँकि कोयला विनिमय मंच संरचना की दृष्टि से विद्युत विनिमय मंचों के अधिक निकट प्रतीत होते हैं, जो सीमित व्यापार मात्रा के बावजूद मूल्य खोज, बाज़ार संकेतों और द्वितीयक बाज़ारों के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

- As if to prove this point, coal exchanges are expected to serve the **non-regulated sector**, which relies on **Coal India auctions** where coal is often sold at a premium to the highest bidder.

इस बात की पुष्टि करते हुए, कोयला विनिमय मंचों से गैर-विनियमित क्षेत्र को सेवा मिलने की अपेक्षा है, जो कोल इंडिया की नीलामियों पर निर्भर रहता है जहाँ कोयला अक्सर उच्चतम बोलीदाता को प्रीमियम मूल्य पर बेचा जाता है।

- Power exchanges** are not merely niche trading platforms; they serve as points of reference for the broader power market.

विद्युत विनिमय मंच केवल विशेष व्यापारिक मंच नहीं हैं; वे व्यापक विद्युत बाज़ार के लिए संदर्भ बिंदु के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

- They have enhanced **price discovery** and served as a **balancing market** without replacing long-term power purchase agreements.

उन्होंने मूल्य निर्धारण प्रक्रिया को बेहतर बनाया है तथा दीर्घकालिक विद्युत खरीद समझौतों को प्रतिस्थापित किए बिना संतुलन बाज़ार के रूप में कार्य किया है।

- Initially the power exchanges were only balancing shortages, but eventually the **spot prices** became a barometer of the broader power market indicating scarcity, surplus and system stresses for all electricity stakeholders.

प्रारंभ में विद्युत विनिमय मंच केवल कमी की पूर्ति करते थे, किन्तु बाद में स्पॉट मूल्य पूरे विद्युत बाज़ार के संकेतक बन गए, जो कमी, अधिशेष तथा प्रणालीगत दबावों को दर्शाते हैं।

- Perhaps the first role of coal exchanges could be to open up **inventories**, allowing surpluses to balance out shortages across India.

संभवतः कोयला विनिमय मंचों की पहली भूमिका भंडारों को खोलना हो सकती है, जिससे अधिशेष कोयला देशभर में कमी की भरपाई कर सके।

- The templates for the two exchanges are not very different though the specific rules framed by the **Coal Controller Organisation of India** will determine the success of coal exchanges.

दोनों प्रकार के विनिमय मंचों की संरचना में बहुत अधिक अंतर नहीं है, किन्तु कोल कंट्रोलर ऑर्गनाइजेशन ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा बनाए गए विशिष्ट नियम कोयला विनिमय मंचों की सफलता निर्धारित करेंगे।

- Just as with the successes, the failures of power exchanges can also serve as lessons learned for coal.

जिस प्रकार विद्युत विनिमय मंचों की सफलताएँ उपयोगी हैं, उसी प्रकार उनकी असफलताएँ भी कोयला क्षेत्र के लिए सीख का कार्य कर सकती हैं।

- Coal is not as **fungible** as electricity, which once generated is the same everywhere requiring only minimum standards.

कोयला बिजली की तरह पूर्णतः विनिमेय (फंजिबल) नहीं है, क्योंकि एक बार उत्पादित बिजली हर स्थान पर समान होती है और केवल न्यूनतम मानकों की आवश्यकता होती है।

- Coal quality** varies widely.

कोयले की गुणवत्ता में व्यापक भिन्नता पाई जाती है।

- Therefore, robust **standards** and **quality assurance** are as important as contract design, liquidity creation and enforcement.

इसलिए मजबूत मानक और गुणवत्ता आश्वासन उतने ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं जितने अनुबंध निर्माण, तरलता सृजन और नियमों का अनुपालन।

- The latter set of requirements will ensure that major producers and consumers are drawn to the coal exchanges.



ये आवश्यकताएँ सुनिश्चित करेंगी कि प्रमुख उत्पादक और उपभोक्ता कोयला विनिमय मंचों की ओर आकर्षित हों।

- The emphasis should be on facilitating participation of **retail consumers** unlike power exchanges, which are dominated by **discoms**.
ज़ोर **खुदरा उपभोक्ताओं** की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने पर होना चाहिए, जबकि विद्युत विनिमय मंचों पर मुख्यतः **डिस्कॉम्स** का प्रभुत्व रहता है।
- Coal India's** stance will be crucial.
कोल इंडिया का रुख अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होगा।
- Besides safeguards against **volatility**, **dispute resolution mechanisms** and improved **transportation logistics** will be important too, since the coal exchanges will be **physical delivery platforms**.
चूँकि कोयला विनिमय मंच **भौतिक आपूर्ति** मंच होंगे, इसलिए **मूल्य अस्थिरता** से सुरक्षा, प्रभावी **विवाद समाधान तंत्र** तथा बेहतर **परिवहन लॉजिस्टिक्स** भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होंगे।

The 8th CPC — a chance to reform pay commissions

GS III: Economy

As India moves toward the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC), public discussion has largely centred on familiar themes – fitment factors, salary revisions and arrears. Yet, the larger question may not be how much compensation should increase, but whether the framework for determining public compensation remains coherent, equitable, and fiscally sustainable. This is not merely an administrative matter. The manner in which the state structures salaries, allowances and pensions reflects broader institutional priorities and influences public confidence in governance.

The framework deficit

Over the decades, Pay Commissions have become far more than wage-revision exercises. Their recommendations shape inter-service parity, long-term fiscal commitments and the institutional balance within the state. Yet, the process remains narrow, with a small, time-bound body tasked with evaluating a diverse ecosystem of civil, military and technical services, largely on the basis of representations from the services themselves. A key challenge is the absence of a common evaluative framework. Services operate under different structures, career trajectories and working conditions, but there is no universally accepted method for comparing risk, responsibility, technical complexity or career progression. As a result, the system often seeks parity without clearly defining its basis.

This challenge is most visible in questions of parity. Officers across services with very different career paths and responsibilities may, at certain stages, receive comparable compensation. The issue is not one of competition between services but institutional coherence. If parity is to be maintained, the principles governing it must be transparent, consistent and objectively justified.

The comparison between civilian services and the armed forces illustrates this complexity. Military careers follow a sharply pyramidal structure, with limited promotional opportunities



Prem Kumar Nair

Retired Indian Army officer (colonel) with an interest in governing architecture and systems

and earlier retirement. Civilian services generally offer broader avenues for advancement and longer careers. Aligning compensation across such different systems requires careful consideration of these structural differences.

Another significant trend is the reduction in experience required for senior administrative positions. While faster career progression may reflect changing governance needs, complex policy challenges still demand institutional memory and seasoned judgment. Efficiency is important, but it cannot fully substitute for experience. Questions also arise over allowances. While they are intended to compensate for hardship, remoteness or operational risk, there is no uniform and transparent framework for assessing such conditions across services. This can create disparities that are difficult to justify and may foster perceptions of inconsistency.

Non-Functional Upgradation (NFU) raises a related concern. By allowing financial advancement without a corresponding increase in responsibility, it weakens the link between role, accountability and compensation. Though introduced to address slower promotion avenues, the NFU continues to generate debate over equity and institutional rationale.

The pension challenge

Pensions add another layer of complexity. India currently operates multiple pension systems, including legacy defined-benefit schemes, contributory plans for newer entrants, and separate arrangements for elected representatives. According to the Reserve Bank of India's State Finances Report (2023), salaries, pensions and interest payments consume a large share of State expenditure, limiting fiscal space for development. As a result, concerns about sustainability and inter-generational equity are becoming increasingly important.

Taken together, these issues highlight the need for a more coherent approach to public compensation. At present, pay frameworks for the executive, legislature and judiciary evolve

through different processes. While constitutionally distinct, this fragmentation can create inconsistencies and reduce transparency in compensation decisions.

Public trust depends not only on fairness, but also on transparency and explainability.

A new compensation architecture

Many countries have gradually moved towards continuous and institutionalised mechanisms for reviewing public sector compensation. Independent authorities, clearly defined benchmarks and periodic review mechanisms have replaced infrequent, large-scale revisions. India's decadal Pay Commission model may therefore warrant reconsideration.

A more durable framework – whether a National Compensation Authority or a specialised public service body – could bring greater consistency to public sector pay. Rather than be a centralising authority, it could establish common principles for assessing responsibility, experience and hardship while preserving flexibility for different services and States.

Importantly, any such reform must respect India's federal structure. States should retain autonomy over implementation while operating within a broader framework of transparency, comparability and fiscal discipline. Greater coherence across branches of government, without affecting constitutional independence, would strengthen both credibility and public confidence.

Ultimately, public compensation is not simply about salaries and pensions. It is part of the larger relationship between the state and the citizen. In a democratic system, compensation structures must not only be financially sustainable, but also publicly explainable.

The 8th Pay Commission presents an opportunity to move beyond periodic revision and engage with these deeper structural questions. Whether that opportunity is utilised meaningfully may shape public trust in institutional governance for years to come.

The 8th Central Pay Commission should reform compensation frameworks, not merely salaries

13J6. The 8th CPC — a chance to reform pay commissions

आठवाँ वेतन आयोग — वेतन आयोगों में सुधार का एक अवसर

- As India moves toward the **8th Central Pay Commission (CPC)**, public discussion has largely centred on familiar themes — **fitment factors**, **salary revisions** and **arrears**.
जैसे-जैसे भारत **आठवें केंद्रीय वेतन आयोग (CPC)** की ओर बढ़ रहा है, सार्वजनिक चर्चा मुख्यतः **फिटमेंट फैक्टर**, **वेतन संशोधन** और **बकाया राशि** जैसे परिचित विषयों पर केंद्रित रही है।

- Yet, the larger question may not be how much compensation should increase, but whether the framework for determining public compensation remains **coherent, equitable, and fiscally sustainable**.
किन्तु बड़ा प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि वेतन कितना बढ़ना चाहिए, बल्कि यह है कि सार्वजनिक वेतन निर्धारण का ढाँचा **सुसंगत, न्यायसंगत और राजकोषीय रूप से टिकाऊ** है या नहीं।
- This is not merely an administrative matter.
यह केवल एक प्रशासनिक विषय नहीं है।
- The manner in which the state structures **salaries, allowances and pensions** reflects broader institutional priorities and influences public confidence in governance.
राज्य जिस प्रकार **वेतन, भत्तों और पेंशन** की संरचना निर्धारित करता है, वह व्यापक संस्थागत प्राथमिकताओं को दर्शाता है तथा शासन के प्रति जनविश्वास को प्रभावित करता है।

The framework deficit ढाँचागत कमी

- Over the decades, **Pay Commissions** have become far more than wage-revision exercises.
समय के साथ **वेतन आयोग** केवल वेतन संशोधन तक सीमित नहीं रहे हैं।
- Their recommendations shape **inter-service parity, long-term fiscal commitments** and the **institutional balance** within the state.
उनकी सिफारिशें **सेवाओं के बीच समानता, दीर्घकालिक राजकोषीय दायित्वों** तथा राज्य के भीतर **संस्थागत संतुलन** को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- Yet, the process remains narrow, with a small, time-bound body tasked with evaluating a diverse ecosystem of **civil, military and technical services**, largely on the basis of representations from the services themselves.
फिर भी यह प्रक्रिया सीमित बनी हुई है, जिसमें एक छोटा और समयबद्ध निकाय मुख्यतः सेवाओं द्वारा प्रस्तुत अभ्यावेदनों के आधार पर **नागरिक, सैन्य और तकनीकी सेवाओं** के विविध ढाँचे का मूल्यांकन करता है।
- A key challenge is the absence of a common **evaluative framework**.
एक प्रमुख चुनौती समान **मूल्यांकन ढाँचे** का अभाव है।
- Services operate under different structures, career trajectories and working conditions, but there is no universally accepted method for comparing **risk, responsibility, technical complexity or career progression**.
विभिन्न सेवाएँ अलग-अलग संरचनाओं, कैरियर मार्गों और कार्य परिस्थितियों में कार्य करती हैं, किन्तु **जोखिम, उत्तरदायित्व, तकनीकी जटिलता** अथवा **कैरियर प्रगति** की तुलना करने के लिए कोई सर्वमान्य पद्धति उपलब्ध नहीं है।
- As a result, the system often seeks **parity** without clearly defining its basis.
परिणामस्वरूप व्यवस्था अक्सर **समानता** स्थापित करने का प्रयास करती है, परंतु उसके आधार को स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित नहीं करती।
- This challenge is most visible in questions of **parity**.
यह चुनौती विशेष रूप से **समानता** से जुड़े प्रश्नों में दिखाई देती है।
- Officers across services with very different career paths and responsibilities may, at certain stages, receive comparable compensation.
भिन्न-भिन्न कैरियर मार्गों और उत्तरदायित्वों वाली सेवाओं के अधिकारी कुछ चरणों में समान वेतन प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
- The issue is not one of competition between services but **institutional coherence**.
यह मुद्दा सेवाओं के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा का नहीं, बल्कि **संस्थागत सुसंगति** का है।
- If parity is to be maintained, the principles governing it must be **transparent, consistent and objectively justified**.
यदि समानता बनाए रखनी है, तो उसके सिद्धांत **पारदर्शी, सुसंगत और वस्तुनिष्ठ रूप से उचित** होने चाहिए।

- The comparison between **civilian services** and the **armed forces** illustrates this complexity. **नागरिक सेवाओं और सशस्त्र बलों के बीच तुलना इस जटिलता को स्पष्ट करती है।**
- Military careers follow a sharply **pyramidal structure**, with limited promotional opportunities and earlier retirement.
सैन्य सेवाएँ एक स्पष्ट **पिरामिडीय संरचना** का अनुसरण करती हैं, जिसमें पदोन्नति के अवसर सीमित होते हैं और सेवानिवृत्ति अपेक्षाकृत जल्दी होती है।
- Civilian services generally offer broader avenues for advancement and longer careers. **नागरिक सेवाएँ सामान्यतः उन्नति के अधिक अवसर और लंबा सेवा काल प्रदान करती हैं।**
- Aligning compensation across such different systems requires careful consideration of these **structural differences**.
ऐसी भिन्न प्रणालियों में वेतन संरचना को संतुलित करने के लिए इन **संरचनात्मक भिन्नताओं** का सावधानीपूर्वक विचार आवश्यक है।
- Another significant trend is the reduction in **experience** required for senior administrative positions.
एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण प्रवृत्ति वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक पदों के लिए आवश्यक **अनुभव** में कमी है।
- While faster career progression may reflect changing governance needs, complex policy challenges still demand **institutional memory** and **seasoned judgment**.
यद्यपि तेज़ कैरियर प्रगति बदलती प्रशासनिक आवश्यकताओं को दर्शा सकती है, फिर भी जटिल नीतिगत चुनौतियों के लिए **संस्थागत स्मृति** और **अनुभवी निर्णय क्षमता** की आवश्यकता बनी रहती है।
- Efficiency is important, but it cannot fully substitute for experience.
दक्षता महत्वपूर्ण है, किन्तु यह अनुभव का पूर्ण विकल्प नहीं बन सकती।
- Questions also arise over **allowances**.
भत्तों को लेकर भी प्रश्न उठते हैं।
- While they are intended to compensate for **hardship**, **remoteness** or **operational risk**, there is no uniform and transparent framework for assessing such conditions across services.
यद्यपि इनका उद्देश्य **कठिन परिस्थितियों**, **दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों** अथवा **संचालन संबंधी जोखिमों** की भरपाई करना है, फिर भी विभिन्न सेवाओं में इन परिस्थितियों के मूल्यांकन के लिए कोई समान और पारदर्शी ढाँचा नहीं है।
- This can create disparities that are difficult to justify and may foster perceptions of inconsistency.
इससे ऐसी असमानताएँ उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं जिन्हें उचित ठहराना कठिन होता है और जो असंगति की धारणा को बढ़ावा देती हैं।
- Non-Functional Upgradation (NFU)** raises a related concern.
गैर-कार्यात्मक उन्नयन (NFU) भी इसी प्रकार की चिंता उत्पन्न करता है।
- By allowing financial advancement without a corresponding increase in responsibility, it weakens the link between **role**, **accountability** and **compensation**.
यह बिना समान स्तर की अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारी दिए वित्तीय उन्नति प्रदान करता है, जिससे **भूमिका**, **जवाबदेही** और **पारिश्रमिक** के बीच संबंध कमजोर पड़ जाता है।
- Though introduced to address slower promotion avenues, the **NFU** continues to generate debate over **equity** and **institutional rationale**.
यद्यपि **NFU** को धीमी पदोन्नति की समस्या दूर करने के लिए लागू किया गया था, फिर भी यह **न्यायसंगतता** और **संस्थागत औचित्य** को लेकर निरंतर बहस का विषय बना हुआ है।

The pension challenge

पेंशन की चुनौती

- Pensions** add another layer of complexity.
पेंशन इस विषय में जटिलता की एक और परत जोड़ती है।
- India currently operates multiple **pension systems**, including legacy **defined-benefit schemes**, **contributory plans** for newer entrants, and separate arrangements for **elected**

representatives.

भारत वर्तमान में अनेक पेंशन प्रणालियाँ संचालित करता है, जिनमें पुरानी परिभाषित-लाभ योजनाएँ, नए कर्मचारियों के लिए अंशदायी योजनाएँ, तथा निर्वाचित जनप्रतिनिधियों के लिए अलग व्यवस्थाएँ शामिल हैं।

- According to the Reserve Bank of India's State Finances Report (2023), salaries, pensions and interest payments consume a large share of State expenditure, limiting fiscal space for development.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक की राज्य वित्त रिपोर्ट (2023) के अनुसार वेतन, पेंशन तथा ब्याज भुगतान राज्यों के व्यय का बड़ा हिस्सा ग्रहण कर लेते हैं, जिससे विकास के लिए उपलब्ध राजकोषीय संसाधन सीमित हो जाते हैं।

- As a result, concerns about sustainability and inter-generational equity are becoming increasingly important.

परिणामस्वरूप दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता तथा पीढ़ियों के बीच न्यायसंगतता से जुड़ी चिंताएँ लगातार महत्वपूर्ण होती जा रही हैं।

- Taken together, these issues highlight the need for a more coherent approach to public compensation.

इन सभी मुद्दों को एक साथ देखने पर सार्वजनिक पारिश्रमिक व्यवस्था के लिए अधिक सुसंगत दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता स्पष्ट होती है।

- At present, pay frameworks for the executive, legislature and judiciary evolve through different processes.

वर्तमान में कार्यपालिका, विधायिका और न्यायपालिका के वेतन ढाँचे अलग-अलग प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से विकसित होते हैं।

- While constitutionally distinct, this fragmentation can create inconsistencies and reduce transparency in compensation decisions.

यद्यपि ये संवैधानिक रूप से अलग संस्थाएँ हैं, फिर भी यह विखंडन वेतन निर्धारण संबंधी निर्णयों में असंगतियाँ उत्पन्न कर सकता है और पारदर्शिता को कम कर सकता है।

- Public trust depends not only on fairness, but also on transparency and explainability.

जनविश्वास केवल निष्पक्षता पर ही नहीं, बल्कि पारदर्शिता और स्पष्ट व्याख्यात्मकता पर भी निर्भर करता है।

A new compensation architecture

एक नई पारिश्रमिक संरचना

- Many countries have gradually moved towards continuous and institutionalised mechanisms for reviewing public sector compensation.

अनेक देशों ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के पारिश्रमिक की समीक्षा के लिए क्रमिक रूप से निरंतर और संस्थागत तंत्र विकसित किए हैं।

- Independent authorities, clearly defined benchmarks and periodic review mechanisms have replaced infrequent, large-scale revisions.

स्वतंत्र प्राधिकरणों, स्पष्ट रूप से निर्धारित मानकों तथा नियमित समीक्षा प्रणालियों ने अनियमित और बड़े पैमाने पर होने वाले संशोधनों का स्थान ले लिया है।

- India's decadal Pay Commission model may therefore warrant reconsideration.

इसलिए भारत के दशकीय वेतन आयोग मॉडल पर पुनर्विचार किया जाना उचित हो सकता है।

- A more durable framework — whether a National Compensation Authority or a specialised public service body — could bring greater consistency to public sector pay.

एक अधिक स्थायी ढाँचा — चाहे वह राष्ट्रीय पारिश्रमिक प्राधिकरण हो या कोई विशेष सार्वजनिक सेवा निकाय — सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के वेतन में अधिक सुसंगति ला सकता है।

- Rather than be a centralising authority, it could establish common principles for assessing responsibility, experience and hardship while preserving flexibility for different services and States.

एक केंद्रीकृत संस्था बनने के बजाय यह उत्तरदायित्व, अनुभव और कठिन परिस्थितियों के मूल्यांकन के लिए

समान सिद्धांत निर्धारित कर सकती है, जबकि विभिन्न सेवाओं और राज्यों के लिए आवश्यक लचीलापन भी बनाए रख सकती है।

- Importantly, any such reform must respect India's **federal structure**.
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, किसी भी ऐसे सुधार को भारत की **संघीय संरचना** का सम्मान करना चाहिए।
- States should retain autonomy over implementation while operating within a broader framework of **transparency, comparability** and **fiscal discipline**.
राज्यों को कार्यान्वयन में स्वायत्तता बनाए रखनी चाहिए, जबकि वे **पारदर्शिता, तुलनात्मकता और राजकोषीय अनुशासन** के व्यापक ढाँचे के भीतर कार्य करें।
- Greater coherence across branches of government, without affecting **constitutional independence**, would strengthen both credibility and public confidence.
संवैधानिक स्वतंत्रता को प्रभावित किए बिना शासन की विभिन्न शाखाओं के बीच अधिक सुसंगति स्थापित करना विश्वसनीयता और जनविश्वास दोनों को सुदृढ़ करेगा।
- Ultimately, public compensation is not simply about **salaries and pensions**.
अंततः सार्वजनिक पारिश्रमिक केवल **वेतन और पेंशन** तक सीमित विषय नहीं है।
- It is part of the larger relationship between the **state** and the **citizen**.
यह **राज्य और नागरिक** के बीच व्यापक संबंध का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।
- In a democratic system, compensation structures must not only be financially sustainable, but also publicly explainable.
एक लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में पारिश्रमिक संरचनाएँ केवल वित्तीय रूप से टिकाऊ ही नहीं, बल्कि जनता के समक्ष स्पष्ट रूप से समझाई जा सकने योग्य भी होनी चाहिए।
- The **8th Pay Commission** presents an opportunity to move beyond periodic revision and engage with these deeper structural questions.
आठवाँ वेतन आयोग केवल समय-समय पर होने वाले संशोधनों से आगे बढ़कर इन गहरे संरचनात्मक प्रश्नों पर विचार करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है।
- Whether that opportunity is utilised meaningfully may shape public trust in **institutional governance** for years to come.
इस अवसर का कितना सार्थक उपयोग किया जाता है, यह आने वाले वर्षों में **संस्थागत शासन** के प्रति जनता के विश्वास को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

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13J6	The human cost of a deadly weed killer एक घातक खरपतवारनाशी की मानवीय कीमत	
13J6	Following earlier setbacks, Japan's H3 rocket lifts off पहले के झटकों के बाद जापान का H3 रॉकेट सफलतापूर्वक प्रक्षेपित हुआ	



A farmer sprays pesticides in a paddy field on the outskirts of Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

The human cost of a deadly weed killer

In March, Telangana banned paraquat, one of the world's most widely used and highly toxic weedkicides, becoming only the third State in India to do so. The herbicide is responsible for hundreds of deaths each year, most of them suicides and some accidental. **Serish Naniseti** reports on the campaign that led to the ban and why much more remains to be done

SERISH NANISETI

At 50, Banoth Goud (name changed) has lived to tell a tale. "I may look normal, but I become breathless when I climb stairs or even walk more than five minutes. The doctor says my lungs got affected," he says.

About three years ago, on a sweltering afternoon, Goud opened his refrigerator, took out a small plastic bottle labelled with a popular juice brand, and took a sip. The drink did not have the sweet, tart apple flavour that he was used to; instead, it tasted flat. He began vomiting.

Goud did not know that he had drunk paraquat, a highly toxic herbicide and one of the most effective weed killers in the world. Paraquat, a colourless and tasteless liquid, is most often fatal for both humans and animals.

It was a mistake that resulted in Goud fighting for his life. "I had asked my nephew to get the *gaddi mandu* (the local term for the weedicide) to clear weeds in front of our house," he recalls.

"He kept the bottle on a table inside the house. My wife thought it was a cool drink and placed it inside the fridge." While wholesale traders store paraquat in drums, farmers and others often fill up spray bottles with the weedicide.

Goud was rushed from his house in Paloncha to a hospital in Kothagudem, about 11 kilometres away. The doctors were sure he would die.

Being an employee of TSGENCO (Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited), Goud had an ESIC (Employee State Insurance Corporation) card, necessary for workers below a certain salary level to access free medical care and financial benefits at ESIC dispensaries and hospitals across the State. He was quickly ferried in an ambulance to a tertiary-care facility in Hyderabad, roughly 285 km away.

Dr. Verrana Addanki, a General Medicine practitioner, noticed that Goud had a "paraquat mouth" – the severe, corrosive damage that occurs when a person swallows or is exposed to paraquat – and put him on continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). Over the next 40 days, Goud's condition slowly improved.

"His family had given up on him," remembers Dr. Addanki. "But we persisted and he had the will to survive too. Now, he has photographs of his family as his WhatsApp display picture."

On March 31, 2026, Telangana banned the sale, distribution, manufacture, and use of paraquat, to protect the safety and health of people, especially farmers. It became only the third State to do so, after Kerala and Odisha. The Government Order was issued days after intense lobbying by doctors, clinicians, and public representatives calling for the ban of the weedicide, which has been often used for self-harm. Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh followed suit in May.

Bans and bust-ups

Paraquat wreaks havoc due to its immense potential for harm, easy availability, low price



A ban by one State without the involvement of e-commerce sites is just a ban on paper. It is ineffectual.

DILEEP KUMAR
Pesticide Action Network

(₹280 per litre), and widespread use in India. The only law to regulate hazardous chemicals such as paraquat is the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Goud's story is an exception: the weedicide has killed thousands of people, as is evident from autopsy reports from hospitals across the world. Paraquat is banned in 74 countries. In India, Kerala became the first State to ban it in 2011. However, in February 2022, the Kerala High Court overturned the ban following a plea by a cardamom growers' collective. While the Kerala Agriculture Department's notification specifically named the chemical along with 13 others, the High Court struck down the ban on the technical ground that the State did not have the authority to enforce it beyond 60-30 days (as per Section 27 of the Insecticides Act).

In October 2022, Kerala was rocked by the murder of Sharon Raj, who was allegedly poisoned with a paraquat-laced drink by his fiancée, Greshma. He died at the Medical College Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram, triggering a public uproar as details of the case quickly emerged in the public domain.

"We can still order it online," says Dileep Kumar of Pesticide Action Network, a global coalition of over 600 NGOs, institutions, and individuals across 90 countries dedicated to eliminating hazardous chemical pesticides. "A ban by one State without the involvement of e-commerce sites is just a ban on paper. It is ineffectual," he points out.

Kumar adds that the country needs stronger laws and regulations to manage the crisis. "Even the Bhopal gas tragedy [in 1984] did not lead to new laws to regulate pesticides," he says.

The problem is not just limited regulation of pesticides, weedkicides, and insecticides; it is also low awareness about safe use. According to a

statement by the Minister of State for Agriculture in the Lok Sabha, 79,185 farmers were made aware of the safe and judicious use of pesticides between 2020 and 2026. This is a low share in a country where 46.1% of the population is dependent on agriculture, as per the Economic Survey of 2025-26.

As per the Act, the ban in Telangana was for 60 days and can be extended by 30 more days. On the day that the Telangana issued a Government Order imposing a ban on paraquat, the Legislative Assembly passed a bipartisan resolution asking the Central government to ban the chemical across the country.

Lobbying for a ban

On the afternoon of February 12, Dr. Marri Mahesh Reddy, the founder of a grassroots movement called Doctors Against Paraquat, called for a gathering of farmers in Potluram village in Karimnagar. The emerald green village, with endless paddy fields, is on the eastern side of the Sriramagur flood flow canal that carries water from the Godavari river. This whistle-stop tour and meeting with farmers was part of a campaign by Dr. Reddy.

"Didn't we do agriculture before this? Brush-cutter *leva*, *vere mandulu leva*. *Dina valla yavuruki upogam?* (We have brush-cutters, sickles, and other chemicals. Why use this toxic substance?)"

He explained what made paraquat particularly dangerous. "I used to get emergency cases of snake bites and poisoning," he said. "There were antidotes for snakebites and the venom was not always so toxic. But paraquat is in a different league. It destroys the cell structure and there is no antidote."

Doctors Against Paraquat comprises 202 doctors drawn from different parts of Telangana, who lobbied with politicians, farmers, and bureaucrats relentlessly for a ban on paraquat. Using social media and personal connections, Dr. Reddy reached out to the Telangana Chief Minister's Office, the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office, the Prime Minister's Office, and politicians.

Yet, Potluram and other farming villages have found paraquat useful. As labour shortage is rising and the cost of hiring farm workers is increasing, farmers use paraquat, which is labelled and sold as non-selective contact herbicide (meaning, it does not differentiate between one plant and another), to clean up residual plants and weeds. Paraquat imports to India rose from 8,598 tonnes in 2019-20 to 20,786 tonnes in 2022-23, according to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2542 under the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in 2025.

"Without any oversight or intervention by officials from the agriculture department, there is a runaway use of paraquat in most parts of the country. There are many accidental deaths due to careless use as well," says Kodanda Reddy, Chairperson of the Telangana Agriculture Farmers Welfare Commission, who has also worked to get the ban imposed in the State.

"Currently we are working with e-commerce companies as well as cyber crime officials to ensure that the product is not available in online stores," he adds. This lobbying appears to have paid off, as two big e-commerce sites – Flipkart and Amazon – no longer list the chemical in Telangana. However, it is easily available from smaller agriculture commerce sites.

A rush to save patients

Bodies are constantly wheeled in and out of the Department of Forensic Medicine, Toxicology and Autopsy Complex at Gandhi Hospital in



Without any oversight or intervention by officials from the agriculture department, there is a runaway use of paraquat in most parts of the country.

KODANDA REDDY
Chairperson of the Telangana Agriculture Farmers Welfare Commission

Hyderabad. Families wait in grief and the police mill around. There is an overpowering odour of bleach, urine, and putrefying flesh.

The toll of paraquat poisoning is evident here. According to Dr. Atmudi Vivek Sai Ram's Doctor of Medicine dissertation, "An autopsy based study on deaths due to Paraquat poisoning in Gandhi Hospital", the facility recorded 217 cases of paraquat poisoning in 2024 and 2025. Of these, 54% of the patients were farmers and 16% students. Of the 100 cases studied for the dissertation, 94% were suicide cases and 5% were accidental.

"There is no treatment for paraquat poisoning, no antidote. We only receive clues from the family when bottles with labels are found near the victim or there is an oral statement," says Dr. Krupal Singh, the head of department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. He is also part of Doctors Against Paraquat.

"All we can do is symptomatic treatment," Dr. Singh adds. "As a result, treatment remains largely supportive, focusing on early gastrointestinal decontamination, organ support, and prevention of further oxidative damage. If the patient is put on a ventilator, the progress of the chemical is accelerated, with multiple organ failure and fibrosis of lungs being irreversible."

Inside the nephrology ward of the century-old Osmania General Hospital in Hyderabad, patients sit in rows. "Every month, we get 4-5 paraquat-related cases. Most of the patients die within days," says Dr. Manisha Shenoy, Head of the Nephrology Department, who is the first doctor to be called in once a patient suspected of imbibing paraquat is wheeled into the hospital.

"The prognosis is bleak even with advanced treatment like CRRT," she explains. "The chemical causes rapid damage, first to the kidneys, then the liver, and eventually the lungs. Intubation of a patient on a ventilator accelerates damage to the lungs." She does not remember any survivors.

Poor regulatory efforts

While the dangers of paraquat and its misuse have drawn global attention, regulatory efforts in India have largely escaped public scrutiny.

Paraquat's origins date back to the 1880s, when it was first developed as a chemical dye. Its herbicidal properties were discovered in the 1950s, and Imperial Chemical Industries began marketing it as Gramoxone in 1959. It concerns about its toxicity surfaced early in India. In 1989, G. Vijaya Rama Rao, a doctor from Siddipet, raised the issue in the Lok Sabha, but the Agriculture Minister said the government had received no reports of harmful effects.

However, Imperial Chemical Industries documents suggest the company was aware of the risks. An agenda paper by the company dated November 19, 1987, and accessed by *The Hindu*, noted: "Suicidal abuse of the product will not be eliminated." According to the paper, the company also chose not to dilute the chemical to make it safer, calculating that this would increase packaging size fivefold. It noted that "usage by farmers would reduce significantly because of bulk inconvenience/higher prices."

During these years, Imperial Chemical Industries was earning significant revenues from paraquat. In 1987, sales of the product reached 15,000 tonnes, generating ₹192 million, according to a document from October 4, 1988, and accessed by *The Hindu*.

In August 2025, the Lok Sabha was informed that there are 1,503 licensed manufacturers of paraquat in the country. While Telangana banned the herbicide on March 31, on April 16, the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee, at its 471st meeting, cleared seven applications for formulation under indigenous manufacture as "satisfactory."

India has not been a passive player in the regulation of paraquat; it has also, at times, been an enabler in its continued use. In May 2013, India joined Guatemala in opposing the listing of paraquat as a "severely hazardous pesticide formulation" under Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, a multi-lateral environmental agreement. Such a listing would not have led to a banning of the chemical, but it would have required exporting countries to notify and obtain prior consent from importing countries before shipment. The proposal was supported by 118 countries but did not go through because the treaty's voting rules require complete consensus.

CropLife India, representing 17 agro-chemical companies, said to *The Hindu*, "Sudden restrictions on paraquat dichloride and carbosulfan, just as kharif sowing begins, could raise input costs, disrupt crop protection, and deepen farmer vulnerability." Paraquat is used on nearly 80 lakh acres in India and remains a low-cost weed-control option for small farmers, it added.

In Karimnagar, however, the ban has already had a visible impact. "Deaths due to paraquat have dropped from around 30-50 per month before the ban to 3-5 now, according to data from pulmonologists and nephrologists," says Dr. Reddy. "We can reach zero deaths if the ban is imposed across the country and the chemical is removed from shelves and online stores. All doctors will breathe easier if that happens."

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies could seek help and counselling by calling any of the following numbers: *ILife* - 78330-78330

serish.naniseti@thehindu.co.in



Ambulance vans stand outside the Gandhi Hospital mortuary in Hyderabad, where 217 paraquat victims were brought in for postmortem examination between 2024 and 2025. NAGARA GOPAL

13J6. The human cost of a deadly weed killer

एक घातक खरपतवारनाशी की मानवीय कीमत

- In March, **Telangana** banned **paraquat**, one of the world's most widely used and highly toxic weedicides, becoming only the third State in India to do so.
मार्च में तेलंगाना ने पैराक्वाट पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया, जो दुनिया में सबसे अधिक उपयोग किए जाने वाले और अत्यधिक विषैले खरपतवारनाशियों में से एक है, और ऐसा करने वाला भारत का तीसरा राज्य बन गया।
- The herbicide is responsible for hundreds of deaths each year, most of them suicides and some accidental.
यह खरपतवारनाशी हर वर्ष सैकड़ों मौतों के लिए जिम्मेदार है, जिनमें अधिकांश आत्महत्याएं और कुछ दुर्घटनावश होती हैं।
- Serish Naniseti** reports on the campaign that led to the ban and why much more remains to be done.
सेरिश नानिसेट्टी उस अभियान पर रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करते हैं जिसने इस प्रतिबंध का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया और बताते हैं कि अभी भी बहुत कुछ किया जाना बाकी है।
- At 50, **Banoth Goud** (name changed) has lived to tell a tale.
50 वर्ष की आयु में बनोथ गौड़ (नाम बदला गया है) जीवित हैं और अपनी कहानी सुना सकते हैं।
- "I may look normal, but I become breathless when I climb stairs or even walk more than five minutes. The doctor says my lungs got affected," he says.
वे कहते हैं, "मैं सामान्य दिख सकता हूँ, लेकिन सीढ़ियाँ चढ़ते समय या पाँच मिनट से अधिक चलने पर मेरी सांस फूल जाती है। डॉक्टर कहते हैं कि मेरे फेफड़े प्रभावित हो गए हैं।"
- About three years ago, on a sweltering afternoon, Goud opened his refrigerator, took out a small plastic bottle labelled with a popular juice brand, and took a sip.
लगभग तीन वर्ष पहले, एक तपती दोपहर में, गौड़ ने अपना रेफ्रिजरेटर खोला, एक लोकप्रिय जूस ब्रांड के लेबल वाली छोटी प्लास्टिक की बोतल निकाली और एक घूट लिया।
- The drink did not have the sweet, tart apple flavour that he was used to; instead, it tasted flat.
उस पेय में वह मीठा और हल्का खट्टा सेब का स्वाद नहीं था जिसकी उन्हें आदत थी; इसके बजाय उसका स्वाद फीका था।
- He began vomiting.
उन्हें उल्टियाँ होने लगीं।
- Goud did not know that he had drunk **paraquat**, a highly toxic herbicide and one of the most effective weed killers in the world.
गौड़ को यह नहीं पता था कि उन्होंने पैराक्वाट पी लिया है, जो अत्यधिक विषैला खरपतवारनाशी और दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी खरपतवार नाशकों में से एक है।
- Paraquat**, a colourless and tasteless liquid, is most often fatal for both humans and animals.
पैराक्वाट, जो रंगहीन और स्वादहीन तरल है, मनुष्यों और जानवरों दोनों के लिए अक्सर घातक सिद्ध होता है।
- It was a mistake that resulted in Goud fighting for his life.
यह एक ऐसी गलती थी जिसने गौड़ को जीवन के लिए संघर्ष करने पर मजबूर कर दिया।
- "I had asked my nephew to get the gaddi mandu (the local term for the weedicide) to clear weeds in front of our house," he recalls.
वे याद करते हैं, "मैंने अपने भतीजे से हमारे घर के सामने उगी खरपतवार साफ करने के लिए गड्डी मंडु (स्थानीय नाम) लाने को कहा था।"
- "He kept the bottle on a table inside the house. My wife thought it was a cool drink and placed it inside the fridge."
"उसने बोतल घर के अंदर एक मेज पर रख दी। मेरी पत्नी ने उसे शीतल पेय समझकर फ्रिज में रख दिया।"

- While wholesale traders store paraquat in drums, farmers and others often fill up stray bottles with the weedicide.
जहाँ थोक व्यापारी पैराक्वाट को ड्रमों में रखते हैं, वहीं किसान और अन्य लोग अक्सर इसे खाली बोतलों में भर लेते हैं।
- Goud was rushed from his house in **Paloncha** to a hospital in **Kothegudem**, about 11 kilometres away.
गौड़ को पालोनचा स्थित घर से लगभग 11 किलोमीटर दूर कोठागुडेम के अस्पताल ले जाया गया।
- The doctors were sure he would die.
डॉक्टरों को विश्वास था कि उनकी मृत्यु हो जाएगी।
- Being an employee of **TSGENCO (Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited)**, Goud had an **ESIC (Employee State Insurance Corporation)** card, necessary for workers below a certain salary level to access free medical care and financial benefits at ESIC dispensaries and hospitals across the State.
TSGENCO (तेलंगाना स्टेट पावर जनरेशन कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड) के कर्मचारी होने के कारण गौड़ के पास **ESIC (कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम)** कार्ड था, जो एक निश्चित वेतन स्तर से नीचे के कर्मचारियों को राज्य भर में निःशुल्क चिकित्सा सुविधा और वित्तीय लाभ प्राप्त करने के लिए आवश्यक होता है।
- He was quickly ferried in an ambulance to a tertiary-care facility in **Hyderabad**, roughly 285 km away.
उन्हें तुरंत एम्बुलेंस द्वारा लगभग 285 किलोमीटर दूर हैदराबाद के एक तृतीयक चिकित्सा केंद्र ले जाया गया।
- Dr. Verrana Addanki**, a General Medicine practitioner, noticed that Goud had a '**paraquat mouth**' — the severe, corrosive damage that occurs when a person swallows or is exposed to paraquat — and put him on continuous renal replacement therapy (**CRRT**).
जनरल मेडिसिन विशेषज्ञ डॉ. वेराना अड्डांकी ने देखा कि गौड़ को 'पैराक्वाट माउथ' हो गया था — यह वह गंभीर संक्षारक क्षति है जो किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा पैराक्वाट निगलने या उसके संपर्क में आने पर होती है — और उन्हें **CRRT** पर रखा गया।
- Over the next 40 days, Goud's condition slowly improved.
अगले 40 दिनों में गौड़ की स्थिति धीरे-धीरे सुधरने लगी।
- "His family had given up on him," remembers Dr. Addanki.
डॉ. अड्डांकी याद करते हैं, "उनके परिवार ने उनसे उम्मीद छोड़ दी थी।"
- "But we persisted and he had the will to survive too. Now, he has photographs of his family as his WhatsApp display picture."
"लेकिन हमने प्रयास जारी रखा और उनमें भी जीवित रहने की इच्छा थी। अब उन्होंने अपने परिवार की तस्वीर को व्हाट्सएप डिस्प्ले पिक्चर बनाया हुआ है।"
- On **March 31, 2026**, Telangana banned the sale, distribution, manufacture, and use of **paraquat**, to protect the safety and health of people, especially farmers.
31 मार्च 2026 को तेलंगाना ने लोगों, विशेषकर किसानों, की सुरक्षा और स्वास्थ्य की रक्षा के लिए **पैराक्वाट** की बिक्री, वितरण, निर्माण और उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।
- It became only the third State to do so, after **Kerala** and **Odisha**.
केरल और ओडिशा के बाद ऐसा करने वाला यह तीसरा राज्य बना।
- The Government Order was issued days after intense lobbying by doctors, clinicians, and public representatives calling for the ban of the weedicide, which has been often used for self-harm.
यह सरकारी आदेश डॉक्टरों, चिकित्सकों और जनप्रतिनिधियों द्वारा इस खरपतवारनाशी पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की जोरदार मांग के कुछ दिनों बाद जारी किया गया, जिसका अक्सर आत्म-हानि के लिए उपयोग किया जाता रहा है।
- Neighbouring **Andhra Pradesh** followed suit in May.
पड़ोसी **आंध्र प्रदेश** ने भी मई में यही कदम उठाया।

Bans and bust-ups प्रतिबंध और टकराव

- Paraquat wreaks havoc due to its immense potential for harm, easy availability, low price (₹280 per litre), and widespread use in India.
पैराक्वाट अपनी अत्यधिक हानिकारक क्षमता, आसान उपलब्धता, कम कीमत (₹280 प्रति लीटर) और भारत में व्यापक उपयोग के कारण भारी विनाश करता है।
- The only law to regulate hazardous chemicals such as paraquat is the **Insecticides Act, 1968**.
पैराक्वाट जैसे खतरनाक रसायनों को विनियमित करने वाला एकमात्र कानून **कीटनाशक अधिनियम, 1968** है।
- Goud's story is an exception: the weedicide has killed thousands of people, as is evident from autopsy reports from hospitals across the world.
गौड़ की कहानी एक अपवाद है; यह खरपतवारनाशी दुनिया भर के अस्पतालों की पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्टों के अनुसार हजारों लोगों की जान ले चुका है।
- Paraquat** is banned in 74 countries.
पैराक्वाट 74 देशों में प्रतिबंधित है।
- In India, **Kerala** became the first State to ban it in 2011.
भारत में **केरल** 2011 में इस पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला पहला राज्य बना।
- However, in February 2022, the **Kerala High Court** overturned the ban following a plea by a cardamom growers' collective.
हालांकि, फरवरी 2022 में **केरल उच्च न्यायालय** ने इलायची उत्पादकों के एक समूह की याचिका पर यह प्रतिबंध रद्द कर दिया।
- (लेख अत्यंत विस्तृत है। एक ही उत्तर में पूर्ण अंग्रेजी एवं समानांतर हिन्दी अनुवाद देने पर उत्तर बहुत लंबा हो जाएगा और तकनीकी सीमा पार कर सकता है। कृपया "Continue" लिखें, मैं शेष भाग को उसी प्रारूप में, बिना कोई शब्द छोड़े, आगे जारी कर दूँगा।)

Following earlier setbacks, Japan's H3 rocket lifts off

GS III: S&T
Agence France Presse
TOKYO

Japan's flagship H3 rocket successfully blasted off on Friday, live footage showed, months after its previous mission to put a geolocation satellite into orbit ended in failure.

The H3 was developed to boost the international competitiveness of Japan's rocket industry, and the country's space agency has come under pressure to increase the success rate of launches.

The rocket has been mooted as a rival to SpaceX's Falcon 9, and could one day deliver cargo to bases on the moon. On Friday, the rocket — which was carrying six small satellites — lifted off at 9:53 a.m. (0053 GMT) from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan.

"The second-stage combustion, action control and trajectory are all normal," the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in a live YouTube broadcast, about six minutes after blast-off.

The satellites loaded onto the rocket included Tokyo University of Science's "Umitsubame", which observes earth and other targets with a high-performance camera, and Shizuoka University's "Shiraito", which is testing space debris capture technology, according to JAXA.

Designed for "high flexibility, high reliability, and high cost performance", JAXA had boasted five successful launches of the H3 before Friday, but there have been two failures, including the last one in December.

H3 project manager Makoto Arita said prior to lift-off that the latest attempt was "crucial for our comeback" following December's failed mission, in which a second-stage engine terminated prematurely. The space agency is targeting up to eight H3 rocket launches a year, according to a JAXA official.

13J6. Following earlier setbacks, Japan's H3 rocket lifts off पहले के झटकों के बाद जापान का H3 रॉकेट सफलतापूर्वक प्रक्षेपित हुआ

- Japan's flagship **H3 rocket** successfully blasted off on Friday, live footage showed, months after its previous mission to put a **geolocation satellite** into orbit ended in failure.
लाइव फुटेज के अनुसार जापान का प्रमुख **H3 रॉकेट** शुक्रवार को सफलतापूर्वक प्रक्षेपित हुआ, जबकि कुछ महीने पहले **भू-स्थान निर्धारण उपग्रह (Geolocation Satellite)** को कक्षा में स्थापित करने का उसका मिशन विफल हो गया था।
- The **H3** was developed to boost the international competitiveness of Japan's **rocket industry**, and the country's **space agency** has come under pressure to increase the success rate of launches.
H3 को जापान के **रॉकेट उद्योग** की अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बढ़ाने के लिए विकसित किया गया था और देश की **अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी** पर प्रक्षेपणों की सफलता दर बढ़ाने का दबाव रहा है।
- The rocket has been mooted as a rival to **SpaceX's Falcon 9**, and could one day deliver cargo to bases on the **moon**.
इस रॉकेट को **स्पेसएक्स के फाल्कन 9** के प्रतिद्वंद्वी के रूप में देखा गया है और यह भविष्य में **चंद्रमा** पर स्थित ठिकानों तक माल पहुंचा सकता है।
- On Friday, the rocket — which was carrying **six small satellites** — lifted off at **9:53 a.m. (0053 GMT)** from **Tanegashima Space Center** in southern Japan.



शुक्रवार को यह रॉकेट, जिसमें छह छोटे उपग्रह थे, दक्षिणी जापान के तानेगाशिमा स्पेस सेंटर से सुबह 9:53 बजे (0053 GMT) प्रक्षेपित हुआ।

- “The second-stage combustion, action control and trajectory are all normal,” the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in a live YouTube broadcast, about six minutes after blast-off.

जापान एयरोस्पेस एक्सप्लोरेशन एजेंसी (JAXA) ने प्रक्षेपण के लगभग छह मिनट बाद एक लाइव यूट्यूब प्रसारण में कहा, “द्वितीय चरण का दहन, एक्शन कंट्रोल और प्रक्षेपवक्र (Trajectory) सभी सामान्य हैं।”

- The satellites loaded onto the rocket included Tokyo University of Science’s “Umitsubame”, which observes earth and other targets with a high-performance camera, and Shizuoka University’s “Shiraito”, which is testing space debris capture technology, according to JAXA.

JAXA के अनुसार रॉकेट में टोक्यो यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ साइंस का “उमिउसुबामे” उपग्रह शामिल था, जो उच्च-प्रदर्शन कैमरे से पृथ्वी और अन्य लक्ष्यों का अवलोकन करता है, तथा शिजुओका यूनिवर्सिटी का “शिराइटो” उपग्रह भी था, जो अंतरिक्ष मलबा पकड़ने की तकनीक (Space Debris Capture Technology) का परीक्षण कर रहा है।

- Designed for “high flexibility, high reliability, and high cost performance”, JAXA had toasted five successful launches of the H3 before Friday, but there have been two failures, including the last one in December.

“उच्च लचीलापन, उच्च विश्वसनीयता और उच्च लागत-प्रदर्शन” के लिए डिज़ाइन किए गए H3 के शुक्रवार से पहले पाँच सफल प्रक्षेपण हो चुके थे, लेकिन इसमें दो विफलताएँ भी रही हैं, जिनमें दिसंबर का अंतिम मिशन शामिल है।

- H3 project manager Makoto Arita said prior to lift-off that the latest attempt was “crucial for our comeback” following December’s failed mission, in which a second-stage engine terminated prematurely.

H3 परियोजना प्रबंधक मकोतो अरिता ने प्रक्षेपण से पहले कहा कि दिसंबर के विफल मिशन के बाद यह नवीनतम प्रयास “हमारी वापसी के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण” है, जिसमें दूसरे चरण का इंजन समय से पहले बंद हो गया था।

- The space agency is targeting up to eight H3 rocket launches a year, according to a JAXA official.

JAXA के एक अधिकारी के अनुसार अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी का लक्ष्य प्रति वर्ष आठ H3 रॉकेट प्रक्षेपण तक पहुंचना है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
13J6	Lt.-Gen. Rajiv Ghai appointed Military Adviser to NSCS लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल राजीव घई एनएससीएस के सैन्य सलाहकार नियुक्त	
13J6	Project Kusha, our indigenous air defence shield, will be a game changer, says Rajnath प्रोजेक्ट कुशा, हमारी स्वदेशी वायु रक्षा ढाल, एक गेम चेंजर साबित होगी : राजनाथ सिंह	



Lt.-Gen. Rajiv Ghai appointed Military Adviser to NSCS

GS III: Internal Security: Defence
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-General Rajiv Ghai, who is currently serving as the Deputy Chief of the Indian Army and who spearheaded military operations as Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) during Operation Sindoor last year, has been appointed the new Military Adviser (MA) to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

This marks the first time that a serving military officer has been appointed Military Adviser to the NSCS, which functions under National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Lieutenant-General Ghai, whose tenure in service extends till December 2027, was appointed to the post earlier this week. He is expected to assume charge shortly. The position was previously held by General N.S. Raja Subramani before



Lieutenant-General Rajiv Ghai

he was appointed Chief of Defence Staff. Prior to him, the post was occupied by Air Marshal Sandeep Singh and, earlier, by General Anil Chauhan.

Commissioned into the Kumaon Regiment, Lieutenant-General Ghai has held several key operational and command appointments during his distinguished military career. His appointment is being seen as a significant move aimed at strengthening military inputs and operational expertise within the country's highest national security decision-making framework.

13J6. Lt.-Gen. Rajiv Ghai appointed Military Adviser to NSCS

लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल राजीव घई एनएससीएस के सैन्य सलाहकार नियुक्त

- Lieutenant-General Rajiv Ghai, who is currently serving as the Deputy Chief of the Indian Army and who spearheaded military operations as Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) during Operation Sindoor last year, has been appointed the new Military Adviser (MA) to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

- लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल राजीव घई, जो वर्तमान में भारतीय सेना के उप प्रमुख (Deputy Chief of the Indian Army) के रूप में कार्यरत हैं और जिन्होंने पिछले वर्ष ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के दौरान महानिदेशक सैन्य संचालन (DGMO) के रूप में सैन्य अभियानों का नेतृत्व किया था, उन्हें राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद सचिवालय (NSCS) का नया सैन्य सलाहकार (MA) नियुक्त किया गया है।

- This marks the first time that a serving military officer has been appointed Military Adviser to the NSCS, which functions under National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

- यह पहली बार है कि किसी सेवारत सैन्य अधिकारी को एनएससीएस में सैन्य सलाहकार नियुक्त किया गया है, जो राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोवाल के अधीन कार्य करता है।

- Lieutenant-General Ghai, whose tenure in service extends till December 2027, was appointed to the post earlier this week.

- लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल घई, जिनका सेवा कार्यकाल दिसंबर 2027 तक है, को इस सप्ताह की शुरुआत में इस पद पर नियुक्त किया गया।

- He is expected to assume charge shortly.
- उनके शीघ्र ही पदभार ग्रहण करने की अपेक्षा है।
- The position was previously held by General N.S. Raja Subramani before he was appointed Chief of Defence Staff.
- इस पद पर पहले जनरल एन.एस. राजा सुब्रमणि थे, जिन्हें बाद में चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ नियुक्त किया गया।
- Prior to him, the post was occupied by Air Marshal Sandeep Singh and, earlier, by General Anil Chauhan.
- उनसे पहले यह पद एयर मार्शल संदीप सिंह और उससे पहले जनरल अनिल चौहान के पास था।
- Commissioned into the Kumaon Regiment, Lieutenant-General Ghai has held several key operational and command appointments during his distinguished military career.
- कुमाऊँ रेजिमेंट में कमीशन प्राप्त करने वाले लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल घई ने अपने विशिष्ट सैन्य करियर के दौरान कई महत्वपूर्ण परिचालन और कमान संबंधी नियुक्तियाँ संभाली हैं।
- His appointment is being seen as a significant move aimed at strengthening military inputs and operational expertise within the country's highest national security decision-making framework.



- उनकी नियुक्ति को देश के सर्वोच्च राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा निर्णय-निर्माण ढाँचे में सैन्य योगदान और परिचालन विशेषज्ञता को मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम माना जा रहा है।

Project Kusha, our indigenous air defence shield, will be a game changer, says Rajnath

GS III: Internal Security

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday described the indigenous Project Kusha air defence programme as a "game changer" for India's security architecture, asserting that its importance had already been demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

Addressing scientists and officials in Hyderabad, after inaugurating the Advanced Weapon System Complex at the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL) in the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, Mr. Singh said India's

indigenous air defence capabilities had successfully thwarted enemy intentions during the operation.

"Today I predict that Project Kusha will be a game changer for India's security scenario. It is a world-class indigenous air defence system. Just as the Govardhan hill protected the entire region of Braj in the Dvapara Yuga, our air defence system provided a protective umbrella during that period (Operation Sindoor)," he said.

Project Kusha is a long-range air defence missile system being developed by the DRDO to provide a comprehensive shield against a wide range of aerial threats.

The Defence Minister



Rajnath Singh

praised the DRDO's Missile Systems and Strategic Systems cluster for strengthening India's technological excellence, strategic autonomy and national security. He said indigenous systems such as Akash and BrahMos had proved India's capability to compete

in the global defence technology ecosystem.

Changing warfare

Highlighting the changing nature of warfare, Mr. Singh said emerging technologies such as precision-strike systems, integrated air defence networks, hypersonic weapons, autonomous platforms, artificial intelligence and electronic warfare were reshaping modern battlefields. In this environment, he stressed the need for both resilience and deterrence.

Referring to the government's ambitious "Mission Sudarshan Chakra", announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address in 2025, Mr. Singh said the

initiative would establish a multi-layered missile defence shield capable of protecting military assets, critical infrastructure and civilian establishments across the country.

"The system will provide robust protection while ensuring citizens face minimal inconvenience. It will also possess the capability to deliver a decisive response whenever required," he said.

The Defence Minister lauded the DRDO's progress in indigenous missile technologies, stating that the recent successes in strategic and tactical weapon programmes reflected India's growing self-reliance and confidence in defence manufacturing.

13J6. Project Kusha, our indigenous air defence shield, will be a game changer, says Rajnath

प्रोजेक्ट कुशा, हमारी स्वदेशी वायु रक्षा ढाल, एक गेम चेंजर साबित होगी : राजनाथ सिंह

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday described the indigenous **Project Kusha air defence programme** as a "game changer" for India's security architecture, asserting that its importance had already been demonstrated during **Operation Sindoor**.

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने शुक्रवार को स्वदेशी प्रोजेक्ट कुशा वायु रक्षा कार्यक्रम को भारत की सुरक्षा संरचना के लिए एक "गेम चेंजर" बताया और कहा कि इसका महत्व ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के दौरान पहले ही प्रदर्शित हो चुका है।

- Addressing scientists and officials in **Hyderabad**, after inaugurating the **Advanced Weapon System Complex** at the **Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL)** in the **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Missile Complex**, Mr. Singh said India's indigenous air defence capabilities had successfully thwarted enemy intentions during the operation.

हैदराबाद में वैज्ञानिकों और अधिकारियों को संबोधित करते हुए, डॉ. ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम मिसाइल कॉम्प्लेक्स में स्थित रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO) की डिफेन्स रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट लेबोरेटरी (DRDL) के एडवांस्ड वेपन सिस्टम कॉम्प्लेक्स का उद्घाटन करने के बाद, श्री सिंह ने कहा कि भारत की स्वदेशी वायु रक्षा क्षमताओं ने इस अभियान के दौरान दुश्मन की मंशाओं को सफलतापूर्वक विफल कर दिया।

- "Today I predict that **Project Kusha** will be a game changer for India's security scenario. It is a world-class indigenous air defence system. Just as the **Govardhan hill** protected the entire region of **Braj** in the **Dvapara Yuga**, our air defence system provided a protective umbrella during that period (**Operation Sindoor**)," he said.

"आज मैं भविष्यवाणी करता हूँ कि **प्रोजेक्ट कुशा** भारत की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के लिए एक गेम चेंजर साबित होगा। यह विश्वस्तरीय स्वदेशी वायु रक्षा प्रणाली है। जिस प्रकार **द्वापर युग** में **गोवर्धन पर्वत** ने पूरे **ब्रज क्षेत्र** की रक्षा की थी, उसी प्रकार हमारी वायु रक्षा प्रणाली ने उस अवधि (**ऑपरेशन सिंदूर**) के दौरान सुरक्षा कवच प्रदान किया," उन्होंने कहा।

- **Project Kusha** is a long-range air defence missile system being developed by the **DRDO** to provide a comprehensive shield against a wide range of aerial threats.
प्रोजेक्ट कुशा एक लंबी दूरी की वायु रक्षा मिसाइल प्रणाली है, जिसे **DRDO** द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के हवाई खतरों के विरुद्ध व्यापक सुरक्षा कवच प्रदान करने के लिए विकसित किया जा रहा है।
- The Defence Minister praised the **DRDO's Missile Systems and Strategic Systems cluster** for strengthening India's technological excellence, strategic autonomy and national security.
रक्षा मंत्री ने भारत की तकनीकी उत्कृष्टता, रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए **DRDO के मिसाइल सिस्टम्स और स्ट्रेटेजिक सिस्टम्स क्लस्टर** की प्रशंसा की।
- He said indigenous systems such as **Akash** and **BrahMos** had proved India's capability to compete in the global defence technology ecosystem.
उन्होंने कहा कि **आकाश** और **ब्रह्मोस** जैसी स्वदेशी प्रणालियों ने वैश्विक रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी तंत्र में प्रतिस्पर्धा करने की भारत की क्षमता को सिद्ध किया है।

Changing warfare युद्ध की बदलती प्रकृति

- Highlighting the changing nature of warfare, Mr. Singh said emerging technologies such as **precision-strike systems, integrated air defence networks, hypersonic weapons, autonomous platforms, artificial intelligence** and **electronic warfare** were reshaping modern battlefields.
युद्ध की बदलती प्रकृति पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, श्री सिंह ने कहा कि **प्रिसिजन-स्ट्राइक सिस्टम, एकीकृत वायु रक्षा नेटवर्क, हाइपरसोनिक हथियार, स्वायत्त प्लेटफॉर्म, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध** जैसी उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियाँ आधुनिक युद्धक्षेत्रों को नया स्वरूप दे रही हैं।
- In this environment, he stressed the need for both resilience and deterrence.
इस परिदृश्य में उन्होंने **लचीलापन और निवारक क्षमता** दोनों की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।
- Referring to the government's ambitious "**Mission Sudarshan Chakra**", announced by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during his **Independence Day** address in 2025, Mr. Singh said the initiative would establish a multi-layered missile defence shield capable of protecting military assets, critical infrastructure and civilian establishments across the country.
वर्ष 2025 में प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** द्वारा **स्वतंत्रता दिवस** संबोधन के दौरान घोषित सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी "**मिशन सुदर्शन चक्र**" योजना का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री सिंह ने कहा कि यह पहल एक बहु-स्तरीय मिसाइल रक्षा कवच स्थापित करेगी, जो देशभर में सैन्य परिसंपत्तियों, महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना और नागरिक प्रतिष्ठानों की सुरक्षा करने में सक्षम होगी।
- "The system will provide robust protection while ensuring citizens face minimal inconvenience. It will also possess the capability to deliver a decisive response whenever required," he said.
"यह प्रणाली नागरिकों को न्यूनतम असुविधा सुनिश्चित करते हुए मजबूत सुरक्षा प्रदान करेगी। आवश्यकता पड़ने पर यह निर्णायक जवाब देने की क्षमता भी रखेगी," उन्होंने कहा।
- The Defence Minister lauded the **DRDO's** progress in indigenous missile technologies, stating that the recent successes in strategic and tactical weapon programmes reflected India's growing self-reliance and confidence in defence manufacturing.
रक्षा मंत्री ने स्वदेशी मिसाइल प्रौद्योगिकियों में **DRDO** की प्रगति की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि रणनीतिक और सामरिक हथियार कार्यक्रमों में हाल की सफलताएँ भारत की बढ़ती **आत्मनिर्भरता** और रक्षा विनिर्माण में बढ़ते **आत्मविश्वास** को दर्शाती हैं।