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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

17 JUNE 2026

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PCS Special:		17 June 2026
17J6	QUIZ: Anthropic	
17J6	Asha breaks 17-year-old 200m butterfly record अस्था ने 17 वर्ष पुराना 200 मीटर बटरफ्लाई रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा	



Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. This U.S. AI firm temporarily disabled top-tier model access after a government order on foreign use. **Ans: Anthropic**
 2. This country announced plans for a social media ban for under-16s last week. **Ans: Britain**
 3. This initiative was launched by Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron in France? **Ans: Bharat Innovates 2026**
 4. Elon Musk achieved this milestone following SpaceX's IPO on June 12? **Ans: He became world's first trillionaire**
 5. This external AI ecosystem powers Apple's rebuilt Siri. **Ans: Google Gemini**
 6. This Indian fintech firm confidentially filed papers for a \$600 million IPO. **Ans: Razorpay**
 8. This Indian edtech founder got some relief from a Singapore court in a contempt case. **Ans: Byju Raveendran**
- Visual: At Nintendo's June Direct, the long-rumoured remake of this beloved N64-era video game was announced. **Ans: The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time**

17J6. QUIZ

1. Anthropic

- **Anthropic**, the U.S.-based artificial intelligence company behind the Claude AI models, temporarily disabled access to its most advanced models after the U.S. government ordered restrictions on foreign access, citing national security concerns.
- The directive affected the newly launched **Claude Fable 5** and **Claude Mythos 5** models. Anthropic stated that, because it could not selectively block only foreign users, it suspended access more broadly while discussions with U.S. authorities continued.

2. Britain

- **Britain (United Kingdom)** announced plans to prohibit children under the age of 16 from accessing major social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and X.

3. Bharat Innovates 2026

- **Bharat Innovates 2026** was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** in **Nice, France**, on June 14, 2026.
- The initiative is part of the **India-France Year of Innovation** and seeks to strengthen cooperation in deep technology, startups, artificial intelligence, research, and innovation ecosystems.
- The event brings together entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, policymakers, and industry leaders from both countries.

4. Elon Musk became the world's first trillionaire

- Following the reported **SpaceX IPO** and the continued rise in the valuation of his businesses, **Elon Musk** was widely reported to have become the world's first **trillionaire**. Musk's wealth is linked primarily to his stakes in **SpaceX**, **Tesla**, **xAI**, and other technology ventures.

5. Google Gemini

- **Google Gemini**, developed by **Google DeepMind**, powers the rebuilt version of **Apple's Siri** through an external AI partnership.
- Gemini is a multimodal AI system capable of understanding and generating text, images, code, and other forms of data.

6. Razorpay

- **Razorpay**, one of India's leading fintech companies, reportedly filed confidential documents for an Initial Public Offering (IPO) valued at around **\$600 million**.
- Founded in 2014, Razorpay provides digital payment solutions, payment gateways, banking services, and financial management tools for businesses.

7. Byju Raveendran



- **Byju Raveendran**, founder of the edtech company **BYJU'S**, received temporary relief from a Singapore court in a contempt-related legal matter.

Astha breaks 17-year-old 200m butterfly record

PCS

NATIONAL AQUATICS

Sports Bureau

Railways swimmer Astha Choudhury clocked 2:18.37s to break the 17-year-old women's 200m butterfly record on the opening day of the National aquatics championships in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Vinayak Vijay (men's 200m medley, 2:04.13) and Aditi Hegde (women's 1500m freestyle, 17:20.82) rewrote two new individual records, while Karnataka women registered

3:53.45 to shatter the two-year-old 4x100m relay.

The results (winners only):

Men: 100m freestyle: Akash

Mani (Kar) 50.40; **100m**

backstroke: Rishabh Das (Mah)

55.44.

200m medley: Vinayak Vijay

(SSCB) 2:04.13 (NMR, Old 2:04.34,

Shoan Ganguly, 2025).

Women: 1500m freestyle: Aditi

Hegde (Mah) 17:20.82 (NMR, Old

17:35.07, Bhavya Sachdeva,

2025).

50m breaststroke: Lineysa

A.K. (Kar) 33.51; **200m butterfly:**

Astha Choudhury (RSPB) 2:18.37

(NMR, Old 2:19.59, Arhatha

Maghavi, 2009).

4x100m freestyle relay:

Karnataka 3:53.45 (NMR, Old

4:01.83, RSPB, 2024).

17J6. Astha breaks 17-year-old 200m butterfly record

अस्था ने 17 वर्ष पुराना 200 मीटर बटरफ्लाइ रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा

- **Railways swimmer Astha Choudhury** clocked **2:18.37s** to break the **17-year-old women's 200m butterfly** record on the opening day of the **National Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad** on Tuesday.

रेलवे की तैराक अस्था चौधरी ने मंगलवार को अहमदाबाद में

आयोजित राष्ट्रीय तैराकी चैंपियनशिप के उद्घाटन दिवस पर

2:18.37 सेकंड का समय निकालकर महिलाओं की 200 मीटर

बटरफ्लाइ स्पर्धा का **17 वर्ष पुराना** रिकॉर्ड तोड़ दिया।

- **Vinayak Vijay** (men's **200m medley**, **2:04.13**) and **Aditi Hegde** (women's **1500m freestyle**, **17:20.82**) rewrote two new **individual records**.

विनायक विजय (पुरुष 200 मीटर मेडले, 2:04.13) और अदिति

हेगडे (महिला 1500 मीटर फ्रीस्टाइल, 17:20.82) ने दो नए

व्यक्तिगत रिकॉर्ड बनाए।

- **Meanwhile, Karnataka women** registered **3:53.45** to shatter the **two-year-old 4x100m relay** record.

वहीं, कर्नाटक महिला टीम ने 3:53.45 का समय दर्ज कर दो वर्ष पुराने 4x100 मीटर रिले रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया।

GS Paper 1: History	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	Savarkar filed 10 mercy pleas before the British, grandnephew tells court सावरकर ने ब्रिटिश शासन के समक्ष 10 दया याचिकाएँ दायर की थीं, प्रपौत्र ने न्यायालय को बताया



Savarkar filed 10 mercy pleas before the British, grandnephew tells court

GS I: History
Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

Satyaki Savarkar, the grandnephew of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, told a special MP/MLA court in Pune that the right-wing ideologue had submitted 10 clemency petitions to the British government seeking reduction of his sentence. The testimony was part of a criminal defamation case Mr. Satyaki has filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

During the hearing of the case in the court of special judge Amol Shinde, Mr. Satyaki said Savarkar was referred to as "veer" in a periodical run by the Gadar Organisation before he was transferred to the Andaman Islands.

Asked about incarcerations of other revolutionaries from the same period, Mr. Satyaki said the likes of Rajguru, Batukeshwar Dutt, and Ashfaqulla Khan did not file clemency petitions. But Savarkar submitted a mercy petition within the first month after receiving his sentence, he said. Mr. Satyaki told the court that he was not aware of Bhagat Singh and Dutt petitioning the British government to demand treatment as prisoners of war, and to refuse concessions or le-



V.D. Savarkar

niency. He agreed that Singh and Dutt stood by their ideology until the end of their lives.

Mr. Satyaki informed the court that records of Savarkar's 10 petitions exist in government archives. He said the language in these petitions did not indicate loyalty to the British regime and were forwarded by prison authorities for approval.

He said language used in clemency petitions followed official protocol.

Mr. Satyaki said he was not aware that Savarkar signed each petition with the phrase, "I beg to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, V.D. Savarkar." He denied that Savarkar was released after these 10 pleas were filed.

According to him, the British government had the authority to commute or alter sentences in mercy

petitions. The reduction or remission of sentences depended on the government's policy.

'All pleas rejected'

Mr. Satyaki said the colonial government had rejected all of Savarkar's clemency petitions. In their replies, the authorities expressed apprehension that Savarkar would rejoin the revolutionary movement if released, he said.

Savarkar's grandnephew said that filing clemency petitions were standard procedures under the British government, adding that other prisoners had filed such petitions and the practice was neither exceptional nor illegal.

The court recorded excerpts from one mercy petition in which Savarkar stated that others sent to the Andaman jail with him be released and he be kept incarcerated and classified as a Class D prisoner facing harsh punishment. The witness said he did not have a report comparing the mercy petitions filed by Savarkar with those made by other prisoners. Mr. Satyaki testified that no prisoner was obligated to submit a mercy petition. The decision to file such petitions depended on the prisoner's preference.

17J6. Savarkar filed 10 mercy pleas before the British, grandnephew tells court

सावरकर ने ब्रिटिश शासन के समक्ष 10 दया याचिकाएँ दायर की थीं, प्रपौत्र ने न्यायालय को बताया

Satyaki Savarkar, the grandnephew of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, told a special MP/MLA court in Pune that the right-wing ideologue had submitted 10 clemency petitions to the British government seeking reduction of his sentence.

विनायक दामोदर सावरकर के प्रपौत्र

सात्यकि सावरकर ने पुणे की एक विशेष सांसद/विधायक न्यायालय को बताया कि इस दक्षिणपंथी विचारक ने अपनी सजा में कमी की मांग करते हुए ब्रिटिश सरकार को 10 दया याचिकाएँ (Clemency Petitions) प्रस्तुत की थीं।

The testimony was part of a criminal defamation case Mr. Satyaki has filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

यह गवाही कांग्रेस नेता राहुल गांधी के विरुद्ध श्री सात्यकि द्वारा दायर आपराधिक मानहानि मामले का हिस्सा थी।

During the hearing of the case in the court of special judge Amol Shinde, Mr. Satyaki said Savarkar was referred to as "veer" in a periodical run by the Gadar Organisation before he was

transferred to the Andaman Islands.

विशेष न्यायाधीश अमोल शिंदे की अदालत में सुनवाई के दौरान श्री सात्यकि ने कहा कि अंडमान द्वीपसमूह भेजे जाने से पूर्व गदर संगठन द्वारा प्रकाशित एक पत्रिका में सावरकर को "वीर" कहा गया था।

- Asked about incarcerations of other revolutionaries from the same period, Mr. Satyaki said the likes of Rajguru, Batukeshwar Dutt, and Ashfaqulla Khan did not file clemency petitions.**

उसी कालखंड के अन्य क्रांतिकारियों के कारावास के बारे में पूछे जाने पर श्री सात्यकि ने कहा कि राजगुरु, बटुकेश्वर दत्त और अशफाकउल्ला खान ने दया याचिकाएँ दायर नहीं की थीं।

- But Savarkar submitted a mercy petition within the first month after receiving his sentence, he said.**

उन्होंने कहा कि सावरकर ने सजा प्राप्त होने के पहले महीने के भीतर ही एक दया याचिका प्रस्तुत कर दी थी।

- Mr. Satyaki told the court that he was not aware of Bhagat Singh and Dutt petitioning the British government to demand treatment as prisoners of war, and to refuse concessions or**

leniency.

श्री सात्यकि ने न्यायालय को बताया कि उन्हें इस बात की जानकारी नहीं है कि **भगत सिंह** और **दत्त** ने स्वयं को **युद्धबंदी** के रूप में व्यवहार दिए जाने तथा किसी भी प्रकार की रियायत या नरमी को अस्वीकार करने हेतु ब्रिटिश सरकार को याचिका दी थी।

- He agreed that **Singh and Dutt stood by their ideology until the end of their lives.**
उन्होंने इस बात से सहमति व्यक्त की कि **सिंह और दत्त** अपने जीवन के अंतिम समय तक अपनी विचारधारा पर अडिग रहे।
- **Mr. Satyaki informed the court that records of Savarkar's 10 petitions exist in government archives.**
श्री सात्यकि ने न्यायालय को बताया कि सावरकर की **10 याचिकाओं** के अभिलेख सरकारी अभिलेखागारों में उपलब्ध हैं।
- **He said the language in these petitions did not indicate loyalty to the British regime and were forwarded by prison authorities for approval.**
उन्होंने कहा कि इन याचिकाओं की भाषा से ब्रिटिश शासन के प्रति निष्ठा का संकेत नहीं मिलता था तथा इन्हें जेल अधिकारियों द्वारा अनुमोदन के लिए अग्रेषित किया गया था।
- **He said language used in clemency petitions followed official protocol.**
उन्होंने कहा कि दया याचिकाओं में प्रयुक्त भाषा **आधिकारिक प्रोटोकॉल** के अनुरूप थी।
- **Mr. Satyaki said he was not aware that Savarkar signed each petition with the phrase, "I beg to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, V.D. Savarkar."**
श्री सात्यकि ने कहा कि उन्हें यह जानकारी नहीं थी कि सावरकर प्रत्येक याचिका पर **"I beg to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, V.D. Savarkar."** वाक्यांश के साथ हस्ताक्षर करते थे।
- He denied that Savarkar was released after these **10 pleas** were filed.
उन्होंने इस बात से इनकार किया कि इन **10 याचिकाओं** के दायर होने के बाद सावरकर को रिहा कर दिया गया था।
- According to him, the **British government had the authority to commute or alter sentences in mercy petitions.**
उनके अनुसार, **ब्रिटिश सरकार** को दया याचिकाओं के आधार पर **सजा को परिवर्तित या कम करने** का अधिकार प्राप्त था।

'All pleas rejected'

'सभी याचिकाएं अस्वीकृत'

- **Mr. Satyaki said the colonial government had rejected all of Savarkar's clemency petitions.**
श्री सात्यकि ने कहा कि औपनिवेशिक सरकार ने सावरकर की सभी **दया याचिकाओं** को अस्वीकार कर दिया था।
- **In their replies, the authorities expressed apprehension that Savarkar would rejoin the revolutionary movement if released,** he said.
उन्होंने कहा कि अपने उत्तरों में अधिकारियों ने आशंका व्यक्त की थी कि रिहा किए जाने पर सावरकर पुनः **क्रांतिकारी आंदोलन** में शामिल हो सकते हैं।
- **Savarkar's grandnephew said that filing clemency petitions were standard procedures under the British government, adding that other prisoners had filed such petitions and the practice was neither exceptional nor illegal.**
सावरकर के प्रपौत्र ने कहा कि **ब्रिटिश शासन** के अंतर्गत दया याचिका दायर करना एक **मानक प्रक्रिया** थी।
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि अन्य कैदियों ने भी ऐसी याचिकाएं दायर की थीं और यह न तो असाधारण था और न ही अवैध।
- The court recorded excerpts from one mercy petition in which Savarkar stated that others sent to the Andaman jail with him be released and he be kept incarcerated and **classified as a Class D prisoner facing harsh punishment.**

न्यायालय ने एक दया याचिका के अंश दर्ज किए, जिसमें सावरकर ने कहा था कि उनके साथ अंडमान जेल भेजे गए अन्य लोगों को रिहा कर दिया जाए और उन्हें स्वयं कारावास में रखा जाए तथा क्लास D कैदी के रूप में कठोर दंड दिया जाए।

GS Paper 1: Geography	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	India's rainfall deficit 35% as monsoon stalls मानसून के ठहराव के कारण भारत में वर्षा की कमी 35% हुई

India's rainfall deficit 35% as monsoon stalls

Central India faces a 61% rain deficit as monsoon falters; govt. directs crop-wise contingency plans

Centre places around 200 districts under priority monitoring; weekly reviews of El Niño ordered

Deficit is significant in a year forecasters globally have warned will likely be a 'Super El Niño' year

SS I Geography
Jacob Koshy
A.M. Jigesh
NEW DELHI

Over a week past the monsoon's normal arrival date, the rain clouds have yet to reach Mumbai, driving India's nationwide monsoon deficit to 35% as of Tuesday.

The shortfall in rainfall is concentrated in the regions the monsoon has failed to cover – Maharashtra, the Konkan coast, and the adjoining regions of central India – where its northward progress has been stalled for several days.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) statistics show that apart from northwest India, which has received 5% more rain than normal for this time of the year, all other regions are in the red, including east and northeast India (-43%), central India (-61%), and

the southern peninsula (-14%).

Meanwhile, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, chairing a review of kharif preparations on Tuesday, directed States to identify districts facing low or uneven rainfall and to draw up crop-wise contingency plans, so that affected farmers could be "immediately provided with alternatives, advice, and assistance."

The Union government has placed 150 to 200 districts under priority monitoring, ordered weekly El Niño reviews, and is encouraging a shift towards cotton and pulses.

'Better placed'
Mr. Chouhan has maintained that seed and fertilizer stocks are adequate and that reservoir storage – at 30.4% of capacity in May, against a 25.1% average in previous El Niño years – leaves the country

Hanging clouds

While a monsoon deficit in June is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year which has been globally forecast to witness a 'Super El Niño'

Rainfall departures for El Niño years since 2000:

	June	Whole southwest monsoon
2002	+2%	19% below LPA
2004	+1%	13% below LPA
2009	-47%	22% below LPA
2014	-44%	12% below LPA
2015	+14%	14% below LPA
2023	-8%	6% below LPA



*LPA: Long Period Average
Source: IMD

better placed than in earlier seasons with rainfall deficiency.

While a rainfall deficit in June, the first of the monsoon months, is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year that forecasters globally have warned will likely be a 'Super El Niño' year.

An analysis of the IMD's all-India June rainfall departures for El Niño years

since 2000 shows no consistent early-season signal. In June 2015, during one of the strongest El Niño events on record, rainfall was 14% above normal. June 2002 and June 2004, both years that ended in drought, recorded near-normal June rainfall of around 2% and 1% above normal respectively, with the deficits arriving only in July and later.

Only in 2009 (47% below normal) and 2014 (44% below normal) did June rainfall fail as sharply as it has this year. In 2023, the most recent El Niño year, June closed about 8% below normal, within the IMD's normal range.

An El Niño event – the periodic warming of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean that tends to suppress the Indian monsoon – establishes itself only in the spring and exerts its influence mainly in the middle and later part of the season.

"June rainfall and the pace of onset, by contrast, are governed largely by local and regional factors," according to D.S. Pai, chief forecaster at the IMD's Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai.

First pulse weakened

This year, the monsoon set in over Kerala on June 4, just three days behind its

normal date, but its advance up the west coast has since lost momentum. Dr. Pai explained that the monsoon moves in pulses, and the first pulse, having reached the outskirts of Mumbai, did not sustain itself. Instead, an "anticyclonic circulation" to the city's north, combined with a westerly push from mid-latitude weather systems, has prevented the monsoon from establishing itself, he told *The Hindu*.

The Madden-Julian Oscillation, a travelling band of atmospheric activity that can strengthen or weaken the monsoon, is currently in an "unfavourable phase". This implies that the onset over Mumbai is likely to be delayed by a further five to six days, until the next pulse strengthens, possibly aided by a low-pressure system forming over the Bay of Bengal, he reckoned.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued an El Niño advisory on June 11, confirming the event had formed and placing the odds of it becoming "very strong" by winter at 63%. The World Meteorological Organization had earlier put the probability of El Niño emerging between June and August at 80%. The IMD's own June bulletin states that El Niño conditions are present and that the ocean and atmosphere have coupled, with no positive Indian Ocean Dipole expected to offset it this season.

The warnings have been building. IMD's first-stage forecast in April pegged seasonal rainfall at 92% of the long-period average; its May-end update lowered this to 90% and assigned a 60% probability to a deficient year – the agency's most pessimistic pre-season call since 2015.

17J6. India's rainfall deficit 35% as monsoon stalls मानसून के ठहराव के कारण भारत में वर्षा की कमी 35% हुई

- The shortfall in rainfall is concentrated in the regions the monsoon has failed to cover — **Maharashtra, the Konkan coast, and the adjoining regions of central India** — where its northward progress has been stalled for several days.

वर्षा की कमी मुख्यतः उन क्षेत्रों में केंद्रित है जहाँ मानसून अभी तक नहीं पहुँच पाया है — महाराष्ट्र, कोंकण तट, तथा मध्य भारत के समीपवर्ती क्षेत्र — जहाँ इसका उत्तर की ओर बढ़ना कई दिनों से रुका हुआ है।

- India Meteorological Department (IMD)** statistics show that apart from **northwest India**, which has received **5% more rain than normal** for this time of the year, all other regions are in the red.

भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) के आँकड़ों के अनुसार उत्तर-पश्चिम भारत को छोड़कर, जहाँ इस अवधि में सामान्य से 5% अधिक वर्षा हुई है, देश के सभी अन्य क्षेत्र वर्षा घाटे की स्थिति में हैं।

- This includes **east and northeast India (-43%), central India (-61%), and the southern peninsula (-14%)**.

इनमें पूर्व एवं उत्तर-पूर्व भारत (-43%), मध्य भारत (-61%), तथा दक्षिणी प्रायद्वीप (-14%) शामिल हैं।

- The **Union government** has placed **150 to 200 districts** under priority monitoring, ordered weekly **El Niño** reviews, and is **encouraging a shift towards cotton and pulses**.



केंद्र सरकार ने 150 से 200 जिलों को प्राथमिक निगरानी के अंतर्गत रखा है, साप्ताहिक एल नीनो समीक्षा के निर्देश दिए हैं तथा कपास और दलहनों की ओर फसल परिवर्तन को प्रोत्साहित किया है।

‘Better placed’

‘बेहतर स्थिति में’

- While a **rainfall deficit** in **June**, the first of the monsoon months, is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year that **forecasters globally have warned will likely be a ‘Super El Niño’ year**.
यद्यपि मानसून के प्रथम माह जून में वर्षा की कमी असामान्य नहीं है, किन्तु यह उस वर्ष विशेष महत्व रखती है जिसे वैश्विक मौसम पूर्वानुमानकर्ताओं ने संभावित ‘सुपर एल नीनो’ वर्ष बताया है।
- An **El Niño event** — the periodic warming of the **central and eastern Pacific Ocean** that tends to suppress the **Indian monsoon** — establishes itself only in the spring and exerts its influence mainly in the middle and later part of the season.
एल नीनो घटना — अर्थात् मध्य एवं पूर्वी प्रशांत महासागर के जल का आवधिक ऊष्मीकरण, जो सामान्यतः भारतीय मानसून को कमजोर करता है — वसंत ऋतु में विकसित होती है और इसका प्रभाव मुख्यतः मानसून के मध्य तथा अंतिम चरणों में दिखाई देता है।
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, a travelling band of atmospheric activity that can strengthen or weaken the monsoon, is currently in an **“unfavourable phase”**.
मैडेन-जूलियन ऑसिलेशन (MJO), जो वायुमंडलीय गतिविधियों का एक गतिशील क्षेत्र है और मानसून को मजबूत या कमजोर कर सकता है, वर्तमान में “प्रतिकूल अवस्था” में है।
- This implies that the onset over **Mumbai** is likely to be delayed by a further **five to six days**, until the next pulse strengthens, **possibly aided by a low-pressure system forming over the Bay of Bengal**, he reckoned.
इसका अर्थ है कि मुंबई में मानसून का आगमन और पाँच से छह दिन विलंबित हो सकता है, जब तक कि अगला मानसूनी चरण मजबूत न हो जाए, जिसे बंगाल की खाड़ी में बनने वाली निम्न दाब प्रणाली से सहायता मिल सकती है।
- The **U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** issued an **El Niño advisory on June 11**, confirming the event had formed and placing the odds of it becoming **“very strong” by winter at 63%**.
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रीय महासागरीय एवं वायुमंडलीय प्रशासन (NOAA) ने 11 जून को एल नीनो परामर्श जारी करते हुए पुष्टि की कि यह घटना विकसित हो चुकी है तथा इसके शीतकाल तक “अत्यंत प्रबल” बनने की संभावना 63% है।
- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** had earlier put the probability of **El Niño emerging between June and August at 80%**.
विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन (WMO) ने पहले ही जून से अगस्त के बीच एल नीनो विकसित होने की संभावना 80% बताई थी।
- IMD’s first-stage forecast in April pegged seasonal rainfall at 92% of the long-period average**.
IMD के अप्रैल में जारी प्रथम चरण के पूर्वानुमान में मौसमी वर्षा को दीर्घकालिक औसत का 92% आँका गया था।
- Its May-end update lowered this to 90% and assigned a 60% probability to a deficient year — the agency’s most pessimistic pre-season forecast since 2015**.
इसके मई अंत के अद्यतन पूर्वानुमान में इसे घटाकर 90% कर दिया गया तथा वर्षा-घाटे वाले वर्ष की संभावना 60% बताई गई — जो 2015 के बाद एजेंसी का सबसे निराशावादी पूर्व-मानसून पूर्वानुमान है।



17J6	Courts must weigh civil disputes before criminal prosecution: HC आपराधिक अभियोजन से पूर्व न्यायालयों को दीवानी विवादों पर विचार करना चाहिए: उच्च न्यायालय
17J6	What does the Tenth Schedule provide on party mergers? दसवीं अनुसूची दलों के विलय के संबंध में क्या प्रावधान करती है?

Courts must weigh civil disputes before criminal prosecution: HC

GS II: Polity: Judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has said that trial courts cannot ignore the pendency of civil proceedings while assessing whether criminal prosecution is being used as a weapon of harassment, and are duty-bound to scrutinise, even at the stage of framing of charges, whether the evidence genuinely discloses a strong suspicion and a reasonable prospect of conviction.

"The criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest," it said, citing Su-

preme Court observations that criminal law cannot be invoked against citizens, in the absence of legally tenable material, merely because a civil dispute subsists between the parties.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while quashing the criminal cases against several persons and their advocate by the Bengaluru city police in connection with a complaint lodged against them in relation to a dispute over transactions of certain properties, the sale deeds of which were registered two decades ago.

A simmering land dispute between the parties has been artfully clothed in

the robes of criminal prosecution in the complete absence of even an iota of criminality, the court said while pointing out that the criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest.

The criminal justice system, it said, must operate through two filters – first, at the stage of investigation and filing of a chargesheet, and next, at the stage of framing of charge by the trial court. At both stages, the law vests ample power in trial courts to terminate proceedings that amount to abuse of process, subject always to the peculiar facts of each case.

17J6. Courts must weigh civil disputes before criminal prosecution: HC
आपराधिक अभियोजन से पूर्व न्यायालयों को दीवानी विवादों पर विचार करना चाहिए: उच्च न्यायालय

- The Karnataka High Court has said that trial courts cannot ignore the pendency of civil proceedings while assessing whether criminal prosecution is being used as a weapon of harassment, and are duty-bound to scrutinise, even at the stage of framing of charges, whether the evidence genuinely discloses a strong suspicion and a reasonable prospect of conviction.

कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय ने कहा है कि यह आकलन करते समय कि कहीं आपराधिक अभियोजन का उपयोग उत्पीड़न के साधन के रूप में तो नहीं किया जा रहा है, विचारण न्यायालय (Trial Courts) दीवानी कार्यवाहियों



के लंबित होने की उपेक्षा नहीं कर सकते तथा उन पर यह दायित्व है कि वे आरोप तय करने के चरण में भी यह जांच करें कि क्या साक्ष्य वास्तव में मजबूत संदेह और दोषसिद्धि की युक्तिसंगत संभावना को प्रकट करते हैं।

- **"The criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest,"** it said, citing Supreme Court observations that criminal law cannot be invoked against citizens, in the absence of legally tenable material, merely because a civil dispute subsists between the parties.

न्यायालय ने कहा, "आपराधिक कानून को किसी दीवानी विवाद में दमन के हथियार के रूप में परिवर्तित होने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती।" इस संदर्भ में उसने उच्चतम न्यायालय की उन टिप्पणियों का उल्लेख किया, जिनमें कहा गया था कि केवल पक्षकारों के बीच दीवानी विवाद विद्यमान होने के कारण, विधिक रूप से टिकाऊ सामग्री के अभाव में, नागरिकों के विरुद्ध आपराधिक कानून का सहारा नहीं लिया जा सकता।

- **Justice M. Nagaprasanna** made these observations while quashing the criminal cases against several persons and their advocate by the Bengaluru city police in connection with a complaint lodged against them in relation to a dispute over transactions of certain properties, the sale deeds of which were registered two decades ago.

न्यायमूर्ति एम. नागप्रसन्ना ने ये टिप्पणियां उस समय कीं जब उन्होंने बेंगलुरु शहर पुलिस द्वारा कई व्यक्तियों तथा उनके अधिवक्ता के विरुद्ध दर्ज आपराधिक मामलों को निरस्त कर दिया। यह शिकायत कुछ संपत्तियों के लेन-देन से संबंधित विवाद के संदर्भ में दर्ज की गई थी, जिनकी विक्रय विलेख (Sale Deeds) लगभग दो दशक पूर्व पंजीकृत हुई थीं।

- The criminal justice system, it said, must operate through two filters — first, at the stage of investigation and filing of a chargesheet, and next, at the stage of framing of charge by the trial court.

न्यायालय ने कहा कि आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली को दो स्तरों पर कार्य करना चाहिए — पहला, जांच और आरोपपत्र (Chargesheet) दाखिल करने के चरण में, तथा दूसरा, विचारण न्यायालय द्वारा आरोप तय करने के चरण में।

What does Tenth Schedule provide on party mergers?

Why has the misuse of the merger provision increased after the deletion of paragraph 3?

GS III: Polity
LETTER AND SPIRIT

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

As many as 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs met the Lok Sabha Speaker and announced their decision to merge with Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPi). This has raised issues about the interpretation of Tenth Schedule with respect to merger of political parties.

What is the origin of Tenth Schedule? The defections of legislators during 1960s and 70s from their parent parties created political instability in many States bringing down elected governments. This prompted the 52nd constitutional amendment to introduce the 'anti-defection' law through the Tenth Schedule in 1985. This Schedule provides

that a member of a House of Parliament or State legislature who voluntarily gives up the membership of their 'political party' or votes against the instructions of their party in a House are liable for disqualification from such House. The 'political party' is the entire organisation of a party, while the 'legislature party' is all the members of a political party in a House of Parliament or State legislature.

The Tenth Schedule originally had two exceptions that would not render the members liable for disqualification viz., one-third of members of the 'legislature party' splitting to form a separate group (paragraph 3), or a merger of their 'political party' with another party that is approved by two-thirds of the members of its 'legislature party' (paragraph 4). However, considering the need to strengthen the 'anti-defection' law, paragraph 3 was omitted in 2003.

With the deletion of paragraph 3, there have been instances of two-third

members of a legislature party 'practically' defecting but claiming to be the original political party in order to escape disqualification. This happened in the case of Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party in June 2022 and July 2023 respectively.

There have also been instances where more than two-third members of a 'legislature party' in a house have merged themselves with another political party to escape disqualification. This happened in September 2019 (in Rajasthan) when all 6 Bahujan Samajwadi Party MLAs merged themselves with the Congress and in September 2022 (in Goa) when 8 out of the 11 Congress MLAs merged themselves with the BJP. The Bombay High Court upheld the merger of Goa's Congress Legislature Party with the BJP, though an appeal is pending in the apex court. A similar move occurred in April 2026 when 7 of 10 AAP Rajya Sabha MPs merged with the BJP.

What is the present case in Bengal?

After the recent West Bengal polls, around 60 of the 80 MLAs elected from Trinamool Congress formed a separate faction led by Ritabrata Banerjee, who was recognised as the Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly even after the party expelled him. Meanwhile, 20 of the 28 Lok Sabha MPs have submitted their decision to the Lok Sabha Speaker to merge themselves with the NCPi. Their claim is that they constitute two-thirds of the legislature party and are hence authorised to take this step under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule without attracting disqualification.

What may be way forward?

A plain reading of the Tenth Schedule allows only for merger of a political party with another party that is approved by two-thirds of its legislature party. It does not authorise two-thirds of the legislature party in a house to merge itself with another political party to claim immunity from defection. However, in the recent instance with respect to proposed merger of Trinamool Lok Sabha MPs with NCPi as well as the merger of Rajya Sabha MPs of AAP with the BJP, this is what has happened. It is also subject to interpretation whether a merger of an 'original political party' can happen only with another political party that already has members in the legislative house. Moreover, the authority to decide on the

disqualification of members is vested in the Speaker or Chairman. While they are expected to perform this constitutional role impartially, the presiding officers have often favoured the ruling dispensation. The Supreme Court in K. M. Singh case in 2020, recommended that the Parliament amend the Constitution to vest these powers in an independent tribunal headed by judges.

An authoritative Supreme Court judgement in the matters of merger and setting up of an independent tribunal to decide on disqualification may reduce the ambiguities surrounding the Tenth Schedule. However, it may not prevent the ingenious methods adopted by political parties to circumvent the Tenth Schedule. Any such manoeuvres may be viewed as a betrayal of the electorate by the elected representatives. A stricter measure, as recommended by the Law commission in 1999, could be to amend the Tenth Schedule and delete paragraph 4 that provides exemption from disqualification for merger of political parties. Any action by elected members of a legislature party against their political party should lead to disqualification that results in seeking fresh mandate from the people.

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

17J6. What does the Tenth Schedule provide on party mergers?

दसवीं अनुसूची दलों के विलय के संबंध में क्या प्रावधान करती है?

- This prompted the **52nd Constitutional Amendment** to introduce the **Anti-Defection Law** through the **Tenth Schedule** in **1985**.

इसी के परिणामस्वरूप 1985 में 52वें संविधान संशोधन द्वारा दसवीं अनुसूची के माध्यम से दल-बदल विरोधी कानून (Anti-Defection Law) लागू किया गया।

- This Schedule provides that a member of a House of **Parliament** or **State Legislature** who voluntarily gives up the membership of their **political party** or votes against the instructions of



their party in a House is liable for **disqualification** from such House.

इस अनुसूची के अनुसार, संसद या राज्य विधानमंडल का कोई सदस्य यदि स्वेच्छा से अपनी राजनीतिक पार्टी की सदस्यता छोड़ देता है या सदन में पार्टी के निर्देशों के विरुद्ध मतदान करता है, तो वह अयोग्यता (Disqualification) का पात्र होगा।

- The **political party** is the entire organisation of a party, while the **legislature party** is all the members of a political party in a House of Parliament or State Legislature.
राजनीतिक पार्टी से तात्पर्य किसी दल के सम्पूर्ण संगठन से है, जबकि विधायी दल (Legislature Party) से तात्पर्य संसद या विधानमंडल के भीतर उस राजनीतिक दल के सभी निर्वाचित सदस्यों से है।

- The **Tenth Schedule** originally had two exceptions that would not render the members liable for disqualification viz., one-third of members of the **legislature party** splitting to form a separate group (**Paragraph 3**), or a merger of their **political party** with another party that is approved by **two-thirds** of the members of its legislature party (**Paragraph 4**).

प्रारंभिक रूप से दसवीं अनुसूची में दो अपवाद थे जिनके अंतर्गत सदस्य अयोग्यता से बच सकते थे, अर्थात् विधायी दल के एक-तिहाई सदस्यों द्वारा अलग समूह बनाना (अनुच्छेद 3) अथवा राजनीतिक दल का किसी अन्य दल में विलय, जिसे उसके विधायी दल के दो-तिहाई सदस्यों की स्वीकृति प्राप्त हो (अनुच्छेद 4)।

- However, considering the need to strengthen the **Anti-Defection Law**, **Paragraph 3** was omitted in **2003**.

हालाँकि, दल-बदल विरोधी कानून को सुदृढ़ बनाने की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए 2003 में अनुच्छेद 3 को हटा दिया गया।

- With the deletion of **Paragraph 3**, there have been instances of **two-thirds members** of a legislature party 'practically' defecting but claiming to be the original political party in order to escape disqualification.

अनुच्छेद 3 हटाए जाने के बाद ऐसे उदाहरण सामने आए जहाँ किसी विधायी दल के दो-तिहाई सदस्य व्यावहारिक रूप से दल-बदल करते हुए भी स्वयं को मूल राजनीतिक दल बताकर अयोग्यता से बचने का प्रयास करते रहे।

- This happened in the case of **Shiv Sena** and **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)** in **June 2022** and **July 2023** respectively.

ऐसा शिवसेना और राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (NCP) के मामलों में क्रमशः जून 2022 और जुलाई 2023 में हुआ।

- There have also been instances where more than **two-thirds members** of a legislature party in a House have merged themselves with another political party to escape disqualification. ऐसे मामले भी सामने आए हैं जहाँ किसी सदन में विधायी दल के दो-तिहाई से अधिक सदस्य अयोग्यता से बचने के लिए स्वयं को किसी अन्य राजनीतिक दल में विलय कर लेते हैं।

- This happened in **September 2019** in **Rajasthan** when all **6 BSP MLAs** merged themselves with the **Congress** and in **September 2022** in **Goa** when **8 out of 11 Congress MLAs** merged themselves with the **BJP**.

ऐसा सितंबर 2019 में राजस्थान में हुआ, जब बहुजन समाज पार्टी (BSP) के सभी 6 विधायक कांग्रेस में शामिल हो गए, तथा सितंबर 2022 में गोवा में हुआ, जब कांग्रेस के 11 में से 8 विधायक भाजपा में शामिल हो गए।

- The **Bombay High Court** upheld the merger of Goa's **Congress Legislature Party** with the **BJP**, though an appeal is pending in the **Supreme Court**.

बॉम्बे उच्च न्यायालय ने गोवा की कांग्रेस विधायी दल के भाजपा में विलय को वैध माना, हालाँकि इस संबंध में उच्चतम न्यायालय में अपील लंबित है।

- A similar move occurred in **April 2026** when **7 of 10 AAP Rajya Sabha MPs** merged with the **BJP**.

इसी प्रकार की घटना अप्रैल 2026 में हुई जब आम आदमी पार्टी (AAP) के 10 में से 7 राज्यसभा सांसद भाजपा में शामिल हो गए।

- A plain reading of the **Tenth Schedule** allows only for the merger of a **political party** with another party that is approved by **two-thirds** of its legislature party.



दसवीं अनुसूची का सामान्य अध्ययन यह दर्शाता है कि केवल **राजनीतिक दल** का किसी अन्य दल में विलय ही मान्य है, बशर्ते उसे उसके विधायी दल के **दो-तिहाई सदस्यों** की स्वीकृति प्राप्त हो।

- It does not authorise **two-thirds of the legislature party** in a House to merge itself with another political party and claim immunity from defection.
यह किसी सदन में **विधायी दल के दो-तिहाई सदस्यों** को स्वयं किसी अन्य दल में विलय होकर दल-बदल से प्रतिरक्षा प्राप्त करने की अनुमति नहीं देता।
- It is also subject to interpretation whether a merger of an **original political party** can occur only with another political party that already has members in the legislative House.
यह भी व्याख्या का विषय है कि किसी **मूल राजनीतिक दल** का विलय केवल ऐसे दल में ही हो सकता है जिसके पहले से ही उस विधायी सदन में सदस्य हों।
- The **Supreme Court**, in the **K. M. Singh case (2020)**, recommended that **Parliament** amend the Constitution to vest these powers in an **independent tribunal** headed by judges.
उच्चतम न्यायालय ने के. एम. सिंह मामले (2020) में अनुशंसा की थी कि **संसद** संविधान में संशोधन कर इन शक्तियों को न्यायाधीशों की अध्यक्षता वाले **स्वतंत्र न्यायाधिकरण** को सौंपे।
- An authoritative **Supreme Court judgement** on matters of merger and the establishment of an independent tribunal may reduce the ambiguities surrounding the **Tenth Schedule**.
विलय संबंधी मामलों पर एक प्रामाणिक **उच्चतम न्यायालय निर्णय** तथा स्वतंत्र न्यायाधिकरण की स्थापना **दसवीं अनुसूची** से जुड़ी अस्पष्टताओं को कम कर सकती है।
- A stricter measure, as recommended by the **Law Commission (1999)**, could be to amend the **Tenth Schedule** and delete **Paragraph 4**, which provides exemption from disqualification for merger of political parties.
विधि आयोग (1999) की अनुशंसा के अनुसार एक अधिक कठोर उपाय यह हो सकता है कि **दसवीं अनुसूची** में संशोधन कर **अनुच्छेद 4** को हटा दिया जाए, जो राजनीतिक दलों के विलय की स्थिति में अयोग्यता से छूट प्रदान करता है।

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TOPICS COVERED		
17J6	MSC Elsa 3 sinking: HC concerned over impact MSC Elsa 3 के डूबने पर: उच्च न्यायालय प्रभाव को लेकर चिंतित	
17J6	Cough syrup can't be sold without prescription: govt. बिना चिकित्सकीय पर्चे के कफ सिरप नहीं बेचा जा सकता: सरकार	
17J6	Supreme Court seeks response from Centre, States on Aadhaar 'misuse' उच्चतम न्यायालय ने आधार के 'दुरुपयोग' पर केंद्र और राज्यों से जवाब माँगा	
17J6	Primed to treat उपचार के लिए तैयार	
17J6	Five solutions Indian cities need, to stop fighting for water week after week भारतीय शहरों को बार-बार जल संकट से जूझने से रोकने के लिए पाँच समाधान आवश्यक	



An employee of the Terratis company releases sterile male **tiger mosquitoes** in Montpellier, southern France, on June 5, 2026. With global warming, 80% of the world's population now runs the risk of being exposed to one or more infectious diseases long considered tropical, which cause more than a million deaths a year, according to the WHO.



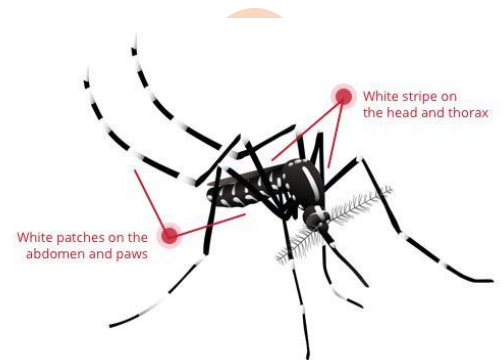
TIGER MOSQUITOES

6

Tiger mosquitoes are mosquitoes belonging mainly to the genus **Aedes**, especially:

- *Aedes aegypti*
- *Aedes albopictus*

They are called "**tiger mosquitoes**" because of their distinctive **black body with white stripes**, resembling a tiger's markings.



Identification

Aedes aegypti

- Black body
- White markings on legs
- Lyre-shaped white pattern on thorax

Aedes albopictus (Asian Tiger Mosquito)

- Black body
- Single white stripe running down the center of the thorax
- Prominent white bands on legs

Why Are They Important?

Tiger mosquitoes are among the world's most important disease vectors.

They transmit:

Disease	Pathogen
Dengue Fever	Dengue virus
Chikungunya	Chikungunya virus
Zika Virus Disease	Zika virus
Yellow Fever	Yellow fever virus
Rift Valley Fever	Rift Valley fever virus



MSC Elsa 3 sinking: HC concerned over impact

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Expressing serious concern over the absence of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the sinking of the ship *MSC Elsa 3* off the Alappuzha coast in May 2025, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday sought the response of the Centre and other agencies.

The court sought the response of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Director-General of Shipping on the marine and coastal ecological impacts caused by the wreckage.

They have been asked to detail the manner in which the EIA would be carried out, the institutions or agencies considered competent to undertake the exercise, and the scope of the study. In addition, the court must be informed whether any interim measures have been contemplated to address the environmental and navigational concerns due to the sinking of the vessel along with the containers aboard, said a Division Bench of Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and Justice K.V. Jayakumar, while considering public interest litigation petitions filed by T.N. Pratapan and others.

Many of the containers were carrying hazardous cargo, including 339.20 tonnes of calcium carbide. An estimated 475 containers remain sunk with the ship. The court sought details of whether steps had been taken to engage an independent expert agency, scientific institution, or technical consultant to verify the findings contained in the reports relied upon by the ship's owners.

17J6. MSC Elsa 3 sinking: HC concerned over impact MSC Elsa 3 के डूबने पर: उच्च न्यायालय प्रभाव को लेकर चिंतित

Expressing serious concern over the absence of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the sinking of the ship *MSC Elsa 3* off the Alappuzha coast in May 2025, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday sought the response of the Centre and other agencies.

मई 2025 में अलप्पुझा तट के निकट *MSC Elsa 3* जहाज के डूबने पर पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव आकलन (EIA) के अभाव को लेकर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त करते हुए केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने मंगलवार को केंद्र सरकार तथा अन्य एजेंसियों से जवाब मांगा।

The court sought the response of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Director-General of Shipping on the marine and coastal ecological impacts caused by the wreckage.

न्यायालय ने मलबे के कारण उत्पन्न समुद्री एवं तटीय पारिस्थितिकीय प्रभावों के संबंध में पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय तथा नौवहन महानिदेशक (Director-General of Shipping) से जवाब मांगा।

Many of the containers were carrying hazardous cargo, including 339.20 tonnes of calcium carbide.

कई कंटेनरों में खतरनाक माल (hazardous cargo) था, जिसमें 339.20 टन कैल्शियम कार्बाइड भी शामिल था।

17J6. Cough syrup can't be sold without prescription: govt. बिना चिकित्सकीय पर्चे के कफ सिरप नहीं बेचा जा सकता: सरकार

Medicinal syrups, including those used to treat coughs, can no longer be bought without a doctor's prescription, according to a government notification issued on Tuesday.

मंगलवार को जारी एक सरकारी अधिसूचना के अनुसार, खांसी के उपचार में प्रयुक्त सिरप सहित औषधीय सिरप अब डॉक्टर के पर्चे (Prescription) के बिना नहीं खरीदे जा सकेंगे।

This means that over-the-counter sales of these syrups will no longer be allowed.

इसका अर्थ है कि इन सिरपों की ओवर-द-काउंटर (OTC) बिक्री अब अनुमत नहीं होगी।

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified the change to the Drugs Rules, 1945, which laid out the regulations pertaining to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय ने औषधि नियम,

Cough syrup can't be sold without prescription: govt.

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Medicinal syrups, including those used to treat coughs, can no longer be bought without a doctor's prescription, according to a government notification issued on Tuesday. This means that over-the-counter sales of these syrups will no longer be allowed.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified the change to the Drugs Rules, 1945, which laid out the regulations pertaining to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Tuesday's notification directed that the word 'syrups' be removed from the list of items that had been exempted from the provisions of the Act.

The rules had earlier specified that "Syrups, lozenges, pills and tablets for cough" would be exempted, meaning that cough lozenges, pills, and tablets will still be available over the counter.

The amendment follows a draft notification in December 2025 to which the Centre invited objections



The Union Health Ministry notified the change to the Drugs Rules, 1945.

and suggestions from stakeholders and the public.

The government said all comments received on the draft rules were considered before the final notification was issued.

Many fatalities

The move comes after fatalities due to cough syrups adulterated with industrial solvents, including the deaths of 24 children in Madhya Pradesh last September. Cough syrups exported from India have been linked to the deaths of more than 140 children in Africa and Central Asia since 2022.



1945 (Drugs Rules, 1945) में इस परिवर्तन को अधिसूचित किया, जो औषधि एवं प्रसाधन सामग्री अधिनियम, 1940 (Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940) से संबंधित विनियमों को निर्धारित करता है।

- Tuesday's notification directed that the word 'syrups' be removed from the list of items that had been exempted from the provisions of the Act.
मंगलवार की अधिसूचना में निर्देश दिया गया कि 'सिरप (Syrups)' शब्द को उन वस्तुओं की सूची से हटाया जाए जिन्हें अधिनियम के प्रावधानों से छूट प्राप्त थी।
- The rules had earlier specified that "Syrups, lozenges, pills and tablets for cough" would be exempted, meaning that cough lozenges, pills, and tablets will still be available over the counter.
नियमों में पहले यह निर्दिष्ट था कि "खांसी के लिए सिरप, लॉजेंज, गोलिएं और टैबलेट" छूट प्राप्त होंगे, जिसका अर्थ है कि खांसी के लॉजेंज, गोलिएं और टैबलेट अब भी बिना पर्चे के उपलब्ध रहेंगे।

Supreme Court seeks response from Centre, States on Aadhaar 'misuse'

CS II: Governance
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and States on a plea alleging misuse of Aadhaar cards issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as proof of citizenship, domicile and residence.

The petition claimed that "infiltrators and illegal immigrants" are able to obtain the cards and project themselves as "lawful residents", thereby availing benefits to which they are not legally entitled.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana issued notice on the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The petition contended that the continued use of Aadhaar for purposes beyond identity verification is contrary to Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, which expressly states that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or domicile.

It also relied on an August 2023 UIDAI notification clarifying that Aadhaar serves only as proof of identity and cannot be treated as proof of citizenship, residence or date of birth.

Electoral integrity

The plea also questioned the use of Aadhaar as proof



The petition claimed "infiltrators and illegal immigrants" are able to obtain the cards and project themselves as "lawful residents".

of date of birth and residence in Form-6, the application form for fresh voter registration.

Mr. Upadhyay argued that allowing Aadhaar to be used for this purpose could undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

"Aadhaar is not only being used as proof of age, citizenship & domicile for school admission, property purchase, and to obtain birth certificate, ration card, driving licence, but also being used in the application form for new voter registration (Form-6) as proof of date of birth & proof of residence. And thus, infiltrators & illegal immigrants are obtaining various documents using the Aadhaar," the plea stated.

Referring to what he de-

The plea contended that the continued use of Aadhaar for purposes beyond identity verification is contrary to Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016

scribed as the presence of a "huge number of illegal migrants" occupying "vast tracts of land, particularly along sensitive international borders", Mr. Upadhyay contended that the ease with which such persons can obtain Aadhaar cards enables them to secure other identity documents and eventually seek inclusion in electoral rolls.

"Infiltration is a weapon of political parties to subvert the electoral process for their benefit. West Ben-

gal, Assam and other Northeastern States have been afflicted by cheap political tactics. The infiltrators are helped by either the party in power or the Opposition parties, and are also helped with identity documents such as Aadhaar/ration card. Once they have a plethora of documents, they enrol themselves in the voting list. Thus, the sacrosanct nature of the election process is compromised," the plea stated.

'Complete overhaul'

Accordingly, the petition sought an complete overhaul of the verification framework used in electoral processes and proposed the establishment of a high-powered monitoring committee comprising a retired Supreme Court judge along with cybersecurity and forensic experts to oversee reforms.

It also prayed for a direction "to declare that the use of Aadhaar as proof of date of birth and residence in the application form for new voter registration" is contrary to statutory provisions and therefore liable to be declared "void and inoperative".

The plea also prayed for a direction to declare the use of Aadhaar for voter date-of-birth and residence verification as "void and inoperative".

17J6. Supreme Court seeks response from Centre, States on Aadhaar 'misuse' उच्चतम न्यायालय ने आधार के 'दुरुपयोग' पर केंद्र और राज्यों से जवाब माँगा

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and States on a plea alleging misuse of Aadhaar cards issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as proof of citizenship, domicile and residence.

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने मंगलवार को भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण (UIDAI) द्वारा जारी आधार कार्ड के नागरिकता, अधिवास (Domicile) तथा निवास के प्रमाण के रूप में कथित दुरुपयोग संबंधी याचिका पर केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों से जवाब मांगा।

- The petition contended that the continued use of Aadhaar for purposes beyond **identity verification** is contrary to **Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, which expressly states that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or domicile.** याचिका में तर्क दिया गया कि पहचान सत्यापन (Identity Verification) से परे उद्देश्यों के लिए आधार का निरंतर उपयोग आधार अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 9 के विपरीत है, जिसमें स्पष्ट रूप से कहा गया है कि आधार नागरिकता या अधिवास का प्रमाण नहीं है।
- It also relied on an **August 2023 UIDAI notification** clarifying that Aadhaar serves only as proof of identity and cannot be treated as proof of citizenship, residence or date of birth. याचिका में अगस्त 2023 की UIDAI अधिसूचना का भी उल्लेख किया गया, जिसमें स्पष्ट किया गया था कि आधार केवल पहचान का प्रमाण है और इसे नागरिकता, निवास अथवा जन्म तिथि के प्रमाण के रूप में नहीं माना जा सकता।

Electoral integrity

निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया की अखंडता

- The plea also questioned the use of Aadhaar as proof of date of birth and residence in **Form-6**, the application form for fresh voter registration. याचिका में नए मतदाता पंजीकरण हेतु प्रयुक्त फॉर्म-6 में आधार को जन्म तिथि और निवास प्रमाण के रूप में स्वीकार किए जाने पर भी प्रश्न उठाया गया।
- "Aadhaar is not only being used as proof of age, citizenship & domicile for school admission, property purchase, and to obtain birth certificate, ration card, driving licence, but also being used in the application form for new voter registration (Form-6) as proof of date of birth & proof of residence. And thus, infiltrators & illegal immigrants are obtaining various documents using the Aadhaar," the plea stated. याचिका में कहा गया कि "आधार का उपयोग केवल स्कूल प्रवेश, संपत्ति खरीद, जन्म प्रमाण-पत्र, राशन कार्ड और डाइविंग लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने के लिए आयु, नागरिकता एवं अधिवास के प्रमाण के रूप में ही नहीं किया जा रहा है, बल्कि नए मतदाता पंजीकरण (फॉर्म-6) में जन्म तिथि और निवास प्रमाण के रूप में भी किया जा रहा है। इस प्रकार, घुसपैठिए और अवैध प्रवासी आधार के माध्यम से विभिन्न दस्तावेज प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।"
- "Infiltration is a weapon of political parties to subvert the electoral process for their benefit. West Bengal, Assam and other Northeastern States have been afflicted by cheap political tactics. The infiltrators are helped by either the party in power or the Opposition parties, and are also helped with identity documents such as Aadhaar/ration card. Once they have a plethora of documents, they enrol themselves in the voting list. Thus, the sacrosanct nature of the election process is compromised," the plea stated. याचिका में कहा गया कि "घुसपैठ राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा अपने लाभ के लिए निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया को प्रभावित करने का एक साधन बन गई है। पश्चिम बंगाल, असम और अन्य पूर्वोत्तर राज्य सस्ती राजनीतिक रणनीतियों से प्रभावित हुए हैं। घुसपैठियों को सत्तारूढ़ या विपक्षी दलों द्वारा सहायता दी जाती है तथा उन्हें आधार और राशन कार्ड जैसे पहचान दस्तावेज उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं। एक बार पर्याप्त दस्तावेज प्राप्त हो जाने पर वे स्वयं को मतदाता सूची में दर्ज करा लेते हैं। इस प्रकार चुनाव प्रक्रिया की पवित्रता प्रभावित होती है।"

'Complete overhaul'

'पूर्ण पुनर्गठन'



GS II: Governance

Primed to treat

The Kerala story in containing Nipah has lessons for pandemic preparedness

The emergence of a case of the Nipah virus in Kerala and the subsequent control in the State is indicative of two things: first, Kerala's own mix of ecological factors and anthropogenic activity that makes it vulnerable every monsoon season to the possibility of Nipah spreading, the hosts being fruit bats. Second, the fact that there has been just a single case so far is testament to the robustness of the health systems in place in Kerala. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified Nipah a priority pathogen, accounting for its lethality, potential to cause outbreaks, even a pandemic. It is just one of several pathogens that WHO has flagged for Kerala – including avian influenza and Kyasanur Forest Disease. Kerala has, at the moment, one active case of 43-year-old man from Ramanattukara in Kozhikode. He remains on ventilator support at the Kozhikode Government Hospital. No fresh cases have come up since then, after intensive contact tracing and screening. The 2018 Nipah outbreak, immortalised in film and art, which caused 17 deaths, and affected 23 people (18 lab confirmed), spread primarily on person-to-person contact, with the index patient reportedly transmitting the virus to 15 others, including health-care workers. Since then it has had cases/outbreaks in 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025. Historically in India, a devastating outbreak was noted in 2001 in West Bengal, and later, a few cases were detected again, in 2007. Earlier this year, on January 26, 2026, two laboratory-confirmed cases of Nipah virus infection were reported from West Bengal, both health-care workers. This was also contained and no further cases were reported.

It is clear that human activity on the fringes of forest zones, encroaching into traditional habitats of the fruit bats, has a central role to play in the transmission of the virus; in time, this originally zoonotic infection jumped to humans. Repeatedly, the source of infection has been traced to consuming contaminated fruits, or contact with water sources contaminated by bats. This also indicates that the overall approach should be from a One Health perspective, considering environmental and animal interplays with humans, and not a mere health-care angle. The State's history of Nipah outbreaks and its learnings have enabled it to prime its health system to meet such health emergencies, at the primary and secondary hospitals itself. This is the other lesson from Kerala for pandemic preparedness. Its system has become adept at maintaining a high index of suspicion for cases of acute encephalitis; watching out for clusters, and with clinical efficiency, deploying protocols to control further spread and reach all those who need medical assistance.

मनुष्यों में फैल गया।

- Repeatedly, the source of infection has been traced to consuming contaminated fruits, or contact with water sources contaminated by bats. बार-बार संक्रमण के स्रोत को दूषित फलों के सेवन अथवा चमगादड़ों द्वारा दूषित किए गए जल स्रोतों के संपर्क से जोड़ा गया है।
- This also indicates that the overall approach should be from a One Health perspective, considering environmental and animal interplays with humans, and not a mere health-care angle.

Accordingly, the petition sought a complete overhaul of the verification framework used in electoral processes and proposed the establishment of a high-powered monitoring committee comprising a retired Supreme Court judge along with cybersecurity and forensic experts to oversee reforms.

तदनुसार, याचिका में निर्वाचन प्रक्रियाओं में प्रयुक्त सत्यापन ढांचे के पूर्ण पुनर्गठन की मांग की गई तथा सुधारों की निगरानी के लिए एक उच्चस्तरीय निगरानी समिति गठित करने का प्रस्ताव रखा गया, जिसमें एक सेवानिवृत्त उच्चतम न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश, साइबर सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञ तथा फॉरेंसिक विशेषज्ञ शामिल हों।

17J6. Primed to treat उपचार के लिए तैयार

The emergence of a case of the Nipah virus in Kerala and the subsequent control in the State is indicative of two things: first, Kerala's own mix of ecological factors and anthropogenic activity that makes it vulnerable every monsoon season to the possibility of Nipah spreading, the hosts being fruit bats.

केरल में निपाह वायरस के एक मामले का सामने आना और उसके बाद राज्य में उस पर नियंत्रण स्थापित किया जाना दो बातों का संकेत देता है: पहली, केरल में मौजूद पारिस्थितिकीय कारकों और मानवजनित गतिविधियों का ऐसा मिश्रण, जो प्रत्येक मानसून ऋतु में फलाहारी चमगादड़ों द्वारा निपाह के प्रसार की संभावना के प्रति इसे संवेदनशील बनाता है।

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified Nipah a priority pathogen, accounting for its lethality, potential to cause outbreaks, even a pandemic.

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने निपाह को एक प्राथमिकता प्राप्त रोगजनक के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया है, क्योंकि यह अत्यधिक घातक है तथा प्रकोप और यहाँ तक कि महामारी उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता रखता है।

It is just one of several pathogens that WHO has flagged for Kerala — including avian influenza and Kyasanur Forest Disease. यह उन अनेक रोगजनकों में से एक है जिनके प्रति WHO ने केरल को सतर्क किया है, जिनमें एवियन इन्फ्लुएंजा और क्यासानूर वन रोग भी शामिल हैं।

It is clear that human activity on the fringes of forest zones, encroaching into traditional habitats of the fruit bats, has a central role to play in the transmission of the virus; in time, this originally zoonotic infection jumped to humans.

यह स्पष्ट है कि वन क्षेत्रों की सीमाओं पर होने वाली मानवीय गतिविधियाँ, जो फलाहारी चमगादड़ों के पारंपरिक आवासों में अतिक्रमण करती हैं, वायरस के प्रसार में केंद्रीय भूमिका निभाती हैं; समय के साथ यह मूलतः जन्तुजन्य संक्रमण

यह भी इंगित करता है कि समग्र दृष्टिकोण वन हेल्थ परिप्रेक्ष्य पर आधारित होना चाहिए, जिसमें मनुष्यों के साथ पर्यावरणीय और पशु-संबंधी अंतःक्रियाओं को भी ध्यान में रखा जाए, न कि केवल स्वास्थ्य सेवा के दृष्टिकोण को।

- Its system has become adept at maintaining a high index of suspicion for cases of **acute encephalitis**; watching out for **clusters**, and with **clinical efficiency**, deploying protocols to control further spread and reach all those who need medical assistance.
इसकी प्रणाली तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ (Acute Encephalitis) के मामलों के प्रति उच्च स्तर की सतर्कता बनाए रखने, संभावित समूहगत मामलों (Clusters) पर निगरानी रखने तथा नैदानिक दक्षता के साथ ऐसे प्रोटोकॉल लागू करने में सक्षम हो गई है, जो संक्रमण के आगे प्रसार को नियंत्रित करें और चिकित्सा सहायता की आवश्यकता वाले सभी लोगों तक पहुँच सुनिश्चित करें।

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and Kyasanur Forest Disease

- These are both **zoonotic diseases** (diseases transmitted from animals to humans), but they differ significantly in their causative agents, reservoirs, transmission, and geographical distribution.

Feature	Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)	Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)
Causative Agent	Influenza A virus (commonly H5N1, H5N8, H7N9)	Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV), a Flavivirus
Disease Type	Viral respiratory disease	Viral hemorrhagic fever
Reservoir	Wild aquatic birds (ducks, geese, migratory birds)	Small mammals, rodents, shrews; monkeys act as amplifying hosts
Vector	No vector; direct transmission from infected birds	Tick-borne disease (mainly <i>Haemaphysalis</i> ticks)
Transmission to Humans	Contact with infected birds, poultry, droppings, contaminated surfaces	Bite of infected ticks or contact with infected animals
Human-to-Human Transmission	Very rare	Not known to occur
Main Symptoms	Fever, cough, sore throat, pneumonia, respiratory distress	High fever, headache, muscle pain, bleeding tendencies, weakness
Mortality	Can be high in severe strains like H5N1	Around 3–10%

Geographical Distribution	Worldwide, especially along migratory bird routes	Endemic mainly in Western Ghats region of India
Vaccine Availability	Poultry vaccines available; limited human vaccines	KFD vaccine available in endemic areas of India

Five solutions Indian cities need, to stop fighting for water week after week

Water-secure cities require a combination of clear and transparent emergency planning, systematic reduction of water losses through leak repairs, collective efforts to curb demand, strong safeguards to ensure water quality during shortages, and better management and reuse of wastewater

GS II: Governance

Manish Dubey
K.V. Santhosh Ragavan

Urbans India's water emergency is no longer a future risk. It has become the normal of our summers. From high-rises anxiously tracking tanker schedules to informal settlements queuing at a single standpost, every year brings the same mix of dry taps, frayed tempers, and quiet resignation.

This summer, residents in parts of New Delhi have already faced days without piped water supply and large families have had to make do with just one 20-litre water can for a day. The Delhi Jal Board has reportedly planned to deploy more than 1,000 tankers to manage the crisis. Similar scenes have played out in other major cities, including Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, over the last few summers.

Unfortunately, India still treats this as a seasonal inconvenience to endure until the clouds arrive.

Most cities source their water from reservoirs, groundwater or a combination of both. The annual summer water shortage however is the result of choices made over years. Cities have grown faster than their systems. Lakes and tanks have been built over. People are consuming groundwater faster than it can be replenished.

Cities often focus on finding new water sources instead of fixing and maintaining existing networks. Choices around

development planning and control, enforcement of groundwater regulations, water use and wastewater management, made by all – from every individual to service providers to policymakers – shape the experience each summer.

Many cities have moved from nearby rivers and lakes to distant sources and rapidly depleting groundwater, sinking more borewells and laying longer pipelines. What looks like a sudden shortage is often the result of this slow erosion of local buffers. At the same time, lakes, tanks, ponds and stormwater channels that once softened both floods and droughts have been encroached upon or converted, so a few hours of intense rain can flood streets and, a few weeks later, the same city is again queuing for tankers.

Beyond short-term coping

For many residents, especially in poorer settlements and smaller towns, the crisis is also about quality. Intermittent supply, leaky pipes, and unsafe storage mean that even when water arrives, it may not be safe to drink. The familiar scenes of tankers, angry protests, and frantic borewell drilling are therefore not one-offs. They are symptoms of a chronic condition that shows up in illness, lost workdays and mounting bills.

If we accept this, we will also realise that coping from week to week is no longer enough.

First, every city needs an honest and public emergency water plan. Residents

should not have to rely on rumours to know what is happening. A basic plan would identify the most vulnerable wards and critical facilities, set simple rules for how water will be prioritised when supplies are tight such as duration and frequency of supply to enable better tail end distribution, and commit to regular public updates on storage levels and expected supply. Where such information is shared clearly, it manages expectations and reduces grievances; this is less about technology than about treating information as part of the service.

Second, a concerted effort must be made to recover water that is already in the system but never reaches the taps. Instead of announcing distant, expensive new sources, cities can launch a time-bound 'leak hunt' in the worst-affected zones: walk key stretches of the network, fix visible leaks quickly, use simple tools to detect hidden ones, and set a short-term target for cutting losses. In systems where a large share – nearly 30% – of water is lost before it reaches users, even modest reductions in a few high-loss areas is equivalent to creating a new local source without building a new pipeline.

Third, government buildings, big campuses and commercial complexes are among the steadiest consumers of water. And a quick internal audit, basic leak repairs, and simple efficiency measures over the next month can free up meaningful volumes and set an example. Neighbourhoods and resident groups can

agree on clear norms for peak months, limiting non-essential uses, tracking weekly consumption and asking tanker suppliers where they draw their water from – while local leaders in low-income areas help authorities see how supply actually reaches their lanes.

Fourth, any emergency response must include water quality: rapid testing in high-risk neighbourhoods and tanker water supply, temporary support for basic treatment where problems are found, and simple communication about safe storage.

Finally, water security cannot be achieved without improving how we manage used-water. Measures to reduce leaks in water pipelines should also be used on sewer networks to identify and stop major sewage exfiltration and prevent contamination.

Not a single solution

Quick, low-cost upgrades to used-water treatment plants such as, optimising aeration, de-weeding, and desludging, can further reduce pollution and help augment available surface- and ground-water resources.

No single measure will pull Indian cities out of their water emergency. Together, however, they can directly address the summer's pain points: unpredictability, waste, inequity, and illness.

Manish Dubey is Dean & Rahul Bajaj Chair, School of Governance, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS). K.V. Santhosh Ragavan is Adjunct Faculty, IIHS.

17J6. Five solutions Indian cities need, to stop fighting for water week after week

भारतीय शहरों को बार-बार जल संकट से जूझने से रोकने के लिए पाँच समाधान आवश्यक

- **Water-secure cities** require a combination of clear and transparent **emergency planning**, systematic reduction of **water losses** through **leak repairs**, collective efforts to curb **demand**, strong safeguards to ensure **water quality** during shortages, and better management and reuse of **wastewater**.

Fourth, any emergency response must include water quality: rapid testing in high-risk neighbourhoods and tanker water supply, temporary support for basic treatment where problems are found, and simple communication about safe storage.

चतुर्थ, किसी भी आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया में जल गुणवत्ता को शामिल करना आवश्यक है; उच्च जोखिम वाले क्षेत्रों तथा टैंकर जलापूर्ति का त्वरित परीक्षण, समस्या मिलने पर मूलभूत उपचार के लिए अस्थायी सहायता तथा सुरक्षित भंडारण के संबंध में सरल जनसंचार किया जाना चाहिए।

- Finally, water security cannot be achieved without improving how we manage used-water.

अंततः, उपयोग किए गए जल के प्रबंधन में सुधार किए बिना जल सुरक्षा प्राप्त नहीं की जा सकती।

- Quick, low-cost upgrades to used-water treatment plants such as optimising aeration, de-weeding, and desludging, can further reduce pollution and help augment available surface-water and groundwater resources.

अपशिष्ट जल शोधन संयंत्रों में वातन (Aeration) का अनुकूलन, खरपतवार निष्कासन (De-weeding) तथा गाद निष्कासन (Desludging) जैसे त्वरित और कम लागत वाले उन्नयन प्रदूषण को और कम कर सकते हैं तथा उपलब्ध सतही जल एवं भूजल संसाधनों को बढ़ाने में सहायता कर सकते हैं।

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TOPICS COVERED		
17J6	IORA examining Canada's request to be observer हिंद महासागर रिम संघ (IORA) कनाडा के पर्यवेक्षक बनने के अनुरोध की समीक्षा कर रहा है	
17J6	Limits of America अमेरिका की सीमाएँ	
17J6	A nation determined to endure and overcome एक राष्ट्र जो दृढ़तापूर्वक टिके रहने और चुनौतियों पर विजय प्राप्त करने के लिए संकल्पित है	
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17J6	'1.1 billion children exposed to three or more climate risks' '1.1 अरब बच्चे तीन या अधिक जलवायु जोखिमों के संपर्क में'	
17J6	How Herat defied the Taliban regime, chanting 'women, work and freedom' हेरात ने 'महिलाएँ, काम और स्वतंत्रता' का नारा लगाते हुए तालिबान शासन को कैसे चुनौती दी	



IORA examining Canada's request to be observer

GS II: IR

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Canada's application to become an observer in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) "is being examined" at the 28th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials being held in New Delhi, Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA's Secretary-General, told *The Hindu* on Monday.

"Canada has made an application to become a dialogue partner of the organisation, and it is being examined at this meeting," he said.

Mr. Ranjan added member states could benefit from Canada's potential inclusion into the fold considering its expertise in varied maritime domains.

"They [Canada] are a big maritime power because of the huge coastal zones they have, they also have various initiatives and expertise in maritime safety, security and connectivity, among other areas, which would be of help to other member states of the organisation," he said.



Sanjiv Ranjan

Mr. Ranjan welcomed the potential peace deal between Iran and the U.S. that could end more than 100 days of hostilities in the Strait of Hormuz.

"It is a welcome thing that we may have an agreement by the end of this week as has been reported," he said.

Listing out priorities in the Indian Ocean, Mr. Ranjan said disaster response and mitigation remain a priority for IORA. He said the adverse impact of climate change would be "disproportionate" in the Indian Ocean. "Therefore, we must be ready in dealing with that," he said.

उसके पास विशाल तटीय क्षेत्र हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त, उसके पास समुद्री सुरक्षा, संरक्षा, संपर्कता तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों में अनेक पहलें और विशेषज्ञता हैं, जो संगठन के अन्य सदस्य देशों के लिए उपयोगी सिद्ध होंगी।"

- Mr. Ranjan welcomed the potential peace deal between Iran and the U.S. that could end more than 100 days of hostilities in the Strait of Hormuz.

श्री रंजन ने ईरान और अमेरिका के बीच संभावित शांति समझौते का स्वागत किया, जिससे हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य (Strait of Hormuz) में 100 दिनों से अधिक समय से जारी शत्रुता समाप्त हो सकती है।

- "It is a welcome thing that we may have an agreement by the end of this week as has been reported," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "यह स्वागतयोग्य बात है कि रिपोर्टों के अनुसार इस सप्ताह के अंत तक एक समझौता हो सकता है।"

17J6. IORA examining Canada's request to be observer

हिंद महासागर रिम संघ (IORA) कनाडा के पर्यवेक्षक बनने के अनुरोध की समीक्षा कर रहा है

- Canada's application to become an observer in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) "is being examined" at the 28th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials being held in New Delhi, Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA's Secretary-General, told *The Hindu* on Monday. हिंद महासागर रिम संघ (IORA) में पर्यवेक्षक (Observer) बनने के लिए कनाडा के आवेदन की "जांच की जा रही है", यह जानकारी IORA के महासचिव संजीव रंजन ने सोमवार को द हिंदू को दी। यह विषय नई दिल्ली में आयोजित वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की समिति (Committee of Senior Officials) की 28वीं बैठक में विचाराधीन है।

- "Canada has made an application to become a dialogue partner of the organisation, and it is being examined at this meeting," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "कनाडा ने संगठन का संवाद भागीदार (Dialogue Partner) बनने के लिए आवेदन किया है और इस बैठक में उस पर विचार किया जा रहा है।"

- Mr. Ranjan added member states could benefit from Canada's potential inclusion into the fold considering its expertise in varied maritime domains.

श्री रंजन ने कहा कि विभिन्न समुद्री क्षेत्रों (Maritime Domains) में कनाडा की विशेषज्ञता को देखते हुए उसके संभावित शामिल होने से सदस्य देशों को लाभ हो सकता है।

- "They [Canada] are a big maritime power because of the huge coastal zones they have, they also have various initiatives and expertise in maritime safety, security and connectivity, among other areas, which would be of help to other member states of the organisation," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "कनाडा एक प्रमुख समुद्री शक्ति है क्योंकि



- Listing out priorities in the Indian Ocean, Mr. Ranjan said **disaster response and mitigation** remain a priority for IORA.
हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र की प्राथमिकताओं का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री रंजन ने कहा कि आपदा प्रतिक्रिया (Disaster Response) और आपदा शमन (Mitigation) IORA की प्रमुख प्राथमिकताओं में बने हुए हैं।
- He said the adverse impact of **climate change** would be “**disproportionate**” in the Indian Ocean.
उन्होंने कहा कि **जलवायु परिवर्तन** का प्रतिकूल प्रभाव हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में “**असमानुपातिक रूप से अधिक (Disproportionate)**” होगा।
- “Therefore, we must be ready in dealing with that,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “इसलिए हमें उससे निपटने के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए।”

GS II: IR

Limits of America

Iran won the war by merely denying the United States a victory

Israel and the U.S. launched their war on Iran on February 28 to bring about regime change in Tehran, destroy its nuclear and missile capabilities and end its support for non-state actors such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis. More than 100 days later, on June 15, the U.S. reached a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran to end fighting, lift the blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman – disruptions that did not exist before the war – and pave the way for more substantive talks on the nuclear question, while Israel, frustrated and isolated, is watching from the sidelines. That U.S. President Donald Trump pushed ahead despite Israeli objection underscores how dramatically the region's strategic landscape has shifted. Left with few viable military options to make Iran submit to America's maximalist demands, or to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Trump ultimately turned to a phased diplomatic approach: a preliminary agreement now, followed by negotiations on a final deal. Iranian officials say the arrangement would include the release of some frozen assets and reparations for Tehran as part of a broader regional ceasefire agreement. Core issues such as Iran's nuclear programme and western sanctions would be discussed next.

The MoU is only the first step on a long and difficult road to peace and stability. Mr. Trump's immediate challenge is to prevent a fresh outbreak of hostilities between the U.S. and Iran, or Israel and Iran, while nuclear negotiations remain under way. His biggest strategic mistake was his belief, shared by Israel, that there was a military solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Washington underestimated Iran's resolve, strategic depth and geographical advantages. As Henry Kissinger put it, “the guerrilla wins if he does not lose”. Iran won this war by not losing while the U.S., the most powerful country, lost it by failing to achieve its goals. With the nuclear talks set to resume, Mr. Trump finds himself in a weaker position today than the one Barack Obama occupied when he held talks with Iran in 2013-15. Nevertheless, the prospects for a negotiated outcome are still real as Iran urgently needs long-term economic relief. One potential disruptor, however, could be Israel, which has said it would not withdraw from occupied Southern Lebanon. Iran and the U.S. should rein in their respective allies, Hezbollah and Israel; Tehran should also take measures to instil confidence in the process. It has already demonstrated its deterrence by taking control of the Strait of Hormuz. It must now reopen the waterway in exchange for the U.S. removing its blockade. Iran and the U.S. should remain focused on diplomacy, resist potential Israeli efforts to sabotage the process, and work towards restoring stability in West Asia.

17J6. Limits of America

अमेरिका की सीमाएँ

- Israel and the U.S. launched their war on Iran on February 28 to bring about regime change in Tehran, destroy its nuclear and missile capabilities and end its support for non-state actors such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis.

इज़राइल और अमेरिका ने 28 फरवरी को ईरान के विरुद्ध युद्ध प्रारम्भ किया, जिसका उद्देश्य तेहरान में शासन परिवर्तन लाना, उसकी परमाणु एवं मिसाइल क्षमताओं को नष्ट करना तथा हमस, हिज़बुल्लाह और हूती जैसे गैर-राज्यीय अभिनेताओं को दिए जा रहे उसके समर्थन को समाप्त करना था।

- More than 100 days later, on June 15, the U.S. reached a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran to end fighting, lift the blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman — disruptions that did not exist before the war — and pave the way for more substantive talks on the nuclear question, while Israel, frustrated and isolated, is watching from the sidelines.

100 दिनों से अधिक समय बाद, 15 जून को, अमेरिका ने ईरान के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) किया, जिसका उद्देश्य संघर्ष समाप्त करना, हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य और ओमान की खाड़ी में लगाए गए अवरोधों को हटाना — जो युद्ध से पूर्व अस्तित्व में नहीं थे — तथा परमाणु मुद्दे पर अधिक सार्थक वार्ताओं का मार्ग प्रशस्त करना था, जबकि निराश और अलग-थलग पड़ा इज़राइल किनारे से यह सब देख रहा है।

- Iranian officials say the arrangement would include the release of some frozen assets and reparations for Tehran as part of a broader regional ceasefire agreement.

ईरानी अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इस व्यवस्था में तेहरान के लिए कुछ जमे हुए परिसंपत्तियों की रिहाई और क्षतिपूर्ति भी शामिल होगी, जो एक व्यापक क्षेत्रीय युद्धविराम समझौते का हिस्सा होगी।

- Washington underestimated Iran's resolve, strategic depth and geographical advantages.

वॉशिंगटन ने ईरान के संकल्प, रणनीतिक गहराई और भौगोलिक लाभों को कम करके आँका।

- As Henry Kissinger put it, “the guerrilla wins if he does not lose”.

जैसा कि हेनरी किस्सिंजर ने कहा था, “गुरिल्ला तब जीतता है जब वह हारता नहीं है।”

- Iran won this war by not losing while the U.S., the most powerful country, lost it by failing to achieve its goals.



ईरान ने यह युद्ध हारने से बचकर जीता, जबकि विश्व की सबसे शक्तिशाली शक्ति अमेरिका अपने उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में विफल रहकर हार गया।

- One potential disruptor, however, could be **Israel**, which has said it would not withdraw from occupied **Southern Lebanon**.

हालाँकि, एक संभावित बाधा **इज़राइल** हो सकता है, जिसने कहा है कि वह कब्जे वाले **दक्षिणी लेबनान** से पीछे नहीं हटेगा।

- **Iran and the U.S.** should rein in their respective allies, **Hezbollah and Israel**; **Tehran** should also take measures to instil confidence in the process.

ईरान और अमेरिका को अपने-अपने सहयोगियों, **हिज़बुल्लाह** और **इज़राइल**, को नियंत्रित करना चाहिए; साथ ही तेहरान को भी इस प्रक्रिया में विश्वास उत्पन्न करने हेतु कदम उठाने चाहिए।

- It has already demonstrated its **deterrence** by taking control of the **Strait of Hormuz**.

वह **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करके अपनी **निरोधक क्षमता** का प्रदर्शन पहले ही कर चुका है।

A nation determined to endure and overcome

THE HISTORY OF IRAN is replete with paradoxes and exceptions. It is a land of great contrasts both in climate and geography and is inhabited by, in the words of an ancient historian, "a poor people with a proud spirit." Given its location, the Iranian people and its rulers have interacted with its neighbouring states throughout history both as their oppressors and as victims.

Over the past two centuries, Iran has oscillated between extremes as the country searched for a viable response to the multiple challenges of Western style modernity. Under the Qajar and Pahlavi dynasties, it sought for an emulation of all things Western until the Islamic Revolution of 1979 reversed the trend and brought forth a new prototype.

The decline of the Shah
The discovery of oil in the country in 1901 had led to the formation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) with the British government holding almost half its shares. However, post World War II, its nationalisation in 1953 resulted in tensions with Western powers, which led to the active involvement of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) in overthrowing the then Mosaddeq government. The U.S. then became the deciding factor in resolving the Anglo-Iranian nationalisation dispute.

Developments in the global oil market saw Iranian oil revenues increase from \$2 billion to \$20 billion in 1974. This resulted in poorly conceived and badly implemented programmes of socio-economic and military modernisation by the Shah; his so-called White Revolution (a series of reforms to modernise Iran) and 'Great Civilisation' projects (highlighted by the 2,500th anniversary of the Iranian monarchy) were not successful and were widely resented within Iran. The major sources of opposition were political organisations from both the left and the right; pro-democracy reformists; merchants and bazaaris; and the *ulema* (recognised scholars of Islam).

In addition, and despite "parallelism of interests" between the two countries, the presence of Americans everywhere was resented by the Iranian public. As James Bill put it in his book *The Eagle*



Hamid Ansari
Former Vice-President of India

and the Lion, "the very best and very worst of America were on display in the cities of Iran." In the 1970s, according to a contemporary observer, "the political culture of the Shah's regime both became more repressive and hardened on the one hand, and more remote and attenuated on the other." The subsequent 'progress' in U.S.-Iran relations emanated from wrong policies, misunderstandings and cultural misperceptions. These together contributed to the U.S. becoming in the eyes of Iran, the 'Great Satan'.

Also in the 1970s, the U.S. encouraged Iran to develop nuclear power arguing that the country would eventually run out of oil. The Shah also periodically hinted that he wanted Iran to build nuclear weapons and, in response to official denials, said Iran "has no intention of acquiring [them] but if small states began building them, then Iran might reconsider its policy." U.S. documents of that period suggest that it was in the U.S.'s national interest, both with respect to the economy and security, to have Iran acquire nuclear power.

However, by the end of 1977, the Shah had alienated the *ulema*, estranged the merchants, and created a poor and decimated working class in Tehran. He had also alienated many of the educated middle-class through his oppressive policies and human rights abuses. As

alternatives, radical intellectuals such as Ali Shariati propagated the ideology of 'Red Shiism' (a reinterpretation of Shi'a Islam as an active, classless movement for social justice). The Marxists were also active as the Tudeh party before being suppressed. But separately, and with greater impact and influence, Ayatollah Khomeini was advocating for the *Vilayat-e Faqih* (Regency of the Islamic Jurist).

The revolution of 1979 was not primarily a religious event though it drew strength from its Shia form. It was sustained by middle-class disillusionment with corruption and economic stagnation. The process of Islamisation of the state and society commenced with a national referendum in March 1979 and gradually enveloped the institutions and practices of the state.

Post the revolution

In November 1979, prompted by news that the former Shah was being given asylum in the U.S., students broke into the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took the diplomats hostage. A laudatory account of that episode, which had far-reaching consequences, was written by one of its women student leaders Massoumeh Ebtekar. In an interview to a U.S. scholar about the hostages, Ms. Ebtekar said "it is very difficult to compare the suffering that the Iranian nation felt

during fifty years of foreign domination and comparing that to the suffering or pain that may have faced during these 444 days."

This sudden and sharp decline in U.S.-Iran relations changed the global picture as seen from Washington. Regional tranquillity was further shattered when Iraq disowned the 1975 Algiers Treaty and invaded Iran in 1980 at different points of their common border. The seven-year war, from 1980 to 1987, unleashed by Iraq became for Iran a defence of its national territory. It transformed from a border war on Iran's western borders in the first two years to becoming a full-fledged war extending into the interior cities. It became an inescapable fact of life in Iran and merged into the consciousness of the public.

Iraq was assisted in the war by most Arab countries as well as by the U.S. Each had its own reasons to be apprehensive of Iran's revolutionary agenda emphasised in Khomeini's

pronouncement that "there is only one way to save this revolution and that is to rapidly export the revolution, mobilise the world's Muslims and, later on all oppressed masses against the oppressors and governments related to them".

The role of Israel

Israel covertly assisted Iran, viewing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as the more severe, existential threat. This pragmatism overrode the ideological hostility against the newly established Islamic Republic and resulted in a crucial, multi-faceted role for Israel. The country became one of Iran's primary sources of military equipment, covertly providing desperately needed spare parts, ammunition, and heavy weapons. In 1980, it secretly supplied Iran with hundreds of spare tires to keep its grounded American-made F-4 Phantom fighter jets operational. In exchange for covert arms sales, Israel received Iranian crude oil. This helped Israel bypass the severe energy shortages caused by the 1979 oil crisis, while allowing Iran to sustain its war effort. It also provided Israel's domestic defence industry with valuable combat-testing

data for its weapons.

Israeli policymakers believed that a strong and well-supplied Iran would successfully bog down Saddam Hussein's military, preventing Iraq from posing a threat to its neighbours or Israel itself. By ensuring that the two most hostile regional powers spent eight years depleting each other's military, economic, and human resources, the conflict provided Israel with a highly valuable "strategic breather". It also, at times, helped facilitate the safe and unhindered emigration of the Persian Jewish community out of Iran.

The war gave the revolutionary authorities of Iran an opportunity to weaken the Iranian national army of the Shah's period and to create instead the 'Sepah-e Pasdaran' or the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It went from strength to strength

during the war, numbering around 1 million while the regular armed forces numbered around 3,55,000.

Iran's determination

Iran showed considerable ingenuity in meeting the challenge of Iraq-Iran war. It reduced the import of non-essentials and managed to keep its oil flowing despite periodic air attacks. It diversified sources of arms supply and capitalised on the support of the masses for the war while squeezing the well to do and the bazaaris. The war to all intents and purposes became the sole criterion for judging the Islamic Republic.

There was some public opposition to the conduct of the war such as from the Islamic Liberation Movement, co-founded by former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, which labelled the continuation of the war as 'un-Islamic'. Separately, reports indicative of 'chronic disorder of governance' have appeared in publications close to the establishment, suggesting 'prolonged ambiguity' in decision-making.

The Iranian tenacity during the Iraq war, and in the ongoing U.S.-Israel conflict, is evidence enough of its capacity and determination to endure and overcome adversity. Iran has asserted its place in the region and is not oblivious of it in the world of tomorrow.



Final resolution: An Iranian man rides a scooter past anti-U.S. banners placed outside the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran on June 15, 1979

17J6. A nation determined to endure and overcome

एक राष्ट्र जो दृढ़तापूर्वक टिके रहने और चुनौतियों पर विजय प्राप्त करने के लिए संकल्पित है

- It is a land of great contrasts both in **climate and geography** and is inhabited by, in the words of an ancient historian, "a poor people with a proud spirit."

यह जलवायु और भूगोल दोनों दृष्टियों से अत्यधिक विविधताओं वाला देश है और, एक प्राचीन इतिहासकार के शब्दों में, यहाँ "गरीब किन्तु गौरवशाली आत्मा वाले लोग" निवास करते हैं।

- Under the **Qajar and Pahlavi dynasties**, it sought for an emulation of all things Western until the **Islamic Revolution of 1979** reversed the trend and brought forth a new prototype.

क्वाज़ार और पहलवी वंशों के शासनकाल में उसने पश्चिमी जीवनशैली और संस्थाओं का अनुकरण करने का

प्रयास किया, जब तक कि 1979 की इस्लामी क्रांति ने इस प्रवृत्ति को उलटकर एक नए प्रतिमान को जन्म नहीं दिया।

The decline of the Shah

शाह का पतन

- The discovery of oil in the country in 1901 had led to the formation of the **Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC)** with the **British government** holding almost half its shares.
1901 में देश में तेल की खोज के परिणामस्वरूप **एंग्लो-ईरानियन ऑयल कंपनी (AIOC)** की स्थापना हुई, जिसमें **ब्रिटिश सरकार** की लगभग आधी हिस्सेदारी थी।
- However, post **World War II**, its **nationalisation** in 1953 resulted in tensions with **Western powers**, which led to the active involvement of the **CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)** in overthrowing the then **Mosaddeq government**.
किन्तु **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के बाद 1953 में इसके **राष्ट्रीयकरण** से **पश्चिमी शक्तियों** के साथ तनाव उत्पन्न हुआ, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **CIA (केंद्रीय गुप्तचर एजेंसी)** ने तत्कालीन **मोसददेक सरकार** को अपदस्थ करने में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाई।
- The **U.S.** then became the deciding factor in resolving the **Anglo-Iranian nationalisation dispute**.
इसके बाद **अमेरिका एंग्लो-ईरानियन राष्ट्रीयकरण विवाद** के समाधान में निर्णायक कारक बन गया।
- This resulted in poorly conceived and badly implemented programmes of **socio-economic and military modernisation** by the **Shah**; his so-called **White Revolution** (a series of reforms to modernise Iran) and '**Great Civilisation**' projects (highlighted by the 2,500th anniversary of the Iranian monarchy) were not successful and were widely resented within Iran.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप **शाह** द्वारा **सामाजिक-आर्थिक और सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण** के ऐसे कार्यक्रम शुरू किए गए जो कमजोर योजना और खराब क्रियान्वयन से ग्रस्त थे; उनकी तथाकथित **श्वेत क्रांति (White Revolution)** तथा '**ग्रेट सिविलाइजेशन**' परियोजनाएँ (जिन्हें ईरानी राजशाही की 2500वीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर विशेष रूप से प्रदर्शित किया गया) सफल नहीं रही और ईरान में व्यापक असंतोष का कारण बनीं।
- The major sources of opposition were **political organisations** from both the left and the right; **pro-democracy reformists**; **merchants and bazaaris**; and the **ulema** (recognised scholars of Islam).
विरोध के प्रमुख स्रोतों में **वामपंथी और दक्षिणपंथी राजनीतिक संगठन**, **लोकतंत्र समर्थक सुधारवादी**, **व्यापारी और बाज़ारी वर्ग**, तथा **उलेमा** (इस्लाम के मान्यता प्राप्त विद्वान) शामिल थे।
- In the **1970s**, according to a contemporary observer, "the **political culture** of the Shah's regime both became more **repressive** and hardened on the one hand, and more remote and attenuated on the other."
1970 के दशक में, एक समकालीन पर्यवेक्षक के अनुसार, शाह शासन की **राजनीतिक संस्कृति** एक ओर अधिक **दमनकारी और कठोर** होती गई, जबकि दूसरी ओर जनता से अधिक दूर और कमजोर पड़ती गई।
- The subsequent 'progress' in **U.S.-Iran relations** emanated from wrong policies, misunderstandings and **cultural misperceptions**.
इसके बाद **अमेरिका-ईरान संबंधों** में जो तथाकथित 'प्रगति' हुई, वह गलत नीतियों, भ्रान्तियों और **सांस्कृतिक गलत धारणाओं** से प्रभावित थी।
- These together contributed to the **U.S.** becoming in the eyes of **Iran**, the '**Great Satan**'.
इन सभी कारणों ने मिलकर **ईरान** की दृष्टि में **अमेरिका** को '**महान शैतान**' (**Great Satan**) बना दिया।
- Also in the **1970s**, the **U.S.** encouraged **Iran** to develop **nuclear power** arguing that the country would eventually run out of oil.
1970 के दशक में ही **अमेरिका** ने **ईरान** को **परमाणु ऊर्जा** विकसित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया, यह तर्क देते हुए कि भविष्य में देश का तेल समाप्त हो सकता है।



- The **Shah** also periodically hinted that he wanted **Iran** to build **nuclear weapons** and, in response to official denials, said Iran "has no intention of acquiring [them] but if small states began building them, then Iran might reconsider its policy."
शाह समय-समय पर यह संकेत भी देते थे कि वे ईरान को परमाणु हथियार संपन्न बनाना चाहते हैं और आधिकारिक खंडनों के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा था कि ईरान "उन्हें प्राप्त करने का कोई इरादा नहीं रखता, किन्तु यदि छोटे राष्ट्र उनका निर्माण प्रारंभ करते हैं, तो ईरान अपनी नीति पर पुनर्विचार कर सकता है।"
- U.S. documents** of that period suggest that it was in the **U.S.'s national interest**, both with respect to the **economy** and **security**, to have **Iran acquire nuclear power**.
उस समय के अमेरिकी दस्तावेज़ संकेत देते हैं कि अर्थव्यवस्था और सुरक्षा दोनों दृष्टियों से ईरान को परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता प्राप्त करना अमेरिका के राष्ट्रीय हित में माना जाता था।
- However, by the end of **1977**, the **Shah** had alienated the **ulema**, estranged the **merchants**, and created a poor and **deracinated working class** in **Tehran**.
हालाँकि, 1977 के अंत तक शाह ने उलेमा को अपने से दूर कर दिया था, व्यापारियों को अलग-थलग कर दिया था और तेहरान में एक गरीब तथा जड़ों से कटे हुए श्रमिक वर्ग का निर्माण कर दिया था।
- As alternatives, radical intellectuals such as **Ali Shariati** propagated the ideology of '**Red Shiism**' (a reinterpretation of **Shi'a Islam** as an active, classless movement for **social justice**).
वैकल्पिक विचारधारा के रूप में अली शरियती जैसे क्रांतिकारी बुद्धिजीवियों ने 'रेड शियावाद (Red Shiism)' की विचारधारा का प्रचार किया, जिसमें शिया इस्लाम की पुनर्व्याख्या सामाजिक न्याय के लिए सक्रिय और वर्गहीन आंदोलन के रूप में की गई।
- But separately, and with greater impact and influence, **Ayatollah Khomeini** was advocating for the **Vilayat-e-Faqih (Regency of the Islamic Jurist)**.
किन्तु अलग रूप से और अधिक प्रभाव तथा प्रभावशीलता के साथ आयतुल्लाह खुमैनी विलायत-ए-फ़कीह (इस्लामी न्यायविद् की संरक्षकता) की अवधारणा का समर्थन कर रहे थे।
- The **revolution of 1979** was not primarily a religious event though it drew strength from its **Shia** form.
1979 की क्रांति मुख्य रूप से धार्मिक घटना नहीं थी, यद्यपि उसे अपने शिया स्वरूप से शक्ति प्राप्त हुई थी।
- It was sustained by **middle-class disillusionment with corruption and economic stagnation**.
इसे भ्रष्टाचार और आर्थिक ठहराव के प्रति मध्यवर्गीय मोहभंग से निरंतर समर्थन मिला।
- The process of **Islamisation** of the state and society commenced with a **national referendum** in **March 1979** and gradually enveloped the institutions and practices of the state.
राज्य और समाज के इस्लामीकरण की प्रक्रिया मार्च 1979 में आयोजित राष्ट्रीय जनमत-संग्रह से प्रारम्भ हुई और धीरे-धीरे राज्य की संस्थाओं तथा कार्यप्रणालियों को अपने प्रभाव में लेती गई।
- Regional tranquillity** was further shattered when **Iraq** disowned the **1975 Algiers Treaty** and invaded **Iran** in **1980** at different points of their common border.
क्षेत्रीय शांति को और अधिक आघात तब पहुँचा जब इराक ने 1975 की अल्जीयर्स संधि को अस्वीकार कर दिया और 1980 में साझा सीमा के विभिन्न बिंदुओं पर ईरान पर आक्रमण कर दिया।
- The **seven-year war**, from **1980 to 1987**, unleashed by **Iraq** became for **Iran** a defence of its **national territory**.
1980 से 1987 तक चला सात वर्षीय युद्ध, जिसे इराक ने प्रारम्भ किया था, ईरान के लिए अपने राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र की रक्षा का युद्ध बन गया।
- It transformed from a **border war** on Iran's western borders in the first two years to becoming a **full-fledged war** extending into the interior cities.
यह प्रारंभिक दो वर्षों में ईरान की पश्चिमी सीमाओं तक सीमित सीमावर्ती युद्ध से विकसित होकर आंतरिक नगरों तक फैलने वाला पूर्ण विकसित युद्ध बन गया।

- It became an inescapable fact of life in **Iran** and merged into the consciousness of the public. यह **ईरान** के जीवन का एक अपरिहार्य तथ्य बन गया और जनता की सामूहिक चेतना का हिस्सा बन गया।
- Iraq was assisted in the war by most Arab countries as well as by the U.S.** युद्ध में **इराक** को अधिकांश **अरब देशों** तथा **अमेरिका** का समर्थन प्राप्त था।
- Each had its own reasons to be apprehensive of **Iran's revolutionary agenda** emphasised in **Khomeini's** pronouncement that "there is only one way to save this revolution and that is to rapidly **export the revolution**, mobilise the world's **Muslims** and, later on all **oppressed masses** against the oppressors and governments related to them." प्रत्येक के पास **ईरान** के **क्रांतिकारी एजेंडे** को लेकर चिंतित होने के अपने कारण थे, जिसे **खुमैनी** के इस कथन में रेखांकित किया गया था कि "इस क्रांति को बचाने का केवल एक ही तरीका है, और वह है शीघ्रता से **क्रांति का निर्यात**, विश्व के **मुसलमानों** तथा बाद में सभी **उत्पीड़ित जनसमूहों** को उत्पीड़कों और उनसे संबंधित सरकारों के विरुद्ध संगठित करना।"
- Israel covertly assisted Iran, viewing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as the more severe, existential threat.** **इज़राइल** ने गुप्त रूप से **ईरान** की सहायता की, क्योंकि वह **इराकी राष्ट्रपति सद्दाम हुसैन** को अधिक गंभीर अस्तित्वगत खतरा मानता था।
- This **pragmatism** overrode the **ideological hostility** against the newly established **Islamic Republic** and resulted in a crucial, multi-faceted role for Israel. इस **व्यावहारिक दृष्टिकोण** ने नवस्थापित **इस्लामी गणराज्य** के प्रति मौजूद **वैचारिक शत्रुता** को पीछे छोड़ दिया और **इज़राइल** के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण तथा बहुआयामी भूमिका का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया।
- The country became one of **Iran's primary sources of military equipment**, covertly providing desperately needed **spare parts, ammunition, and heavy weapons**. यह देश **ईरान** के **प्रमुख सैन्य उपकरण आपूर्तिकर्ताओं** में से एक बन गया और उसने गुप्त रूप से अत्यंत आवश्यक **स्पेयर पार्ट्स, गोला-बारूद तथा भारी हथियार** उपलब्ध कराए।
- In **1980**, it secretly supplied Iran with hundreds of **spare tires** to keep its grounded American-made **F-4 Phantom fighter jets** operational. **1980** में इसने **ईरान** को सैकड़ों **स्पेयर टायर** गुप्त रूप से उपलब्ध कराए ताकि उसके अमेरिकी निर्मित **एफ-4 फैंटम लड़ाकू विमान** संचालन योग्य बने रहें।
- In exchange for covert **arms sales**, Israel received **Iranian crude oil**. गुप्त **हथियार बिक्री** के बदले **इज़राइल** को **ईरानी कच्चा तेल** प्राप्त हुआ।
- This helped Israel bypass the severe **energy shortages** caused by the **1979 oil crisis**, while allowing Iran to sustain its **war effort**. इससे **इज़राइल** को **1979 के तेल संकट** से उत्पन्न गंभीर **ऊर्जा संकट** से उबरने में सहायता मिली, जबकि **ईरान** अपनी **युद्ध क्षमता** को बनाए रखने में सफल रहा।
- It also provided Israel's domestic **defence industry** with valuable **combat-testing data** for its weapons. इससे **इज़राइल** के घरेलू **रक्षा उद्योग** को अपने हथियारों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण **युद्ध-परीक्षण संबंधी आंकड़े** भी प्राप्त हुए।
- Israeli policymakers** believed that a strong and well-supplied **Iran** would successfully bog down **Saddam Hussein's military**, preventing Iraq from posing a threat to its neighbours or Israel itself. **इज़राइली नीति-निर्माताओं** का मानना था कि एक मजबूत और पर्याप्त संसाधनों से युक्त **ईरान**, **सद्दाम हुसैन की सेना** को लंबे समय तक उलझाए रखेगा, जिससे **इराक** अपने पड़ोसियों अथवा स्वयं **इज़राइल** के लिए खतरा नहीं बन सकेगा।
- By ensuring that the two most hostile regional powers spent eight years depleting each other's **military, economic, and human resources**, the conflict provided Israel with a highly valuable "**strategic breather**". यह सुनिश्चित करके कि क्षेत्र की दो सबसे शत्रुतापूर्ण शक्तियाँ आठ वर्षों तक एक-दूसरे के **सैन्य, आर्थिक और**



मानवीय संसाधनों को समाप्त करती रहें, इस संघर्ष ने इज़राइल को एक अत्यंत मूल्यवान “रणनीतिक विराम” प्रदान किया।

- It also, at times, helped facilitate the safe and unhindered **emigration** of the **Persian Jewish community** out of Iran.

इसने समय-समय पर फ़ारसी यहूदी समुदाय के ईरान से सुरक्षित और निर्बाध प्रवास को भी सुगम बनाया।

- The war gave the **revolutionary authorities** of Iran an opportunity to weaken the **Iranian national army** of the Shah's period and to create instead the 'Sepahe-e-Pasdaran' or the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**.

इस युद्ध ने ईरान के क्रांतिकारी नेतृत्व को शाह काल की ईरानी राष्ट्रीय सेना को कमजोर करने और उसके स्थान पर 'सिपाह-ए-पासदरान' अथवा इस्लामिक रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स (IRGC) की स्थापना का अवसर प्रदान किया।

- It went from strength to strength during the war, numbering around **1 million** while the regular armed forces numbered around **3,55,000**.

युद्ध के दौरान यह संगठन निरंतर मजबूत होता गया और इसकी संख्या लगभग **10 लाख** तक पहुँच गई, जबकि नियमित सशस्त्र बलों की संख्या लगभग **3,55,000** थी।

- It reduced the import of **non-essentials** and managed to keep its **oil** flowing despite periodic **air attacks**.

उसने गैर-आवश्यक वस्तुओं के आयात को कम किया और समय-समय पर होने वाले हवाई हमलों के बावजूद अपने तेल उत्पादन और निर्यात को जारी रखा।

- It diversified sources of **arms supply** and capitalised on the support of the **masses** for the war while squeezing the **well-to-do** and the **bazaaris**.

उसने हथियारों की आपूर्ति के स्रोतों में विविधता लाई और युद्ध के लिए जनसमर्थन का लाभ उठाया, साथ ही समृद्ध वर्ग और बाज़ारी व्यापारियों पर आर्थिक दबाव डाला।

Why was Trump's H-1B fee struck down?

What is the H-1B visa programme and who uses it? Why did the Trump administration impose the \$100,000 fee? What impact was the policy expected to have on States and employers? Did the President have the authority to impose the fee? Why did the court classify the charge as a tax rather than a penalty?

EXPLAINER

Kartik Singh

The story so far:

On June 8, in a 42-page ruling with nationwide effect, U.S. District Judge Leo T. Sorokin struck down President Donald Trump's policy imposing a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers. Upholding a challenge brought by California and 19 other States (plaintiffs), the court held that the fee amounted to an unlawful tax that the President could not impose without Congressional delegation.

What is an H-1B Visa?

The H-1B visa, created by the Immigration Act of 1990, is the backbone of the United States' high-skilled immigration architecture. Building on the broader framework of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA), which established the "H" category of temporary worker visas, the 1990 law carved out a distinct H-1B classification for highly educated professionals. It permits U.S. employers to hire foreign nationals in "specialty occupations", which require (i) theoretical and practical application of a body of specialised knowledge and (ii) at least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field, typically in sectors such as technology, engineering, healthcare, research, finance, and higher education. Notably, H-1B workers can generally remain in the U.S. for up to six years and often use the visa as a pathway to permanent residency.

To balance employers' demand for skilled talent with protection of the domestic workforce, Congress capped H-1B approvals for most private employers at 65,000 visas annually, with an additional 20,000 visas reserved for holders of advanced degrees. However, universities, affiliated non-profit entities, and governmental or non-profit research organisations are exempt from these



Policy change: On September 19, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump signed Proclamation 10973, requiring a \$100,000 supplemental payment for all H-1B visa petitions. GETTY IMAGES

numerical limits.

Why did Trump impose a \$100,000 fee?

On September 19, 2025, Mr. Trump signed Proclamation 10973, requiring a \$100,000 supplemental payment for all H-1B visa petitions – a substantial increase over the pre-existing filing costs of roughly \$960 to \$7,595. The proclamation reasoned that the H-1B programme had been “deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers” with lower-paid foreign labour, harming U.S. economic and national security interests, particularly in critical STEM sectors. Mr. Trump's proclamation relied on Sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA. Section 212(f) empowers the President to restrict or suspend the entry of any class of aliens (non-citizens) when he finds their entry “would be detrimental to the interests of the United States.” Additionally, Section 215(a), which also concerns the President's authority to regulate entry into the U.S., allows him to subject alien entry to “such reasonable rules, regulations, and orders, and such limitations and exceptions as the President may prescribe.” While alleging that the proclamation violated the ‘separation-of-powers’

principle as it “usurps Congress's exclusive constitutional authority to set immigration policy and to levy taxes”, the plaintiff States argued before the U.S. District Court that the \$100,000 H-1B fee would undermine their ability to recruit and retain essential skilled workers. They argued it would worsen teacher shortages, hamper hiring in higher education, disrupt research, and deepen healthcare staffing gaps – raising costs and straining public systems.

Simultaneously, the measure also carried significant implications for India. Indians account for roughly 70% of H-1B visa approvals, followed by Chinese nationals at about 12%, and are heavily represented in the STEM professions targeted by the proclamation. By raising the cost of an H-1B petition, the policy effectively created a prohibitive barrier for thousands of Indian software engineers, doctors, researchers, and other skilled professionals, many of whom already face years-long green card backlogs.

Did the President have the power to impose the fee?
The threshold issue before the court was whether the \$100,000 charge was a ‘tax’ or a ‘penalty’, because only Congress

possesses the constitutional power to “lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises” under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, unless it clearly delegates that authority to the executive.

To answer this question, the judge, an appointee of President Barack Obama, relied on two landmark Supreme Court precedents. In *Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co.* (1922), the court invalidated the Child Labour Tax Law, holding that its “heavy exaction” was a ‘penalty’ rather than a ‘tax’ because it was designed to prohibit the employment of child labour. By contrast, in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius* (2012), the court found that the Affordable Care Act's requirement that individuals pay an additional fee to the Internal Revenue Service for not obtaining health insurance amounted to a ‘tax’, not a ‘penalty’, explaining that a penalty ordinarily constitutes “punishment for an unlawful act or omission.” Applying this framework, Judge Sorokin concluded that the \$100,000 H-1B charge was a ‘tax’, as hiring workers under the H-1B programme is plainly lawful, and the payment did not operate as punishment for any unlawful conduct.

Further, the court examined whether Congress had delegated taxing authority to the President through Sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA. It found no such delegation.

While those provisions empower the President to impose “restrictions”, “rules”, “regulations”, “orders”, “limitations”, and “exceptions” governing the entry of non-citizens, Judge Sorokin held that their ordinary meaning does not encompass the power over the public purse. The court also found multiple violations of the Administrative Procedure Act. Accordingly, Judge Sorokin ruled that “the Policy implementing the Proclamation is declared unlawful and is vacated in its entirety”.

Kartik Singh, lawyer, and currently working as a Law Clerk-cum-Research Associate at the Supreme Court of India. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

▼ To balance employers' demand for skilled talent with protection of the domestic workforce, Congress capped H-1B approvals for most private employers at 65,000 visas annually, with an additional 20,000 visas reserved for holders of advanced degrees.

▼ However, universities, affiliated non-profit entities, and governmental or non-profit research organisations are exempt from these numerical limits.

▼ The issue before the court was whether the \$100,000 charge was a ‘tax’ or a ‘penalty’, because only Congress possesses the constitutional power to ‘lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises’ under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, unless it clearly delegates that authority to the executive.

17J6. Why was Trump's H-1B fee struck down?

ट्रम्प का H-1B शुल्क क्यों निरस्त कर दिया गया?

- The **H-1B visa**, created by the **Immigration Act of 1990**, is the backbone of the **United States' high-skilled immigration architecture**.
1990 के इमिग्रेशन एक्ट के अंतर्गत निर्मित एच-1बी वीज़ा, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की उच्च-कौशल आप्रवासन व्यवस्था की आधारशिला है।
- Building on the broader framework of the **Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA)**, which established the **"H" category** of temporary worker visas, the **1990 law** carved out a distinct **H-1B classification** for highly educated professionals.
1952 के इमिग्रेशन एंड नेशनलिटी एक्ट (INA), जिसने अस्थायी श्रमिक वीज़ा की "H" श्रेणी स्थापित की थी, के व्यापक ढाँचे पर आधारित 1990 के कानून ने उच्च शिक्षित पेशवरों के लिए एक पृथक एच-1बी श्रेणी का निर्माण किया।
- It permits **U.S. employers** to hire foreign nationals in **"specialty occupations"**, which require (i) theoretical and practical application of a body of specialised knowledge and (ii) at least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field, typically in sectors such as **technology, engineering, healthcare, research, finance, and higher education**.
यह अमेरिकी नियोक्ताओं को विदेशी नागरिकों को "विशेषज्ञ व्यवसायों (Specialty Occupations)" में नियुक्त करने की अनुमति देता है, जिनमें (i) विशेष ज्ञान का सैद्धांतिक एवं व्यावहारिक उपयोग तथा (ii) संबंधित क्षेत्र में कम-से-कम स्नातक डिग्री आवश्यक होती है। ये क्षेत्र सामान्यतः प्रौद्योगिकी, अभियांत्रिकी, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, अनुसंधान, वित्त तथा उच्च शिक्षा से संबंधित होते हैं।
- Notably, **H-1B workers** can generally remain in the **U.S.** for up to **six years** and often use the visa as a pathway to **permanent residency**.
विशेष रूप से, एच-1बी धारक सामान्यतः छह वर्षों तक अमेरिका में रह सकते हैं और प्रायः इस वीज़ा का उपयोग स्थायी निवास (Permanent Residency) प्राप्त करने के मार्ग के रूप में करते हैं।
- To balance employers' demand for **skilled talent** with protection of the **domestic workforce**, **Congress** capped H-1B approvals for most private employers at **65,000 visas annually**, with an additional **20,000 visas** reserved for holders of advanced degrees.
कुशल प्रतिभाओं की नियोक्ताओं की मांग और घरेलू श्रमबल की सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखने हेतु कांग्रेस ने अधिकांश निजी नियोक्ताओं के लिए प्रति वर्ष 65,000 एच-1बी वीज़ा की सीमा निर्धारित की है, जबकि उच्च डिग्रीधारकों के लिए अतिरिक्त 20,000 वीज़ा आरक्षित हैं।
- However, **universities**, affiliated **non-profit entities**, and governmental or non-profit **research organisations** are exempt from these numerical limits.
हालाँकि, विश्वविद्यालय, संबद्ध गैर-लाभकारी संस्थाएँ, तथा सरकारी अथवा गैर-लाभकारी अनुसंधान संगठन इन संख्यात्मक सीमाओं से मुक्त हैं।

Why did Trump impose a \$100,000 fee?

ट्रंप ने 100,000 डॉलर का शुल्क क्यों लगाया?

- On **September 19, 2025**, **Donald Trump** signed **Proclamation 10973**, requiring a **\$100,000 supplemental payment** for all **H-1B visa petitions** — a substantial increase over the pre-existing filing costs of roughly **\$960 to \$7,595**.
19 सितंबर 2025 को डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने प्रोक्लामेशन 10973 पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसके अंतर्गत सभी एच-1बी वीज़ा आवेदनों पर 100,000 डॉलर का अतिरिक्त शुल्क लगाया गया। यह पहले की लगभग 960 डॉलर से 7,595 डॉलर तक की आवेदन लागत की तुलना में अत्यधिक वृद्धि थी।
- The **proclamation** reasoned that the **H-1B programme** had been "deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers" with lower-paid foreign labour, harming



U.S. economic and national security interests, particularly in critical STEM sectors.

इस घोषणा में तर्क दिया गया कि एच-1बी कार्यक्रम का उपयोग अमेरिकी श्रमिकों की पूरकता के बजाय उन्हें कम वेतन वाले विदेशी श्रमिकों से प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए किया गया है, जिससे अमेरिकी आर्थिक और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा हितों, विशेषकर महत्वपूर्ण STEM क्षेत्रों, को नुकसान पहुँचा है।

- Mr. Trump's proclamation relied on **Sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA**.
ट्रंप की यह घोषणा INA की धारा 212(f) और 215(a) पर आधारित थी।
- **Section 212(f) empowers the President to restrict or suspend the entry of any class of aliens (non-citizens) when he finds their entry "would be detrimental to the interests of the United States."**

धारा 212(f) राष्ट्रपति को यह अधिकार देती है कि यदि किसी विदेशी नागरिक (Alien) के प्रवेश को अमेरिका के हितों के प्रतिकूल माना जाए, तो वह उसके प्रवेश को सीमित या निलंबित कर सकता है।

- Additionally, **Section 215(a)**, which also concerns the President's authority to regulate entry into the U.S., allows him to subject alien entry to "such reasonable rules, regulations, and orders, and such limitations and exceptions as the President may prescribe."

इसके अतिरिक्त, धारा 215(a) राष्ट्रपति को अमेरिका में प्रवेश को विनियमित करने का अधिकार देती है तथा विदेशी नागरिकों के प्रवेश पर ऐसे नियम, विनियम, आदेश, सीमाएँ और अपवाद लागू करने की अनुमति देती है जिन्हें राष्ट्रपति उचित समझे।

- While alleging that the proclamation violated the 'separation-of-powers' principle as it "usurps Congress's exclusive constitutional authority to set immigration policy and to levy taxes", the plaintiff States argued before the **U.S. District Court** that the **\$100,000 H-1B fee** would undermine their ability to recruit and retain essential skilled workers.

वादी राज्यों ने अमेरिकी जिला न्यायालय में तर्क दिया कि यह घोषणा 'शक्तियों के पृथक्करण' (Separation of Powers) के सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन करती है क्योंकि यह आप्रवासन नीति निर्धारित करने और कर लगाने की कांग्रेस की विशिष्ट संवैधानिक शक्ति का अतिक्रमण करती है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि 100,000 डॉलर का एच-1बी शुल्क आवश्यक कुशल श्रमिकों की भर्ती और उन्हें बनाए रखने की उनकी क्षमता को कमजोर करेगा।

- They argued it would worsen **teacher shortages**, hamper hiring in **higher education**, disrupt **research**, and deepen **healthcare staffing gaps** — raising costs and straining public systems.

उनका तर्क था कि इससे शिक्षकों की कमी बढ़ेगी, उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में नियुक्तियाँ प्रभावित होंगी, अनुसंधान कार्य बाधित होगा तथा स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में कर्मचारियों की कमी और अधिक गंभीर हो जाएगी, जिससे लागत बढ़ेगी और सार्वजनिक प्रणालियों पर दबाव पड़ेगा।

- Simultaneously, the measure also carried significant implications for **India**. साथ ही, इस उपाय के भारत के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव थे।
- **Indians account for roughly 70% of H-1B visa approvals**, followed by **Chinese nationals** at about **12%**, and are heavily represented in the **STEM professions** targeted by the proclamation.

भारतीय नागरिक लगभग 70% एच-1बी वीज़ा स्वीकृतियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, जबकि चीनी नागरिकों की हिस्सेदारी लगभग 12% है। ये दोनों समूह विशेष रूप से उन STEM व्यवसायों में बड़ी संख्या में मौजूद हैं जिन्हें इस घोषणा ने प्रभावित किया।

- By raising the cost of an **H-1B petition**, the policy effectively created a prohibitive barrier for thousands of Indian **software engineers, doctors, researchers**, and other **skilled professionals**, many of whom already face years-long **green card backlogs**.

एच-1बी आवेदन की लागत बढ़ाकर इस नीति ने हजारों भारतीय सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियरों, डॉक्टरों, शोधकर्ताओं तथा अन्य कुशल पेशेवरों के लिए एक गंभीर बाधा उत्पन्न कर दी, जिनमें से अनेक पहले से ही वर्षों लंबे ग्रीन कार्ड लंबित मामलों का सामना कर रहे हैं।

Did the President have the power to impose the fee?

क्या राष्ट्रपति के पास यह शुल्क लगाने की शक्ति थी?



- The threshold issue before the court was whether the \$100,000 charge was a 'tax' or a 'penalty', because only Congress possesses the constitutional power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises" under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, unless it clearly delegates that authority to the executive.

न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रारंभिक प्रश्न यह था कि 100,000 डॉलर का शुल्क एक 'कर (Tax)' था या 'दंड (Penalty)', क्योंकि अमेरिकी संविधान के अनुच्छेद I, धारा 8 के अंतर्गत केवल कांग्रेस को ही "कर, शुल्क, आयात शुल्क तथा उत्पाद शुल्क" लगाने और वसूलने की संवैधानिक शक्ति प्राप्त है, जब तक कि वह स्पष्ट रूप से यह अधिकार कार्यपालिका को न सौंप दे।

- To answer this question, the judge, an appointee of President Barack Obama, relied on two landmark Supreme Court precedents.

इस प्रश्न का उत्तर देने के लिए न्यायाधीश, जिन्हें राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा ने नियुक्त किया था, ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दो ऐतिहासिक निर्णयों पर भरोसा किया।

- In Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co. (1922), the court invalidated the Child Labour Tax Law, holding that its "heavy exaction" was a 'penalty' rather than a 'tax' because it was designed to prohibit the employment of child labour.

Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co. (1922) मामले में न्यायालय ने बाल श्रम कर कानून (Child Labour Tax Law) को निरस्त कर दिया था और कहा था कि उसका "अत्यधिक आर्थिक भार" वास्तव में 'कर' नहीं बल्कि 'दंड' था, क्योंकि उसका उद्देश्य बाल श्रम को रोकना था।

- By contrast, in National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius (2012), the court found that the Affordable Care Act's requirement that individuals pay an additional fee to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for not obtaining health insurance amounted to a 'tax', not a 'penalty', explaining that a penalty ordinarily constitutes "punishment for an unlawful act or omission."

इसके विपरीत, National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius (2012) मामले में न्यायालय ने माना कि Affordable Care Act के अंतर्गत स्वास्थ्य बीमा न लेने पर Internal Revenue Service (IRS) को अतिरिक्त भुगतान करने की बाध्यता 'दंड' नहीं बल्कि 'कर' है। न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि सामान्यतः दंड किसी "अवैध कार्य या चूक के लिए दी जाने वाली सजा" होता है।

- Applying this framework, Judge Sorokin concluded that the \$100,000 H-1B charge was a 'tax', as hiring workers under the H-1B programme is plainly lawful, and the payment did not operate as punishment for any unlawful conduct.

इसी सिद्धांत को लागू करते हुए न्यायाधीश सोरोकिन ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि 100,000 डॉलर का एच-1बी शुल्क एक 'कर' है, क्योंकि एच-1बी कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति पूर्णतः वैध है और यह भुगतान किसी अवैध गतिविधि के लिए दंड के रूप में कार्य नहीं करता।

- Further, the court examined whether Congress had delegated taxing authority to the President through Sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA.

इसके बाद न्यायालय ने यह भी जांच की कि क्या INA की धारा 212(f) और 215(a) के माध्यम से कांग्रेस ने राष्ट्रपति को कर लगाने का अधिकार सौंपा था।

- It found no such delegation.

न्यायालय को ऐसा कोई अधिकार-हस्तांतरण नहीं मिला।

- While those provisions empower the President to impose "restrictions", "rules", "regulations", "orders", "limitations", and "exceptions" governing the entry of non-citizens, Judge Sorokin held that their ordinary meaning does not encompass the power over the public purse.

यद्यपि ये प्रावधान राष्ट्रपति को गैर-नागरिकों के प्रवेश पर "प्रतिबंध", "नियम", "विनियम", "आदेश", "सीमाएँ" तथा "अपवाद" लागू करने का अधिकार देते हैं, फिर भी न्यायाधीश सोरोकिन ने कहा कि इन शब्दों के सामान्य अर्थ में राजकोष (Public Purse) पर नियंत्रण अथवा कराधान की शक्ति शामिल नहीं है।

- The court also found multiple violations of the Administrative Procedure Act.

न्यायालय ने Administrative Procedure Act के कई उल्लंघनों को भी चिन्हित किया।

- Accordingly, **Judge Sorokin** ruled that “the **Policy** implementing the **Proclamation** is declared unlawful and is vacated in its entirety”.
- फलस्वरूप, न्यायाधीश सोरोकिन ने निर्णय दिया कि “घोषणा (Proclamation) को लागू करने वाली नीति (Policy) को अवैध घोषित किया जाता है और इसे पूर्णतः निरस्त किया जाता है।”

‘1.1 billion children exposed to three or more climate risks’

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

More than one billion children face at least three overlapping climate hazards, UNICEF warned on Monday, while highlighting the disproportionate impact in some regions of the world.

For the report, the UN agency cross-referenced data showing where the roughly 2.4 billion children on the planet live with the geographic distribution of the eight most common climate impacts. They are coastal flooding, river flooding, drought, tropical storms, heat waves, extreme heat, wildfires, and sandstorms.

The report primarily focuses on the 1.1 billion children who are exposed to at least three risks, with the most common combination being drought, extreme heat, (above 35 degrees Celsius) and heat waves.

That combination affects some 296 million children, including 74 million in Nigeria, 34 million in Pakistan, and 32 million in India.

The number of children in this three-or-more category has increased sharply over the past 20 years.

Almost all children - some 2.3 billion - are exposed to at least one risk. Two billion are exposed to at least two, while 364 million face at least four.

Of the 1,23,000 children exposed to seven or more hazards, some 46,000 are in Myanmar.

“Children are at the forefront of the impact of climate change,” said UNICEF chief Catherine Russell.

As for the worst place for a child, “there isn’t a super short answer,” one of the report authors, Tom Slaymaker, told AFP.

“But they’re not all equal,” Mr. Slaymaker said. “We do see some hot spots... it’s really concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South Asia.”

Countries with large populations of children, including Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan, are at the top of the list for the number of children exposed to at least three hazards.

17J6. ‘1.1 billion children exposed to three or more climate risks’

‘1.1 अरब बच्चे तीन या अधिक जलवायु जोखिमों के संपर्क में’

- They are coastal flooding, river flooding, drought, tropical storms, heat waves, extreme heat, wildfires, and sandstorms.

इनमें तटीय बाढ़, नदी बाढ़, सूखा, उष्णकटिबंधीय तूफान, लू (Heat Waves), अत्यधिक गर्मी, जंगल की आग और रेत के तूफान शामिल हैं।

- The report primarily focuses on the 1.1 billion children who are exposed to at least three risks, with the most common combination being drought, extreme heat (above 35 degrees Celsius) and heat waves.

रिपोर्ट मुख्य रूप से उन 1.1 अरब बच्चों पर केंद्रित है जो कम से कम तीन जोखिमों के संपर्क में हैं, जिनमें सबसे सामान्य संयोजन सूखा, अत्यधिक गर्मी (35 डिग्री सेल्सियस से अधिक) और लू है।

- That combination affects some 296 million children, including 74 million in Nigeria, 34 million in Pakistan, and 32 million in India.

यह संयोजन लगभग 29.6 करोड़ बच्चों को प्रभावित करता है, जिनमें नाइजीरिया में 7.4 करोड़, पाकिस्तान में 3.4 करोड़ और भारत में 3.2 करोड़ बच्चे शामिल हैं।

- Countries with large populations of children, including Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan, are at the top of the list for the number of children exposed to at least three hazards.

बच्चों की बड़ी आबादी वाले देशों, जिनमें बांग्लादेश, भारत, नाइजीरिया और पाकिस्तान शामिल हैं, में कम से कम तीन जलवायु खतरों के संपर्क में आने वाले बच्चों की संख्या सबसे अधिक है।



How Herat defied the Taliban regime, chanting 'women, work and freedom'

The protests in the Afghan city in the first week of June were triggered by the enforcement of a dress code, which requires women to wear burqa in public; many women, including those wearing traditional Afghan wear of manto, were arrested, but released later as entire communities protested

SS II IR
NEWS ANALYSIS

Smriti Sudesh

The chants were familiar. But this time, they echoed not in Tehran, but in Herat. In mid-June, Afghanistan's western city of Herat witnessed a rare display of public defiance against the Taliban. Women, and this time, men too, marched through the streets chanting "Women, Work and Freedom", a slogan probably inspired by Iran's 2022 "Woman, Life and Freedom" movement that emerged after the death of the 22-year-old Mahsa Amini.

The protests did not unfold overnight.

The spark in Herat

According to Zan Times, an exiled media organisation run by Afghan women journalists, the latest crackdown appears to have been planned days in advance. On June 4, Herat's governor Noor Ahmad Islamjan reportedly met with a group of morality enforcers.

On the afternoon of June 5, Taliban officials used the end of Friday prayers to announce that women who failed to comply with the Islamic dress code would be arrested. The following morning, the arrests began.

On June 6, dozens of women were detained across several neighbourhoods, including Darb-e-Malik, Shahr-e-Naw, Ab Burda, Jibrayil, and Haji

Abbas. By June 7, the United Nations had confirmed that at least 30 women were in custody for alleged dress code violations. "Dozens more women reportedly received verbal warnings," United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said.

Then came the backlash.

On June 9, men and women took to the streets together in a rare act of collective defiance. The Taliban's response was swift; within minutes, they reportedly opened fire at demonstrators, killing at least two people, including a child, according to some reports, and injuring more than 20 others.

Four days later, on June 13, demonstrators returned to the streets. Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Taliban Deputy Prime Minister for administrative affairs, praised the performance of Herat's local administration amid widespread protests over the detention of women in the province, according to Afghanistan International.

The immediate trigger for the unrest was a series of arrests carried out by the Taliban's morality police. Women and girls were detained for allegedly violating the regime's dress code in a city that has historically been regarded as one of the country's more progressive and culturally vibrant centres.

Under Taliban regulations, women should cover their entire bodies, usually with a burqa, and are prohibited from wearing perfume or anything capable



Avoiding attention: Under Taliban regulations, women should cover their entire bodies, usually with a burqa. AFP

of 'attracting' public attention.

Witnesses described women being pulled into police vans, including some who were already fully covered. Among those detained were reportedly pregnant women. The Taliban initially dismissed reports of the arrests as rumours before later defending the operation as the enforcement of Islamic law.

The Sharia law

To understand about these arrests, one has to understand the role Sharia plays in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

The Taliban returned to power in 2021. Since then, it has governed through its interpretation of Sharia, or better known as Islamic law. While Afghanistan has historically followed the Hanafi school of Sunni jurisprudence (fiqh), often regarded as one of the more flexible traditions within Sunni Islam, the Taliban has adopted a far stricter, Deobandi-influenced interpretation.

Under this system, women face extensive restrictions on education, employment, and public life. Girls are barred from secondary and higher education. Women face severe limitations on work opportunities and are often required to travel with a male guardian. Even ordinary social interactions and movement outside the home are heavily scrutinised.

The morality police enforce these rules through patrols, arrests, and detentions.

Since 2021, when the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan, women across the country have lived under a system of surveillance and punishment over both their dress and their presence in public. What began as verbal guidance evolved into a decree by the Taliban's Supreme Leader in 2022, Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, declaring burqa the preferred form of hijab. In 2024, it was codified through the Law on the Propagation of Virtue and

Prevention of Vice, giving morality police sweeping powers to detain, intimidate, and punish women whose appearance failed to meet Taliban standards.

Earlier this year, as Zan Times reported, morality police established checkpoints across the city, pulling women from taxis and detaining those wearing a manto (a traditional long coat worn by generations of Afghan women) instead of the Taliban-approved black chador or burqa.

Supporters of the Taliban argue that these measures represent a return to authentic Islamic governance after decades of war, corruption, and foreign intervention. But critics, including many Muslim scholars, argue that the Taliban's interpretation represents an extreme and selective reading of Islamic law.

Human rights organisations estimate that millions of Afghan girls remain locked out of secondary education. Large numbers of women have lost employment opportunities. Restrictions on movement, healthcare, and public participation have deepened both economic hardship and social isolation across the country.

But in the latest Herat demonstrations, perhaps the most striking element was not the slogan but the people. Since the Taliban takeover, public protests have been rare and led by women. One of the examples being the nationwide protests against the closure of women's beauty salons. This time, however, many

Afghan men appeared willing to publicly challenge the authorities as well.

A rare act

As one Zan Times newsletter observed, that they (men) did so this time says something important. What is being done to Afghan women is no longer viewed as a women's issue alone. It has become unbearable for entire families and entire communities.

The June 5 story, however, does not end with the arrests. While some of the women detained in Herat have since been released, little is known about what they experienced inside Taliban detention facilities. Activists and rights groups are now seeking answers.

International organisations were quick to condemn the crackdown. The United Nations, along with UN Women and the UNAMA, expressed concern over detentions, restrictions on freedom of expression, and the use of 'excessive force' against demonstrators. They also called for the release of detainees and urged the Taliban to respect basic rights.

Yet, there is little indication that the Taliban intends to alter course.

The Herat protests were relatively small, with estimates ranging from 70 to 150 participants. On the face of it, the protests were triggered by the arrest of dozens of women accused of violating the Taliban's dress code. But it is one of the clearest signs yet that frustration with Taliban rule is no longer confined to private conversations.

17J6. How Herat defied the Taliban regime, chanting 'women, work and freedom'

हेरात ने 'महिलाएँ, काम और स्वतंत्रता' का नारा लगाते हुए तालिबान शासन को कैसे चुनौती दी

- The protests in the Afghan city in the first week of June were triggered by the enforcement of a **dress code**, which requires women to wear **burqa** in public.

जून के पहले सप्ताह में अफ़ग़ान शहर में हुए विरोध प्रदर्शनों की शुरुआत इस कोड लागू किए जाने से हुई, जिसके तहत महिलाओं को सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर **बुर्का** पहनना अनिवार्य है।

- Many women, including those wearing **traditional Afghan wear of manto**, were arrested, but released later as entire communities protested.

पारंपरिक अफ़ग़ान परिधान **मांतो (Manto)** पहनने वाली कई महिलाओं को गिरफ्तार किया गया, लेकिन बाद में पूरे समुदाय के विरोध के कारण उन्हें रिहा कर दिया गया।

- Women, and this time, men too, marched through the streets chanting "**Women, Work and Freedom**", a slogan probably inspired by Iran's 2022 "**Woman, Life and Freedom**" movement that emerged after the death of the 22-year-old **Mahsa Amini**.

महिलाएँ और इस बार पुरुष भी सड़कों पर उतरे और "**महिलाएँ, काम और स्वतंत्रता**" के नारे लगाए, जो

संभवतः ईरान के 2022 के “महिला, जीवन और स्वतंत्रता” आंदोलन से प्रेरित था, जो 22 वर्षीय महसा अमीनी की मृत्यु के बाद उभरा था।

- “Dozens more women reportedly received verbal warnings,” **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)** said.

अफ़गानिस्तान में संयुक्त राष्ट्र सहायता मिशन (UNAMA) ने कहा, “दर्जनों अन्य महिलाओं को मौखिक चेतावनी दी गई।”

- Under Taliban regulations, women should cover their entire bodies, usually with a **burqa**, and are prohibited from wearing **perfume** or anything capable of ‘attracting’ public attention.

तालिबान नियमों के अनुसार महिलाओं को अपना पूरा शरीर सामान्यतः बुर्के से ढकना चाहिए और इत्र या ऐसा कोई भी वस्त्र पहनने की अनुमति नहीं है जो सार्वजनिक ध्यान आकर्षित करे।

- While Afghanistan has historically followed the **Hanafi school** of Sunni jurisprudence (fiqh), often regarded as one of the more flexible traditions within Sunni Islam, the Taliban has adopted a far stricter, **Deobandi-influenced** interpretation.

यद्यपि अफ़गानिस्तान ऐतिहासिक रूप से सुन्नी इस्लाम की अपेक्षाकृत लचीली परंपरा मानी जाने वाली **हनफी विचारधारा** का पालन करता रहा है, तालिबान ने **देवबंदी प्रभाव** वाली अधिक कठोर व्याख्या अपनाई है।

- Under this system, women face extensive restrictions on **education, employment, and public life**.

इस व्यवस्था के तहत महिलाओं को शिक्षा, रोज़गार और सार्वजनिक जीवन में व्यापक प्रतिबंधों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

- Girls are barred from secondary and higher education.

लड़कियों को माध्यमिक और उच्च शिक्षा से वंचित रखा गया है।

- Women face severe limitations on work opportunities and are often required to travel with a male guardian.

महिलाओं के रोज़गार के अवसरों पर गंभीर प्रतिबंध हैं और उन्हें अक्सर किसी पुरुष अभिभावक के साथ यात्रा करनी पड़ती है।

- Even ordinary social interactions and movement outside the home are heavily scrutinised.

सामान्य सामाजिक संपर्क और घर से बाहर निकलने पर भी कड़ी निगरानी रखी जाती है।

- The **United Nations**, along with **UN Women** and the **UNAMA**, expressed concern over detentions, restrictions on freedom of expression, and the use of ‘excessive force’ against demonstrators.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र, यूएन वीमेन और UNAMA ने गिरफ्तारियों, अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर प्रतिबंधों और प्रदर्शनकारियों के खिलाफ ‘अत्यधिक बल प्रयोग’ पर चिंता व्यक्त की।

GS Paper III: Economy		17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
17J6	Central banks to raise gold reserves over one year: WGC केंद्रीय बैंक अगले एक वर्ष में स्वर्ण भंडार बढ़ाएंगे: WGC	
17J6	Beyond the 270 GW peak power demand there is a need for prioritising quality and reliability 270 गीगावाट की उच्चतम बिजली मांग से आगे बढ़कर गुणवत्ता और विश्वसनीयता को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता	
17J6	U.P., Gujarat, Jharkhand log FY25 revenue surplus: CAG उत्तर प्रदेश, गुजरात और झारखंड ने FY25 में राजस्व अधिशेष दर्ज किया: CAG	



Central banks to raise gold reserves over one year: WGC

GS III: Economy

Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

World Gold Council's (WGC) 2026 Central Bank Gold Reserves (CBGR) survey indicate that the central banks around the world would accumulate more gold in the future.

This means the price of the yellow metal will remain high in the future impacting retail customers. Indian gold prices had risen by about 40% in 12 months primarily on central banks' buying and rupee's depreciation against U.S. dollar, the determining currency of gold price.

As per the survey central banks "remain very positive on gold, highlighting its significance amid a volatile geopolitical and economic environment."



Central banks accumulated 1,000 tonne gold over 4 years.

The survey shows a continuation of the trend uncovered in previous years: central banks see gold making up a growing share of reserve portfolios.

Doubling purchases

Central banks have accumulated an average of 1,000 tonne of gold over the past four years, which is significantly higher from the 500 tonne average over the preceding decade.

"This marked acceleration in the pace of accumulation occurred against a backdrop of geopolitical and economic uncertainty, which clouded the outlook for reserve managers," WGC said in the foreword of the Survey.

In India the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was seen aggressively expanding its gold reserves between FY24 and FY25. Total reserves grew from 822.1 tonne in FY24 to 879.58 tonnes by end FY25 and rose marginally to 880.52 tonne in FY26. The survey was conducted between February 5 and May 19 with the majority of responses coming in after the West Asia conflict began.

17J6. Central banks to raise gold reserves over one year: WGC

केंद्रीय बैंक अगले एक वर्ष में स्वर्ण भंडार बढ़ाएंगे: WGC

- The World Gold Council's (WGC) 2026 Central Bank Gold Reserves (CBGR) survey indicates that the central banks around the world will accumulate more gold in the future.

वर्ल्ड गोल्ड काउंसिल (WGC) के 2026 केंद्रीय बैंक स्वर्ण भंडार (CBGR) सर्वेक्षण से संकेत मिलता है कि दुनिया भर के केंद्रीय बैंक भविष्य में अधिक सोना जमा करेंगे।

- Central banks have accumulated an average of 1,000 tonne of gold over the past four years, which is significantly higher from the 500 tonne average over the preceding decade.

पिछले चार वर्षों में केंद्रीय बैंकों ने औसतन 1,000 टन सोना खरीदा है, जो इससे पूर्व के दशक के 500 टन औसत की तुलना में काफी अधिक है।

U.P., Gujarat, Jharkhand log FY25 revenue surplus: CAG

GS III: Economy
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Manipur and 9 other States recorded surplus revenue in 2024-25, while the remaining 15 States had a deficit.

Eighteen States targeted revenue surplus, three States targeted revenue deficit and seven targeted zero revenue deficit in FY 2024-25, according to a report on 'State Finances 2024-25' released by Comptroller and Auditor General of India K. Sanjay Murthy on Tuesday.

"In FY 2024-25, 15 States were revenue-deficient while the rest 13 States were revenue surplus," the report said.

17J6. U.P., Gujarat, Jharkhand log FY25 revenue surplus: CAG

- Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Manipur and 9 other States recorded surplus revenue in 2024-25, while the remaining 15 States had a deficit.

उत्तर प्रदेश, गुजरात, झारखंड, मणिपुर तथा 9 अन्य राज्यों ने 2024-25 में राजस्व अधिशेष (Revenue Surplus) दर्ज किया, जबकि शेष 15 राज्यों में राजस्व घाटा (Deficit) रहा।

- Eighteen States targeted revenue surplus, three States targeted revenue deficit and seven targeted zero revenue deficit in FY 2024-25, according to a report on 'State Finances 2024-25' released by Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) K. Sanjay Murthy on Tuesday.

मंगलवार को भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) के. संजय मूर्ति द्वारा जारी 'स्टेट फाइनेंस 2024-25' रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, FY 2024-25 में 18 राज्यों ने राजस्व अधिशेष, तीन राज्यों ने राजस्व घाटा और सात राज्यों ने शून्य राजस्व घाटा का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया था।

- "In FY 2024-25, 15 States were **revenue-deficient** while the rest 13 States were **revenue surplus**," the report said.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, "FY 2024-25 में 15 राज्य राजस्व घाटे में थे, जबकि शेष 13 राज्यों ने राजस्व अधिशेष दर्ज किया।"

Beyond the 270 GW peak power demand there is a need for prioritising quality and reliability

GS III: Economy
Debasmita
Mandar Joshi

The recent achievement of record-breaking peak demand exceeding 270 GW marks a historic moment for the Indian power sector. The national grid demonstrated a level of resilience by efficiently managing this massive load without a shortage, which would have been inconceivable a decade ago. This milestone effectively shatters all previous records and is more than 10% as compared to last year's peak. The ability to synchronise a diverse generation portfolio comprising thermal, hydro, nuclear, and a rapidly expanding variable renewable base under such intense pressure highlights the technical maturity of India's national grid.

From the pre-independence era of privately owned decentralised electricity systems to post-independence focus on 'pumpset energisation' and basic lighting through 'kutir Jyoti' scheme, the sector has evolved significantly, particularly after the passage of the Electricity Act in 2003. Through massive infrastructure initiatives like the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Scheme (DDUGJY) and the SAUBHAGYA scheme, the physical framework for last-mile connectivity has covered nearly 100% households. However, as the nation moves toward its 2047 target of approximately 4,000 kWh of per capita electricity consumption, a significant leap from the current level of 1,600 kWh, the definition of success must be rewritten beyond access and availability to include



Crucial metric: Reliable electricity is a fundamental enabler of economic and social development.

the reliability and quality of every kilowatt-hour delivered.

Power quality vital

Power quality is becoming the new frontier for a modern, digital-first economy. For a consumer base that now includes lighting load to advanced semiconductor manufacturing to cold storage facilities and productive use of electricity to public infrastructure like smart classrooms and medical clinics, the supply of electricity is no longer sufficient. Power quality, characterised by precise voltage stability, frequency control and the absence of waveform distortion, is a necessity. Even a short fluctuation in power supply can stop machines, damage electronic equipment, and disrupt industrial operations.

Furthermore, despite the overarching national success in generation and transmission, a persistent disparity remains in the distribution sector, particularly between urban centres and rural landscapes. While urban supply has become increasingly stable, rural areas, which house approximate-

ly two-thirds of the population, still account for about one-third of total electricity consumption. The challenge here is not just one of connectivity but of economic empowerment.

While the average supply hours in rural areas have reached an impressive 22 hours in most states, the lack of predictability is a significant hurdle. For a small-scale productive enterprise or a rural startup, an unexpected outage during a critical production cycle can be financially devastating, often forcing them to rely on costly and polluting diesel generators as a backup. Bridging this rural-urban divide is therefore not just a technical need but a developmental necessity.

Ageing infrastructure

While the generation and transmission segments have progressively moved toward greater market-driven efficiency, several state-owned DISCOMs continue to struggle with ageing network infrastructure, inadequate transformer capacity, and persistently high Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses,

which still exceed 20% in many states. These constraints restrict ability to invest in critical system upgrades such as automated monitoring, predictive maintenance and timely transformer replacement, thereby perpetuating poor service delivery and weak financial performance.

Better electron delivery and customer service itself can enhance consumer trust, increase demand, improve revenue and ultimately strengthen the financial health of DISCOMs.

To address the above issues, the Government of India launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in 2021 for a period of five years. Under the scheme, around 54% of the total sanctioned amount has been allocated for loss reduction infrastructure works, and 46% earmarked for smart metering. However, the gains in terms of billing and collection efficiency remain modest at around 4% in 4 years considering the scale of investment for metering. The core challenge continues to be operational inefficiencies at the DISCOMs and ageing electricity distribution

infrastructure. A larger percentage of funds in rural areas should have been for improving distribution infra including transformer replacement and devices to monitor health of the network than merely installing smart meters in homes. Once the infrastructure is strengthened, DISCOMs could invest in smart meters to derive the full benefit of revenue augmentation by delivering electrons reliably and customer services effectively.

Customer-centric vision

The power sector must adopt a customer-centric approach that values the quality and reliability of electricity supply as much as achievements in accessibility and availability of clean energy. The Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 emphasises setting benchmarks for supply quality through reliability indices such as SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI, along with regular reporting and public disclosure to ensure transparency and accountability. However, these indices are currently monitored only at the sub-transmission level.

They should be extended to the transformer and low-tension network level for more accurate assessment of consumer experience. Accordingly, investments must prioritise equipment and reliability monitoring systems, reflecting a broader shift from mere accounting to measuring actual service quality outcomes.

At the same time, moving from an administrative to a mode of 'enterprisa-tion' in decision making and management, customer-focused decentralised distribution management

model, better asset and inventory practices and introduction of MIS and SCADA systems at distribution level are essential to improve service quality and customer experiences.

Concerns over private participation focusing only on profitable urban areas can be addressed through well-designed public-private or private models that ensure balanced rural-urban coverage and enforcement of strict regulatory performance standards.

Experience from developed countries demonstrates that reliable electricity is a fundamental enabler of economic and social development. Electricity supports industrial growth, modern agriculture, digital services, healthcare, education, and employment generation, making it central to improving productivity and quality of life. The growth of rural India is dependent on strengthened electricity infrastructure and power supply reliability will be critical to achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

By addressing the underlying issues of distribution sector, power quality, and rural-urban parity, India can ensure its power sector does more than just meet peak demand. The path to Viksit Bharat needs a shift in perspective where electricity is viewed not merely as a commodity but as a productive input and transformative force for innovation and equity.

(Dr. Debasmita Palit is the Centre Head at the Centre for Climate Change & Energy Transition and Mandar Joshi is a Research Consultant at Chintan Research Foundation. Views expressed are personal.)

17J6. Beyond the 270 GW peak power demand there is a need for prioritising quality and reliability

270 गीगावाट की उच्चतम बिजली मांग से आगे बढ़कर गुणवत्ता और विश्वसनीयता को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता

- The recent achievement of **record-breaking peak demand exceeding 270 GW** marks a historic moment for the **Indian power sector**.

हाल ही में 270 गीगावाट से अधिक की रिकॉर्ड उच्चतम बिजली मांग (Peak Demand) को पूरा करना भारतीय विद्युत क्षेत्र के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि है।

- From the pre-independence era of privately owned decentralised electricity systems to post-independence focus on 'pumpset energisation' and basic lighting through "Kutir Jyoti" Scheme, the sector has evolved significantly, particularly after the passage of the Electricity Act, 2003.

स्वतंत्रता-पूर्व निजी स्वामित्व वाली विकेन्द्रीकृत बिजली प्रणालियों से लेकर स्वतंत्रता के बाद 'पंपसेट विद्युतीकरण' और "कुटीर ज्योति योजना" के माध्यम से बुनियादी प्रकाश व्यवस्था तक, यह क्षेत्र विशेष रूप से विद्युत अधिनियम, 2003 के बाद काफी विकसित हुआ है।

- Through massive infrastructure initiatives like the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and the SAUBHAGYA Scheme, the physical framework for last-mile connectivity has covered nearly 100% households.

दीनदयाल उपाध्याय ग्राम ज्योति योजना (DDUGJY) और सौभाग्य योजना जैसी विशाल अवसंरचना पहलों के माध्यम से अंतिम छोर तक बिजली पहुंचाने का दांचा लगभग 100% परिवारों को कवर कर चुका है।

- However, as the nation moves toward its 2047 target of approximately 4,000 kWh of per capita electricity consumption, a significant leap from the current level of 1,600 kWh, the definition of success must be rewritten beyond access and availability to include the reliability and quality of every kilowatt-hour delivered.

हालाँकि, जैसे-जैसे देश 2047 तक प्रति व्यक्ति बिजली खपत को वर्तमान 1,600 kWh से बढ़ाकर लगभग 4,000 kWh तक ले जाने के लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ रहा है, सफलता की परिभाषा को केवल उपलब्धता और पहुंच तक सीमित न रखकर प्रत्येक यूनिट बिजली की विश्वसनीयता और गुणवत्ता को भी शामिल करना होगा।

- For a consumer base that now includes lighting load to advanced semiconductor manufacturing to cold storage facilities and productive use of electricity to public infrastructure like smart classrooms and medical clinics, the supply of electricity is no longer sufficient.

ऐसे उपभोक्ता आधार के लिए जिसमें सामान्य प्रकाश व्यवस्था से लेकर उन्नत सेमीकंडक्टर विनिर्माण, कोल्ड स्टोरेज सुविधाएँ, और स्मार्ट कक्षाओं तथा चिकित्सा क्लीनिकों जैसी सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना शामिल हैं, केवल बिजली की आपूर्ति पर्याप्त नहीं है।

- Power quality, characterised by precise voltage stability, frequency control and the absence of waveform distortion, is a necessity.

वोल्टेज स्थिरता, आवृत्ति नियंत्रण तथा वेवफॉर्म विकृति की अनुपस्थिति से परिभाषित बिजली की गुणवत्ता अब एक आवश्यकता है।

- Even a short fluctuation in power supply can stop machines, damage electronic equipment, and disrupt industrial operations.

बिजली आपूर्ति में थोड़े समय का उतार-चढ़ाव भी मशीनों को रोक सकता है, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों को नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है और औद्योगिक कार्यों को बाधित कर सकता है।

- While the average supply hours in rural areas have reached an impressive 22 hours in most states, the lack of predictability is a significant hurdle.

अधिकांश राज्यों में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में औसत बिजली आपूर्ति 22 घंटे तक पहुँच गई है, लेकिन इसकी अनिश्चितता एक बड़ी बाधा बनी हुई है।

- To address the above issues, the Government of India launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in 2021 for a period of five years.

इन समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए भारत सरकार ने 2021 में पाँच वर्षों के लिए पुनर्गठित वितरण क्षेत्र योजना (RDSS) शुरू की।

- Under the scheme, around 54% of the total sanctioned amount has been allocated for loss reduction infrastructure works, and 46% earmarked for smart metering.

इस योजना के तहत कुल स्वीकृत राशि का लगभग 54% भाग हानि कम करने वाली अवसंरचना पर तथा 46% भाग स्मार्ट मीटरिंग के लिए निर्धारित किया गया है।



- The **Draft National Electricity Policy 2026** emphasises setting benchmarks for supply quality through reliability indices such as **SAIDI**, **SAIFI**, and **CAIDI**, along with regular reporting and public disclosure to ensure transparency and accountability.
राष्ट्रीय विद्युत नीति 2026 (मसौदा) में **SAIDI**, **SAIFI** और **CAIDI** जैसे विश्वसनीयता सूचकांकों के माध्यम से आपूर्ति गुणवत्ता के मानक तय करने तथा नियमित रिपोर्टिंग और सार्वजनिक प्रकटीकरण पर बल दिया गया है।
- However, these indices are currently monitored only at the **sub-transmission level**.
हालाँकि, वर्तमान में इन सूचकांकों की निगरानी केवल सब-ट्रांसमिशन स्तर पर की जाती है।
- They should be extended to the **transformer** and **low-tension network** level for more accurate assessment of consumer experience.
उपभोक्ता अनुभव का अधिक सटीक आकलन करने के लिए इन्हें ट्रांसफार्मर और लो-टेंशन नेटवर्क स्तर तक विस्तारित किया जाना चाहिए।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
17J6	GRAPES-3: A cosmic-ray tracker GRAPES-3: कॉस्मिक किरणों का अनुगामी (ट्रैकर)	

GRAPES-3: A cosmic-ray tracker

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

Researchers from Mumbai, Kochi, and Japan used the GRAPES-3 telescope to track how the earth's upper atmosphere temperature and the sun's magnetic field affect muons — subatomic particles from space. By analysing 22 years of data, they developed a way to use these measurements to monitor changes in the upper atmosphere in real-time with high accuracy. The findings are to be published in the August issue of *Astroparticle Physics*.

The GRAPES-3 telescope in Ooty, Tamil Nadu does not look at light like a traditional telescope. Instead, it is a muon detector. Muons are created when high-energy cosmic rays from deep space collide with the earth's upper atmosphere. The facility consists of 16 independent modules spread over a large area. Each module contains 232 proportional counters, which are long steel tubes filled with a special mixture of argon and methane, with a thin tungsten wire running through the centre. When a muon passes through a tube, it knocks electrons out of the gas molecules. These electrons are pulled towards the wire, creating an electrical pulse that the telescope records as a hit.



The detector array of GRAPES-3 in Ooty. HIDEKI TANAKA (CC BY-SA)

The tubes are arranged in four layers, with each layer positioned at a right angle to the one below. This grid layout allows scientists to track the exact path and angle of the incoming muons. Thick layers of reinforced concrete are placed between the tubes to ensure the telescope only counts high-energy muons that are strong enough to penetrate the concrete. This is how GRAPES-3 is able to produce a high-resolution map of the invisible cosmic forces affecting the earth.

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

17J6. GRAPES-3: A cosmic-ray tracker

GRAPES-3: कॉस्मिक किरणों का अनुगामी (ट्रैकर)

• Researchers from Mumbai, Kochi, and Japan used the **GRAPES-3 telescope** to track how the earth's upper atmosphere temperature and the sun's magnetic field affect muons — subatomic particles from space.

मुंबई, कोच्चि और जापान के शोधकर्ताओं ने

GRAPES-3 दूरदर्शी का उपयोग यह पता लगाने के लिए किया कि पृथ्वी के ऊपरी वायुमंडल के तापमान और सूर्य के चुंबकीय क्षेत्र का म्यूऑनों — अंतरिक्ष से आने वाले उप-परमाण्विक कणों — पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है।

• The **GRAPES-3 telescope** in Ooty, Tamil Nadu does not look at light like a traditional telescope.

तमिलनाडु के ऊटी में स्थित GRAPES-3 दूरदर्शी

पारंपरिक दूरदर्शी की तरह प्रकाश का अवलोकन नहीं करता है।

- Instead, it is a **muon detector**.
इसके बजाय, यह एक म्यूऑन डिटेक्टर है।
- Muons** are created when high-energy cosmic rays from deep space collide with the earth's upper atmosphere.



म्यूऑन तब उत्पन्न होते हैं जब गहरे अंतरिक्ष से आने वाली उच्च-ऊर्जा कॉस्मिक किरणें पृथ्वी के ऊपरी वायुमंडल से टकराती हैं।

- The facility consists of **16 independent modules** spread over a large area.
यह सुविधा एक बड़े क्षेत्र में फैले हुए **16 स्वतंत्र मॉड्यूलों** से मिलकर बनी है।
- Each module contains **232 proportional counters**, which are long steel tubes filled with a special mixture of **argon and methane**, with a thin **tungsten wire** running through the centre.
प्रत्येक मॉड्यूल में **232 प्रोपोर्शनल काउंटर** होते हैं, जो लंबे इस्पाती ट्यूब होते हैं और जिनमें **आर्गन** तथा **मीथेन** का विशेष मिश्रण भरा होता है, जबकि उनके केंद्र से एक पतला **टंगस्टन तार** गुजरता है।
- When a **muon** passes through a tube, it knocks electrons out of the gas molecules.
जब कोई **म्यूऑन** किसी ट्यूब से होकर गुजरता है, तो वह गैस के अणुओं से **इलेक्ट्रॉनों** को बाहर निकाल देता है।
- These electrons are pulled towards the wire, creating an **electrical pulse** that the telescope records as a hit.
ये इलेक्ट्रॉन तार की ओर आकर्षित होते हैं, जिससे एक **विद्युत स्पंदन (इलेक्ट्रिकल पल्स)** उत्पन्न होता है जिसे दूरदर्शी एक संकेत के रूप में दर्ज करता है।
- The tubes are arranged in **four layers**, with each layer positioned at a right angle to the one below.
इन ट्यूबों को **चार परतों** में व्यवस्थित किया गया है, जहाँ प्रत्येक परत अपने नीचे की परत के साथ समकोण पर स्थित होती है।
- This **grid layout** allows scientists to track the exact path and angle of the incoming muons.
यह **ग्रिड विन्यास** वैज्ञानिकों को आने वाले म्यूऑनों के सटीक पथ और कोण का पता लगाने में सक्षम बनाता है।
- Thick layers of **reinforced concrete** are placed between the tubes to ensure the telescope only counts high-energy muons that are strong enough to penetrate the concrete.
ट्यूबों के बीच **प्रबलित कंक्रीट (रीइन्फोर्स्ड कंक्रीट)** की मोटी परतें रखी जाती हैं ताकि दूरदर्शी केवल उन उच्च-ऊर्जा म्यूऑनों की गणना करे जो कंक्रीट को भेदने में सक्षम हों।
- This is how **GRAPES-3** is able to produce a **high-resolution map** of the invisible **cosmic forces** affecting the earth.
इसी प्रकार **GRAPES-3** पृथ्वी को प्रभावित करने वाली अदृश्य **कॉस्मिक शक्तियों** का एक **उच्च-विभेदन मानचित्र (हाई-रिज़ोल्यूशन मैप)** तैयार करने में सक्षम होता है।

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17J6	Not binary: India can save its forests by winning the war on poverty द्विआधारी नहीं: भारत गरीबी के विरुद्ध संघर्ष जीतकर अपने वनों को बचा सकता है	
17J6	'Vast stretches of coral reefs could resist climate change, finds a new study प्रवाल भित्तियों के विशाल क्षेत्र जलवायु परिवर्तन का सामना कर सकते हैं, नए अध्ययन में दावा	

Not binary: India can save its forests by winning the war on poverty

Forests with more poor households and communities that depended more on fuelwood were also found to have less diverse tree species, a new study has found. On the other hand, forests where communities had access to alternative livelihoods, such as farming, had more diverse trees species

ISS III: Environment
Ipsita Herlekar

Traditionally, many conservationists and policymakers have seen biodiversity conservation as a choice between protecting nature and meeting human needs. Forests were often seen as places that had to be protected from people, while alleviating poverty and economic development were treated as separate concerns.

A new international study has concluded that this is a harmful view.

In a paper in the journal *Nature Sustainability*, researchers from the University of Notre Dame, the University of Michigan, Yale University, the University of Colorado Boulder (U.S.), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the University of Manchester (U.K.), the University of Victoria (Canada), and the Indian School of Business analysed data from community-managed forests in the tropics.

The data came from the International Forestry Resources and Institutions network, and spanned 322 community-managed tropical forests in 15 countries from 1993 to 2017.

The dataset's size allowed the researchers to understand both current patterns in forest biodiversity and how they had changed over time. Principally, they found a significant link between people's livelihoods and forest biodiversity.

Forests, people, livelihoods

Forests with more poor households and communities that depended more on fuelwood were also found to have less diverse tree species. The team also found similar patterns in forests in densely populated areas with higher levels of poverty.

On the other hand, forests where communities had access to alternative livelihoods, such as farming, had more diverse trees.

Tree species diversity refers to the number of tree species in a forest; it is an important measure of biodiversity. Forests with more species tend to support more wildlife, are ecologically more stable, and are often more resilient to environmental change.

Overall, the analysis found that a greater dependence on forest resources was associated with lower tree species diversity.

However, the researchers emphasised that poverty is not responsible for biodiversity loss. They pointed out that when people have fewer livelihood options and depend heavily on forests to survive, the pressure on forest resources automatically increases. The way out is to improve economic opportunities.

The fortress model

The study also focused on human-dominated landscapes, which are common in India. Most forests in the country are owned and managed by State



Garo tribal women carrying firewood in the West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya in 2024. Representative image. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Forest Departments. And for decades, this apparatus has followed the fortress model – where protected areas are managed by minimising human activities and restricting access to resources. While this model has allowed the Departments to recover several iconic species and strengthen protection, it has some severe limitations.

Today, many protected areas are increasingly becoming isolated islands surrounded by human-dominated landscapes.

"The forests in these landscapes are smaller in size and bear a heavy burden of extraction," Ashwini Chhatre, associate professor of Public Policy at the Indian School of Business and one of the study's authors, said.

Around 275 million people depend on these forests to varying degrees for their livelihoods and daily needs.

"But these forests are ecologically important and provide significant ecosystem services," Dr. Chhatre said.

According to him, the new findings can be used to support conservation by prioritising wildlife corridors – patches of forests that form a loose link between protected areas.

"These corridors are used by large mammals to move between protected areas. The improvement of species richness in these corridors will increase forest resilience and support conservation directly," he said.

Helping conservation

To reduce pressure on forests, State Forest Departments across India have introduced initiatives like distributing subsidised LPG connections and efficient cooking stoves and heaters around many tiger reserves and national parks. The measures reduce people's need for fuelwood and to enter forests.

Today, many protected areas are increasingly becoming isolated islands surrounded by human-dominated landscapes. They bear a heavy burden of extraction from communities who depend on them for their livelihood

Extending similar support to private landholdings and community forests along wildlife corridors could help conservation.

However, Imran Siddiqui, senior field conservationist at the Centre for Wildlife Studies, who has worked extensively in protected areas and with forest communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, said that while such initiatives are well-intentioned and that communities often welcome them, they face implementation challenges.

"Funding can be inconsistent, participation from local communities may vary, and long-term support is not always guaranteed," he said.

Conservation partners

Today, there is growing recognition among wildlife conservationists and forest managers that conservation can't succeed without the support of local communities.

In addition to fuel alternatives and subsidies, many State Forest Departments also give local community members jobs in tourism, forest protection, and seasonal conservation work.

The late ecologist Madhav Gadgil was a strong advocate of an inclusive approach, believing conservation efforts would be more effective if local communities had rights, incentives, and a meaningful role in managing natural resources. He also emphasised the value of traditional

ecological knowledge, and argued people who had lived alongside forests for generations possessed insights that could complement scientific approaches to conservation.

In Ladakh, the Snow Leopard Conservancy has mitigated economic losses of human-wildlife conflict with community-run homestays and livestock insurance programmes. In Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district, village-based Mangrove Co-Management Committees help protect mangrove ecosystems while supporting fisheries, ecotourism, and sustainable aquaculture.

In Arunachal Pradesh, hornbill nest adoption programmes run by the Nature Conservation Foundation have encouraged local communities to protect nesting sites, with former Nyishi tribe hunters now serving as nest protectors and forest patrollers.

There is also tremendous scope to expand these initiatives and to further support community welfare.

As Mr. Siddiqui said, wildlife tourism is a growing multi-million-dollar industry, yet only a small fraction of its revenue reaches the communities living alongside forests and protected areas. He added that a greater share of these benefits should be directed to local communities, creating stronger incentives for conservation.

The findings of the new study highlight the close links between alleviating poverty and conserving biodiversity, and show how socio-economic conditions and conservation goals need not be in conflict with each other. By recognising these connections, both conservationists and policymakers can design more inclusive frameworks to benefit both people and nature.

(Ipsita Herlekar is an independent science writer. ipsitahelekar@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Researchers pointed out that when people have fewer livelihood options and depend heavily on forests to survive, the pressure on forest resources automatically increases

The new findings can be used to support conservation by prioritising wildlife corridors – patches of forests that form a loose link between protected areas

The findings show how socio-economic conditions and conservation goals need not be in conflict with each other

17J6. Not binary: India can save its forests by winning the war on poverty
द्विआधारी नहीं: भारत गरीबी के विरुद्ध संघर्ष जीतकर अपने वनों को बचा सकता है

- Forests with more **poor households** and communities that depended more on **fuelwood** were also found to have less diverse **tree species**, a new study has found.



जिन वनों में अधिक गरीब परिवार थे और जिन समुदायों की ईंधन लकड़ी पर अधिक निर्भरता थी, उनमें वृक्ष प्रजातियों की विविधता भी कम पाई गई, ऐसा एक नए अध्ययन में पाया गया है।

- On the other hand, forests where communities had access to **alternative livelihoods**, such as **farming**, had more diverse **tree species**.

दूसरी ओर, जिन वनों में समुदायों को वैकल्पिक आजीविकाओं, जैसे कृषि, तक पहुँच प्राप्त थी, वहाँ वृक्ष प्रजातियों की विविधता अधिक पाई गई।

- Traditionally, many conservationists and policymakers have seen **biodiversity conservation as a choice between protecting nature and meeting human needs**. परंपरागत रूप से, अनेक संरक्षणवादियों और नीति-निर्माताओं ने जैव विविधता संरक्षण को प्रकृति की रक्षा और मानवीय आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के बीच एक विकल्प के रूप में देखा है।

- Forests were often seen as places that had to be protected from people, while **alleviating poverty and economic development** were treated as separate concerns.

वनों को प्रायः ऐसे स्थानों के रूप में देखा गया जिन्हें लोगों से सुरक्षित रखना आवश्यक था, जबकि गरीबी उन्मूलन और आर्थिक विकास को पृथक चिंताओं के रूप में माना जाता था।

- The data came from the **International Forestry Resources and Institutions network**, and spanned **322 community-managed tropical forests in 15 countries from 1993 to 2017**.

ये आंकड़े International Forestry Resources and Institutions network से प्राप्त किए गए थे और इनमें 1993 से 2017 के बीच 15 देशों के 322 सामुदायिक-प्रबंधित उष्णकटिबंधीय वन शामिल थे।

- Tree species diversity** refers to the number of tree species in a forest; it is an important measure of **biodiversity**.

वृक्ष प्रजाति विविधता से आशय किसी वन में पाई जाने वाली वृक्ष प्रजातियों की संख्या से है; यह जैव विविधता का एक महत्वपूर्ण मापदंड है।

- Forests with more species tend to support more wildlife, are ecologically more stable, and are often more resilient to environmental change.

अधिक प्रजातियों वाले वन सामान्यतः अधिक वन्यजीवों का समर्थन करते हैं, पारिस्थितिकीय रूप से अधिक स्थिर होते हैं तथा प्रायः पर्यावरणीय परिवर्तनों के प्रति अधिक लचीले होते हैं।

- Overall, the analysis found that **a greater dependence on forest resources was associated with lower tree species diversity**.

समग्र रूप से, विश्लेषण में पाया गया कि वन संसाधनों पर अधिक निर्भरता का संबंध वृक्ष प्रजातियों की कम विविधता से था।

- However, the researchers emphasised that **poverty** is not responsible for biodiversity loss. हालाँकि, शोधकर्ताओं ने इस बात पर बल दिया कि गरीबी जैव विविधता के ह्रास के लिए उत्तरदायी नहीं है।

- They pointed out that **when people have fewer livelihood options and depend heavily on forests to survive, the pressure on forest resources automatically increases**.

उन्होंने संकेत किया कि जब लोगों के पास आजीविका के सीमित विकल्प होते हैं और वे जीवनयापन के लिए वनों पर अत्यधिक निर्भर होते हैं, तब वन संसाधनों पर दबाव स्वतः बढ़ जाता है।

- The way out is to improve **economic opportunities**.

इस समस्या का समाधान आर्थिक अवसरों में सुधार करना है।

The fortress model

दुर्ग मॉडल

- The study also focused on **human-dominated landscapes**, which are common in India. इस अध्ययन ने मानव-प्रधान परिदृश्यों पर भी ध्यान केंद्रित किया, जो भारत में सामान्य रूप से पाए जाते हैं।
- Most forests in the country are owned and managed by **State Forest Departments**. देश के अधिकांश वन राज्य वन विभागों के स्वामित्व और प्रबंधन में हैं।
- And for decades, this apparatus has followed the **fortress model** — where **protected areas** are managed by minimising human activities and restricting access to resources.

और दशकों से, यह तंत्र दुर्ग मॉडल का अनुसरण करता रहा है — जिसमें संरक्षित क्षेत्रों का प्रबंधन मानवीय गतिविधियों को न्यूनतम करके तथा संसाधनों तक पहुँच को सीमित करके किया जाता है।

- While this model has allowed the Departments to recover several **iconic species** and strengthen protection, it has some severe limitations.
यद्यपि इस मॉडल ने विभागों को अनेक प्रतीकात्मक प्रजातियों के संरक्षण और सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करने में सहायता प्रदान की है, फिर भी इसकी कुछ गंभीर सीमाएँ हैं।
- Today, **many protected areas** are increasingly becoming isolated islands surrounded by **human-dominated landscapes**.
आज अनेक संरक्षित क्षेत्र, मानव-प्रधान परिदृश्यों से घिरे हुए पृथक द्वीपों के समान बनते जा रहे हैं।
- **Around 275 million people** depend on these forests to varying degrees for their **livelihoods and daily needs**.
लगभग 27.5 करोड़ लोग अपनी आजीविका और दैनिक आवश्यकताओं के लिए विभिन्न स्तरों पर इन वनों पर निर्भर हैं।
- "But **these forests are ecologically important and provide significant ecosystem services**," Dr. Chhatre said.
"किन्तु ये वन पारिस्थितिकीय दृष्टि से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और महत्वपूर्ण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र सेवाएँ प्रदान करते हैं," डॉ. छत्रे ने कहा।

- To reduce pressure on forests, **State Forest Departments** across India have introduced initiatives like **distributing subsidised LPG connections and efficient cooking stoves and heaters around many tiger reserves and national parks**.

वनों पर दबाव कम करने के लिए, पूरे भारत में राज्य वन विभागों ने अनेक बाघ अभयारण्यों और राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों के आसपास रियायती एलपीजी कनेक्शन, दक्ष खाना पकाने के चूल्हे तथा हीटर वितरित करने जैसी पहलें शुरू की हैं।

- The **measures reduce people's need for fuelwood and to enter forests**.
ये उपाय लोगों की ईंधन लकड़ी पर निर्भरता तथा वनों में प्रवेश की आवश्यकता को कम करते हैं।
- **Extending similar support to private landholdings and community forests along wildlife corridors could help conservation**.

वन्यजीव गलियारों के आसपास स्थित निजी भूमि स्वामित्वों और सामुदायिक वनों को भी इसी प्रकार का समर्थन प्रदान करना संरक्षण में सहायक हो सकता है।

- The late **ecologist Madhav Gadgil** was a strong advocate of an **inclusive approach**, believing conservation efforts would be more effective if local communities had rights, incentives, and a meaningful role in managing natural resources.

दिवंगत पारिस्थितिकीविद् माधव गाडगिल समावेशी दृष्टिकोण के प्रबल समर्थक थे। उनका मानना था कि यदि स्थानीय समुदायों को अधिकार, प्रोत्साहन तथा प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के प्रबंधन में सार्थक भूमिका दी जाए, तो संरक्षण प्रयास अधिक प्रभावी होंगे।

- He also emphasised the **value of traditional ecological knowledge**, and argued people who had lived alongside forests for generations possessed insights that could complement scientific approaches to conservation.

उन्होंने पारंपरिक पारिस्थितिकीय ज्ञान के महत्व पर भी बल दिया और तर्क दिया कि पीढ़ियों से वनों के साथ रहने वाले लोगों के पास ऐसी अंतर्दृष्टियाँ होती हैं जो संरक्षण के वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोणों की पूरक हो सकती हैं।

- In **Ladakh**, the **Snow Leopard Conservancy** has mitigated economic losses of **human-wildlife conflict** with community-run homestays and **livestock insurance programmes**.

लद्दाख में Snow Leopard Conservancy ने समुदाय-प्रबंधित होमस्टे तथा पशुधन बीमा कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष से होने वाली आर्थिक हानियों को कम किया है।

- In **Arunachal Pradesh**, **hornbill nest adoption programmes** run by the **Nature Conservation Foundation** have encouraged local communities to protect nesting sites, with former **Nyishi tribe** hunters now serving as nest protectors and forest patrollers.

अरुणाचल प्रदेश में Nature Conservation Foundation द्वारा संचालित हॉर्नबिल घोंसला दत्तक ग्रहण

कार्यक्रमों ने स्थानीय समुदायों को घाँसला स्थलों की रक्षा के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया है, जहाँ पूर्व न्यीशी जनजाति के शिकारी अब घाँसला संरक्षक और वन गश्ती कर्मियों के रूप में कार्य कर रहे हैं।

- There is also tremendous scope to expand these initiatives and to further support **community welfare**.

इन पहलों का विस्तार करने तथा सामुदायिक कल्याण को और अधिक समर्थन देने की भी अपार संभावनाएँ हैं।

- As Mr. Siddiqui said, **wildlife tourism is a growing multi-million-dollar industry, yet only a small fraction of its revenue reaches the communities living alongside forests and protected areas.**

जैसा कि श्री सिद्दीकी ने कहा, **वन्यजीव पर्यटन** एक तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ **बहु-मिलियन डॉलर उद्योग** है, फिर भी इसकी आय का केवल एक छोटा हिस्सा ही वनों और संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के आसपास रहने वाले समुदायों तक पहुँच पाता है।

- He added that **a greater share of these benefits should be directed to local communities, creating stronger incentives for conservation.**

उन्होंने आगे कहा कि इन लाभों का अधिक बड़ा हिस्सा स्थानीय समुदायों को दिया जाना चाहिए, जिससे संरक्षण के लिए अधिक सशक्त प्रोत्साहन उत्पन्न होंगे।

- The findings of the new study highlight the **close links between alleviating poverty and conserving biodiversity, and show how socio-economic conditions and conservation goals need not be in conflict with each other.**

नए अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष **गरीबी उन्मूलन और जैव विविधता संरक्षण** के बीच घनिष्ठ संबंधों को रेखांकित करते हैं तथा यह दर्शाते हैं कि **सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिस्थितियाँ और संरक्षण संबंधी लक्ष्य आवश्यक रूप से एक-दूसरे के विरोधी नहीं हैं।**

- **By recognising these connections, both conservationists and policymakers can design more inclusive frameworks to benefit both people and nature.**

इन संबंधों को स्वीकार करके, **संरक्षणवादी और नीति-निर्माता** ऐसे अधिक **समावेशी ढाँचे** तैयार कर सकते हैं जो मानव और प्रकृति दोनों के हित में हों।

Vast stretches of coral reefs could resist climate change, finds a new study

Agence France-Presse
MOMBASA

In the crystalline waters off Kenya's coast, coral reefs are thriving – evidence of a rare good news story in the battle to protect oceans from the ravages of climate change.

A new study presented at the Our Ocean Conference in Mombasa on Tuesday finds that 1,66,000 square kilometres of the world's coral reefs – around a third of the total – are particularly “climate-resilient”, meaning they have the potential to survive through major ocean warming events.

The study by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Macquarie University in Australia challenges the findings of the IPCC, the global authority on climate change, which has stated 70% to 90% of coral reefs could die with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and 99% at 2 degrees Celsius.

“Our models are showing a much more hopeful future for coral reefs. We predict that there are many climate resilient reefs around the world that will persist over time,” Stacy Jupiter, executive director for marine conservation at

WCS, told AFP.

Action is still needed since only 28% of those resilient reefs are being actively protected.

Down the coast from Mombasa, on Kenya's paradisaical Wasini-Mkwiro island, villagers are showing the way.

As local fishermen bring in their catch from the beach, it is weighed, measured, and logged by local data collectors in the village.

Other members of the “beach management unit” patrol the waters to make sure no one is over-fishing or using destructive equipment. Others plant sea-



The study finds that 1,66,000 sq. km of the world's coral reefs – around a third of the total – are particularly “climate-resilient.” AFP

weed and mangroves, and scoop out rubbish.

“We want to keep this ecosystem as pristine as possible because we know the benefits,” said Edward

Thanks to their efforts, the park became the first in Kenya to earn a Gold-Level Blue Park Award from the U.S.-based Marine Conservation Institute in 2021.

‘Living seed-banks’

Coral “bleaching” occurs when water temperatures rise by a degree or two, stressing the coral's animal tissues and making them expel algae, turning them white.

But the new study finds many reefs are resilient, either because they exist in cool spots, or because they have evolved to withstand heat, or recover more quickly than most.

“The way we see coral responding to heat events is more nuanced than we previously thought,” said Ms. Jupiter.

Kenya is fortunate to have a significant stretch of naturally resilient coral.

Divers off traditional wooden dhows at Wasini-Mkwiro find coral species like the boulder-like Porites and staghorn-shaped Acropora supporting a dazzling ecosystem that includes moray eels, angel-fish, crabs, turtles, dolphins, and much more.

The last major bleaching event in 2024 led to coral cover in the zone falling from 44% to 27%, accord-

ing to WCS data. But within a year, it had recovered to 40%.

The new research, funded by Bloomberg Ocean Initiative and currently under peer review, builds on a pioneering study from 2018 that identified 50 resilient reefs around the world.

New technology makes its map 10,000 times more detailed than any previous version, enabling the discovery of three times more resilient coral than previously known.

More than half are concentrated in Australia, the Bahamas, Cuba, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

17J6. Vast stretches of coral reefs could resist climate change, finds a new study

प्रवाल भित्तियों के विशाल क्षेत्र जलवायु परिवर्तन का सामना कर सकते हैं, नए अध्ययन में दावा

- A new study presented at the **Our Ocean Conference in Mombasa** on Tuesday finds that **1,66,000 square kilometres** of the world's coral reefs — around a third of the total — are particularly “**climate-resilient**”, meaning they have the potential to survive through major ocean warming events.

मंगलवार को **मोम्बासा** में आयोजित **आवर ओशन कॉन्फ्रेंस** में प्रस्तुत एक नए अध्ययन के अनुसार, दुनिया की लगभग **1,66,000 वर्ग किलोमीटर** प्रवाल भित्तियाँ — जो कुल का लगभग एक-तिहाई हैं — विशेष रूप से



“जलवायु-प्रतिरोधी (Climate-Resilient)” हैं, अर्थात वे महासागरों के बड़े तापवृद्धि घटनाक्रमों के बावजूद जीवित रह सकती हैं।

- The **IPCC** has stated **70% to 90%** of coral reefs could die with global warming of **1.5 degrees Celsius** above pre-industrial levels, and **99%** at **2 degrees Celsius**.
IPCC के अनुसार, औद्योगिक-पूर्व स्तरों की तुलना में वैश्विक तापमान में **1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस** वृद्धि होने पर **70% से 90%** प्रवाल भित्तियाँ नष्ट हो सकती हैं और **2 डिग्री सेल्सियस** वृद्धि पर **99%** प्रवाल भित्तियाँ समाप्त हो सकती हैं।
- Coral “**bleaching**” occurs when water temperatures rise by a degree or two, stressing the coral’s animal tissues and making them expel algae, turning them white.
प्रवाल “**ब्लीचिंग**” तब होती है जब पानी का तापमान एक या दो डिग्री बढ़ जाता है, जिससे प्रवाल ऊतकों पर तनाव पड़ता है और वे शैवाल को बाहर निकाल देते हैं, परिणामस्वरूप वे सफेद हो जाते हैं।
- More than half are concentrated in **Australia, the Bahamas, Cuba, Indonesia, and the Philippines**.
इनमें से आधे से अधिक ऑस्ट्रेलिया, बहामास, क्यूबा, इंडोनेशिया और फिलीपींस में केंद्रित हैं।

GS Paper III: Disaster Management	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	Kerala plans disease ‘outbreak calendar’ केरल रोग ‘प्रकोप कैलेंडर’ की योजना बना रहा है

Kerala plans disease ‘outbreak calendar’

GS III: Disaster Management
The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government will create a calendar to map seasonal and regional patterns of disease outbreaks in the State in a bid to give the public health system’s response an added edge in the future.

Health Minister K. Muralidharan noted at a press conference on Tuesday that, for one, Nipah cases are repeatedly reported in the Perambra region of Kozhikode between May and September. Curiously,

some districts, notably Palakkad, have not reported any shigellosis cases so far, he said. “Disease patterns might vary from time to time, but several viruses seem to follow seasonal patterns,” he said.

He said the reasons for pathogens following seasonal and regional patterns remained unclear and were a major area of research. An “outbreak calendar” would give the public health system greater predictive accuracy and help it calibrate disease prevention and response.

17j6. Kerala plans disease ‘outbreak calendar’ केरल रोग ‘प्रकोप कैलेंडर’ की योजना बना रहा है

- Kerala government will create a calendar to map seasonal and regional patterns of disease outbreaks in the State in a bid to give the public health system’s response an added edge in the future.

केरल सरकार राज्य में रोग प्रकोपों के मौसमी और क्षेत्रीय प्रतिरूपों का मानचित्रण करने हेतु एक कैलेंडर तैयार करेगी, ताकि भविष्य में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली की प्रतिक्रिया को अतिरिक्त बढ़त प्रदान की जा सके।

- Curiously, some districts, notably **Palakkad**, have not reported any **shigellosis** cases so far, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि आश्चर्यजनक रूप से कुछ जिलों, विशेषकर पलक्काड़, में अब तक शिगेलोसिस का कोई मामला रिपोर्ट नहीं किया गया है।

- He said the reasons for pathogens following seasonal and regional patterns remained unclear and were a major area of research.

उन्होंने कहा कि रोगजनकों द्वारा मौसमी एवं क्षेत्रीय प्रतिरूपों का

अनुसरण किए जाने के कारण अभी भी स्पष्ट नहीं हैं और यह अनुसंधान का एक प्रमुख क्षेत्र है।

- An “**outbreak calendar**” would give the public health system greater **predictive accuracy** and help it calibrate **disease prevention** and **response**.

एक “प्रकोप कैलेंडर” सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को अधिक पूर्वानुमानात्मक सटीकता प्रदान करेगा तथा रोग-निवारण और प्रतिक्रिया उपायों को अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से समायोजित करने में सहायता करेगा।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
17J6	Govt. orders blocking of Telegram app till NEET re-examination सरकार ने NEET पुनर्परीक्षा तक Telegram ऐप को अवरुद्ध करने का आदेश दिया	
17J6	The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) अभ्यास पिच ब्लैक 2026 में भाग लेगी।	

Govt. orders blocking of Telegram app till NEET re-examination

GS III: Internal Security
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

At the National Testing Agency (NTA)'s request, the Centre is blocking the messaging app Telegram in India until Monday, in what the NTA described as a “response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination scheduled on 21 June 2026.”

On Tuesday evening, a few hours after the government's order, at least one telecom operator had already blocked access to the service, and the app's listing was taken down from Google Play and Apple's App Store. This is the first time that a messaging app operating at such a scale is being blocked in India by

the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, even for a limited period.

The NTA emphasised that this blocking was “calibrated and bounded in time,” and that it would be lifted later.

The agency said that several Telegram groups were advertising fake test papers for the upcoming NEET and defrauding candidates willing to pay for them.

Telegram founder Pavel Durov criticised the blocking, saying it “punishes” over 15 crore “ordinary Telegram users in India”. Banning the app even temporarily, he said, “is a mistake”.

“The leaks just moved to other apps”, Mr. Durov added. While it is unclear what he was referring to,



The NTA has emphasised that the blocking is ‘calibrated and bounded in time’, and that it would be lifted later. REUTERS

the NTA on the day kept dismissing the legitimacy of certain screenshots purported to be that of the upcoming NEET exam's question paper.

“Over the past few weeks, we removed hundreds of channels sharing leaked exam materials and related scams in India. We are also making the “edited” label more visible to

prevent backdating scams,” he said.

“Acting on inputs received continuously from NTA, from State law-enforcement agencies including the police forces of Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan, and from its own continuous monitoring of public channels and platforms, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under

the Ministry of Home Affairs, has secured the prompt take-down of a substantial number of Telegram channels, groups and bots whose names and content openly advertised their fraudulent and misleading purpose,” the agency said.

There are several Telegram groups circulating everything from pirated links to real-time news updates from established organisations; the platform has attracted many users as it offers features such as integrating bots into the platform, not typically found on other popular platforms such as WhatsApp and Signal.

In a video message, NTA Director-General Abhishek Singh said, “To all parents, I say, please protect your child from financial fraud

and from the panic these rackets are designed to create. NTA is committed to a fair, secure and credible examination, and to act against every person involved in spreading these scams.”

Additionally, many groups, the NTA said, were editing past messages with recent exam paper questions, to fake their capabilities in obtaining question papers in advance.

In separate directions, the IT Ministry said that it had ordered Telegram to disable message editing as well until June 30, to shut off “this avenue of fabrication for the post-examination window in which such artefacts have historically been deployed.”

IAF FERRYING NEET PAPERS
» PAGE 6

17j6. Govt. orders blocking of Telegram app till NEET re-examination सरकार ने NEET पुनर्परीक्षा तक Telegram ऐप को अवरुद्ध करने का आदेश दिया

Telegram blocked temporarily in India over NEET (UG) 2026 scam concerns

नीट (यूजी) 2026 परीक्षा से जुड़ी धोखाधड़ी की आशंकाओं के कारण भारत में टेलीग्राम अस्थायी रूप से अवरुद्ध

- At the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**'s request, the **Centre** is blocking the messaging app **Telegram** in India until Monday, in what the NTA described as a “response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the **NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination** scheduled on **21 June 2026**.”

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण एजेंसी (NTA) के अनुरोध पर केंद्र सरकार ने भारत में संदेश सेवा ऐप टेलीग्राम को सोमवार तक अवरुद्ध कर दिया है। NTA ने इसे 21 जून 2026 को निर्धारित नीट (यूजी) 2026 पुनर्परीक्षा में शामिल



होने वाले अभ्यर्थियों को ठगने के लिए नकल माफियाओं द्वारा मंच के संगठित उपयोग के विरुद्ध उठाया गया कदम बताया है।

- This is the first time that a messaging app operating at such a scale is being blocked in India by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, even for a limited period.

यह पहली बार है कि इतने बड़े स्तर पर संचालित किसी संदेश सेवा ऐप को **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय** द्वारा भारत में, भले ही सीमित अवधि के लिए, अवरुद्ध किया गया है।

- **Telegram founder Pavel Durov** criticised the blocking, saying it “punishes” over **15 crore ordinary Telegram users in India**.

टेलीग्राम के संस्थापक पावेल ड्यूरोव ने इस अवरोधन की आलोचना करते हुए कहा कि इससे भारत के **15 करोड़**

से अधिक सामान्य टेलीग्राम उपयोगकर्ता दंडित हो रहे हैं।

- We are also making the ‘edited’ label more visible to prevent **backdating scams**,” he said.

हम ‘एडिटेड’ लेबल को भी अधिक स्पष्ट बना रहे हैं ताकि बैकडेटिंग धोखाधड़ी को रोका जा सके,” उन्होंने कहा।

- Platforms, the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, has secured the prompt take-down of a substantial number of Telegram channels, groups and bots whose names and content openly advertised their fraudulent and misleading purpose,” the agency said.

एजेंसी ने कहा कि **NTA**, बिहार, गुजरात और राजस्थान की पुलिस सहित राज्य स्तरीय कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों तथा सार्वजनिक चैनलों और प्लेटफार्मों की अपनी सतत निगरानी से प्राप्त सूचनाओं के आधार पर **गृह मंत्रालय** के अंतर्गत कार्यरत **भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र (I4C)** ने ऐसे अनेक टेलीग्राम चैनलों, समूहों और बॉट्स को तत्काल हटवाया है जिनके नाम और सामग्री खुले तौर पर धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण तथा भ्रामक उद्देश्यों का प्रचार कर रहे थे।

- In a video message, **NTA Director-General Abhishek Singh** said, “To all parents, I say, please protect your child from financial fraud and from the panic these rackets are designed to create.

एक वीडियो संदेश में **NTA के महानिदेशक अभिषेक सिंह** ने कहा, “मैं सभी अभिभावकों से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे अपने बच्चों को वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी और उन घबराहट फैलाने वाले षड्यंत्रों से सुरक्षित रखें जिन्हें ये गिरोह जानबूझकर उत्पन्न करते हैं।

17j6. The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026

भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) अभ्यास पिच ब्लैक 2026 में भाग लेगी।

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, the **Royal Australian Air Force’s (RAAF)** premier multinational air combat exercise, scheduled to be held in **Australia’s Northern Territory** from **July 20 to August**.

भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) एक्सरसाइज पिच ब्लैक 2026 (Exercise Pitch Black 2026) में भाग लेगी, जो **रॉयल ऑस्ट्रेलियन एयर फोर्स (RAAF)** का प्रमुख बहुराष्ट्रीय हवाई युद्धाभ्यास है। यह अभ्यास **ऑस्ट्रेलिया के नॉर्थर्न टेरिटरी** में **20 जुलाई से अगस्त तक** आयोजित किया जाएगा।

- **Exercise Pitch Black** is the **RAAF’s largest international exercise**.

एक्सरसाइज पिच ब्लैक रॉयल ऑस्ट्रेलियन एयर फोर्स (RAAF) का सबसे बड़ा अंतरराष्ट्रीय सैन्य

अभ्यास है।

Air Force to take part in ‘Exercise Pitch Black’

GS II: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, the Royal Australian Air Force’s (RAAF) premier multinational air combat exercise, scheduled to be held in Australia’s Northern Territory from July 20 to August.

Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green OAM announced India’s participation on X on Tuesday, tagging the IAF’s official handle and citing the exercise as an opportunity to strengthen regional interoperability across the Indo-Pacific.

According to the Australian Defence Ministry, the exercise will bring together more than 100 aircraft and personnel from 19 allied and partner nations, providing a platform for participating air forces to enhance operational interoperability, strengthen military cooperation, and refine air combat tactics. Exercise Pitch Black is the RAAF’s largest international exercise.