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PCS Special:	11 August
11A8	India donates five peacocks to Geneva's United Nations Office भारत ने जिनेवा स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र कार्यालय को पाँच मोर दान किए
11A8	India clinches 17 medals at u-23 Commonwealth fencing भारत ने अंडर-23 कॉमनवेल्थ फेंसिंग में 17 पदक जीते



PCS

India donates five peacocks to Geneva's United Nations Office

India has donated five peacocks, including a rare white-feathered one, to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), reviving a decades-old tradition. At a special ceremony held on Friday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Arindam Bagchi, formally handed over the five peacocks to UNOG Director-General Tatiana Valovaya. "The Indian Peacock, a symbol of grace, beauty and resilience, represents India's enduring commitment to the conservation of biodiversity and environmental stewardship," the Indian mission said. The five young peacocks comprise four blue peafowl and one white-feathered male. PTI

11A8. India donates five peacocks to Geneva's United Nations Office

भारत ने जिनेवा स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र कार्यालय को पाँच मोर दान किए

- India has donated **five peacocks**, including a rare **white-feathered one**, to the **United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)**, reviving a decades-old tradition.

- भारत ने दशकों पुरानी परंपरा को पुनर्जीवित करते हुए **जिनेवा स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र कार्यालय (UNOG)** को **पाँच मोर** दान किए हैं, जिनमें एक दुर्लभ सफेद पंखों वाला मोर भी शामिल है।

- At a special ceremony held on Friday, **India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Arindam Bagchi**, formally handed over the five peacocks to **UNOG Director-General Tatiana Valovaya**.

- शुक्रवार को आयोजित एक विशेष समारोह में जिनेवा में संयुक्त राष्ट्र में भारत के स्थायी प्रतिनिधि अरिंदम बागची ने औपचारिक रूप से पाँचों मोर UNOG की महानिदेशक तातियाना वालोवाया को सौंपे।

- "The **Indian Peacock**, a symbol of **grace, beauty and resilience**, represents India's enduring commitment to the **conservation of biodiversity and environmental stewardship**," the Indian mission said.

- भारतीय मिशन ने कहा, "भारतीय मोर, जो गरिमा, सुंदरता और दृढ़ता का प्रतीक है, जैव विविधता के संरक्षण और पर्यावरणीय उत्तरदायित्व के प्रति भारत की स्थायी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।"
- The five young peacocks comprise **four blue peafowl** and one **white-feathered male**.
- इन पाँच युवा मोरों में चार नीले मोर (Blue Peafowl) और एक सफेद पंखों वाला नर मोर शामिल है।

Indian Peacock / Indian Peafowl

The **Indian peafowl** (*Pavo cristatus*) is a large bird of the **pheasant family (Phasianidae)** and is native to the **Indian subcontinent**. It was declared the **National Bird of India** in **1963**.

Feature	Details
Scientific name	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Family	Phasianidae
Order	Galliformes
Native range	Indian subcontinent
Male	Peacock
Female	Peahen
Young	Peachick
Species collectively	Peafowl
IUCN status	Least Concern
India's National Bird	Yes

Peacock vs Peafowl — important distinction

Technically, “peacock” refers to the adult male, whereas “peahen” refers to the female.

Thus:

Peacock = Male.

Peahen = Female.

Peafowl = Species/group collectively.

In everyday usage, however, people frequently use “peacock” for the entire species.

Why is the male so colourful?

The male Indian peafowl has a brilliant **blue neck and breast** and an exceptionally long ornamental **train** containing eye-like markings called **ocelli**.

Interestingly, what we commonly call the peacock's enormous “tail” is **mainly not the true tail**. It consists primarily of elongated **upper-tail covert feathers**. The actual tail feathers underneath help support the train.

During courtship, the male raises and spreads this train into a spectacular fan to attract females.

The **peahen**, in contrast, is predominantly brownish-grey with some green coloration and lacks the male's elaborate train.

Habitat and distribution

Indian peafowl naturally occur across much of the **Indian subcontinent**, particularly in:

scrublands, deciduous forests, forest edges, agricultural landscapes and areas near human settlements.

They generally require access to **water, feeding grounds and trees for roosting.**

They spend considerable time feeding on the ground but can **fly**, despite their large size. At night, they commonly roost in trees.

What does a peacock eat?

Indian peafowl are **omnivorous**.

Their diet can include **seeds, grains, fruits, insects, termites, small reptiles and other small animals.**

Peafowl are sometimes valued in agricultural landscapes because they consume various

insects and other organisms.

Do peacocks eat snakes?

Yes, they can eat small snakes, along with lizards and other small vertebrates.

However, the popular image of the peacock as a specialised “snake killer” is exaggerated. Snakes constitute only one possible component of its broad **omnivorous diet**.

Are all peacocks Indian peacocks?

No. This is an important distinction.

There are **three living species of peafowl**:

Species	Scientific name	Broad natural distribution
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Indian subcontinent
Green Peafowl	<i>Pavo muticus</i>	Southeast Asia
Congo Peafowl	<i>Afropavo congensis</i>	Central Africa

Therefore:

Indian Peacock → specifically the male of *Pavo cristatus*.

Peacock → can refer to the male of a peafowl species generally.

So, every male Indian peafowl is a peacock, but every peacock in the world is not necessarily an Indian peacock.

Conservation significance in India

The Indian peafowl receives strong legal protection in India. Under the current **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, following the 2022 restructuring of the schedules, it is included in **Schedule I**, giving it a high degree of legal protection.

Major threats in some areas include **habitat degradation, poisoning/pesticide exposure, illegal killing and other anthropogenic pressures**.

Why was it selected as India's National Bird?

The Indian peacock was chosen because of its **wide distribution in India, distinctive appearance, cultural and religious associations, and easy public recognition**.

Indian Peafowl = *Pavo cristatus* → Family Phasianidae → Order Galliformes → Male = **Peacock** → Female = **Peahen** → National Bird of India → Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act → **IUCN Least Concern**.

A common examination trap is:

“Peacock is the name for both male and female Indian peafowl.”

This is **technically incorrect**. Peacock = male; peahen = female; peafowl = collective/general term.



India clinches 17 medals at u-23 Commonwealth fencing

India secured 17 medals, including four gold, five silver, and eight bronze, on the opening day of the under-23 Commonwealth fencing championships in Lagos, Nigeria. In men's sabre, Nikhil Wagh claimed gold, Lakshay Badser took the silver, and Ashwini Arya and Laishram Moramba shared the bronze medals. In men's foil, Tejas Patil captured silver and Hemash Sanasam took the bronze. In men's epee, Lokesh Vemani brought home a silver, with Shaurya Ashwini and Godwin Anbkess earning bronze. Joys Ashita won gold in women's foil and Kanaglakshmi earned silver. In women's epee, Prachi Lohan clinched gold and Nivedhya Nair and Anupriya both claimed bronze. In women's sabre, Jeferlin won the gold and Aakhari took silver, while Shreya Gupta added a bronze medal.

11A8. India clinches 17 medals at u-23 Commonwealth fencing

भारत ने अंडर-23 कॉमनवेल्थ फेंसिंग में 17 पदक जीते

India secured **17 medals**, including **four gold, five silver, and eight bronze**, on the opening day of the **under-23 Commonwealth fencing championships in Lagos, Nigeria**.

भारत ने लागोस, नाइजीरिया में आयोजित अंडर-23 कॉमनवेल्थ फेंसिंग चैंपियनशिप के शुरुआती दिन 17 पदक हासिल किए, जिनमें चार स्वर्ण, पांच रजत और आठ कांस्य पदक शामिल हैं।

In **men's sabre**, Nikhil Wagh claimed gold, Lakshay Badser took the silver, and Ashwini Arya and Laishram Moramba shared the bronze medals.

पुरुषों की सेबर स्पर्धा में निखिल वाघ ने स्वर्ण पदक जीता, लक्ष्य बदसर ने रजत पदक हासिल किया, जबकि अश्विनी आर्य और लैशराम मोराम्बा ने कांस्य पदक साझा किए।

In **men's foil**, Tejas Patil captured silver and Hemash Sanasam took the bronze.

पुरुषों की फॉइल स्पर्धा में तेजस पाटिल ने रजत और हेमाश सनासम ने कांस्य पदक जीता।

In **men's epee**, Lokesh Vemani brought home a silver, with Shaurya Ashwini and Godwin Anbkess earning bronze.

- पुरुषों की एपी स्पर्धा में लोकेश वेमानी ने रजत पदक जीता, जबकि शौर्य अश्विनी और गॉडविन अनबकेस ने कांस्य पदक हासिल किए।
- Joys Ashita won gold in **women's foil** and Kanaglakshmi earned silver.
- महिलाओं की फॉइल स्पर्धा में जॉयस आशिता ने स्वर्ण और कनगलक्ष्मी ने रजत पदक जीता।
- In **women's epee**, Prachi Lohan clinched gold and Nivedhya Nair and Anupriya both claimed bronze.
- महिलाओं की एपी स्पर्धा में प्राची लोहान ने स्वर्ण पदक जीता और निवेद्या नायर तथा अनुप्रिया दोनों ने कांस्य पदक हासिल किए।
- In **women's sabre**, Jeferlin won the gold and Aakhari took silver, while Shreya Gupta added a bronze medal.
- महिलाओं की सेबर स्पर्धा में जेफरलिन ने स्वर्ण और आखरी ने रजत पदक जीता, जबकि श्रेया गुप्ता ने एक कांस्य पदक हासिल किया।



GS Paper 1: History	11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11A8 Quiz: French Revolution	

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

The establishment of the museum is closely linked with this paramount event in 1789. Name the event. **Ans: The French Revolution**

2. A steel-and-glass pyramid, known as the Louvre Pyramid, serves as the entrance to the museum. Name the architect who designed it. **Ans: Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei**

3. During the Nazi occupation of France in the Second World War, many treasures of the museum, including the Mona Lisa, were transported to secret hiding places. Name the director of the museum who was responsible for ensuring the safe transport of these artifacts. **Ans: Jacques Jaujard**

4. The Louvre was once the official residence of French Monarchs. When did it stop becoming the royal seat? **Ans: 1682**

5. Last year, the Louvre was burgled by brazen thieves who entered the museum disguised as construction workers. What did they steal? **Ans: 8 pieces of the French Crown Jewels**

Visual: What is this building and where is it located? **Ans: Louvre Abu Dhabi on Saadiyat Island, United Arab Emirates**

Early Birds: Sunil Madhavan | Piyali Tuli | Suchit Narottam | Dodo Jayaditya | Sitaram Saharaj

11A8. Quiz

1. Establishment of the Louvre Museum — The French Revolution

- The transformation of the **Louvre from a royal palace into a public museum** was closely connected with the **French Revolution of 1789**.

- Revolutionary ideas promoted the principle that major artistic collections belonging to the monarchy should become accessible to the **nation and its citizens**.

- The Louvre was consequently converted into a national museum and formally opened to the public as the **Muséum Central des Arts in 1793**.

- Thus, **1789 marks the revolutionary political transformation**, while **1793 marks the opening of the Louvre as a public museum**.

- For examination purposes, the event asked in the

question is therefore correctly identified as the **French Revolution**.

2. Architect of the Louvre Pyramid — I. M. Pei

- The famous **Louvre Pyramid** was designed by **leoh Ming Pei (I. M. Pei)**, the celebrated Chinese-American architect.
- French President **François Mitterrand** commissioned the broader **Grand Louvre project**, and Pei was appointed its architect in **1983**.
- Pei designed a large underground reception area connecting the museum's three wings, with the striking **glass-and-metal pyramid** serving as its monumental entrance.
- Construction generated considerable controversy because of the contrast between its modern design and the historic Louvre Palace.
- The Pyramid was inaugurated on **29 March 1989** and subsequently became one of the Louvre's most recognisable architectural symbols.

3. Saving the Louvre's treasures during World War II — Jacques Jaujard

- Jacques Jaujard**, then a senior Louvre official who became director of France's national museums, played the central role in protecting the Louvre's masterpieces from the approaching German forces.
- Even before the German occupation of Paris, museum authorities undertook a massive evacuation of valuable artworks from the Louvre.
- The **Mona Lisa** was among the masterpieces removed from Paris and moved between secure locations during the war.
- Thousands of works were packed and transported to castles and other locations away from the capital.
- Jaujard's planning helped protect major elements of France's national artistic heritage from **wartime destruction, seizure and Nazi looting**.
- Therefore, **Jacques Jaujard** is the appropriate answer.

4. When did the Louvre stop being the principal royal residence? — 1682

- The Louvre had served as an important **royal residence** during several periods of the French monarchy after evolving from its medieval origins.



- Its position as the principal seat of royal power effectively ended under **King Louis XIV**.
- In **1682**, Louis XIV transferred the royal court and government to the magnificent **Palace of Versailles** outside Paris.
- Versailles consequently became the principal centre of the French monarchy and remained closely associated with the royal government until the **French Revolution**.
- The Louvre increasingly became a place associated with **royal collections, artists and cultural institutions** rather than the monarch's principal residence.
- Therefore, **1682** is the correct examination answer.

5. Louvre burglary of 2025 — Eight French Crown Jewels

- This answer is **correct and now officially verifiable**: the spectacular burglary occurred on **19 October 2025** at the Louvre's **Galerie d'Apollon**.
- According to France's Ministry of Culture, thieves targeted **two high-security display cases** containing the royal gemstone collection and Crown Diamonds.
- **Eight objects of extraordinary heritage value** were stolen, including jewellery connected with **Queen Marie-Amélie, Queen Hortense, Empress Marie-Louise and Empress Eugénie**.
- The stolen objects included **diadems, necklaces, earrings and brooches**, among other royal jewellery.
- The incident subsequently prompted an official investigation into security weaknesses at the Louvre and measures to strengthen protection against intrusion and theft.
- **Important update**: The burglary took place in **2025**. Since the current year is **2026**, describing it as occurring "last year" is currently accurate.

6. Visual — Louvre Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

- The building shown is identified in the quiz as the **Louvre Abu Dhabi**, situated on **Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**.
- The museum resulted from an exceptional **cultural partnership between France and the UAE**, established through an agreement signed in **2007**.
- It was designed by renowned French architect **Jean Nouvel** and opened on Saadiyat Island in **November 2017**.
- One of its most recognisable architectural features is its enormous **silvery dome**, whose complex geometric structure creates changing patterns of light and shade.
- **Louvre Abu Dhabi describes itself as the Arab world's first universal museum, presenting works from different civilisations and periods together.**

American Revolution vs French Revolution

Basis	American Revolution	French Revolution
Broad period	1775–1783	Began in 1789 ; revolutionary phase generally associated with the 1790s
Where?	13 British colonies in North America	France
Against whom?	Primarily against British colonial rule	Against the absolute monarchy and the old social order (Ancien Régime)
Nature	Primarily a war of independence combined with a political	A profound political and social revolution within



Basis	American Revolution	French Revolution
	revolution	France
Major grievance	Taxation without representation , imperial controls and colonial self-government	Social inequality, fiscal crisis, taxation, food shortages and political exclusion
Social structure	Colonists opposed political control from Britain, although colonial society itself contained major inequalities, including slavery	Society divided into Three Estates , with privileges enjoyed particularly by clergy and nobility
Immediate objective	Independence from Britain and self-government	Transformation of the monarchy, privileges and political-social order
Intellectual influence	John Locke , natural rights, consent of governed and Enlightenment thought	Rousseau, Montesquieu, Voltaire and broader Enlightenment ideas
Key document	Declaration of Independence, 1776	Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, 1789
Major symbol/event	Declaration of Independence; victory at Yorktown (1781)	Storming of the Bastille, 14 July 1789
Monarchy	Colonies separated from the British Crown	French monarchy was eventually abolished in 1792
Republic	United States developed a federal constitutional republic	France established the First French Republic
Violence/radicalisation	Primarily revolutionary warfare against Britain, alongside internal conflict	Became increasingly radical, culminating in the Reign of Terror
Major outcome	Creation of the independent United States of America	Destruction of many feudal privileges , transformation of French society and spread of revolutionary principles
Long-term ideals	Liberty, representative government and constitutionalism	Liberty, Equality and Fraternity became enduring revolutionary ideals

GS Paper 1: Society		11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
11A8	Protectors turn predators: how son preference fuels female foeticide rackets in Maharashtra रक्षक बने भक्षक: कैसे पुत्र-प्राथमिकता महाराष्ट्र में कन्या भ्रूणहत्या के गिरोहों को बढ़ावा देती है	

Protectors turn predators: how son preference fuels female foeticide rackets in Maharashtra

GS I: Society
Radheshyam Jadhav
KOLHAPUR

A man once tasked with saving Maharashtra's daughters has now been unmasked as one of their most prolific predators.

For decades, Dr. Chandrakant Gunda Gaikwad sat comfortably within the upper echelons of the State health establishment, serving as a district civil surgeon and assistant director. He was also part of the government's 'Save the Girls' campaign for years.

Retirement did not signal an end to his medical career, but marked the expansion of a dark underground enterprise. Dr. Gaikwad was arrested by the Kolhapur police on July 31 for allegedly orchestrating a sophisticated female foeticide ring. During interrogation, he allegedly admitted to performing around 200 to 250 illegal abortions, the police said.

The racket operated out of Kolhapur in western Maharashtra, the home district of State Health Minister Prakash Ahtkar. The Minister called it a "serious matter" that a former health official was involved in such a crime. He announced that the State will soon introduce a new law to invoke the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act against female foeticide, ensuring that doctors, family members, pharmacists, and anyone else supporting the

However, when media persons pressed the Minister about how implicated doctors and individuals routinely escape punishment and continue running their rackets after securing bail, he had no concrete answer. It underscored a grim reality: culprits easily slip through the cracks and accountability remains elusive.

According to Sunanda Patil, an octogenarian and resident of Kolhapur, female foeticide "is nothing new". She said women face two choices: empty their wombs if it is a girl, or keep giving birth until a son is born. She chose the second option, delivering three daughters before finally having a son. She considers herself lucky that her husband stopped there.

Quiet tragedies
For daily wage worker Ma-
loji Kharat and his agricul-
tural worker wife Lankabai, the reality was starkly
different. By 38, Ms. Lankabai had 21 pregnancies and
struggled to recall the names of all her children.
Of her 11 surviving children,
nine are girls. The other 10 died either shortly
after birth or during delivery.
When their story was reported a few years ago,
the couple vanished from public view.



Kolhapur Police personnel with D r. Chandrakant Gaikwad (third from right) following his arrest on July 31. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Beed district in the Marathwada region has long carried a dark reputation for illegal abortion rings. The most notorious was run by Dr. Sudam Munde and Dr. Saraswati Munde from Parali who operated a sex determination racket for years.

In one of the most chilling revelations, investigators found that the Mundes fed aborted female fetuses to a pack of dogs to hide

sure drives quiet tragedies across the State. After delivering two sons, Renu (name changed) became pregnant a third time. Her husband, a daily wage worker, expected another boy. Fearing that her family history of having only daughters meant she would carry the same genes, he routinely took her for ultrasound tests.

"We went, had a sonography, and the family suggested abortion," Ms. Renu said, without needing to specify that the third child was a girl. Phrases like "*khalī karun ye* (empty it and come back)" or "*tapa-sun baghu* (let us check)" echo across both rural and urban Maharashtra. When she went to a private clinic in Beed for the abortion, the doctor botched the procedure. She said the clean-up was not done properly, leaving her with lasting physical pain and nowhere to turn for justice.

According to Roopa Shah, founder of the Kolhapur-based Dilasa Samajik Vishwast Sanstha, female foeticide happens everywhere in the State without exception.

Society's mindset has not changed, regardless of whether people live in rural or urban areas, or are rich or poor, she said.

Having spent three decades fighting crimes like child marriage and female foeticide, Ms. Shah feels conventional measures have utterly failed. Because the police, courts, administration, and government have not been able to stop these atrocities, she believes the time has come for women to take a stand themselves. "It is not easy though," she said.

Deep-rooted bias

The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 offers a window into the mindset of this social fabric. Maha-

rastra has shown a strong preference for sons. While 9% of women and 12% of men express a desire for more sons than daughters, only 4-5% of women and men want more daughters. A large majority of women and men wish to have at least one son while fewer desire at least one daughter. These figures capture a deep-rooted gender bias in the State, one that starts at birth and follows girls throughout their lives.

"Those who survive have to carry the burden of being a girl forever," said Dhondabai Ningule, a resident of Dharashiv district.

In Marathi households, names like Dhondabai, derived from *dhonda* (stone), or Nakushi (unwanted) are often given to girls born merely as stopgap arrangements until a son arrives, serving as a constant, grudging reminder from their families of their unwanted existence.

11A8. Protectors turn predators: how son preference fuels female foeticide rackets in Maharashtra

रक्षक बने भक्षक: कैसे पुत्र-प्राथमिकता महाराष्ट्र में कन्या भ्रूणहत्या के गिरोहों को बढ़ावा देती है

- Aman once tasked with saving Maharashtra's daughters has now been unmasked as one of their most prolific predators.
कभी महाराष्ट्र की बेटियों को बचाने का दायित्व निभाने वाले Aman अब उन्हीं के सबसे prolific शोषकों में से एक के रूप में उजागर हुए हैं।
- For decades, **Dr. Chan drakant Gunda Gaikwad** sat comfortably within the upper echelons of the State health establishment, serving as a district civil surgeon and assistant director.
दशकों तक **Dr. Chan drakant Gunda Gaikwad** राज्य के स्वास्थ्य तंत्र के उच्च पदों पर रहे और district civil surgeon तथा assistant director के रूप में कार्य करते रहे।
- He was also part of the government's **'Save the Girls' campaign** for years.
वे वर्षों तक सरकार के **'Save the Girls' campaign** का भी हिस्सा रहे।
- Retirement did not signal an end to his medical career, but marked the expansion of a dark underground enterprise.
सेवानिवृत्ति ने उनके चिकित्सा करियर के अंत का संकेत नहीं दिया, बल्कि एक अंधेरे भूमिगत कारोबार के विस्तार की शुरुआत की।
- **Dr. Gaikwad** was arrested by the **Kolhapur police on July 31** for allegedly orchestrating a sophisticated **female foeticide ring**.
Dr. Gaikwad को **July 31** को **Kolhapur police** ने कथित रूप से एक संगठित **female foeticide ring** संचालित करने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया।
- During interrogation, he allegedly admitted to performing around **200 to 250 illegal abortions**, the police said.
पुलिस के अनुसार, पूछताछ के दौरान उन्होंने कथित रूप से लगभग **200 से 250 अवैध गर्भपात** करने की बात स्वीकार की।
- The racket operated out of **Kolhapur in western Maharashtra**, the home district of State Health Minister **Prakash Abitkar**.
यह गिरोह **पश्चिमी महाराष्ट्र** के **Kolhapur** से संचालित होता था, जो राज्य के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री **Prakash Abitkar** का गृह जिला है।

- The Minister called it a “**serious matter**” that a former health official was involved in such a crime.
मंत्री ने कहा कि एक पूर्व स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी का इस तरह के अपराध में शामिल होना “**गंभीर मामला**” है।
- He announced that the State will soon introduce a new law to invoke the stringent **Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act** against female foeticide, ensuring that doctors, family members, pharmacists, and anyone else supporting the crime face prosecution.
उन्होंने घोषणा की कि राज्य जल्द ही कन्या भ्रूणहत्या के विरुद्ध कठोर **Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act** लागू करने के लिए एक नया कानून लाएगा, ताकि डॉक्टरों, परिवार के सदस्यों, फार्मासिस्टों और अपराध का समर्थन करने वाले किसी भी अन्य व्यक्ति के विरुद्ध अभियोजन सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।
- However, when media persons pressed the Minister about how implicated doctors and individuals routinely escape punishment and continue running their rackets after securing bail, he had no concrete answer.
हालाँकि, जब मीडिया कर्मियों ने मंत्री से पूछा कि आरोपी डॉक्टर और अन्य व्यक्ति नियमित रूप से सजा से कैसे बच जाते हैं और जमानत हासिल करने के बाद भी अपने गिरोहों को चलाते रहते हैं, तो उनके पास कोई ठोस उत्तर नहीं था।
- It underscored a grim reality: culprits easily slip through the cracks and accountability remains elusive.
इससे एक गंभीर वास्तविकता उजागर हुई: अपराधी आसानी से कानून की खामियों से बच निकलते हैं और जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करना कठिन बना रहता है।
- According to **Sunanda Patil**, an octogenarian and resident of Kolhapur, female foeticide “**is nothing new**”.
Kolhapur निवासी और 80 वर्ष से अधिक आयु की Sunanda Patil के अनुसार, कन्या भ्रूणहत्या “**कोई नई बात नहीं है**”।
- She said women face two choices: empty their wombs if it is a girl, or keep giving birth until a son is born.
उन्होंने कहा कि महिलाओं के सामने दो विकल्प होते हैं: यदि गर्भ में लड़की हो तो गर्भ खाली कर दें, या पुत्र के जन्म तक बच्चे पैदा करती रहें।
- She chose the second option, delivering **three daughters** before finally having a son.
उन्होंने दूसरा विकल्प चुना और अंततः पुत्र होने से पहले **तीन बेटियों** को जन्म दिया।
- She considers herself lucky that her husband stopped there.
वह स्वयं को भाग्यशाली मानती है कि उनके पति वहीं रुक गए।

Quiet tragedies

मौन त्रासदियाँ

- For daily wage worker **Ma loji Kharat** and his agricultural worker wife **Lanka bai**, the reality was starkly different.
दिहाड़ी मजदूर **Ma loji Kharat** और उनकी कृषि मजदूर पत्नी **Lanka bai** के लिए वास्तविकता अत्यंत भिन्न और भयावह थी।
- By 38, Ms. Lanka bai had **21 pregnancies** and struggled to recall the names of all her children.
38 वर्ष की आयु तक Ms. Lanka bai **21 बार गर्भवती** हो चुकी थीं और उन्हें अपने सभी बच्चों के नाम याद करने में भी कठिनाई होती थी।
- Of her **11 surviving children, nine are girls**.
उनके **11 जीवित बच्चों में से नौ लड़कियाँ** हैं।
- The other **10 died** either shortly after birth or during delivery.
अन्य **10 बच्चों की मृत्यु** या तो जन्म के कुछ समय बाद या प्रसव के दौरान हो गई।

- When their story was reported a few years ago, the couple vanished from public view. कुछ वर्ष पहले जब उनकी कहानी प्रकाशित हुई, तो यह दंपति सार्वजनिक जीवन से गायब हो गया।
- Beed district** in the Ma rathwada region has long carried a dark reputation for **illegal abortion rings**.
Marathwada क्षेत्र का Beed district लंबे समय से **अवैध गर्भपात गिरोहों** के लिए एक कुख्यात क्षेत्र रहा है।
- The most notorious was run by **Dr. Sudam Munde and Dr. Saraswati Munde** from Parali who operated a **sex determination racket** for years.
सबसे कुख्यात गिरोह **Dr. Sudam Munde और Dr. Saraswati Munde** द्वारा Parali से संचालित किया जाता था, जिन्होंने वर्षों तक एक **sex determination racket** चलाया।
- In one of the most chilling revelations, investigators found that the Mundes fed aborted female foetuses to a pack of dogs to hide the evidence, reportedly aborting up to 20 female foetuses a day for decades.
सबसे चौंकाने वाले खुलासों में से एक में, जांचकर्ताओं ने पाया कि Mundes ने सबूत छिपाने के लिए **गर्भपात किए गए मादा भूणों को कुत्तों के एक झुंड को खिला दिया**, और कथित रूप से दशकों तक प्रतिदिन **20 तक मादा भूणों का गर्भपात किया**।
- Beed-based activist **Man isha Tokale** noted that it has been over a decade since the Munde case, yet illegal abortion networks continue to operate in secret.
Beed की कार्यकर्ता **Man isha Tokale** ने कहा कि Munde मामले को एक दशक से अधिक समय बीत चुका है, फिर भी **अवैध गर्भपात के नेटवर्क** गुप्त रूप से संचालित होते रहे हैं।
- The issue makes headlines briefly when a case is uncovered, she said, before things slip right back to normal.
उन्होंने कहा कि जब कोई मामला सामने आता है, तो यह मुद्दा कुछ समय के लिए **सुर्खियों** में आता है, लेकिन इसके बाद सब कुछ फिर से सामान्य स्थिति में लौट जाता है।
- This generational pressure drives quiet tragedies across the State.
यह **पीढ़ीगत दबाव** पूरे राज्य में मौन त्रासदियों को जन्म देता है।
- After delivering two sons, **Renu (name changed)** became pregnant a third time.
दो पुत्रों को जन्म देने के बाद, **Renu (नाम परिवर्तित)** तीसरी बार गर्भवती हुई।
- Her husband, a daily wage worker, expected another boy.
उनके पति, जो एक **दिहाड़ी मजदूर** थे, एक और पुत्र की अपेक्षा कर रहे थे।
- Fearing that her family history of having only daughters meant she would carry the same genes, he routinely took her for ultrasound tests.
इस डर से कि उनके परिवार में केवल बेटियों का इतिहास होने का अर्थ है कि उनमें भी वही **आनुवंशिक प्रवृत्ति** होगी, वह उन्हें नियमित रूप से **अल्ट्रासाउंड परीक्षणों** के लिए ले जाता था।
- "We went, had a sonography, and the family suggested abortion," Ms. Renu said, without needing to specify that the third child was a girl.
Ms. Renu ने कहा, "हम गए, **सोनोग्राफी** कराई और परिवार ने गर्भपात कराने का सुझाव दिया," और उन्हें यह स्पष्ट रूप से बताने की आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ी कि तीसरा बच्चा लड़की था।
- Phrases like "**khali karun ye (empty it and come back)**" or "**tapa sun baghu (let us check)**" echo across both rural and urban Maharashtra.
"**khali karun ye (empty it and come back)**" या "**tapa sun baghu (let us check)**" जैसे वाक्य ग्रामीण और शहरी, दोनों महाराष्ट्र में सुनाई देते हैं।
- When she went to a private clinic in **Beed** for the abortion, the doctor botched the procedure.
जब वह गर्भपात के लिए **Beed** के एक निजी क्लिनिक गई, तो डॉक्टर ने प्रक्रिया को गलत तरीके से किया।
- She said the clean-up was not done properly, leaving her with lasting physical pain and nowhere to turn for justice.
उन्होंने कहा कि **सफाई की प्रक्रिया** ठीक से नहीं की गई, जिसके कारण उन्हें लंबे समय तक शारीरिक पीड़ा झेलनी पड़ी और न्याय के लिए उनके पास कोई सहारा नहीं था।
- According to **Roopa Shah**, founder of the Kolhapur-based **Dilasa Samajik Vishwast Sanstha**, female foeticide happens everywhere in the State without exception.



Kolha pur स्थित Dilasa Samajik Vishwast Sanstha की संस्थापक Roopa Shah के अनुसार, पूरे राज्य में बिना किसी अपवाद के कन्या भ्रूणहत्या होती है।

- Society's mindset has not changed, regardless of whether people live in rural or urban areas, or are rich or poor, she said.
उन्होंने कहा कि समाज की मानसिकता में कोई बदलाव नहीं आया है, चाहे लोग ग्रामीण या शहरी क्षेत्रों में रहते हों या अमीर हों या गरीब।
- Having spent three decades fighting crimes like **child marriage and female foeticide**, Ms. Shah feels conventional measures have utterly failed.
बाल विवाह और कन्या भ्रूणहत्या जैसे अपराधों के खिलाफ तीन दशक बिताने के बाद, Ms. Shah का मानना है कि पारंपरिक उपाय पूरी तरह विफल रहे हैं।
- Because the police, courts, administration, and government have not been able to stop these atrocities, she believes the time has come for women to take a stand themselves.
चूँकि पुलिस, न्यायालय, प्रशासन और सरकार इन अत्याचारों को रोकने में सक्षम नहीं रहे हैं, इसलिए उनका मानना है कि अब महिलाओं के लिए स्वयं आवाज़ उठाने का समय आ गया है।
- "It is not easy though," she said.
उन्होंने कहा, "हालाँकि, यह आसान नहीं है।"

Deep-rooted bias

गहरी जड़ें जमा चुका लैंगिक पक्षपात

- The **National Family Health Survey 2019-21** offers a window into the mindset of this social fabric.
National Family Health Survey 2019-21 इस सामाजिक संरचना की मानसिकता की एक झलक प्रदान करता है।
- Maharashtra has shown a strong **preference for sons**.
महाराष्ट्र में पुत्रों के प्रति मजबूत प्राथमिकता दिखाई देती है।
- While **9% of women and 12% of men** express a desire for more sons than daughters, only **4-5% of women and men** want more daughters.
जहाँ 9% महिलाएँ और 12% पुरुष बेटियों की तुलना में अधिक पुत्रों की इच्छा व्यक्त करते हैं, वहीं केवल 4-5% महिलाएँ और पुरुष अधिक बेटियाँ चाहते हैं।
- A large majority of women and men wish to have at least **one son** while fewer desire at least one daughter.
महिलाओं और पुरुषों का एक बड़ा बहुमत कम-से-कम एक पुत्र चाहता है, जबकि अपेक्षाकृत कम लोग कम-से-कम एक बेटी की इच्छा रखते हैं।
- These figures capture a **deep-rooted gender bias** in the State, one that starts at birth and follows girls throughout their lives.
ये आँकड़े राज्य में व्याप्त गहरे लैंगिक पक्षपात को दर्शाते हैं, जो जन्म से ही शुरू होकर लड़कियों के पूरे जीवन में उनका पीछा करता है।
- "Those who survive have to carry the burden of being a girl forever," said **Dhondabai Ningule**, a resident of Dharashiv district.
Dharashiv district की निवासी **Dhondabai Ningule** ने कहा, "जो जीवित बचती हैं, उन्हें जीवनभर लड़की होने का बोझ उठाना पड़ता है।"
- In Marathi households, names like **Dhondabai**, derived from *dhonda* (stone), or **Nakushi (unwanted)** are often given to girls born merely as stopgap arrangements until a son arrives, serving as a constant, grudging reminder from their families of their unwanted existence.
मराठी परिवारों में **Dhondabai**, जो *dhonda* (पत्थर) से बना नाम है, या **Nakushi (unwanted)** जैसे नाम अक्सर उन लड़कियों को दिए जाते हैं जिनका जन्म केवल तब तक के लिए अस्थायी व्यवस्था के रूप में होता है

जब तक पुत्र का जन्म न हो जाए; ये नाम उनके परिवारों की ओर से उनके अवांछित अस्तित्व की निरंतर और अनिच्छापूर्ण याद के रूप में काम करते हैं।

GS Paper 1: Geography	11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11A8	Over 100 people killed as powerful earthquake strikes west Colombia पश्चिमी कोलंबिया में शक्तिशाली भूकंप से 100 से अधिक लोगों की मौत

Over 100 people killed as powerful earthquake strikes west Colombia

GS I: Geography
Associated Press
BOGOTA

At least 111 people were killed and 87 injured in Colombia on Monday when a 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck the Latin American country, leaving several cities ravaged and trapping residents under the debris of hundreds of collapsed buildings while their loved ones and rescue workers searched through the rubble.

The "highest magnitude earthquake in Colombia in the last decade" was followed by two aftershocks of magnitudes 2.8 and 4.8, the Colombian Geological Service said. The U.S. Geological Survey reported the tremor's epicentre in San Jose Del Palmar, about 400 km west of capital Bogota. The tremors were felt in neighbouring Ecuador and Panama, though minimal



Rattled earth: Residents and rescue workers search through the rubble of a collapsed building in Cali, Colombia, on Monday. AP

damage was reported there.

Local officials confirmed that at least 40 people were killed in the Risaralda region, where the hard-hit city of Pereira is located, and 27 people in the Valle del Cauca region, where Colombia's third-biggest city, Cali, is located. At least three of those killed in Valle del Cauca

were children, its Governor said. Authorities also confirmed four people were killed in Choco and two more in the city of Manizales in the Caldas region. Many more people across the country were injured.

Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella declared an emergency which will expedite fund-

ing for the quake recovery, and said he would visit the disaster zone, centred round the rural region of Choco. "We aren't going to leave people alone. They are in our hearts and we are going to tend to people with our full determination," he said.

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen said on Monday the bloc was "ready to provide more support" for rescue efforts in the Latin American country. "Tonight, Europe's heart is with the people of Colombia. We have already mobilised Copernicus, our satellite service, to help with rescue operations," she said on social media.

The earthquake left cities across the west of the country – Pereira, Quibdo, Cali, and Manizales – ravaged.

(With inputs from AFP)

11A8. Over 100 people killed as powerful earthquake strikes west Colombia पश्चिमी कोलंबिया में शक्तिशाली भूकंप से 100 से अधिक लोगों की मौत

- At least 111 people were killed and 87 injured in Colombia on Monday when a **7.4 magnitude earthquake** struck the Latin American country, leaving several cities ravaged and trapping residents under the debris of hundreds of collapsed buildings while their loved ones and rescue workers searched through the rubble.

सोमवार को 7.4 तीव्रता के भूकंप से लैटिन अमेरिकी देश कोलंबिया में कम से कम 111 लोगों की मौत हो गई



और 87 लोग घायल हुए, जिससे कई शहर तबाह हो गए और सैकड़ों ढही हुई इमारतों के मलबे में लोग फँस गए, जबकि उनके प्रियजन और बचावकर्मी मलबे में उनकी तलाश करते रहे।

- The “**highest magnitude earthquake in Colombia in the last decade**” was followed by two aftershocks of magnitudes 2.8 and 4.8, the Colombian Geological Service said.

कोलंबियाई भूवैज्ञानिक सेवा ने कहा कि “**पिछले एक दशक में कोलंबिया में आया सबसे अधिक तीव्रता वाला भूकंप**” 2.8 और 4.8 तीव्रता के दो आफ्टरशॉक्स के बाद आया।

- The U.S. Geological Survey reported the tremor's epicentre in **San Jose Del Palmar**, about 400 km west of capital Bogota.

U.S. Geological Survey ने बताया कि भूकंप का **केंद्र सैन जोसे डेल पालमार** में था, जो राजधानी बोगोटा से लगभग 400 किमी पश्चिम में स्थित है।

- The tremors were felt in neighbouring Ecuador and Panama, though minimal damage was reported there.

भूकंप के झटके पड़ोसी देशों **इक्वाडोर और पनामा** में भी महसूस किए गए, हालांकि वहाँ मामूली नुकसान की सूचना मिली।

- Local officials confirmed that at least 40 people were killed in the **Risaralda region**, where the hard-hit city of Pereira is located, and 27 people in the **Valle del Cauca region**, where Colombia's third biggest city, Cali, is located.

स्थानीय अधिकारियों ने पुष्टि की कि **रिसाराल्डा क्षेत्र**, जहाँ बुरी तरह प्रभावित शहर पेरेइरा स्थित है, में कम से कम 40 लोगों की मौत हुई और **वैले डेल काउका क्षेत्र**, जहाँ कोलंबिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा शहर कैली स्थित है, में 27 लोगों की मौत हुई।

- At least three of those killed in Valle del Cauca were children, its Governor said.

इसके गवर्नर ने कहा कि **वैले डेल काउका** में मारे गए लोगों में कम से कम तीन बच्चे थे।

- Authorities also confirmed four people were killed in **Choco** and two more in the city of Manizales in the Caldas region.

अधिकारियों ने यह भी पुष्टि की कि **चोको** में चार लोगों की मौत हुई और कैलदास क्षेत्र के **मनिज़ालेस शहर** में दो और लोगों की मौत हुई।

- Many more people across the country were injured.

देशभर में कई और लोग घायल हुए।

- Colombian President **Abelardo de la Espriella** declared an emergency which will expedite funding for the quake recovery, and said he would visit the disaster zone, centred round the rural region of Choco.

कोलंबिया के राष्ट्रपति **Abelardo de la Espriella** ने आपातकाल घोषित किया, जिससे भूकंप से उबरने के लिए धनराशि उपलब्ध कराने की प्रक्रिया में तेजी आएगी, और कहा कि वे चोको के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के आसपास केंद्रित आपदा क्षेत्र का दौरा करेंगे।

- “We aren't going to leave people alone. They are in our hearts and we are going to tend to people with our full determination,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “**हम लोगों को अकेला नहीं छोड़ेंगे। वे हमारे दिलों में हैं और हम पूरी दृढ़ता के साथ लोगों की देखभाल करने जा रहे हैं।**”

- European Union chief **Ursula von der Leyen** said on Monday the bloc was “ready to provide more support” for rescue efforts in the Latin American country.

यूरोपीय संघ की प्रमुख **Ursula von der Leyen** ने सोमवार को कहा कि यह समूह लैटिन अमेरिकी देश में बचाव प्रयासों के लिए अधिक सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए तैयार है।

- “Tonight, Europe's heart is with the people of Colombia. We have already mobilised **Copernicus, our satellite service**, to help with rescue operations,” she said on social media.

उन्होंने सोशल मीडिया पर कहा, “**आज रात यूरोप का दिल कोलंबिया के लोगों के साथ है। हमने बचाव अभियानों में सहायता के लिए अपने उपग्रह सेवा कार्यक्रम Copernicus को पहले ही सक्रिय कर दिया है।**”



- The earthquake left cities across the west of the country — **Pereira, Quibdo, Cali, and Manizales** — ravaged.

भूकंप ने देश के पश्चिम में स्थित पेरेइरा, क्विब्डो, कैली और मनिज़ालेस शहरों को तबाह कर दिया।

Why is Colombia prone to earthquakes?

The key is **plate tectonics**. Colombia is situated near the interaction of several tectonic units, most importantly the:

Nazca Plate → South American Plate ← Caribbean Plate, together with the **Panama/Chocó tectonic block** in the northwest.

Along much of western South America, the oceanic **Nazca Plate moves toward and sinks beneath the continental South American Plate**. This is called **subduction**. The USGS describes this plate boundary as part of the more than **7,000-km-long South American arc**.

2. How does subduction produce earthquakes?

Imagine pushing one heavy book underneath another.

The two plates do not always slide smoothly. Parts of their boundary can become **locked because of friction**.

Meanwhile, the plates continue moving, causing **stress to accumulate in rocks**.

Eventually:

Plate movement → Plates become locked → Stress accumulates → Rocks suddenly rupture/slip → Energy released as seismic waves → Earthquake.

This is the fundamental mechanism behind many powerful earthquakes along the Pacific margin of South America.

3. Why western Colombia in particular?

Western Colombia faces the **Pacific Ocean**, immediately landward of the Nazca–South America convergent margin.

The situation is more complicated in northwestern Colombia because interactions also involve the **Caribbean Plate and Panama-Chocó region**. Consequently, Colombia experiences earthquakes from several tectonic sources rather than from one simple fault system.

The distribution of recorded earthquakes strongly follows Colombia's **western and Andean tectonic belts**.

4. Connection with the Andes Mountains

The same broad tectonic process responsible for earthquakes is also fundamental to the



formation of the **Andes**.

As the **Nazca Plate subducts beneath South America**, the continental margin undergoes compression, deformation and uplift.

Thus:

Nazca–South America convergence

↓

Subduction

↓

Crustal compression + deformation

↓

Andes mountain building

↓

Earthquakes + volcanism

This is why the western margin of South America contains not only major earthquakes but also an extensive chain of **volcanoes and young fold mountains**.

5. Colombia and the **Pacific “Ring of Fire”**

Colombia's Pacific margin forms part of the broader tectonically active zone commonly called the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.

This circum-Pacific belt contains numerous:

Subduction zones + trenches + active volcanoes + earthquakes.

Countries along western South America—including **Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile**—therefore experience significant seismic and volcanic activity.

6. Why can a magnitude 7.4 earthquake be so destructive?

Magnitude alone does not determine the disaster.

Damage depends on:

Magnitude + depth + distance from settlements + local geology + building quality + population density + preparedness.

The 10 August earthquake was reported as **magnitude 7.4**, with severe effects across western Colombian cities including **Cali, Pereira, Quibdó, Armenia and Manizales**. Aftershocks followed the main earthquake.

Soft sediments in valleys can also **amplify seismic shaking**, while vulnerable buildings increase casualties.



7. What are aftershocks?

After a major earthquake, the surrounding crust must adjust to the changed stress conditions.

Therefore:

Mainshock → Redistribution of crustal stress → Smaller subsequent earthquakes = Aftershocks.

Aftershocks can continue for days, weeks or longer. They are dangerous because structures already weakened by the main earthquake may collapse during subsequent shaking. Reports following this Colombian earthquake recorded multiple aftershocks and warned that more could occur.

GS Paper II: Polity		11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
11A8	PMLA case after conviction for predicate offence doesn't amount to second trial: HC पूर्ववर्ती अपराध में दोषसिद्धि के बाद PMLA का मामला दूसरी सुनवाई नहीं माना जाएगा: HC	
11A8	High Court upholds religious conversion of 2 U.P. women उच्च न्यायालय ने उत्तर प्रदेश की 2 महिलाओं के धर्म परिवर्तन को बरकरार रखा	
11A8	Tribunals Reforms Bill passed amid din in LS लोकसभा में हंगामे के बीच ट्रिब्यूनल सुधार विधेयक पारित	
11A8	How personality cults derail democracy व्यक्तित्व पूजा लोकतंत्र को कैसे पटरी से उतार देती है	



PMLA case after conviction for predicate offence doesn't amount to second trial: HC

GS II: Polity
BENGALURU

When a person is convicted for offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or other laws that are described as scheduled/predicate offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the subsequent prosecution of such persons under the provisions of the PMLA does not amount to a second trial for the same offences, the Karnataka High Court said.

"The prosecution under the PMLA is neither the second trial for the same offence nor a Constitutional transgression. The offence

under the PMLA derives its existence from the laundering of proceeds of crime, though emanating from the commission of predicate offence," the court observed.

Notes exchange scam

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petitions filed by 11 persons, who were convicted for various offences under the IPC, for looting some persons in 2016 in the guise of exchanging the demonetised notes, and cheating the people of several lakhs of rupees.

The petitioners were convicted and sentenced

to imprisonment for six years in 2024 by the trial court, and their appeals against conviction are pending before the High Court.

"It is a prosecution of an independent statutory offence [under PMLA], in which the petitioners have to come out clean in a full blown proceeding before the special court, as the prohibition under Section 300 of the Criminal Procedure Code extends only to a second trial for the same offence and not to a prosecution for a distinct offence under another enactment," the High Court said while dismissing their petition.

11A8. PMLA case after conviction for predicate offence doesn't amount to second trial: HC

पूर्ववर्ती अपराध में दोषसिद्धि के बाद PMLA का मामला दूसरी सुनवाई नहीं माना जाएगा: HC

- When a person is convicted for offences under the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** or other laws that are described as scheduled/predicate offences under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**, the subsequent prosecution of such persons under the provisions of the PMLA does not amount to **a second trial for the same offences**, the **Karnataka High Court** said.

जब किसी व्यक्ति को **भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC)** या अन्य कानूनों के तहत ऐसे अपराधों के लिए दोषी ठहराया जाता है, जिन्हें **धन शोधन निवारण अधिनियम (PMLA)** के तहत अनुसूचित/पूर्ववर्ती अपराध के रूप में वर्णित किया गया है, तो ऐसे व्यक्तियों पर बाद में PMLA के प्रावधानों के तहत चलाया जाने वाला अभियोजन उन्हीं अपराधों के लिए **दूसरी सुनवाई** नहीं माना जाएगा, कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय ने कहा।

- "The prosecution under the **PMLA** is neither the second trial for the same offence nor a Constitutional transgression.
"**PMLA** के तहत अभियोजन न तो उसी अपराध के लिए दूसरी सुनवाई है और न ही यह **संवैधानिक उल्लंघन** है।
- The offence under the PMLA derives its existence from the laundering of proceeds of crime, though emanating from the commission of predicate offence," the court observed.

PMLA के तहत अपराध का अस्तित्व अपराध से प्राप्त आय के शोधन से उत्पन्न होता है, यद्यपि यह पूर्ववर्ती अपराध के किए जाने से उत्पन्न होता है," न्यायालय ने टिप्पणी की।

Notes exchange scam

नोट विनिमय घोटाला

- Justice **M. Nagaprasanna** passed the order while dismissing the petitions filed by 11 persons, who were convicted for various offences under the IPC, for looting some persons in 2016 in the guise of exchanging the demonetised notes, and cheating the people of several lakhs of rupees.
न्यायमूर्ति **एम. नागप्रसन्ना** ने यह आदेश 11 व्यक्तियों द्वारा दायर याचिकाओं को खारिज करते हुए पारित किया, जिन्हें IPC के तहत विभिन्न अपराधों के लिए दोषी ठहराया गया था। इन लोगों ने 2016 में **विमुद्रीकृत नोटों को बदलने** के बहाने कुछ लोगों को लूटा था और लोगों से कई लाख रुपये की धोखाधड़ी की थी।
- The petitioners were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for six years in 2024 by the trial court, and their appeals against conviction are pending before the High Court.
याचिकाकर्ताओं को **2024 में निचली अदालत** द्वारा दोषी ठहराया गया और छह वर्ष के कारावास की सजा सुनाई गई, तथा उनकी दोषसिद्धि के विरुद्ध अपीलें उच्च न्यायालय के समक्ष लंबित हैं।
- "It is a prosecution of an independent statutory offence [under **PMLA**], in which the petitioners have to come out clean in a full blown proceeding before the special court, as the prohibition under **Section 300 of the Criminal Procedure Code** extends only to a second trial for the same offence and not to a prosecution for a distinct offence under another enactment," the High Court said while dismissing their petition.
"यह एक **स्वतंत्र वैधानिक अपराध [PMLA के तहत]** का अभियोजन है, जिसमें याचिकाकर्ताओं को विशेष न्यायालय के समक्ष पूर्ण कार्यवाही में स्वयं को निर्दोष साबित करना होगा, क्योंकि **दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता की धारा 300** के तहत निषेध केवल उसी अपराध के लिए दूसरी सुनवाई तक विस्तारित होता है, न कि किसी अन्य अधिनियम के तहत एक अलग अपराध के अभियोजन तक," उच्च न्यायालय ने उनकी याचिका खारिज करते हुए कहा।



High Court upholds religious conversion of 2 U.P. women

GS II: Polity

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court last week directed the release of two adult Hindu women who claimed to have voluntarily converted to Islam. Holding that their father had unlawfully confined them because of their religious choices, the court also ordered him and the Uttar Pradesh government to jointly pay ₹25 lakh in compensation for the violation of their fundamental rights.

Justice Sandeep Jain, hearing a *habeas corpus* petition on August 6, held that the siblings aged 35 and 20 years were entitled to decide their faith, residence and personal affairs as adults.

"Ms. Diya Bhatia alias



The High Court orders ₹25 lakh to be paid as compensation.

Zoya Diya Bhatia and Ms. Anshu Bhatia alias Amina Anshu Bhatia are declared to be free to reside at any place and with any person of their own choice, without any interference from respondent No. 4 (father of the girls) or any other person or the State and its functionaries," the court said, while describing the

case as an exceptionally grave violation of constitutional rights.

While ordering the ₹25 lakh compensation, the court permitted the State government to recover 50% from the father, Anil Kumar Bhatia, and the remaining 50% from any delinquent public servant whose acts contributed to the unconstitutional deprivation of the women's liberty, subject to law and due process.

The High Court also directed the father not to interfere with either woman's personal liberty, movement, residence, profession or religious choices. The father was additionally ordered to hand over his daughters' original documents and belongings within seven days.

11A8. High Court upholds religious conversion of 2 U.P. women

उच्च न्यायालय ने उत्तर प्रदेश की 2 महिलाओं के धर्म परिवर्तन को बरकरार रखा

- The Allahabad High Court last week directed the release of two adult Hindu women who claimed to have voluntarily converted to Islam.
पिछले सप्ताह Allahabad High Court ने दो वयस्क हिंदू महिलाओं को रिहा करने का निर्देश दिया, जिन्होंने दावा किया था कि उन्होंने स्वेच्छा से इस्लाम धर्म अपना लिया है।
- Holding that their father had unlawfully confined them because of their religious choices, the court also ordered him and the Uttar Pradesh government to jointly pay ₹25 lakh in compensation for the violation of their fundamental rights.
न्यायालय ने माना कि उनके पिता ने उनकी धार्मिक पसंद के कारण उन्हें गैरकानूनी रूप से confined किया था और उनके मौलिक अधिकारों के उल्लंघन के लिए पिता तथा उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को संयुक्त रूप से ₹25 लाख का मुआवजा देने का भी आदेश दिया।
- Justice Sandeep Jain, hearing a *habeas corpus* petition on August 6, held that the siblings aged 35 and 20 years were entitled to decide their faith, residence and personal affairs as adults.
Justice Sandeep Jain ने 6 अगस्त को habeas corpus petition की सुनवाई करते हुए कहा कि 35 और 20 वर्ष की आयु वाली बहनें वयस्क होने के नाते अपने धर्म, निवास और व्यक्तिगत मामलों के संबंध में स्वयं निर्णय लेने की अधिकारिणी हैं।
- "Ms. Diya Bhatia alias Zoya Diya Bhatia and Ms. Anshu Bhatia alias Amina Anshu Bhatia are declared to be free to reside at any place and with any person of their own choice, without any interference from respondent No. 4 (father of the girls) or any other person or the State

and its functionaries," the court said, while describing the case as an exceptionally grave violation of **constitutional rights**.

न्यायालय ने मामले को **संवैधानिक अधिकारों का असाधारण रूप से गंभीर उल्लंघन** बताते हुए कहा, "Ms.

Diya Bhatia alias Zoya Diya Bhatia और Ms. Anshu Bhatia alias Amina Anshu Bhatia को अपनी पसंद के किसी भी स्थान पर और अपनी पसंद के किसी भी व्यक्ति के साथ रहने की स्वतंत्रता है, जिसमें respondent No. 4 (लड़कियों के पिता) या किसी अन्य व्यक्ति अथवा राज्य और उसके अधिकारियों की ओर से कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं होगा।"

- While ordering the **₹25 lakh compensation**, the court permitted the State government to recover **50% from the father, Anil Kumar Bhatia**, and the remaining **50% from any delinquent public servant** whose acts contributed to the unconstitutional deprivation of the women's liberty, subject to law and due process.

₹25 लाख के मुआवजे का आदेश देते हुए न्यायालय ने राज्य सरकार को अनुमति दी कि वह **50% राशि पिता, Anil Kumar Bhatia**, से और शेष **50% राशि ऐसे किसी दोषी लोक सेवक** से वसूल करे, जिसके कृत्यों ने महिलाओं की स्वतंत्रता से असंवैधानिक रूप से वंचित किए जाने में योगदान दिया हो, बशर्ते कि यह कानून और उचित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार हो।

- The **High Court** also directed the father not to interfere with either woman's **personal liberty, movement, residence, profession or religious choices**.
High Court ने पिता को यह भी निर्देश दिया कि वे किसी भी महिला की **व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता, आवागमन, निवास, पेशे या धार्मिक पसंद** में हस्तक्षेप न करें।
- The father was additionally ordered to hand over his daughters' **original documents and belongings** within **seven days**.

पिता को अतिरिक्त रूप से अपनी बेटियों के **मूल दस्तावेज और सामान सात दिनों के भीतर** उन्हें सौंपने का आदेश दिया गया।



Tribunals Reforms Bill passed amid din in LS

Bill to set up a panel to oversee appointments to various national tribunals was cleared without a debate; Law Minister says it will bring uniformity to selection process and improve transparency

GS II: Polity
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to establish a National Tribunals Commission to oversee the appointment of chairpersons and members of various tribunals, without a debate amid persistent Opposition protests demanding the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Opposition has been demanding that Mr. Shah make a statement on the police crackdown on students during the July 20 protest in New Delhi against paper leaks.

The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, introduced by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, was passed by voice vote after Opposition members, who had given notices opposing its introduction, chose not to speak amid the din.

Once passed by both Houses, the new law will repeal the Tribunals Re-



No discussion: Proceedings in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

forms Act, 2021.

The proposed commission, to be headquartered in New Delhi, will comprise a chairperson and four members – two judicial and two technical members. A retired Supreme Court judge or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court will be eligible to head the commission.

Speaking on the Bill, Mr. Meghwal said it sought to bring uniformity to the process of selection and

appointment of tribunal members and would improve efficiency, transparency and independence.

He said the legislation did not alter the jurisdiction of any tribunal. The Minister described the measure as part of the government's "reform express".

The Bill comes against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's intervention in the functioning of tribunals.

The court had struck down provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, holding that some of them were contrary to the principles of separation of powers and judicial independence and inconsistent with earlier judgments laying down standards for the appointment, tenure and functioning of tribunal members.

SC's direction

The court had also directed the establishment of an independent National Tribunals Commission with professional expertise, transparent selection procedures and an oversight mechanism for appointments.

The proposed legislation provides for the qualifications, selection and appointment of tribunal chairpersons and members, besides prescribing their salaries, allowances, tenure, resignation, removal and other service conditions.

11A8. Tribunals Reforms Bill passed amid din in LS

लोकसभा में हंगामे के बीच ट्रिब्यूनल सुधार विधेयक पारित

- The Lok Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to establish a **National Tribunals Commission** to oversee the appointment of chairpersons and members of various tribunals, without a debate amid persistent Opposition protests demanding the presence of Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**.

लोकसभा ने सोमवार को विभिन्न न्यायाधिकरणों के अध्यक्षों और सदस्यों की नियुक्ति की निगरानी के लिए **राष्ट्रीय न्यायाधिकरण आयोग (National Tribunals Commission)** स्थापित करने संबंधी विधेयक को बिना बहस के पारित कर दिया। इस दौरान विपक्ष के लगातार विरोध-प्रदर्शन जारी रहे, जिसमें केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** की उपस्थिति की मांग की जा रही थी।

- The Opposition has been demanding that Mr. Shah make a statement on the police crackdown on students during the July 20 protest in New Delhi against paper leaks. विपक्ष मांग कर रहा है कि श्री शाह पेपर लीक के विरोध में 20 जुलाई को नई दिल्ली में हुए प्रदर्शन के दौरान छात्रों पर पुलिस की कार्रवाई के संबंध में बयान दें।
- The **Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026**, introduced by Union Law Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal**, was passed by voice vote after Opposition members, who had given notices opposing its introduction, chose not to speak amid the din.



केंद्रीय कानून मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल द्वारा पेश किया गया **Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026** ध्वनि मत से पारित किया गया। विधेयक को पेश किए जाने का विरोध करने वाले नोटिस देने वाले विपक्षी सदस्यों ने हंगामे के बीच बोलने का विकल्प नहीं चुना।

- Once passed by both Houses, the **new law will repeal the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021**. दोनों सदनों से पारित होने के बाद नया कानून **Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021** को निरस्त कर देगा।
- The **proposed commission, to be headquartered in New Delhi, will comprise a chairperson and four members — two judicial and two technical members**. प्रस्तावित आयोग का मुख्यालय **नई दिल्ली** में होगा और इसमें एक अध्यक्ष तथा चार सदस्य होंगे — दो न्यायिक सदस्य और दो तकनीकी सदस्य।
- A retired Supreme Court judge or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court will be eligible to head the commission.

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश या किसी उच्च न्यायालय के सेवानिवृत्त मुख्य न्यायाधीश आयोग के अध्यक्ष बनने के पात्र होंगे।

- Speaking on the Bill, Mr. Meghwal said **it sought to bring uniformity to the process of selection and appointment of tribunal members and would improve efficiency, transparency and independence**.

विधेयक पर बोलते हुए श्री मेघवाल ने कहा कि इसका उद्देश्य न्यायाधिकरण के सदस्यों के **चयन और नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया में एकरूपता** लाना है तथा इससे **दक्षता, पारदर्शिता और स्वतंत्रता** में सुधार होगा।

- He said the legislation did not alter the jurisdiction of any tribunal. उन्होंने कहा कि यह कानून किसी भी न्यायाधिकरण के **अधिकार-क्षेत्र** में बदलाव नहीं करता है।
- The Minister described the measure as part of the government's **"reform express"**. मंत्री ने इस उपाय को सरकार की **"सुधार एक्सप्रेस"** का हिस्सा बताया।
- The Bill comes against the backdrop of the **Supreme Court's intervention in the functioning of tribunals**.

यह विधेयक न्यायाधिकरणों के कामकाज में **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के हस्तक्षेप** की पृष्ठभूमि में आया है।

- The **court had struck down provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, holding that some of them were contrary to the principles of separation of powers and judicial independence and inconsistent with earlier judgments laying down standards for the appointment, tenure and functioning of tribunal members**.

न्यायालय ने **Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021** के कुछ प्रावधानों को निरस्त कर दिया था और कहा था कि उनमें से कुछ **शक्तियों के पृथक्करण और न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता** के सिद्धांतों के विपरीत थे तथा न्यायाधिकरण के सदस्यों की नियुक्ति, कार्यकाल और कार्यप्रणाली के मानक निर्धारित करने वाले पिछले निर्णयों के अनुरूप नहीं थे।

SC's direction

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का निर्देश

- The **court had also directed the establishment of an independent National Tribunals Commission with professional expertise, transparent selection procedures and an oversight mechanism for appointments**.

न्यायालय ने पेशेवर विशेषज्ञता, **पारदर्शी चयन प्रक्रियाओं** और नियुक्तियों के लिए एक **निगरानी तंत्र** वाले स्वतंत्र **राष्ट्रीय न्यायाधिकरण आयोग** की स्थापना का भी निर्देश दिया था।

- The **proposed legislation provides for the qualifications, selection and appointment of tribunal chairpersons and members, besides prescribing their salaries, allowances, tenure, resignation, removal and other service conditions**.

प्रस्तावित कानून में न्यायाधिकरणों के अध्यक्षों और सदस्यों की **योग्यताओं, चयन और नियुक्ति** का प्रावधान किया गया है। इसके अलावा, इसमें उनके वेतन, भत्ते, कार्यकाल, त्यागपत्र, पद से हटाने और अन्य सेवा शर्तों को भी निर्धारित किया गया है।



How personality cults derail democracy

GS II: Polity

In 1937, as the country stood poised between colonial subjugation and the uncertain promise of freedom, an essay appeared in *The Modern Review*, titled 'The Rashtrapati' and was signed, cryptically, "Chanakya." Its author, as we know now, was Jawaharlal Nehru, but the reader at that time, was unaware of this. The piece remains one of the strangest acts of political self-examination in modern history: a leader at the height of his popularity writing anonymously about the dangers that his own popularity posed to the country.

Nehru was, by then, much more than a politician. To millions, he symbolised India's aspirations and was the embodiment of its longing for freedom. The adulation for him overflowed and, as the writer of the essay recognised, it was also unsettling. "Therein lies danger for Jawaharlal and for India," he wrote. "For it is not through Caesarism that India will attain freedom, and though she may prosper a little under a benevolent and efficient despotism, she will remain stunted and the day of the emancipation of her people will be delayed."

Nehru wrote in the shadow of Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany, but the anxiety around despotism transcended his own age. The gravest threat to democracy as he understood it, is not always tyranny imposed from above. Sometimes it emerges from below, from the yearning of ordinary people to surrender the burdens of citizenship to a figure who appears larger than life.

Leave devotion out of politics Politics is a fertile field for mythmaking. Nations tell stories about themselves; stories that crystallise around individuals – Washington crossing the Delaware, Mao's famous crossing of the Yangtze in 1966 and the like. A society pours its hopes and fears into what is perceived as a messianic figure. But democracy



Nirupama Rao
is a former diplomat

rarely survives the elevation of leaders into objects of worship.

Nehru understood this. The phrase that leaps out from 'The Rashtrapati' is not "despotism" but "stunted." It was not that India might become authoritarian. It was that India might cease to grow. A people habituated to looking for salvation in a single individual would lose habits that sustain republican life: scepticism, argument, participation and responsibility. Freedom was never simply the transfer of power from British hands to Indian hands. It was the emancipation of the citizen's mind.

A dozen years later, on the eve of the Republic's birth, B. R. Ambedkar returned to the same theme, though in a much more severe language. Addressing the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, he offered what remains one of the most profound warnings in Indian political thought. "Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."

A profound understanding of Indian civilisation inspired these words. Devotion occupies a sacred place in our spiritual traditions. But politics, Ambedkar insisted, belongs to another realm. Scrutiny supplants devotion, and accountability rejects surrender.

More than dictatorship in its classical form, Ambedkar feared the slow erosion of democratic culture. Constitutions can be drafted and elections will be held. But republics depend, ultimately, on habits of the mind. They depend upon citizens who are willing to ask difficult questions, to distrust concentrations of power, and to distinguish between loyalty to a nation and loyalty to a leader.

This age-old anxiety defines our century. Recently, Ezra Klein, reflecting on Christopher Nolan's adaptation of *The Odyssey* and the age of Elon Musk and Donald Trump, suggested that we are witnessing a clash between two

visions of human greatness. One prizes restraint, reciprocity and the difficult art of belonging to a community larger than oneself. The other celebrates disruption, conquest, and the charismatic individual who breaks rules and bends institutions to his will.

Making a messiah

The attraction of the modern strongman, whether political or technological, lies in the promise of transcendence. The entrepreneur who will colonise Mars; the outsider who promises to sweep away corruption and inefficiency. In an age of social media, these narratives acquire an almost epic quality. Politics becomes theatre and citizens become spectators.

Homer would have appreciated this irony. Odysseus, after all, is not merely a conqueror. He is flawed, cunning, restless and often consumed by his own legend. The greatness of *The Odyssey* lies not in its celebration of heroic power but in its recognition of heroic limits. The epic ends not with conquest but with homecoming. Its lesson is that no individual, however gifted, can exist apart from the obligations of community.

That is the lesson Nehru and Ambedkar were trying to teach India in their own way. The Republic is an argument against the idea of the indispensable man. It argues that institutions matter more than personalities and that power must remain accountable to something larger than itself. Democracies require visionaries, but they also require sceptics.

The tragedy of personality cults is that they encourage us to outsource our judgment and to mistake admiration for patriotism. They tempt us into believing that history is made by singular heroes rather than by the often invisible labour of millions of ordinary men and women. The true measure of a republic is not whether it can produce extraordinary leaders. It is whether it can renew itself without becoming dependent on them.

The tragedy of personality cults is that they encourage us to outsource our judgment and to mistake admiration for patriotism

11A8. How personality cults derail democracy

व्यक्तित्व पूजा लोकतंत्र को कैसे पटरी से उतार देती है

- In 1937, as the country stood poised between **colonial subjugation** and the uncertain promise of freedom, an essay appeared in *The Modern Review*, titled 'The Rashtrapati' and was signed, cryptically, "Chanakya."
- 1937 में, जब देश औपनिवेशिक अधीनता और स्वतंत्रता की अनिश्चित संभावना के बीच खड़ा था, तब *The Modern Review* में 'The Rashtrapati' शीर्षक से एक निबंध प्रकाशित हुआ, जिस पर रहस्यमय ढंग से "Chanakya" के नाम से हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे।

- Its author, as we know now, was **Jawaharlal Nehru**, but the reader at that time, was unaware of this.
आज हम जानते हैं कि इसके लेखक **जवाहरलाल नेहरू** थे, लेकिन उस समय पाठक इससे अनजान थे।
- The piece remains one of the **strangest acts of political self-examination in modern history: a leader at the height of his popularity writing anonymously about the dangers that his own popularity posed to the country.**
यह लेख आधुनिक इतिहास में **राजनीतिक आत्म-परीक्षण** के सबसे असाधारण उदाहरणों में से एक बना हुआ है: अपनी लोकप्रियता के चरम पर पहुँचा एक नेता गुमनाम रूप से यह लिख रहा था कि उसकी अपनी लोकप्रियता देश के लिए कौन-कौन से खतरे उत्पन्न कर सकती है।
- Nehru was, by then, much more than a politician.
तब तक नेहरू केवल एक **राजनेता** से कहीं अधिक बन चुके थे।
- To millions, he symbolised India's aspirations and was the embodiment of its longing for freedom.
लाखों लोगों के लिए वे **भारत की आकांक्षाओं के प्रतीक** और उसकी स्वतंत्रता की लालसा के मूर्त रूप थे।
- The adulation for him overflowed and, as the writer of the essay recognised, it was also unsettling.
उनके प्रति **अत्यधिक प्रशंसा और श्रद्धा** उमड़ रही थी और, जैसा कि निबंध के लेखक ने पहचाना, यह चिंताजनक भी थी।
- "Therein lies danger for Jawaharlal and for India," he wrote.
उन्होंने लिखा, **"यहीं जवाहरलाल और भारत के लिए खतरा निहित है।"**
- "For it is not through Caesarism that India will attain freedom, and though she may prosper a little under a benevolent and efficient despotism, she will remain stunted and the day of the emancipation of her people will be delayed."
"क्योंकि भारत **सीज़रवाद** के माध्यम से स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त नहीं करेगा और यद्यपि एक उदार एवं कुशल निरंकुश शासन के अंतर्गत वह कुछ हद तक समृद्ध हो सकता है, फिर भी उसका विकास अवरुद्ध रहेगा और उसके लोगों की **मुक्ति का दिन विलंबित होगा।**"
- Nehru wrote in the shadow of **Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany**, but the anxiety around despotism transcended his own age.
नेहरू ने **मुसोलिनी के इटली और हिटलर के जर्मनी** की छाया में यह लिखा था, लेकिन निरंकुशता को लेकर उनकी चिंता उनके अपने युग से कहीं आगे तक जाती थी।
- The gravest threat to democracy as he understood it, is not always tyranny imposed from above.
उनकी समझ के अनुसार, लोकतंत्र के लिए सबसे गंभीर खतरा हमेशा ऊपर से थोपी गई **तानाशाही** नहीं होती।
- Sometimes it emerges from below, from the yearning of ordinary people to surrender the burdens of citizenship to a figure who appears larger than life.
कभी-कभी यह नीचे से उत्पन्न होता है, जब सामान्य लोगों में नागरिकता के दायित्वों को ऐसे व्यक्ति को सौंप देने की लालसा पैदा होती है, जो **अपने वास्तविक व्यक्तित्व से कहीं अधिक महान** दिखाई देता है।

Leave devotion out of politics

राजनीति से भक्ति को दूर रखें

- Politics is a fertile field for mythmaking.
राजनीति **मिथक-निर्माण** के लिए एक उर्वर क्षेत्र है।
- Nations tell stories about themselves; stories that crystallise around individuals — Washington crossing the Delaware, Mao's famous crossing of the Yangtze in 1966 and the like.
राष्ट्र अपने बारे में कहानियाँ गढ़ते हैं; ऐसी कहानियाँ जो व्यक्तियों के इर्द-गिर्द केंद्रित हो जाती हैं — **वाशिंगटन का डेलावेयर पार करना, 1966 में माओ द्वारा यांगत्सी नदी पार करना** और इसी प्रकार की अन्य घटनाएँ।

- A society pours its hopes and fears into what is perceived as a messianic figure.
एक समाज अपनी आशाओं और भय को ऐसे व्यक्ति में समाहित कर देता है जिसे वह एक मसीहा-सदृश व्यक्तित्व के रूप में देखता है।
- But democracy rarely survives the elevation of leaders into objects of worship.
लेकिन जब नेताओं को पूजा की वस्तु बना दिया जाता है, तो लोकतंत्र का अस्तित्व शायद ही लंबे समय तक बना रहता है।
- Nehru understood this.
नेहरू इसे समझते थे।
- The phrase that leaps out from 'The Rashtrapati' is not "despotism" but "stunted."
'The Rashtrapati' से उभरने वाला सबसे महत्वपूर्ण शब्द "stunted" अर्थात् "अवरुद्ध विकास" है, न कि "निरंकुशता"।
- It was not that India might become authoritarian.
मुद्दा यह नहीं था कि भारत अधिनायकवादी बन सकता है।
- It was that India might cease to grow.
मुद्दा यह था कि भारत का विकास रुक सकता है।
- A people habituated to looking for salvation in a single individual would lose habits that sustain republican life: scepticism, argument, participation and responsibility.
एक ऐसे व्यक्ति या नेता में मुक्ति तलाशने के आदी लोग उन आदतों को खो देंगे जो गणतान्त्रिक जीवन को बनाए रखती हैं: संदेह, तर्क-वितर्क, सहभागिता और जिम्मेदारी।
- Freedom was never simply the transfer of power from British hands to Indian hands.
स्वतंत्रता कभी भी केवल सत्ता का ब्रिटिश हाथों से भारतीय हाथों में हस्तांतरण नहीं थी।
- It was the emancipation of the citizen's mind.
यह नागरिक के मन की मुक्ति थी।
- A dozen years later, on the eve of the Republic's birth, B. R. Ambedkar returned to the same theme, though in a much more severe language.
लगभग बारह वर्ष बाद, गणराज्य के जन्म की पूर्व संध्या पर, बी. आर. आंबेडकर ने इसी विषय पर फिर विचार किया, यद्यपि उन्होंने इसे कहीं अधिक कठोर भाषा में प्रस्तुत किया।
- Addressing the **Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949**, he offered what remains one of the most profound warnings in Indian political thought.
25 नवंबर 1949 को संविधान सभा को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने भारतीय राजनीतिक चिंतन की सबसे गहन चेतावनियों में से एक प्रस्तुत की।
- "Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul.
"धर्म में भक्ति आत्मा की मुक्ति का मार्ग हो सकती है।
- But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."
लेकिन राजनीति में भक्ति या नायक-पूजा पतन और अंततः तानाशाही की ओर ले जाने वाला निश्चित मार्ग है।
- A profound understanding of Indian civilisation inspired these words.
इन शब्दों के पीछे भारतीय सभ्यता की गहरी समझ निहित थी।
- Devotion occupies a sacred place in our spiritual traditions.
हमारी आध्यात्मिक परंपराओं में भक्ति का एक पवित्र स्थान है।
- But politics, Ambedkar insisted, belongs to another realm.
लेकिन आंबेडकर ने जोर देकर कहा कि राजनीति एक अलग क्षेत्र से संबंधित है।
- Scrutiny supplants devotion, and accountability rejects surrender.
राजनीति में जाँच-पड़ताल भक्ति का स्थान लेती है, और जवाबदेही समर्पण को अस्वीकार करती है।
- More than dictatorship in its classical form, Ambedkar feared the slow erosion of democratic culture.
आंबेडकर को पारंपरिक रूप की तानाशाही से अधिक लोकतान्त्रिक संस्कृति के धीरे-धीरे क्षरण का भय था।



- Constitutions can be drafted and elections will be held.
संविधान बनाए जा सकते हैं और **चुनाव** कराए जा सकते हैं।
- But republics depend, ultimately, on habits of the mind.
लेकिन अंततः **गणराज्य मानसिक प्रवृत्तियों और आदतों** पर निर्भर करते हैं।
- They depend upon citizens who are willing to ask difficult questions, to distrust concentrations of power, and to distinguish between loyalty to a nation and loyalty to a leader.
वे ऐसे नागरिकों पर निर्भर करते हैं जो **कठिन प्रश्न पूछने**, सत्ता के केंद्रीकरण पर अविश्वास करने और **राष्ट्र के प्रति निष्ठा तथा नेता के प्रति निष्ठा** के बीच अंतर करने के लिए तैयार हों।
- This age-old anxiety defines our century.
यह **प्राचीन चिंता** हमारे वर्तमान शताब्दी को भी परिभाषित करती है।
- Recently, **Ezra Klein**, reflecting on Christopher Nolan's adaptation of *The Odyssey* and the age of **Elon Musk and Donald Trump**, suggested that we are witnessing a clash between two visions of human greatness.
हाल ही में **Ezra Klein** ने *The Odyssey* पर **Christopher Nolan** के रूपांतरण और **Elon Musk तथा Donald Trump** के युग पर विचार करते हुए सुझाव दिया कि हम **मानवीय महानता की दो अवधारणाओं के बीच संघर्ष** देख रहे हैं।
- One prizes restraint, reciprocity and the difficult art of belonging to a community larger than oneself.
एक अवधारणा **संयम, पारस्परिकता और स्वयं से बड़ी किसी समुदाय का हिस्सा होने की कठिन कला** को महत्व देती है।
- The other celebrates disruption, conquest, and the charismatic individual who breaks rules and bends institutions to his will.
दूसरी अवधारणा **व्यवधान, विजय और ऐसे करिश्माई व्यक्ति** का उत्सव मनाती है जो नियमों को तोड़ता है और संस्थाओं को अपनी इच्छा के अनुसार मोड़ देता है।

Making a messiah

एक मसीहा का निर्माण

- The attraction of the modern strongman, whether political or technological, lies in the promise of transcendence.
आधुनिक **सशक्त नेता (strongman)** का आकर्षण, चाहे वह राजनीतिक हो या तकनीकी, **असाधारण उपलब्धि और सीमाओं से परे जाने के वादे** में निहित है।
- The entrepreneur who will colonise Mars; the outsider who promises to sweep away corruption and inefficiency.
वह उद्यमी जो **मंगल ग्रह पर उपनिवेश स्थापित** करेगा; वह बाहरी व्यक्ति जो भ्रष्टाचार और अक्षमता को पूरी तरह समाप्त करने का वादा करता है।
- In an age of social media, these narratives acquire an almost epic quality.
सोशल मीडिया के युग में ये आख्यान लगभग महाकाव्यात्मक स्वरूप ग्रहण कर लेते हैं।
- Politics becomes theatre and citizens become spectators.
राजनीति **रंगमंच** बन जाती है और नागरिक **दर्शक** बन जाते हैं।
- Homer would have appreciated this irony.
होमर ने इस विडंबना की सराहना की होती।
- Odysseus, after all, is not merely a conqueror.
आखिरकार, **ओडीसियस** केवल एक विजेता नहीं है।
- He is flawed, cunning, restless and often consumed by his own legend.
वह **दोषपूर्ण, चतुर, बेचैन** है और अक्सर अपनी ही किंवदंती में डूबा रहता है।

- The greatness of The Odyssey lies not in its celebration of heroic power but in its recognition of heroic limits.
The Odyssey की महानता वीर शक्ति के उत्सव में नहीं, बल्कि वीरता की सीमाओं की पहचान में निहित है।
- The epic ends not with conquest but with homecoming.
महाकाव्य का अंत विजय के साथ नहीं, बल्कि घर वापसी के साथ होता है।
- Its lesson is that no individual, however gifted, can exist apart from the obligations of community.
इसकी शिक्षा यह है कि कोई भी व्यक्ति, चाहे वह कितना भी प्रतिभाशाली क्यों न हो, **समुदाय के प्रति अपने दायित्वों** से अलग होकर अस्तित्व में नहीं रह सकता।
- That is the lesson Nehru and Ambedkar were trying to teach India in their own way.
यही वह शिक्षा थी जिसे **नेहरू और आंबेडकर** अपने-अपने तरीके से भारत को देने का प्रयास कर रहे थे।
- The Republic is an argument against the idea of the indispensable man.
गणराज्य उस विचार के विरुद्ध एक तर्क है कि कोई व्यक्ति **अनिवार्य** है।
- It argues that institutions matter more than personalities and that power must remain accountable to something larger than itself.
यह तर्क देता है कि **संस्थाएँ व्यक्तित्वों से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हैं** और सत्ता को स्वयं से बड़ी किसी व्यवस्था के प्रति **जवाबदेह** रहना चाहिए।
- Democracies require visionaries, but they also require sceptics.
लोकतंत्रों को **दूरदर्शी नेताओं** की आवश्यकता होती है, लेकिन उन्हें **संदेहवादी और आलोचनात्मक नागरिकों** की भी आवश्यकता होती है।
- The tragedy of personality cults is that they encourage us to outsource our judgment and to mistake admiration for patriotism.
व्यक्तित्व पूजा की त्रासदी यह है कि वह हमें अपने निर्णय लेने की क्षमता दूसरों को सौंपने और **प्रशंसा को देशभक्ति समझने** के लिए प्रेरित करती है।
- They tempt us into believing that history is made by singular heroes rather than by the often invisible labour of millions of ordinary men and women.
वे हमें यह विश्वास करने के लिए प्रेरित करती हैं कि इतिहास का निर्माण **असाधारण नायकों** द्वारा होता है, न कि लाखों सामान्य पुरुषों और महिलाओं के अक्सर अदृश्य **श्रम** द्वारा।
- The true measure of a republic is not whether it can produce extraordinary leaders.
किसी **गणराज्य की वास्तविक कसौटी** यह नहीं है कि वह असाधारण नेताओं को जन्म दे सकता है या नहीं।
- It is whether it can renew itself without becoming dependent on them.
बल्कि यह है कि क्या वह **उन पर निर्भर हुए बिना स्वयं को नवीनीकृत** कर सकता है।

GS Paper II: Governance		11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
11A8	Scotland and Netherlands criticise ICC's World Cup format changes स्कॉटलैंड और नीदरलैंड्स ने ICC के विश्व कप प्रारूप में बदलाव की आलोचना की	



Scotland and Netherlands criticise ICC's World Cup format changes

GS II: Governance
Reuters

EDINBURGH

Cricket Scotland and the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) have criticised the International Cricket Council (ICC) for changing the format of the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup.

The ICC introduced a new Super Series phase under which the teams ranked 12th, 13th and 14th in the qualification process will contest a tri-series, with only one progressing to the second round, where 12 teams will be split into two groups.

The two Associate Member boards described the lack of communication as "disappointing and disrespectful".

"These changes represent a setback to Associate Member cricket and risk undermining the progress made in recent years to grow the global game," they said in a joint statement on Monday.

"At a time when cricket is seeking to expand its reach, attract new audiences and strengthen its position on the international sporting landscape, reducing meaningful opportunities for emerging nations sends entirely the wrong message."



The ODI World Cup trophy. AFP

The ICC introduced a new Super Series phase under which the teams ranked 12th, 13th and 14th in the qualification process will contest a tri-series

While saying that the Associate members should have been given more time to understand the changes, CS and KNCB called for "greater clarity" in the process involved.

Associate Members are nations that belong to the ICC but do not hold Full Member status, which is reserved for the game's leading countries. The 2027 World Cup will be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

11A8. Scotland and Netherlands criticise ICC's World Cup format changes स्कॉटलैंड और नीदरलैंड्स ने ICC के विश्व कप प्रारूप में बदलाव की आलोचना की

Cricket Scotland and the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) have criticised the International Cricket Council (ICC) for changing the format of the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup.

क्रिकेट स्कॉटलैंड और रॉयल डच क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन (KNCB) ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट परिषद (ICC) द्वारा 2027 पुरुष ODI विश्व कप के प्रारूप में बदलाव किए जाने की आलोचना की है।

The ICC introduced a new Super Series phase under which the teams ranked 12th, 13th and 14th in the qualification process will contest a tri-series, with only one progressing to the second round, where 12 teams will be split into two groups.

ICC ने एक नया सुपर सीरीज़ चरण शुरू किया है, जिसके तहत क्वालिफिकेशन प्रक्रिया में 12वें, 13वें और 14वें स्थान पर रहने वाली टीमों में एक त्रिकोणीय श्रृंखला खेलेंगी, जिसमें से केवल एक टीम दूसरे दौर में आगे बढ़ेगी, जहाँ 12 टीमों को दो समूहों में विभाजित किया जाएगा।

The two Associate Member boards described the lack of communication as "disappointing and disrespectful".

दोनों एसोसिएट सदस्य बोर्डों ने संवाद की कमी को "निराशाजनक और अपमानजनक" बताया।

"These changes represent a setback to Associate Member cricket and risk undermining the progress made in recent years to grow the global game," they said in a joint statement on Monday.

उन्होंने सोमवार को एक संयुक्त बयान में कहा, "ये बदलाव एसोसिएट सदस्य क्रिकेट के लिए एक झटका हैं और हाल के वर्षों में वैश्विक खेल के विस्तार के लिए हुई प्रगति को कमजोर करने का जोखिम पैदा करते हैं।"

"At a time when cricket is seeking to expand its reach, attract new audiences and strengthen its position on the international sporting landscape, reducing meaningful opportunities for emerging nations sends entirely the wrong message."

- "ऐसे समय में जब क्रिकेट अपनी पहुंच का विस्तार करने, नए दर्शकों को आकर्षित करने और अंतरराष्ट्रीय खेल परिदृश्य में अपनी स्थिति मजबूत करने का प्रयास कर रहा है, उभरते देशों के लिए सार्थक अवसरों को कम करना पूरी तरह गलत संदेश देता है।"
- While saying that the Associate members should have been given more time to understand the changes, CS and KNCB called for "greater clarity" in the process involved.
- यह कहते हुए कि एसोसिएट सदस्यों को बदलावों को समझने के लिए अधिक समय दिया जाना चाहिए था, CS और KNCB ने संबंधित प्रक्रिया में "अधिक स्पष्टता" की मांग की।



- **Associate Members** are nations that belong to the ICC but do not hold **Full Member status**, which is reserved for the game's leading countries.
- **एसोसिएट सदस्य** वे देश हैं जो ICC से जुड़े हैं, लेकिन उनके पास **पूर्ण सदस्य का दर्जा** नहीं है, जो खेल के अग्रणी देशों के लिए आरक्षित है।
- The **2027 World Cup** will be cohosted by **South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia**.
- **2027 विश्व कप** की संयुक्त मेजबानी **दक्षिण अफ्रीका, जिम्बाब्वे और नामीबिया** द्वारा की जाएगी।

GS Paper II: International Relations	11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11A8	India's move to label places in Arunachal Pradesh illegal: China अरुणाचल प्रदेश में स्थानों को नाम देने के भारत के कदम को चीन ने अवैध बताया

India's move to label places in Arunachal Pradesh illegal: China

GS II: IR
BEIJING

China on Monday termed India's move to identify 27 places and features in Arunachal Pradesh by their standard names on the official Indian map as "illegal, null and void".

"China does not recognise the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' illegally set up by India," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said.

"India's move of attempting to replace names long been used by China with its so-called 'standard

names' is illegal, null and void," he said in a reply posted on the Ministry's website.

"Still less will it change the fact that Zangnan region belongs to China," he said.

China calls Arunachal Pradesh as Zangnan.

India last week formally identified 27 places and features in the State by their standard names on the official Indian map. Beijing has been periodically releasing Chinese names for locations in the State since 2017 to assert claims over the area.

'standard names' is illegal, null and void," he said in a reply posted on the Ministry's website. उन्होंने मंत्रालय की वेबसाइट पर पोस्ट किए गए जवाब में कहा, "चीन द्वारा लंबे समय से इस्तेमाल किए जा रहे नामों को तथाकथित 'मानक नामों' से बदलने का भारत का प्रयास अवैध, शून्य और निरर्थक है।"

- "Still less will it change the fact that **Zangnan region belongs to China**," he said. उन्होंने कहा, "यह इस तथ्य को बिल्कुल भी नहीं बदल सकता कि **Zangnan क्षेत्र चीन का हिस्सा है।**"
- China calls **Arunachal Pradesh** as Zangnan. चीन **अरुणाचल प्रदेश** को **Zangnan** कहता है।
- India last week formally identified 27 places and features in the State by their standard names on the official Indian map.

11A8. India's move to label places in Arunachal Pradesh illegal: China अरुणाचल प्रदेश में स्थानों को नाम देने के भारत के कदम को चीन ने अवैध बताया

• China on Monday termed India's move to identify 27 places and features in Arunachal Pradesh by their standard names on the official Indian map as "illegal, null and void".

चीन ने सोमवार को अरुणाचल प्रदेश में **27 स्थानों और भौगोलिक विशेषताओं** को आधिकारिक भारतीय मानचित्र पर उनके मानक नामों से पहचानने के भारत के कदम को **"अवैध, शून्य और निरर्थक"** बताया।

• "China does not recognise the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' illegally set up by India," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Guo Jiakun** said.

चीनी विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता **Guo Jiakun** ने कहा, "चीन भारत द्वारा अवैध रूप से स्थापित तथाकथित **'अरुणाचल प्रदेश'** को मान्यता नहीं देता।"

• "India's move of attempting to replace names long been used by China with its so-called



भारत ने पिछले सप्ताह आधिकारिक भारतीय मानचित्र पर राज्य के 27 स्थानों और भौगोलिक विशेषताओं की उनके मानक नामों से औपचारिक रूप से पहचान की।

- Beijing has been periodically releasing Chinese names for locations in the State since 2017 to assert claims over the area.

बीजिंग क्षेत्र पर अपने दावे को मजबूत करने के लिए 2017 से समय-समय पर राज्य के विभिन्न स्थानों के चीनी नाम जारी करता रहा है।

GS Paper III: Economy		11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
11A8	Rajya Sabha clears two Bills; Minister says consumers will not pay UPI charges राज्यसभा ने दो विधेयक पारित किए; मंत्री ने कहा कि उपभोक्ताओं को UPI शुल्क नहीं देना होगा	
11A8	UPI and the cost of policy reversal UPI और नीतिगत पलटाव की लागत	
11A8	Why does handloom remain a key part of India's economy? भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था में हथकरघा एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा क्यों बना हुआ है?	
11A8	Russia's share in India's oil imports jumps to 48% in June जून में भारत के तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 48% हुई	
11A8	FOMO fuels Wall Street's breakout rally as traders pile in FOMO ने वॉल स्ट्रीट की तेज़ी को बढ़ावा दिया, क्योंकि ट्रेडर्स बड़ी संख्या में बाजार में शामिल हुए	



Rajya Sabha clears two Bills; Minister says consumers will not pay UPI charges

GS III: Economy
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid the Opposition walkout, the Rajya Sabha passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill and returned the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill on Monday.

Countering the Opposition's charge that the Taxation Bill proposed further burden on small traders and consumers by imposing a tax on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said they would remain free for consumers.

She added that once the Bill was passed, the National Payments Corporation of India could finalise the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), which would be applied to certain categories of merchant transactions. The Upper House had witnessed disruptions and adjournments in the morning too.

CPI(M) member John Brittas moved a statutory motion to disapprove an



Nirmala Sitharaman

ordinance brought by the Finance Ministry in June. The statutory motion and the Bill were discussed together. He accused the government of being subservient to the United States and said the charges of UPI transactions were based on the U.S. diktats. "The Prime Minister promised that UPI will be free for everyone," he reminded the government.

During the debate, AAP member Sanjay Singh said the new Bill would create problems for the public as digital transactions had become a part of trade and commerce.

Countering all these ar-

guments, Ms. Sitharaman said UPI had remained free for consumers since its launch, and every Indian would continue to make instant digital payments without paying a transaction charge. "Will consumers pay any UPI charge? No, consumers will not have to pay any charges on UPI transactions," she said. Adding that vast majority of merchant transactions, including low-value transactions to roadside vendors, would continue to remain free.

When Mr. Brittas walked out soon after his reply, Ms. Sitharaman said Communists in this country were total cowards and they could not face facts, but "they will go on filibustering, making noise."

Earlier, the Rajya Sabha proceedings were interrupted twice in the morning session with continued protests from the Opposition demanding a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the police action on July 20 on protesters in Delhi.

11A8. Rajya Sabha clears two Bills; Minister says consumers will not pay UPI charges

राज्यसभा ने दो विधेयक पारित किए; मंत्री ने कहा कि उपभोक्ताओं को UPI शुल्क नहीं देना होगा

- Amid the Opposition walkout, the **Rajya Sabha** passed the **Bankers' Books Evidence Bill** and returned the **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill** on Monday.

विपक्ष के बहिर्गमन के बीच, राज्यसभा ने सोमवार को **Bankers' Books Evidence Bill** पारित किया और **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill** को वापस कर दिया।

- Countering the Opposition's charge that the Taxation Bill proposed further burden on small traders and consumers by imposing a tax on **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions**, Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said they would remain free for consumers.

विपक्ष के इस आरोप का खंडन करते हुए कि **Taxation Bill** में **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) tran**

sactions पर कर लगाकर छोटे व्यापारियों और उपभोक्ताओं पर अतिरिक्त बोझ डालने का प्रस्ताव है, केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री **Nirmala Sitharaman** ने कहा कि ये उपभोक्ताओं के लिए मुफ्त बने रहेंगे।

- She added that once the Bill was passed, the **National Payments Corporation of India** could finalise the **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)**, which would be applied to certain categories of merchant transactions.
उन्होंने कहा कि विधेयक पारित होने के बाद **National Payments Corporation of India Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** को अंतिम रूप दे सकता है, जिसे कुछ श्रेणियों के व्यापारी लेन-देन पर लागू किया जाएगा।
- The Upper House had witnessed disruptions and adjournments in the morning too.
उच्च सदन में सुबह भी व्यवधान और स्थगन देखने को मिले।
- **CPI(M) member John Brittas** moved a statutory motion to disapprove an ordinance brought by the Finance Ministry in June.
CPI(M) member John Brittas ने जून में वित्त मंत्रालय द्वारा लाए गए एक अध्यादेश को अस्वीकार करने के लिए **statutory motion** प्रस्तुत किया।
- The statutory motion and the Bill were discussed together.
Statutory motion और विधेयक पर एक साथ चर्चा की गई।
- He accused the government of being subservient to the **United States** and said the charges of UPI transactions were based on the U.S. dictates.
उन्होंने सरकार पर **United States** के प्रति अधीनस्थ होने का आरोप लगाया और कहा कि UPI लेन-देन पर शुल्क **अमेरिका के निर्देशों** पर आधारित हैं।
- "The Prime Minister promised that **UPI will be free for everyone**," he reminded the government.
उन्होंने सरकार को याद दिलाते हुए कहा, "प्रधानमंत्री ने वादा किया था कि **UPI सभी के लिए मुफ्त होगा।**"
- During the debate, **AAP member Sanjay Singh** said the new Bill would create problems for the public as digital transactions had become a part of trade and commerce.
बहस के दौरान **AAP member Sanjay Singh** ने कहा कि नया विधेयक जनता के लिए समस्याएँ उत्पन्न करेगा, क्योंकि डिजिटल लेन-देन व्यापार और वाणिज्य का हिस्सा बन चुके हैं।
- Countering all these arguments, Ms. **Sitharaman** said UPI had remained free for consumers since its launch, and every Indian would continue to make instant digital payments without paying a transaction charge.
इन सभी तर्कों का खंडन करते हुए Ms. **Sitharaman** ने कहा कि UPI अपने शुभारंभ के बाद से ही उपभोक्ताओं के लिए मुफ्त रहा है और प्रत्येक भारतीय बिना किसी लेन-देन शुल्क का भुगतान किए तत्काल डिजिटल भुगतान करता रहेगा।
- "Will consumers pay any UPI charge? **No, consumers will not have to pay any charges on UPI transactions**," she said.
उन्होंने कहा, "क्या उपभोक्ताओं को कोई UPI शुल्क देना होगा? **नहीं, उपभोक्ताओं को UPI लेन-देन पर कोई शुल्क नहीं देना होगा।**"
- Adding that vast majority of merchant transactions, including low-value transactions to roadside vendors, would continue to remain free.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि व्यापारी लेन-देन के विशाल बहुमत, जिसमें सड़क किनारे विक्रेताओं के कम-मूल्य वाले लेन-देन भी शामिल हैं, मुफ्त बने रहेंगे।
- When Mr. **Brittas** walked out soon after his reply, Ms. **Sitharaman** said Communists in this country were total cowards and they could not face facts, but "they will go on libustering, making noise."
जब Mr. **Brittas** उनके उत्तर के तुरंत बाद सदन से बाहर चले गए, तो Ms. **Sitharaman** ने कहा कि इस देश के कम्युनिस्ट पूरी तरह कायर हैं और वे तथ्यों का सामना नहीं कर सकते, बल्कि "वे **libustering, making noise** करते रहेंगे।"



- Earlier, the **Rajya Sabha proceedings** were interrupted twice in the morning session with continued protests from the Opposition demanding a statement from **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** on the police action on July 20 on protesters in Delhi.
इससे पहले, **राज्यसभा की कार्यवाही** सुबह के सत्र में दो बार बाधित हुई, क्योंकि विपक्ष ने **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** से दिल्ली में **20 जुलाई को प्रदर्शनकारियों के खिलाफ पुलिस कार्रवाई** पर बयान देने की मांग करते हुए लगातार विरोध प्रदर्शन किया।

UPI and the cost of policy reversal

The government's proposal to allow an MDR of 0.25–0.5% on UPI transactions above ₹2,000 reverses a decade-long policy; taxing the payment rail could weaken incentives for banks and fintechs to invest in UPI while undermining its role in financial inclusion, formalisation and wider digital adoption

ISSUE: Economy

ECONOMIC NOTES

Parag Wanknis

The government has just given itself the legal room to tax the very payment habit it spent a decade building. Tucked into the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, is an amendment to Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which would allow the government to notify charges on specified electronic payment modes. The number being proposed is a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of 0.25–0.5% on UPI transactions above ₹2,000. The official stand is that this threshold would touch only about five per cent of transactions by volume, sparing the milk-and-vegetable payments that make up the bulk of UPI's use. But it would cover roughly 65% of transaction value, which is precisely why it matters.

This is not a small, technical fix. It runs counter to a decade-long policy commitment and deserves more scrutiny than it has received.

The policy reversal
Consider the arc. Demonetisation in November 2016 was justified, among other things, as a push towards a less-cash economy. UPI, launched earlier that year, became the vehicle for that push, and its zero-MDR regime was a deliberate subsidy to get merchants and consumers off cash. It worked spectacularly. UPI now processes more transactions each month than most of the world's card networks combined. Having successfully weaned the country away from cash and towards electronic payments, the government now wants to undercut the very success it engineered.

There seems to be a continued pattern of privileging one payment mode over others via policy. India has long taxed even credit cards. Credit card interest and



The official stand is that this threshold would touch only about five per cent of transactions by volume, sparing the milk-and-vegetable payments that make up the bulk of UPI's use. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

fees attract 18% GST, making the use of credit cards unnecessarily costly. Taxing interest on revolving credit is unusual by international standards; most jurisdictions treat consumer credit interest as a private financial cost, not a taxable service. India taxes it as if using a credit card itself is a luxury.

Now UPI, the payment rail the government spent political capital promoting, is in line for similar treatment. The pattern suggests a need for a more coherent payments policy than giving in to the temptation to tax every transaction that can be observed.

There are at least two problems with this specific move beyond the optics.

Who really pays?

First, basic economic theory tells us that the person on whom a tax is levied and the person who actually bears its cost are not always the same. Moreover, UPI or any payments interface is a two-sided market, and taxing two-sided markets is genuinely tricky.

The MDR would nominally fall on merchants, as argued by the government,

collected via banks and the National Payments Corporation of India's ecosystem. But whether that cost gets passed through to merchants, on to consumers, or absorbed by banks and payment service providers depends on competitive intensity on each side of the market. Banks and fintechs compete for merchant relationships and cannot easily raise prices without losing volume to a rival offering free UPI acceptance.

The more likely outcome is that intermediaries – the banks and PSPs that built and maintain the plumbing – absorb the cost, which erodes their incentive to invest in reliability, fraud prevention and expansion into underserved segments. A tax that cannot be reliably passed through does not disappear; it most likely shows up later as degraded service or slower innovation. This is completely counterintuitive if government is proposing this tax as necessary to fund the next stage of UPI growth.

Cost to inclusion

Second, UPI has done real work on financial inclusion at the margin. It has

pulled informal transactions into a recorded, traceable digital trail – the very outcome that formalisation and tax-compliance advocates have wanted for years. There have also been attempts to provide credit based on the digital trail created by electronic payments. Every rupee that moves through UPI instead of cash is a rupee the financial institutions can eventually see and use to build a spending profile.

Charging the rail directly could undercut the incentive to use it, cutting against long-standing financial inclusion goals. The government does not need to raise revenue from every rupee that moves electronically; it needs those rupees to keep moving electronically, because that is what delivers the inclusion and compliance dividends it has been chasing since 2016.

Ideally, which payment mode to adopt should be an economic decision for participating actors. Factors such as the size of the business, consumer preferences, and relative cost of using alternative payment systems should determine their usage. Deliberate policy intervention and the current government's war on cash tilted the scales in favour of UPI. Taxing it now – however nominal or small – could change its usage patterns, and policymakers should not be surprised if one outcome is reduced UPI usage.

The proposal is being dressed up as a modest, targeted measure affecting only large-value transactions. But modest measures on payment rails have a way of expanding once the legal architecture exists. Section 10A, once amended, does not expire when this particular MDR proposal is shelved. The better outcome is for the government to leave the payments system alone, let UPI's network effects keep compounding, and find its revenue elsewhere.

(Parag Wanknis, Professor & Head, Economics Department, SRM University AP)

THE GIST

The proposed framework could allow payment charges to expand beyond the current MDR plan, creating a broader revenue lever once the legal architecture is in place.

UPI's network effects depend on keeping digital payments cheaper and more convenient than cash, making any new cost a potential distortion in how businesses and consumers choose payment modes.

11A8. UPI and the cost of policy reversal

UPI और नीतिगत पलटाव की लागत

- The government has just given itself the legal room to tax the very payment habit it spent a decade building.
सरकार ने अभी स्वयं को उस भुगतान आदत पर कर लगाने के लिए **कानूनी गुंजाइश** प्रदान की है, जिसे विकसित करने में उसने एक दशक खर्च किया है।
- Tucked into the **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, is an amendment to **Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, which would allow the government to notify charges on specified electronic payment modes.
Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 में **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** की धारा 10A में एक संशोधन शामिल किया गया है, जो सरकार को निर्दिष्ट इलेक्ट्रॉनिक भुगतान माध्यमों पर शुल्क अधिसूचित करने की अनुमति देगा।
- The number being proposed is a **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of 0.25–0.5% on UPI transactions above ₹2,000**.

प्रस्तावित दर ₹2,000 से अधिक के UPI लेन-देन पर 0.25–0.5% का Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) है।

- The official stand is that this threshold would touch only about five per cent of transactions by volume, sparing the milk-and-vegetable payments that make up the bulk of UPI's use. सरकार का आधिकारिक रुख है कि यह सीमा मात्रा के आधार पर केवल लगभग 5% लेन-देन को प्रभावित करेगी और दूध तथा सब्जियों के उन भुगतानों को इससे बाहर रखेगी, जो UPI के उपयोग का अधिकांश हिस्सा हैं।
- But it would cover roughly 65% of transaction value, which is precisely why it matters. लेकिन यह लेन-देन के मूल्य के लगभग 65% हिस्से को प्रभावित करेगा, और यही कारण है कि यह महत्वपूर्ण है।
- This is not a small, technical fix. यह कोई छोटा या केवल तकनीकी सुधार नहीं है।
- It runs counter to a decade-long policy commitment and deserves more scrutiny than it has received. यह एक दशक से चली आ रही नीतिगत प्रतिबद्धता के विपरीत है और जितनी जाँच-पड़ताल इसे मिली है, उससे कहीं अधिक की आवश्यकता है।

The policy reversal नीतिगत पलटाव

- Consider the arc. इस पूरे घटनाक्रम पर विचार कीजिए।
- Demonetisation in November 2016 was justified, among other things, as a push towards a less-cash economy. नवंबर 2016 की नोटबंदी को अन्य कारणों के अलावा कम-नकदी वाली अर्थव्यवस्था की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने के प्रयास के रूप में उचित ठहराया गया था।
- UPI, launched earlier that year, became the vehicle for that push, and its zero-MDR regime was a deliberate subsidy to get merchants and consumers off cash. उसी वर्ष पहले शुरू किया गया UPI इस प्रयास का माध्यम बना और इसकी शून्य-MDR व्यवस्था व्यापारियों तथा उपभोक्ताओं को नकदी से दूर करने के लिए दी गई एक जानबूझकर प्रदान की गई सब्सिडी थी।
- It worked spectacularly. यह प्रयास अत्यंत सफल रहा।
- UPI now processes more transactions each month than most of the world's card networks combined. अब UPI प्रत्येक महीने दुनिया के अधिकांश कार्ड नेटवर्कों के संयुक्त लेन-देन से भी अधिक लेन-देन संसाधित करता है।
- Having successfully weaned the country away from cash and towards electronic payments, the government now wants to undercut the very success it engineered. देश को सफलतापूर्वक नकदी से दूर करके इलेक्ट्रॉनिक भुगतान की ओर ले जाने के बाद, सरकार अब उसी सफलता को कमजोर करना चाहती है जिसे उसने स्वयं निर्मित किया था।
- There seems to be a continued pattern of privileging one payment mode over others via policy. ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि नीति के माध्यम से एक भुगतान माध्यम को अन्य माध्यमों पर लगातार प्राथमिकता देने का एक पैटर्न बना हुआ है।
- India has long taxed even credit cards. भारत लंबे समय से क्रेडिट कार्ड पर भी कर लगाता रहा है।
- Credit card interest and fees attract 18% GST, making the use of credit cards unnecessarily costly.

क्रेडिट कार्ड के ब्याज और शुल्क पर 18% GST लगता है, जिससे क्रेडिट कार्ड का उपयोग अनावश्यक रूप से महँगा हो जाता है।

- Taxing interest on revolving credit is unusual by international standards; most jurisdictions treat consumer credit interest as a private financial cost, not a taxable service.
रिवॉल्विंग क्रेडिट पर ब्याज लगाना अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुसार असामान्य है; अधिकांश क्षेत्राधिकार उपभोक्ता ऋण के ब्याज को निजी वित्तीय लागत मानते हैं, न कि कर योग्य सेवा।
- India taxes it as if using a credit card itself is a luxury.
भारत इस पर ऐसे कर लगाता है मानो **क्रेडिट कार्ड का उपयोग स्वयं एक विलासिता** हो।
- Now UPI, the payment rail the government spent political capital promoting, is in line for similar treatment.
अब **UPI**, जिसे बढ़ावा देने में सरकार ने राजनीतिक पूँजी खर्च की, भी इसी प्रकार के व्यवहार के लिए तैयार है।
- The pattern suggests a need for a more coherent payments policy than giving in to the temptation to tax every transaction that can be observed.
यह पैटर्न इस आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है कि दिखाई देने वाले प्रत्येक लेन-देन पर कर लगाने के प्रलोभन के आगे झुकने के बजाय एक अधिक **सुसंगत भुगतान नीति** की आवश्यकता है।
- There are at least two problems with this specific move beyond the optics.
इस विशेष कदम के साथ केवल इसके बाहरी प्रभावों से परे कम-से-कम **दो समस्याएँ** हैं।

Who really pays?

वास्तव में भुगतान कौन करता है?

- First, basic economic theory tells us that the person on whom a tax is levied and the person who actually bears its cost are not always the same.
पहला, बुनियादी **आर्थिक सिद्धांत** बताता है कि जिस व्यक्ति पर कर लगाया जाता है और जो वास्तव में उसकी लागत वहन करता है, वे हमेशा एक ही व्यक्ति नहीं होते।
- Moreover, UPI or any payments interface is a two-sided market, and taxing two-sided markets is genuinely tricky.
इसके अलावा, **UPI या कोई भी भुगतान इंटरफेस द्विपक्षीय बाजार** है और द्विपक्षीय बाजारों पर कर लगाना वास्तव में जटिल होता है।
- The MDR would nominally fall on merchants, as argued by the government, collected via banks and the National Payments Corporation of India's ecosystem.
सरकार के तर्क के अनुसार, **MDR नाममात्र रूप से व्यापारियों पर पड़ेगा**, जिसे बैंकों और **National Payments Corporation of India** के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के माध्यम से एकत्र किया जाएगा।
- But whether that cost gets passed through to merchants, on to consumers, or absorbed by banks and payment service providers depends on competitive intensity on each side of the market.
लेकिन यह लागत व्यापारियों पर डाली जाती है, उपभोक्ताओं पर स्थानांतरित होती है या बैंकों और **भुगतान सेवा प्रदाताओं** द्वारा वहन की जाती है, यह बाजार के प्रत्येक पक्ष पर प्रतिस्पर्धा की तीव्रता पर निर्भर करता है।
- Banks and fintechs compete for merchant relationships and cannot easily raise prices without losing volume to a rival offering free UPI acceptance.
बैंक और **फिनटेक कंपनियाँ** व्यापारियों के साथ संबंधों के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा करती हैं और वे आसानी से कीमतें नहीं बढ़ा सकतीं, क्योंकि ऐसा करने पर वे मुफ्त UPI स्वीकृति देने वाले प्रतिस्पर्धी के हाथों अपना लेन-देन खो सकती हैं।
- The more likely outcome is that intermediaries — the banks and PSPs that built and maintain the plumbing — absorb the cost, which erodes their incentive to invest in reliability, fraud prevention and expansion into underserved segments.
अधिक संभावित परिणाम यह है कि **मध्यस्थ — बैंक और PSP**, जिन्होंने इस भुगतान व्यवस्था के बुनियादी

ढाँचे का निर्माण और रखरखाव किया है — लागत को स्वयं वहन करेंगे, जिससे विश्वसनीयता, धोखाधड़ी की रोकथाम और कम-सेवा प्राप्त क्षेत्रों में विस्तार में निवेश करने की उनकी प्रेरणा कम हो जाएगी।

- A tax that cannot be reliably passed through does not disappear; it most likely shows up later as degraded service or slower innovation.
ऐसा कर जिसे विश्वसनीय रूप से आगे हस्तांतरित नहीं किया जा सकता, समाप्त नहीं हो जाता; इसके बजाय वह बाद में **खराब सेवा या धीमे नवाचार** के रूप में सामने आ सकता है।
- This is completely counterintuitive if government is proposing this tax as necessary to fund the next stage of UPI growth.
यदि सरकार इस कर को UPI के विकास के अगले चरण के वित्तपोषण के लिए आवश्यक बता रही है, तो यह पूरी तरह **विरोधाभासी** है।

Cost to inclusion

वित्तीय समावेशन की लागत

- Second, UPI has done real work on financial inclusion at the margin.
दूसरा, UPI ने **वित्तीय समावेशन** के क्षेत्र में वास्तविक योगदान दिया है।
- It has pulled informal transactions into a recorded, traceable digital trail — the very outcome that formalisation and tax-compliance advocates have wanted for years.
इसने अनौपचारिक लेन-देन को एक **दर्ज और पता लगाए जा सकने वाले डिजिटल रिकॉर्ड** में शामिल किया है — ठीक वही परिणाम जिसकी औपचारिकीकरण और कर-अनुपालन के समर्थक वर्षों से अपेक्षा करते रहे हैं।
- There have also been attempts to provide credit based on the digital trail created by electronic payments.
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक भुगतानों से निर्मित **डिजिटल रिकॉर्ड** के आधार पर ऋण उपलब्ध कराने के प्रयास भी किए गए हैं।
- Every rupee that moves through UPI instead of cash is a rupee the financial institutions can eventually see and use to build a spending profile.
नकदी के बजाय UPI के माध्यम से स्थानांतरित होने वाला प्रत्येक रुपया ऐसा रुपया है जिसे **वित्तीय संस्थान अंततः देख सकते हैं** और खर्च का प्रोफाइल तैयार करने के लिए उपयोग कर सकते हैं।
- Charging the rail directly could undercut the incentive to use it, cutting against long-standing financial inclusion goals.
भुगतान व्यवस्था पर सीधे शुल्क लगाना उसके उपयोग के **प्रोत्साहन को कमजोर** कर सकता है और लंबे समय से चले आ रहे वित्तीय समावेशन के लक्ष्यों के विपरीत जा सकता है।
- The government does not need to raise revenue from every rupee that moves electronically; it needs those rupees to keep moving electronically, because that is what delivers the inclusion and compliance dividends it has been chasing since 2016.
सरकार को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रूप से स्थानांतरित होने वाले प्रत्येक रुपये से राजस्व जुटाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है; उसे यह सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है कि वे रुपये **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रूप से स्थानांतरित होते रहें**, क्योंकि यही वह प्रक्रिया है जो 2016 से सरकार द्वारा लक्षित **समावेशन और अनुपालन के लाभांश** प्रदान करती है।
- Ideally, which payment mode to adopt should be an economic decision for participating actors.
आदर्श रूप से, कौन-सा भुगतान माध्यम अपनाया जाए, यह संबंधित पक्षों के लिए एक **आर्थिक निर्णय** होना चाहिए।
- Factors such as the size of the business, consumer preferences, and relative cost of using alternative payment systems should determine their usage.
व्यवसाय का आकार, **उपभोक्ता प्राथमिकताएँ** और वैकल्पिक भुगतान प्रणालियों के उपयोग की सापेक्ष लागत जैसे कारकों को उनके उपयोग का निर्धारण करना चाहिए।
- Deliberate policy intervention and the current government's war on cash tilted the scales in favour of UPI.



जानबूझकर किए गए नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप और वर्तमान सरकार द्वारा नकदी के विरुद्ध चलाए गए अभियान ने संतुलन को UPI के पक्ष में झुका दिया।

- Taxing it now — however nominal or small — could change its usage patterns, and policymakers should not be surprised if one outcome is reduced UPI usage.
अब इस पर कर लगाना — चाहे वह कितना भी नाममात्र या छोटा क्यों न हो — इसके उपयोग के पैटर्न को बदल सकता है और नीति-निर्माताओं को आश्चर्य नहीं होना चाहिए यदि इसका एक परिणाम UPI के उपयोग में कमी के रूप में सामने आए।
- The proposal is being dressed up as a modest, targeted measure affecting only large-value transactions.
इस प्रस्ताव को एक मामूली और लक्षित उपाय के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है, जो केवल बड़े मूल्य वाले लेन-देन को प्रभावित करेगा।
- But modest measures on payment rails have a way of expanding once the legal architecture exists.
लेकिन भुगतान व्यवस्था से संबंधित मामूली उपायों के पास एक बार कानूनी ढाँचा स्थापित हो जाने के बाद विस्तार करने की प्रवृत्ति होती है।
- Section 10A, once amended, does not expire when this particular MDR proposal is shelved.
धारा 10A, एक बार संशोधित हो जाने के बाद, इस विशेष MDR प्रस्ताव को स्थगित कर दिए जाने पर समाप्त नहीं हो जाती।
- The better outcome is for the government to leave the payments system alone, let UPI's network effects keep compounding, and find its revenue elsewhere.
बेहतर परिणाम यही होगा कि सरकार भुगतान प्रणाली को उसके हाल पर छोड़ दे, UPI के नेटवर्क प्रभावों को लगातार बढ़ने दे और अपना राजस्व किसी अन्य माध्यम से जुटाए।



Why does handloom remain a key part of India's economy?

The sector supports millions of livelihoods, but declining returns and fragmented markets threaten its future

SS III: Economy
Priyambada Jayakumar

The story so far:

From the Swadeshi Movement's boycott of British textiles to Mahatma Gandhi's adoption of the spinning wheel as a symbol of self-reliance, weaving became an instrument of economic resistance and national identity. National Handloom Day, marked on August 7, commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905 and honours generations of Indian weavers.

A legacy beyond craft

Today's handloom sector is often viewed as a small artisanal activity – important culturally but peripheral economically. Long before the Industrial Revolution transformed manufacturing in Europe, India's handlooms were among the world's greatest industrial enterprises. Indian textiles travelled across continents, powered global trade and established India's reputation as one of history's foremost manufacturing economies.

Handloom was the backbone of India's manufacturing strength and one of the foundations of its global influence.

The sector remains far more significant than it is generally acknowledged. It provides livelihoods to more than 35 lakh weavers and allied workers across over 31 lakh households, with women constituting nearly 70% of the workforce. It remains one of rural India's largest sources of non-farm employment while producing nearly 15% of the country's cloth despite relying largely on manual technology. Few manufacturing sectors create as many jobs with such modest capital investment.

While celebrated traditions continue to enjoy strong recognition, hundreds of lesser-known weaving traditions face gradual extinction. Younger generations are leaving the profession as returns diminish, markets remain fragmented and traditional skills are no longer transferred within families. Every disappearing weave represents not merely the loss of a product but the disappearance of centuries of accumulated knowledge,

distinctive design vocabulary, and cultural identity. Therefore, protecting handloom heritage is not only an economic necessity but also our civilisational duty.

The government's recent policy and programme support seems to be making a difference. The National Handloom Development Programme has focused on skill development, design innovation, technology adoption, branding, and improved market access. Greater integration with e-commerce platforms and expanding export opportunities have enabled many artisan clusters to reach consumers who were previously inaccessible.

Several success stories illustrate what targeted intervention can achieve. The revival of *Tangaliya* weaving in Gujarat, the transformation of Badrang village in Odisha's Sambalpur district and the growing popularity of *Siddipet Gollabham* sarees demonstrate that traditional crafts can thrive when design, market access and institutional support converge. It was more than just a fashion statement when Brad Pitt wore a

handcrafted shirt in the traditional *Tangaliya* weave in the *F1* film.

The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, in collaboration with UNESCO, has initiated the identification and documentation of India's languishing and endangered weaves. This should be extended to every nook and corner of the country. This aligns with Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao's focus on promoting India's rich, Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged handloom and handicraft products and strengthening their presence in domestic and international markets.

Making handloom aspirational

The next phase of policy must shift from preservation to aspiration. For younger consumers, especially Gen Z, handloom must become contemporary, fashionable, and aspirational rather than merely traditional. Celebrity ambassadors, collaborations with leading designers, limited-edition collections, digital storytelling, and partnerships with influencers can reposition India's weaves as premium lifestyle products. The objective should not be to celebrate handloom because it is old, but because it represents craftsmanship, sustainability, and exclusivity. Limited production should become a premium feature.

India must also think beyond domestic markets. The world increasingly values authenticity, sustainability, and handcrafted luxury – all areas where Indian handlooms enjoy a natural competitive advantage. Expanding

exports, however, will require consistent quality standards, stronger branding, better GI protection, and vigilant action against cultural misappropriation.

Measuring the contribution

India should leverage its traditional weaves, which for some global markets are ancient imports, to build its soft power. Unlike most manufacturing sectors, India's handloom economy is inadequately measured. Policymakers need reliable data on its contribution to GDP, exports, tax revenues, employment and household incomes. Better measurement will enable better policy and allow the sector to be recognised for the economic value it already creates.

Similarly, establishing a national platform through which States, producer organisations and cooperatives can exchange successful practices would accelerate innovation across the sector.

Handloom is not a relic of India's past; it is a strategic asset for its future. Few sectors simultaneously generate rural employment, empower women, preserve cultural heritage, promote sustainability, and strengthen India's global brand. As the country pursues the vision of *Viksit Bharat*, handloom deserves to be viewed as a serious economic sector. The measure of success will be how many looms remain active, profitable, and capable of attracting the next generation of weavers.

(Priyambada Jayakumar is a historian, public speaker, handloom advocate, and the author of *The Man Who Fed India*)

11A8. Why does handloom remain a key part of India's economy?

भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था में हथकरघा एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा क्यों बना हुआ है?

- From the **Swadeshi Movement's** boycott of British textiles to **Mahatma Gandhi's** adoption of the spinning wheel as a symbol of self-reliance, weaving became an instrument of economic resistance and national identity.
स्वदेशी आंदोलन द्वारा ब्रिटिश वस्त्रों के बहिष्कार से लेकर **महात्मा गांधी** द्वारा चरखे को आत्मनिर्भरता के प्रतीक के रूप में अपनाने तक, बुनाई आर्थिक प्रतिरोध और राष्ट्रीय पहचान का एक साधन बन गई।
- National Handloom Day**, marked on **August 7**, commemorates the launch of the **Swadeshi Movement in 1905** and honours generations of Indian weavers.
राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा दिवस, जो **7 अगस्त** को मनाया जाता है, **1905 में स्वदेशी आंदोलन** के शुभारंभ की स्मृति में मनाया जाता है और भारतीय बुनकरों की पीढ़ियों का सम्मान करता है।

A legacy beyond craft

शिल्प से परे एक विरासत

- Today's **handloom sector** is often viewed as a small artisanal activity — important culturally but peripheral economically.
आज के **हथकरघा क्षेत्र** को अक्सर एक छोटी हस्तशिल्प गतिविधि के रूप में देखा जाता है — जो सांस्कृतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन आर्थिक रूप से गौण है।
- Long before the **Industrial Revolution** transformed manufacturing in Europe, India's handlooms were among the world's greatest industrial enterprises.
औद्योगिक क्रांति द्वारा यूरोप में विनिर्माण को बदलने से बहुत पहले, भारत के हथकरघे विश्व के सबसे बड़े औद्योगिक उद्यमों में शामिल थे।
- Indian textiles travelled across continents, powered global trade and established India's reputation as one of history's foremost manufacturing economies.
भारतीय वस्त्र महाद्वीपों के पार पहुँचे, उन्होंने वैश्विक व्यापार को गति दी और भारत को इतिहास की प्रमुख विनिर्माण अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में से एक के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित किया।
- Handloom was the backbone of India's manufacturing strength and one of the foundations of its global influence.
हथकरघा भारत की **विनिर्माण शक्ति की रीढ़** और उसके वैश्विक influence के प्रमुख आधारों में से एक था।
- The sector remains far more significant than it is generally acknowledged.
यह क्षेत्र सामान्यतः स्वीकार किए जाने की तुलना में कहीं अधिक **महत्वपूर्ण** बना हुआ है।
- It provides livelihoods to more than **35 lakh weavers and allied workers** across over **31 lakh households**, with women constituting nearly **70% of the workforce**.

यह 31 लाख से अधिक परिवारों में 35 लाख से अधिक बुनकरों और संबद्ध श्रमिकों को आजीविका प्रदान करता है, जिसमें महिलाएँ लगभग 70% कार्यबल का गठन करती हैं।

- It remains one of rural India's largest sources of **non-farm employment** while producing nearly **15% of the country's cloth** despite relying largely on manual technology.
यह ग्रामीण भारत में गैर-कृषि रोजगार के सबसे बड़े स्रोतों में से एक बना हुआ है और मुख्यतः मैन्युअल तकनीक पर निर्भर होने के बावजूद देश के लगभग 15% कपड़े का उत्पादन करता है।
- Few manufacturing sectors create as many jobs with such modest capital investment.
बहुत कम विनिर्माण क्षेत्र इतने कम पूंजी निवेश के साथ इतने अधिक रोजगार सृजित करते हैं।
- While celebrated traditions continue to enjoy strong recognition, hundreds of lesser-known weaving traditions face gradual extinction.
जहाँ प्रसिद्ध परंपराओं को अभी भी व्यापक मान्यता प्राप्त है, वहीं सैकड़ों कम-ज्ञात बुनाई परंपराएँ धीरे-धीरे विलुप्त होने के खतरे का सामना कर रही हैं।
- Younger generations are leaving the profession as returns diminish, markets remain fragmented and traditional skills are no longer transferred within families.
युवा पीढ़ियाँ इस पेशे को छोड़ रही हैं क्योंकि लाभ कम हो रहे हैं, बाजार विखंडित बने हुए हैं और पारंपरिक कौशल अब परिवारों के भीतर हस्तांतरित नहीं हो रहे हैं।
- Every disappearing weave represents not merely the loss of a product but the disappearance of centuries of accumulated knowledge, distinctive design vocabulary, and cultural identity.
प्रत्येक विलुप्त होती बुनाई केवल किसी उत्पाद की हानि का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करती, बल्कि सदियों से संचित ज्ञान, विशिष्ट डिजाइन शब्दावली और सांस्कृतिक पहचान के लुप्त होने का भी प्रतीक है।
- Therefore, protecting handloom heritage is not only an economic necessity but also our **civilisational duty**.
इसलिए, हथकरघा विरासत का संरक्षण केवल एक आर्थिक आवश्यकता ही नहीं, बल्कि हमारा सभ्यतागत दायित्व भी है।
- The government's recent policy and programme support seems to be making a difference.
सरकार की हालिया नीतिगत और कार्यक्रम संबंधी सहायता से प्रभाव पड़ता हुआ दिखाई दे रहा है।
- The **National Handloom Development Programme** has focused on skill development, design innovation, technology adoption, branding, and improved market access.
National Handloom Development Programme ने कौशल विकास, डिजाइन नवाचार, प्रौद्योगिकी अपनाने, ब्रांडिंग और बेहतर बाजार पहुँच पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है।
- Greater integration with **e-commerce platforms** and expanding export opportunities have enabled many artisan clusters to reach consumers who were previously inaccessible.
ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ अधिक एकीकरण और निर्यात के अवसरों के विस्तार ने अनेक कारीगर समूहों को उन उपभोक्ताओं तक पहुँचने में सक्षम बनाया है, जो पहले उनकी पहुँच से बाहर थे।
- Several success stories illustrate what targeted intervention can achieve.
कई सफल उदाहरण दर्शाते हैं कि लक्षित हस्तक्षेप क्या परिणाम प्राप्त कर सकता है।
- The revival of **Tangaliya weaving in Gujarat**, the transformation of **Badturang village in Odisha's Sambalpur district** and the growing popularity of **Siddipet Gollabhama sarees** demonstrate that traditional crafts can thrive when design, market access and institutional support converge.
गुजरात में **Tangaliya बुनाई** का पुनरुद्धार, ओडिशा के **Sambalpur जिले के Badturang गाँव** का परिवर्तन और **Siddipet Gollabhama साड़ियों** की बढ़ती लोकप्रियता यह दर्शाती है कि जब डिजाइन, बाजार पहुँच और संस्थागत सहायता एक साथ आती हैं, तो पारंपरिक शिल्प फल-फल सकते हैं।
- It was more than just a fashion statement when **Brad Pitt** wore a handcrafted shirt in the traditional **Tangaliya weave** in the **F1 •Im**.
जब **Brad Pitt** ने **F1 •Im** में पारंपरिक **Tangaliya weave** से बनी हस्तनिर्मित शर्ट पहनी, तो यह केवल एक फैशन स्टेटमेंट से कहीं अधिक था।

- The **Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms**, in collaboration with **UNESCO**, has initiated the identification and documentation of India's languishing and endangered weaves.
Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms ने **UNESCO** के सहयोग से भारत की लुप्तप्राय और संकटग्रस्त बुनाई परंपराओं की पहचान और दस्तावेजीकरण शुरू किया है।
- This should be extended to every nook and corner of the country.
इसे देश के **हर कोने और क्षेत्र** तक विस्तारित किया जाना चाहिए।
- This aligns with **Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao's** focus on promoting India's rich, **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged handloom and handicraft products** and strengthening their presence in domestic and international markets.
यह **Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao** के भारत के समृद्ध **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged handloom and handicraft products** को बढ़ावा देने तथा घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों में उनकी उपस्थिति मजबूत करने के लक्ष्य के अनुरूप है।

Making handloom aspirational

हथकरघे को आकांक्षापूर्ण बनाना

- The next phase of policy must shift from preservation to **aspiration**.
नीति के अगले चरण में संरक्षण से आगे बढ़कर **आकांक्षा** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाना चाहिए।
- For younger consumers, especially **Gen Z**, handloom must become contemporary, fashionable, and aspirational rather than merely traditional.
युवा उपभोक्ताओं, विशेषकर **Gen Z**, के लिए हथकरघा केवल पारंपरिक न रहकर **आधुनिक, फैशनेबल और आकांक्षापूर्ण** बनना चाहिए।
- Celebrity ambassadors, collaborations with leading designers, limited-edition collections, digital storytelling, and partnerships with **influencers** can reposition India's weaves as premium lifestyle products.
सेलिब्रिटी एंबेसडर, प्रमुख डिजाइनरों के साथ सहयोग, सीमित-संस्करण संग्रह, डिजिटल स्टोरीटेलिंग और influencers के साथ साझेदारी भारत की बुनाई परंपराओं को प्रीमियम जीवनशैली उत्पादों के रूप में पुनर्स्थापित कर सकती हैं।
- The objective should not be to celebrate handloom because it is old, but because it represents **craftsmanship, sustainability, and exclusivity**.
उद्देश्य हथकरघे का केवल इसलिए उत्सव मनाना नहीं होना चाहिए कि यह पुराना है, बल्कि इसलिए कि यह **शिल्प कौशल, सततता और विशिष्टता** का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।
- Limited production should become a **premium feature**.
सीमित उत्पादन को एक **प्रीमियम विशेषता** बनाया जाना चाहिए।
- India must also think beyond domestic markets.
भारत को घरेलू बाजारों से आगे भी विचार करना चाहिए।
- The world increasingly values **authenticity, sustainability, and handcrafted luxury** — all areas where Indian handlooms enjoy a natural competitive advantage.
विश्व में **प्रामाणिकता, सततता और हस्तनिर्मित विलासिता** को बढ़ता हुआ महत्व दिया जा रहा है — और ये सभी ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जहाँ भारतीय हथकरघों को स्वाभाविक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ प्राप्त है।
- Expanding exports, however, will require consistent quality standards, stronger branding, better **GI protection**, and vigilant action against cultural misappropriation.
हालाँकि, निर्यात के विस्तार के लिए **सुसंगत गुणवत्ता मानकों, मजबूत ब्रांडिंग, बेहतर GI संरक्षण और सांस्कृतिक दुरुपयोग के विरुद्ध सतर्क कार्रवाई** की आवश्यकता होगी।

Measuring the contribution

योगदान का आकलन

- India should leverage its traditional weaves, which for some global markets are ancient imports, to build its **soft power**.
भारत को अपनी पारंपरिक बुनाई परंपराओं का लाभ उठाकर अपनी **सॉफ्ट पावर** का निर्माण करना चाहिए, जो कुछ वैश्विक बाजारों के लिए प्राचीन आयातित वस्तुओं के रूप में रही हैं।
- Unlike most manufacturing sectors, India's handloom economy is inadequately measured. अधिकांश विनिर्माण क्षेत्रों के विपरीत, भारत की **हथकरघा अर्थव्यवस्था** का पर्याप्त रूप से आकलन नहीं किया जाता है।
- Policymakers need reliable data on its contribution to **GDP, exports, tax revenues, employment and household incomes**.
नीति-निर्माताओं को **GDP, निर्यात, कर राजस्व, रोजगार और घरेलू आय** में इसके योगदान से संबंधित विश्वसनीय आँकड़ों की आवश्यकता है।
- Better measurement will enable better policy and allow the sector to be recognised for the economic value it already creates.
बेहतर मापन से बेहतर नीति निर्माण संभव होगा और इस क्षेत्र को उसके द्वारा पहले से सृजित किए जा रहे **आर्थिक मूल्य** के लिए उचित मान्यता मिल सकेगी।
- Similarly, establishing a national platform through which States, producer organisations and cooperatives can exchange successful practices would accelerate innovation across the sector.
इसी प्रकार, एक **राष्ट्रीय मंच** की स्थापना, जिसके माध्यम से राज्य, उत्पादक संगठन और सहकारी संस्थाएँ सफल कार्यप्रणालियों का आदान-प्रदान कर सकें, पूरे क्षेत्र में नवाचार को गति प्रदान करेगी।
- Handloom is not a relic of India's past; it is a **strategic asset for its future**.
हथकरघा भारत के अतीत का अवशेष नहीं है; यह उसके **भविष्य की रणनीतिक संपत्ति** है।
- Few sectors simultaneously generate rural employment, empower women, preserve cultural heritage, promote sustainability, and strengthen India's global brand.
बहुत कम क्षेत्र एक साथ **ग्रामीण रोजगार सृजित करते हैं, महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाते हैं, सांस्कृतिक विरासत का संरक्षण करते हैं, सततता को बढ़ावा देते हैं और भारत के वैश्विक ब्रांड को मजबूत करते हैं**।
- As the country pursues the vision of **Viksit Bharat**, handloom deserves to be viewed as a serious economic sector.
जैसे-जैसे देश **Viksit Bharat** के दृष्टिकोण को आगे बढ़ा रहा है, हथकरघे को एक गंभीर **आर्थिक क्षेत्र** के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।
- The measure of success will be how many looms remain active, pro•table, and capable of attracting the next generation of weavers
सफलता का माप यह होगा कि कितने करघे सक्रिय और pro•table बने रहते हैं तथा **बुनकरों की अगली पीढ़ी को आकर्षित करने में सक्षम होते हैं**।

How did Google's AI satellite images raise safety concerns

Google की AI उपग्रह छवियों ने सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताएँ कैसे बढ़ाईं

- A new AI feature launched by Google in late July remained active for around a day before it was pulled down by the company, amidst serious **safety and misinformation concerns**.
जुलाई के अंत में Google द्वारा शुरू की गई एक नई **AI सुविधा** कंपनी द्वारा हटाए जाने से पहले लगभग एक दिन तक सक्रिय रही, जबकि इसके कारण गंभीर **सुरक्षा और गलत सूचना संबंधी चिंताएँ** उत्पन्न हुई थीं।
- The launch of the feature and its quick rollback showed how easily even casual internet users broke past Google's enterprise-level safeguards in order to create **deepfake satellite images**, in spite of the risks they pose.
इस सुविधा का लॉन्च और इसे शीघ्र वापस लिया जाना दर्शाता है कि सामान्य इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ताओं ने भी Google के **एंटरप्राइज़-स्तरीय सुरक्षा उपायों** को कितनी आसानी से पार कर लिया ताकि वे **डीपफेक उपग्रह छवियाँ** बना सकें, जबकि उनसे उत्पन्न होने वाले जोखिम गंभीर हैं।



Russia's share in India's oil imports jumps to 48% in June

The U.S. Senate has passed a bill that will see tariffs of up to 100% being levied on top 5 countries importing Russian oil and gas; the Bill now awaits passage in the House of Representatives

GS III: Economy
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

At a time when the U.S. looks all set to enact legislation to impose a tariff of up to 100% on India for its Russian oil imports, an analysis of the latest data shows Russia's share in India's oil imports rose to an all-time high of 48% in June 2026.

The U.S. Senate last week passed the bipartisan Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 which seeks to levy tariffs of up to 100% on countries that continue to buy Russian oil and gas, and that were the largest purchasers of these products from Russia over the previous year. India qualifies for tariffs under these criteria. The Bill still requires to be passed by the U.S. House of Representatives before it becomes law.

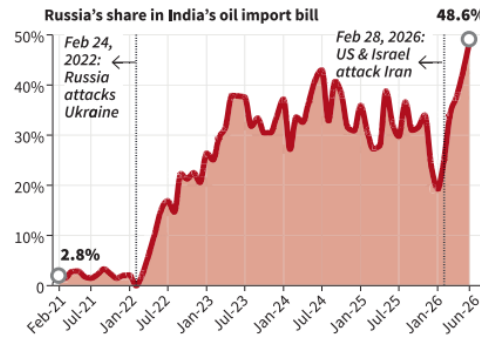
An analysis by *The Hindu* of the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India significantly lowered its total crude oil imports in June 2026. In terms of volume, June crude oil imports at 18.2 million metric tonnes (MMT) were down 16.5% compared with May 2026, and were 13% lower than in June last year.

However, elevated crude oil prices this year have meant that the oil import bill, while 22% lower in June 2026 than in May, was still 40% higher than in June of last year.

While India drastically

War relations

Each time a recent war has spiked oil prices, India has turned to Russia



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

cut down on overall oil imports, its purchases from Russia bucked this trend. That is, India imported 8.7 MMT of Russian oil in June 2026, just 1% lower than in May, and 25% higher than in June of last year.

As a result of this strategy, Russia's share in India's crude oil imports jumped to 48% in terms of quantity and 48.6% in terms of the value. Russia's share has been rising consistently every month since March and the outbreak of the war in West Asia.

According to the U.S. Bill, the tariffs would apply on a country that was among the five largest importers of crude oil or natural gas from Russia during the 12 months preceding the date of the enactment of the Act, and that then continues to import oil or gas from Russia after 30 days of the enactment.

China and India are the top two importers of Russian oil and India's rising dependence on Russian oil shows it cannot quickly cut back on this source at a time when supplies through the Strait of Hormuz are still constrained.

The premium Russia has charged India for its oil has been steadily declining, data shows, from \$77.7 per tonne in April 2026 to \$10.6 per tonne in June. Russia had been providing India a discount until as recently as February 2026.

Sanctions exposure

The Bill also specifies that tariffs could be imposed on countries that have helped Russia evade sanctions. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) told *The Hindu* that India has specifically taken measures to pre-empt any sanctions exposure.

"It [sanctions exposure] was pre-empted through ship-to-ship transfer operations in international waters via the Red Sea route through Yanbu and Fujairah precisely so that a single choke point, or a single sanctions regime, could not halt India-bound cargo," MoPNG said in a clarificatory note it had sent *The Hindu* in late July.

It is unclear as of now whether India's actions would entail helping Russia evade sanctions.

Apart from Russia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) too saw its share in India's oil imports rise to historic highs. India sourced 17.5% of its oil imports by volume from the UAE in June 2026 and 18% by value, the highest share for both so far.

Taken together, this means that Russia and the UAE together accounted for nearly two-thirds of India's oil imports in June 2026, the highest-ever combined share enjoyed by any two countries. The MoPNG, however, said that such concentration was not a matter of concern given Indian oil marketing companies stand ready to diversify quickly.

"Indian refineries had spent a decade acquiring the logistical flexibility to switch between crude grades and shipping routes the moment disruption struck, which is the definition of a diversification strategy, not its absence," the note said.

11A8. Russia's share in India's oil imports jumps to 48% in June

जून में भारत के तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 48% हुई

- At a time when the U.S. looks all set to enact legislation to impose a tariff of up to 100% on India for its Russian oil imports, an analysis of the latest data shows Russia's share in India's oil imports rose to an all-time high of 48% in June 2026.

ऐसे समय में जब अमेरिका रूसी तेल के भारत के आयात पर भारत पर 100% तक का शुल्क लगाने के लिए कानून बनाने की पूरी तैयारी करता दिखाई दे रहा है, नवीनतम आँकड़ों के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि जून 2026 में भारत के तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 48% के सर्वकालिक उच्च स्तर पर पहुँच गई।

- The U.S. Senate last week passed the bipartisan **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026** which seeks to levy tariffs of up to 100% on countries that continue to buy Russian oil and gas, and that were the largest purchasers of these products from Russia over the previous year.
अमेरिकी सीनेट ने पिछले सप्ताह द्विदलीय **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026** पारित किया, जिसका उद्देश्य उन देशों पर 100% तक शुल्क लगाना है जो रूसी तेल और गैस खरीदना जारी रखते हैं और जो पिछले वर्ष रूस से इन उत्पादों के सबसे बड़े खरीदार रहे हैं।
- India qualifies for tariffs under these criteria.
इन मानदंडों के तहत **भारत शुल्क के दायरे में आता है।**
- The Bill still requires to be passed by the U.S. House of Representatives before it becomes law.
कानून बनने से पहले इस विधेयक को अभी **अमेरिकी प्रतिनिधि सभा** से पारित होना आवश्यक है।
- An analysis by The Hindu of the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India significantly lowered its total crude oil imports in June 2026.
The Hindu द्वारा वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय के नवीनतम आँकड़ों के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि भारत ने जून 2026 में अपने कुल कच्चे तेल के आयात में उल्लेखनीय कमी की।
- In terms of volume, June crude oil imports at 18.2 million metric tonnes (MMT) were down 16.5% compared with May 2026, and were 13% lower than in June last year.
मात्रा के संदर्भ में, जून में **18.2 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन (MMT)** कच्चे तेल का आयात मई 2026 की तुलना में 16.5% कम था और पिछले वर्ष जून की तुलना में 13% कम था।
- However, elevated crude oil prices this year have meant that the oil import bill, while 22% lower in June 2026 than in May, was still 40% higher than in June of last year.
हालाँकि, इस वर्ष कच्चे तेल की **ऊँची कीमतों** के कारण तेल आयात बिल जून 2026 में मई की तुलना में 22% कम होने के बावजूद पिछले वर्ष जून की तुलना में **40% अधिक** था।
- While India drastically cut down on overall oil imports, its purchases from Russia bucked this trend.
जहाँ भारत ने अपने **कुल तेल आयात** में भारी कमी की, वहीं रूस से उसकी खरीद इस प्रवृत्ति के विपरीत रही।
- That is, India imported 8.7 MMT of Russian oil in June 2026, just 1% lower than in May, and 25% higher than in June of last year.
अर्थात्, भारत ने जून 2026 में **8.7 MMT रूसी तेल** का आयात किया, जो मई की तुलना में केवल 1% कम और पिछले वर्ष जून की तुलना में **25% अधिक** था।
- As a result of this strategy, Russia's share in India's crude oil imports jumped to **48% in terms of quantity and 48.6% in terms of the value.**
इस रणनीति के परिणामस्वरूप, भारत के कच्चे तेल के आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी **मात्रा के आधार पर 48% और मूल्य के आधार पर 48.6%** तक बढ़ गई।
- Russia's share has been rising consistently every month since March and the outbreak of the war in West Asia.
मार्च और **पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध शुरू होने** के बाद से रूस की हिस्सेदारी हर महीने लगातार बढ़ रही है।
- According to the U.S. Bill, the tariffs would apply on a country that was among the five largest importers of crude oil or natural gas from Russia during the 12 months preceding the date of the enactment of the Act, and that then continues to import oil or gas from Russia after 30 days of the enactment.
अमेरिकी विधेयक के अनुसार, शुल्क ऐसे देश पर लागू होंगे जो अधिनियम के लागू होने की तारीख से पहले के **12 महीनों** के दौरान रूस से कच्चे तेल या प्राकृतिक गैस के पाँच सबसे बड़े आयातकों में शामिल था और जो अधिनियम लागू होने के 30 दिनों बाद भी रूस से तेल या गैस का आयात जारी रखता है।
- China and India** are the top two importers of Russian oil and India's rising dependence on Russian oil shows it cannot quickly cut back on this source at a time when supplies through the **Strait of Hormuz** are still constrained.
चीन और भारत रूसी तेल के दो सबसे बड़े आयातक हैं और रूसी तेल पर भारत की बढ़ती निर्भरता दर्शाती है कि

वह इस स्रोत से अपनी खरीद में तेजी से कटौती नहीं कर सकता, ऐसे समय में जब **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** के माध्यम से आपूर्ति अभी भी बाधित है।

- The premium Russia has charged India for its oil has been steadily declining, data shows, from \$77.7 per tonne in April 2026 to \$10.6 per tonne in June.
ऑकड़ों के अनुसार, रूस द्वारा भारत से अपने तेल के लिए लिया जाने वाला **प्रीमियम** लगातार घट रहा है, जो अप्रैल 2026 में 77.7 डॉलर प्रति टन से घटकर जून में **10.6 डॉलर प्रति टन** रह गया।
- Russia had been providing India a discount until as recently as February 2026.
रूस फरवरी 2026 तक हाल ही में भी भारत को **छूट** प्रदान कर रहा था।

Sanctions exposure प्रतिबंधों के दायरे में आने का जोखिम

- The Bill also specifies that tariffs could be imposed on countries that have helped Russia evade sanctions.
विधेयक में यह भी निर्दिष्ट किया गया है कि उन देशों पर शुल्क लगाया जा सकता है जिन्होंने रूस को **प्रतिबंधों से बचने में सहायता** की है।
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) told The Hindu that India has specifically taken measures to pre-empt any sanctions exposure.
पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय (MoPNG) ने The Hindu को बताया कि भारत ने प्रतिबंधों के दायरे में आने के किसी भी जोखिम को पहले से रोकने के लिए विशेष उपाय किए हैं।
- "It [sanctions exposure] was pre-empted through ship-to-ship transfer operations in international waters via the Red Sea route through Yanbu and Fujairah precisely so that a single choke point, or a single sanctions regime, could not halt India-bound cargo," MoPNG said in a clarificatory note it had sent The Hindu in late July.
MoPNG ने जुलाई के अंत में The Hindu को भेजे गए एक **स्पष्टीकरणात्मक नोट** में कहा, "इसे [प्रतिबंधों के दायरे में आने के जोखिम को] अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जलक्षेत्र में **जहाज-से-जहाज हस्तांतरण संचालन** के माध्यम से, यानबू और फुजैराह से होकर लाल सागर मार्ग के जरिए पहले ही रोक दिया गया था, ताकि कोई एक बाधा-बिंदु या कोई एक प्रतिबंध व्यवस्था भारत जाने वाले माल को रोक न सके।"
- It is unclear as of now whether India's actions would entail helping Russia evade sanctions.
अभी यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि भारत की कार्रवाइयों से रूस को **प्रतिबंधों से बचने में सहायता** मिलेगी या नहीं।
- Apart from Russia, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** too saw its share in India's oil imports rise to historic highs.
रूस के अलावा, **संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (UAE)** की भी भारत के तेल आयात में हिस्सेदारी ऐतिहासिक उच्च स्तर पर पहुँच गई।
- India sourced 17.5% of its oil imports by volume from the UAE in June 2026 and 18% by value, the highest share for both so far.
भारत ने जून 2026 में अपने तेल आयात का **17.5% मात्रा के आधार पर और 18% मूल्य के आधार पर UAE से प्राप्त किया**, जो अब तक दोनों के लिए सबसे अधिक हिस्सेदारी है।
- Taken together, this means that Russia and the UAE together accounted for nearly **two-thirds of India's oil imports in June 2026**, the highest-ever combined share enjoyed by any two countries.
संयुक्त रूप से, इसका अर्थ है कि जून 2026 में **रूस और UAE ने मिलकर भारत के तेल आयात का लगभग दो-तिहाई हिस्सा पूरा किया**, जो किसी भी दो देशों द्वारा प्राप्त अब तक की सबसे अधिक संयुक्त हिस्सेदारी है।
- The MoPNG, however, said that such concentration was not a matter of concern given Indian oil marketing companies stand ready to diversify quickly.
हालाँकि, MoPNG ने कहा कि इस प्रकार का **केंद्रीकरण चिंता का विषय नहीं है**, क्योंकि भारतीय तेल विपणन कंपनियाँ तेजी से विविधीकरण करने के लिए तैयार हैं।
- "Indian refineries had spent a decade acquiring the logistical flexibility to switch between crude grades and shipping routes the moment disruption struck, which is the definition of a



diversification strategy, not its absence," the note said.

नोट में कहा गया, "भारतीय रिफाइनरियों ने एक दशक ऐसी लॉजिस्टिक लचीलापन क्षमता विकसित करने में बिताया है, जिससे किसी भी व्यवधान के उत्पन्न होते ही कच्चे तेल के विभिन्न ग्रेड और शिपिंग मार्गों के बीच बदलाव किया जा सके; यही विविधीकरण रणनीति की परिभाषा है, न कि इसका अभाव।"

FOMO fuels Wall Street's breakout rally as traders pile in



Betting on uncertain future: A general view shows the New York Stock Exchange, in New York, AP

US W Economy
Reuters
NEW YORK

Fear of missing out (FOMO) is driving a buying rush on Wall Street, with options market metrics flashing some of the most bullish signals in years. Easing tensions in the Middle East, falling oil prices and robust earnings reports have supported the market's climb to new highs, but some options-market measures suggest investors' FOMO has emerged as a distinct driver of the rally.

"There are several factors, but FOMO is a part of it," said Mark Hackett, chief market strategist at Nationwide.

"Most of the core tenets of the bear thesis have broken down, and being short on an absolute or relative basis is a risk that many are unwilling to take," Hackett said. Before a 5.8% jump logged by the S&P 500 in the four sessions through August 4, the benchmark index had traded within a 5.7% range for about three months — far narrower than the average 12.5% range for rolling three-month periods since 2006. The index's sharp gain came into even starker relief following a bruising selloff in AI (artificial intelligence) shares late in July.

For years, investors have been rewarded for buying every market dip. That's showing up again, with various gauges of investors' enthusiasm for upside wagers perking up.

The one-month average daily ratio of calls to puts on the S&P 500 has risen to 0.9, among the most

NEWS ANALYSIS

bullish readings in at least four years, according to a Reuters analysis of Trade Alert data.

A measure of short-term S&P 500 call skew — a gauge of how much extra investors are willing to pay for bets on a fast, sharp rally in stocks, relative to bets on a decline — last week soared to a two-year high, according to Susquehanna Financial Group analysis. Another sign of the market's overheated conditions comes from the Bullish Percent Index, a market-breadth indicator that tracks the percentage of S&P 500 stocks trading in bullish technical patterns. The measure rose above the 70% mark, pointing to overbought conditions, according to Adam Turnquist, chief technical strategist at LPL Financial.

Speculative enthusiasm

Taken together, these indicators highlight how much markets have been driven lately by momentum and speculative enthusiasm rather than by fundamentals.

"FOMO never left. It just wasn't in the forefront of the market," said Steve Sosnick, chief strategist at Interactive Brokers, who sees investors' impulse to reach for further upside as a form of insurance against being left behind by the market rally. "There are plenty of institutional investors who are more concerned with missing a rally than they are about the market going down," Sosnick said.

11A8. FOMO fuels Wall Street's breakout rally as traders pile in FOMO ने वॉल स्ट्रीट की तेज़ी को बढ़ावा दिया, क्योंकि ट्रेडर्स बड़ी संख्या में बाजार में शामिल हुए

- Fear of missing out (FOMO) is driving a buying rush on **Wall Street**, with options market metrics flashing some of the most bullish signals in years.

Fear of missing out (FOMO) Wall Street पर खरीदारी की होड़ को बढ़ावा दे रहा है, जबकि options market metrics पिछले कुछ वर्षों के सबसे तेजी वाले संकेतों में से कुछ को flashing कर रहे हैं।

- Easing tensions in the **Middle East**, falling oil prices and robust earnings reports have supported the market's climb to new highs, but some options-market measures suggest investors' FOMO has emerged as a distinct driver of the rally.

Middle East में तनाव कम होने, तेल की कीमतों में गिरावट और मजबूत आय रिपोर्टों ने बाजार को नई ऊँचाइयों तक पहुँचने में समर्थन दिया है, लेकिन कुछ

options-market measures संकेत देते हैं कि निवेशकों का FOMO इस तेजी का एक स्पष्ट प्रमुख चालक बनकर उभरा है।

- "There are several factors, but **FOMO is a part of it**," said **Mark Hackett**, chief market strategist at Nationwide.

Nationwide के chief market strategist Mark Hackett ने कहा, "कई कारक हैं, लेकिन FOMO इसका एक हिस्सा है।"

- "Most of the core tenets of the **bear thesis** have broken down, and being short on an absolute or relative basis is a risk that many are unwilling to take," Hackett said. Hackett ने कहा, "**Bear thesis के अधिकांश मूल आधार कमजोर पड़ गए हैं और absolute या relative basis पर short position लेना ऐसा जोखिम है जिसे कई लोग उठाने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।**"
- Before a **5.8% jump** logged by the **S&P 500** in the four sessions through August 4, the benchmark index had traded within a **5.7% range** for about three months — far narrower than the average **12.5% range** for rolling three-month periods since 2006.

August 4 तक के चार कारोबारी सत्रों में S&P 500 द्वारा दर्ज की गई 5.8% उछाल से पहले, benchmark index लगभग तीन महीनों तक 5.7% range के भीतर कारोबार करता रहा था — जो 2006 से rolling three-month periods के औसत 12.5% range की तुलना में काफी संकीर्ण था।

- The index's sharp gain came into even starker relief following a bruising sello• in **AI (arti•cial intelligence) shares** late in July.
जुलाई के अंत में **AI (arti•cial intelligence) shares** में हुई भारी बिकवाली के बाद index की तेज बढ़त और भी अधिक स्पष्ट रूप से सामने आई।
- For years, investors have been rewarded for buying every **market dip**.
वर्षों से निवेशकों को हर **market dip** में खरीदारी करने का लाभ मिलता रहा है।
- That's showing up again, with various gauges of investors' enthusiasm for **upside wagers** perking up.
अब यह फिर दिखाई दे रहा है, क्योंकि **upside wagers** के प्रति निवेशकों के उत्साह को मापने वाले विभिन्न संकेतक तेजी दिखा रहे हैं।
- The **one-month average daily ratio of calls to puts on the S&P 500** has risen to **0.9**, among the most bullish readings in at least four years, according to a Reutersanalysis of Trade Alertdata.
Trade Alertdata के Reutersanalysis के अनुसार, **S&P 500 पर calls-to-puts का one-month average daily ratio** बढ़कर **0.9** हो गया है, जो कम-से-कम चार वर्षों में सबसे तेजी वाले स्तरों में से एक है।
- Ameasure of **short-term S&P 500 call skew** — a gauge of how much extra investors are willing to pay for bets on a fast, sharp rally in stocks, relative to bets on a decline — last week soared to atwo-year high, according to **Susquehanna Financial Group** analysis.
short-term S&P 500 call skew का एक माप — जो यह दर्शाता है कि गिरावट पर दांव लगाने की तुलना में शेयरों में तेज और तीव्र तेजी पर दांव लगाने के लिए निवेशक कितनी अतिरिक्त राशि देने को तैयार हैं — पिछले सप्ताह **दो वर्ष के उच्च स्तर** पर पहुँच गया, ऐसा **Susquehanna Financial Group** के विश्लेषण से पता चला।
- Another sign of the market's **overheated conditions** comes from the **Bullish Percent Index**, a market-breadth indicator that tracks the percentage of S&P 500 stocks trading in bullish technical patterns.
बाजार की **overheated conditions** का एक अन्य संकेत **Bullish Percent Index** से मिलता है, जो एक market-breadth indicator है और उन **S&P 500 stocks** के प्रतिशत को मापता है जो तेजी वाले तकनीकी पैटर्न में कारोबार कर रहे हैं।
- The measure rose above the **70% mark**, pointing to **overbought conditions**, according to **Adam Turnquist**, chief technical strategist at LPL Financial.
LPL Financial के chief technical strategist **Adam Turnquist** के अनुसार, यह संकेतक **70% के स्तर** से ऊपर चला गया, जो **overbought conditions** की ओर संकेत करता है।

Speculative enthusiasm

सट्टात्मक उत्साह

- Taken together, these indicators highlight how much markets have been driven lately by **momentum and speculative enthusiasm** rather than by fundamentals.
सामूहिक रूप से, ये संकेतक दर्शाते हैं कि हाल में बाजार **fundamentals** के बजाय **momentum and speculative enthusiasm** से कितना अधिक संचालित हुए हैं।
- "**FOMO never left. It just wasn't in the forefront of the market**," said **Steve Sosnick**, chief strategist at Interactive Brokers, who sees investors' impulse to reach for further upside as a form of insurance against being left behind by the market rally.
Interactive Brokers के chief strategist **Steve Sosnick** ने कहा, "**FOMO कभी गया ही नहीं। बस यह बाजार के अग्रभाग में नहीं था।**" उनका मानना है कि निवेशकों द्वारा और अधिक तेजी का लाभ उठाने की प्रवृत्ति बाजार की तेजी से पीछे छूट जाने के जोखिम के विरुद्ध एक प्रकार के **बीमा** के रूप में काम करती है।
- "There are plenty of **institutional investors** who are more concerned with missing a rally than they are about the market going down," Sosnick said.

Sosnick ने कहा, “ऐसे बहुत से institutional investors हैं जो बाजार के नीचे जाने की तुलना में तेजी से चूक जाने को लेकर अधिक चिंतित हैं।”

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
11A8	Scientists turn to sharks for hurricane predictions वैज्ञानिक तूफान की भविष्यवाणी के लिए शार्क की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं	
11A8	Quiz	
11A8	How did Google's AI satellite images raise safety concerns? Google की AI सैटेलाइट इमेज ने सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताएँ कैसे पैदा कीं?	
11A8	India's rst privately-built FFSC rocket engine signals new dawn in space light भारत के पहले निजी रूप से निर्मित FFSC रॉकेट इंजन ने अंतरिक्ष उड़ान में नए युग का संकेत दिया	

Scientists turn to sharks for hurricane predictions

GS III: S&T
Reuters

From the killer shark of *Jaws* to the tornado-tossed predators of the *Sharknado* movies, films long have portrayed sharks as objects of summer fear. But when a shark cuts through the waters off the U.S. East Coast, it now may be doing more than hunting. It may also be gathering data that helps scientists understand the potential intensity of a hurricane before it makes landfall.

University of Delaware researchers are testing whether sharks can serve as mobile near-real-time ocean-data observers, carrying sensors that measure ocean conditions to inform climate, oceanographic, and atmospheric models.

These CTD tags are small electronic devices that measure ocean electrical conductivity – a metric closely related to salinity – as well as temperature and depth, as marine creatures to which they are attached swim and dive.

CTD tags are small electronic devices that measure ocean electrical conductivity, temperature and depth, as marine creatures to which they are attached swim and dive

“Animal-borne sensors have been used successfully by oceanographers for years, particularly on elephant seals in polar regions where scientific observations are scarce,” said Aaron Carlisle, principal investigator and a professor in the university’s School of Marine Science and Policy. Sharks offer a new opportunity in such research because they are abundant, widely distributed and easier to access than many protected marine mammals, he said.

Until now, shark tagging typically has tracked only where these fish travel and the habitats they use. The University of Delaware researchers select sharks that can collect the measurements most useful for hurricane research, and favor species that surface often enough for their tags to transmit the information to satellites. Previous analyses identified shortfin mako sharks, blue sharks, smooth hammerheads and juvenile great white sharks as strong candidates for such research in the North Atlantic.

“We are really most interested in the heat content of the top layer of the ocean, which is known as the mixed layer,” Dr. Carlisle said. “This is the part of the water column that really drives hurricane intensity – warmer mixed layer equals stronger hurricane – as it holds the heat that feeds hurricanes,” he added.

The tagging process begins in early May, when highly migratory species move closer to the coast from their winter habitats further out in the Atlantic, according to Caroline Wiernicki, a University of Delaware doctoral candidate in marine science.

Researchers head 50 to 65 km offshore aboard a research vessel, deploy baited lines and wait, two to three hours, for a shark to take the bait, Ms. Wiernicki said.

“The tags are attached to the dorsal fin. Then every time the shark fins (swims) at the surface, the tag can communicate and transmit data to the orbiting network of satellite receivers,” Dr. Carlisle said. The tagging process itself is operated “like a pit crew” in an auto race, he said, and usually takes less than five minutes.

The tagging is carried out under institutional animal care oversight to minimise impact on the sharks. The tags are attached using materials designed to corrode and fall off over time. Each shark also undergoes a health check before release, as a stressed or harmed shark may not behave naturally, potentially biasing the data, Dr. Carlisle said.

11A8. Scientists turn to sharks for hurricane predictions

वैज्ञानिक तूफान की भविष्यवाणी के लिए शार्क की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं

- From the killer shark of *Jaws* to the tornado-tossed predators of the *Sharknado* movies, films long have portrayed sharks as objects of summer fear.

Jaws की खूंखार शार्क से लेकर **Sharknado**

फिल्मों में बवंडर द्वारा उछाले गए शिकारियों तक, फिल्मों ने लंबे समय से शार्क को गर्मियों के भय के विषय के रूप में चित्रित किया है।

- But when a shark cuts through the waters off the **U.S. East Coast**, it now may be doing more than hunting. लेकिन जब कोई शार्क अमेरिका के पूर्वी तट के निकट जल में तैरती है, तो अब वह केवल शिकार करने से कहीं अधिक कार्य कर रही हो सकती है।

- It may also be gathering data that helps scientists understand the potential intensity of a **hurricane** before it makes landfall.

वह ऐसे आँकड़े भी एकत्र कर रही हो सकती है, जो वैज्ञानिकों को तूफान के स्थल पर पहुँचने से पहले उसकी संभावित तीव्रता को समझने में सहायता करें।

- University of Delaware** researchers are testing whether sharks can serve as mobile near-real-time ocean-data observers, carrying sensors that measure ocean

conditions to inform climate, oceanographic, and atmospheric models.

डेलावेयर विश्वविद्यालय के शोधकर्ता यह परीक्षण कर रहे हैं कि क्या शार्क मोबाइल निकट-वास्तविक-समय **महासागरीय डेटा पर्यवेक्षकों** के रूप में कार्य कर सकती हैं, जो महासागर की परिस्थितियों को मापने वाले सेंसर लेकर चलती हैं और जलवायु, समुद्र-विज्ञान तथा वायुमंडलीय मॉडलों को जानकारी प्रदान करती हैं।

- These **CTD tags** are small electronic devices that measure ocean electrical conductivity — a metric closely related to **salinity** — as well as **temperature and depth**, as marine creatures to which they are attached swim and dive.

ये **CTD टैग** छोटे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरण हैं, जो महासागर की विद्युत चालकता — एक ऐसा मापदंड जो **लवणता** से निकटता से संबंधित है — के साथ-साथ तापमान और

गहराई को भी मापते हैं, जब जिन समुद्री जीवों पर इन्हें लगाया जाता है, वे तैरते और गोता लगाते हैं।

- “Animal-borne sensors have been used successfully by oceanographers for years, particularly on **elephant seals in polar regions** where scientific observations are scarce,” said Aaron Carlisle, principal investigator and a professor in the university’s School of Marine Science and Policy.

“**पशु-आधारित सेंसरों** का समुद्र-विज्ञानियों द्वारा वर्षों से सफलतापूर्वक उपयोग किया जाता रहा है, विशेष रूप से ध्रुवीय क्षेत्रों में **हाथी सील** पर, जहाँ वैज्ञानिक अवलोकन बहुत कम उपलब्ध हैं,” विश्वविद्यालय के स्कूल ऑफ मरीन साइंस एंड पॉलिसी के प्रधान अन्वेषक और प्रोफेसर **Aaron Carlisle** ने कहा।

- **Sharks offer a new opportunity in such research because they are abundant, widely distributed and easier to access than many protected marine mammals**, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि शार्क इस प्रकार के अनुसंधान में एक नया अवसर प्रदान करती हैं, क्योंकि वे **बहुसंख्यक**,

व्यापक रूप से वितरित हैं और कई संरक्षित समुद्री स्तनधारियों की तुलना में उन तक पहुँचना आसान है।

- Until now, shark tagging typically has tracked only where these fish travel and the habitats they use.

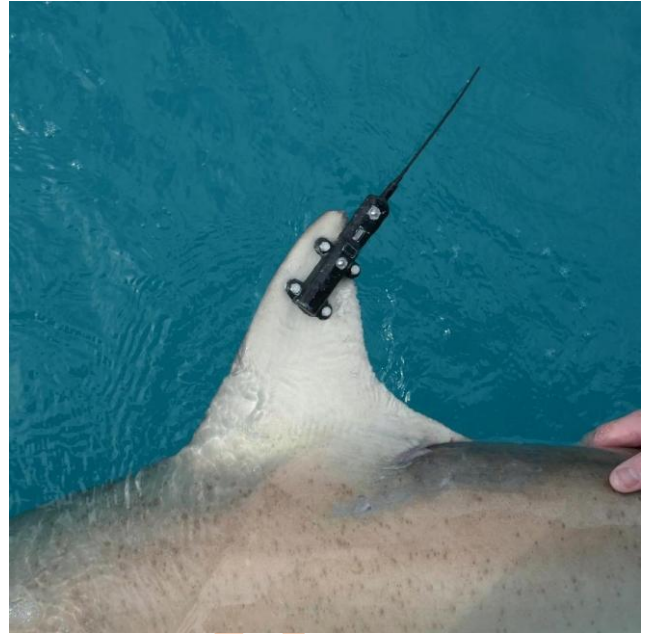
अब तक, शार्क पर टैग लगाने का उद्देश्य सामान्यतः केवल यह पता लगाना रहा है कि ये **मछलियाँ** कहाँ विचरण करती हैं और किन आवासों का उपयोग करती हैं।

- The University of Delaware researchers select sharks that can collect the measurements most useful for **hurricane research**, and favor species that surface often enough for their tags to transmit the information to satellites.

डेलावेयर विश्वविद्यालय के शोधकर्ता ऐसी शार्क का चयन करते हैं जो **तूफान अनुसंधान** के लिए सबसे उपयोगी माप एकत्र कर सकती हैं और उन प्रजातियों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं जो इतनी बार सतह पर आती हैं कि उनके टैग उपग्रहों तक सूचना प्रसारित कर सकें।

- Previous analyses identified **shortfin mako sharks, blue sharks, smooth hammerheads and juvenile great white sharks** as strong candidates for such research in the North Atlantic.

पिछले विश्लेषणों में **शॉर्टफिन माको शार्क, ब्लू शार्क, स्मूथ हैमरहेड और युवा ग्रेट व्हाइट शार्क** को उत्तरी अटलांटिक में इस प्रकार के अनुसंधान के लिए उपयुक्त उम्मीदवारों के रूप में पहचाना गया था।



- “We are really most interested in the **heat content of the top layer of the ocean, which is known as the mixed layer**,” Dr. Carlisle said.
“हम वास्तव में महासागर की ऊपरी परत की ऊष्मा मात्रा में सबसे अधिक रुचि रखते हैं, जिसे **मिश्रित परत (mixed layer)** के रूप में जाना जाता है,” डॉ. Carlisle ने कहा।
- “This is the part of the water column that really drives **hurricane intensity — warmer mixed layer equals stronger hurricane** — as it holds the heat that feeds hurricanes,” he added.
“यह जल-स्तंभ का वह भाग है जो वास्तव में **तूफान की तीव्रता को निर्धारित करता है** — अधिक गर्म मिश्रित परत का अर्थ है अधिक शक्तिशाली तूफान — क्योंकि इसमें वह ऊष्मा संचित रहती है जो तूफानों को ऊर्जा प्रदान करती है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The tagging process begins in early May, when highly migratory species move closer to the coast from their winter habitats further out in the Atlantic, according to Caroline Wiernicki, a University of Delaware doctoral candidate in marine science.
समुद्री विज्ञान में **डेलवेयर विश्वविद्यालय** की डॉक्टरेट शोधार्थी **Caroline Wiernicki** के अनुसार, टैग लगाने की प्रक्रिया मई की शुरुआत में शुरू होती है, जब अत्यधिक प्रवासी प्रजातियाँ अटलांटिक में दूर स्थित अपने शीतकालीन आवासों से तट के निकट आ जाती हैं।
- Researchers head 50 to 65 km offshore aboard a research vessel, deploy baited lines and wait, two to three hours, for a shark to take the bait, Ms. Wiernicki said.
सुश्री Wiernicki ने कहा कि शोधकर्ता एक अनुसंधान पोत पर सवार होकर **तट से 50 से 65 किमी दूर** जाते हैं, चारे लगी हुई डोरियाँ डालते हैं और शार्क के चारा लेने के लिए **दो से तीन घंटे** प्रतीक्षा करते हैं।
- “The tags are attached to the **dorsal fin**. Then every time the shark fins (swims) at the surface, the tag can communicate and transmit data to the orbiting network of satellite receivers,” Dr. Carlisle said.
“**टैग पृष्ठीय पंख (dorsal fin)** पर लगाए जाते हैं। इसके बाद जब भी शार्क सतह पर तैरती है, टैग संपर्क स्थापित कर सकता है और परिक्रमा कर रहे **उपग्रह रिसीवरों के नेटवर्क** को डेटा प्रसारित कर सकता है,” डॉ. Carlisle ने कहा।
- The tagging process itself is operated “like a **pit crew**” in an auto race, he said, and usually takes less than five minutes.
उन्होंने कहा कि टैग लगाने की प्रक्रिया स्वयं ऑटो रेस में **पिट क्रू** की तरह संचालित की जाती है और इसमें सामान्यतः **पाँच मिनट से भी कम समय** लगता है।
- The tagging is carried out under **institutional animal care oversight** to minimise impact on the sharks.
शार्क पर प्रभाव को न्यूनतम रखने के लिए टैग लगाने की प्रक्रिया **संस्थागत पशु देखभाल निगरानी** के अंतर्गत की जाती है।
- The tags are attached using materials designed to corrode and fall off over time.
टैग ऐसे पदार्थों का उपयोग करके लगाए जाते हैं, जिन्हें समय के साथ **क्षरित होकर अलग हो जाने** के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।
- Each shark also undergoes a **health check** before release, as a stressed or harmed shark may not behave naturally, potentially biasing the data, Dr. Carlisle said.
डॉ. Carlisle ने कहा कि प्रत्येक शार्क को छोड़ने से पहले उसकी **स्वास्थ्य जाँच** भी की जाती है, क्योंकि तनावग्रस्त या घायल शार्क स्वाभाविक व्यवहार नहीं कर सकती, जिससे संभावित रूप से डेटा में **पूर्वाग्रह** उत्पन्न हो सकता है।



QUESTION 5

In 1972, a chemist named Stephanie Kwolek discovered _____, a polymer fibre that was five-times stronger than the same weight of steel. In the patent, it was called optically anisotropic aromatic polyamide dopes. Today, it is used in bulletproof vests and aerospace parts. Fill in the blank.

Answers to August 6 quiz:

1. Dead stars with ultra-powerful magnetic fields – **Ans: Neutron stars**
2. Star type formed when neutron stars collapse without becoming black holes – **Ans: Quark star**
3. Co-predictor of red giant stars with neutron-star cores – **Ans: Kip Thorne**
4. Unusually younger, hotter stars in old star clusters – **Ans: Blue stragglers**
5. Colloquial name for stars being accelerated by their supernovae – **Ans: Zombie stars**

Visual: **Tabetha Boyajian**

First contact: Anmol Agrawal | K.N. Viswanathan | Shristy Verma | Kaushal Kumar | Isha Agrawal



VISUAL: Name this famous Hollywood actress who, together with George Antheil, received a patent for a technology to make radio-guided torpedoes harder for enemies to detect in 1942. They subsequently donated the patent to the U.S. Navy.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

11A8. Quiz

1. Dead stars with ultra-powerful magnetic fields

- A **neutron star** is the extremely dense remnant left after the core of a massive star collapses, generally in association with a **supernova explosion**.
- However, the clue specifically says “**ultra-powerful magnetic fields**,” so the more precise answer is **magnetar**, rather than neutron star generally.
- A **magnetar** is a special type of neutron star possessing extraordinarily intense magnetic fields.
- NASA describes magnetars as neutron stars with the **most powerful known magnetic fields in the universe**.
- Their magnetic fields can be roughly **a thousand times stronger than those of typical neutron stars**.
- Magnetic stresses can fracture their crust, producing powerful **X-ray and gamma-ray outbursts**.

Therefore: “**Neutron star**” is broadly correct, but “**Magnetar**” is the scientifically precise answer.

2. Star type formed when neutron stars collapse without becoming black holes

- A **quark star** is a hypothetical compact star proposed in some models of extremely dense matter.
- In an ordinary neutron star, enormous pressure compresses matter to densities where neutrons dominate its interior.
- Under still more extreme conditions, theories suggest neutrons could break down into their constituent **quarks**, potentially producing **quark matter**.
- A compact object dominated by such matter is commonly described as a **quark star**.
- However, quark stars **have not been conclusively observed**, and their existence remains theoretical.
- Therefore, it is too definite to state that neutron stars simply “collapse into quark stars” if they do not become black holes.
- For examination purposes, remember: **Quark Star = hypothetical ultra-dense compact star composed substantially of quark matter**.

Hence, the quiz answer should be treated as a theoretical possibility, not an established stage of stellar evolution.



3. Co-predictor of red giant stars with neutron-star cores

- **Kip Thorne** and astrophysicist **Anna Żytkow** investigated whether a neutron star could exist inside another large star.
- In **1975**, they predicted an unusual stellar object consisting essentially of a **neutron-star core inside a red supergiant**.
- Such hypothetical stars became known as **Thorne–Żytkow Objects (TŻOs)**, after the two scientists.
- Their models predicted that these objects should exhibit unusual **chemical abundances**, potentially helping astronomers identify them observationally.
- The object **HV 2112** in the Small Magellanic Cloud was later investigated as a possible candidate, although identifying TŻOs observationally remains challenging.
- Thus, **Kip Thorne** is correct, but remember his co-predictor: **Anna Żytkow**.

Exam Fact: Thorne–Żytkow Object = Red supergiant containing a neutron-star core.

4. Unusually younger, hotter stars in old star clusters

- **Blue stragglers** are unusual stars found particularly in populations such as **old star clusters**.
- They appear **hotter, bluer and younger** than surrounding stars that should have approximately the same age.
- Their apparent youth means they seem to “straggle” behind the normal ageing or evolutionary sequence of their stellar population.
- NASA observations indicate that some blue stragglers may form through **stellar collisions or mergers**.
- Another important mechanism involves **binary systems**, where one star receives material from its companion.
- The additional material can supply fresh hydrogen and increase the star's mass, allowing it to burn **hotter and bluer**.
- Thus, they appear rejuvenated despite belonging to an old stellar population.

Exam Fact: Blue Stragglers = apparently young, hot and blue stars within otherwise old stellar populations.

5. Stars accelerated by their own supernovae

- The expression “**zombie star**” is informal and does **not simply mean any star accelerated by its supernova**.
- NASA uses the term particularly for a **white dwarf that survives an incomplete or unusually weak thermonuclear supernova**, such as a **Type Iax supernova**.
- Unlike an ordinary Type Ia event that is expected to destroy the exploding white dwarf, a Type Iax explosion may leave a **battered surviving white-dwarf remnant**.
- Some surviving remnants can receive substantial velocities from the asymmetric explosion and travel rapidly through the Galaxy.
- NASA has discussed **LP 40-365** as a possible surviving remnant of a past supernova.
- Therefore, “zombie star” primarily describes a **surviving stellar remnant**, not merely a supernova-accelerated star.

Exam Fact: Zombie Star = informal term for a stellar remnant, particularly a white dwarf surviving a partial supernova explosion.

6. Hollywood actress who helped develop a system for radio-guided torpedoes

- **Hedy Lamarr**, famous as a Hollywood actress, was also an inventor who collaborated with composer **George Antheil** during the Second World War.



- They devised a **frequency-hopping communication system** intended to make radio-controlled torpedoes more resistant to **detection, interference and enemy jamming**.
- Instead of transmitting continuously on one frequency, their system switched rapidly among different radio frequencies in a synchronized pattern.
- Lamarr and Antheil received **U.S. Patent No. 2,292,387** for their "Secret Communication System" in **1942**.
- Smithsonian records date the patent to **11 August 1942**.
- Their frequency-hopping concept later became an important development in the history of **secure and spread-spectrum wireless communications**.
- **Important correction:** Saying that they simply "**donated the patent to the U.S. Navy**" is an oversimplification. The U.S. Navy initially did not adopt their proposed system; later frequency-hopping concepts found military applications.

How did Google's AI satellite images raise safety concerns?

Google rolled back its AI image-generation feature in Google Earth within a day after users created satellite deepfakes that appeared to show violence, disasters, and other policy violations; the feature raised concerns over the misuse of fake satellite imagery for misinformation and scams

CS III: S&T
Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

A new AI feature launched by Google in late July remained active for around a day before it was pulled down by the company, amidst serious safety and misinformation concerns. The launch of the feature and its quick rollback showed how easily even casual internet users broke past Google's enterprise-level safeguards in order to create deepfake satellite images, in spite of the risks they pose.

What was the AI feature launched by Google?

Put simply, users could open Google Earth – the company's immersive satellite map of the planet – in order to zoom into a place, choose the "create image" option, and type whatever they wanted to see built on top of the original imagery.

On July 30, Google Earth's Product Manager Bryan Horowitz shared a blog post that invited users to "transform any place," with AI, the process powered by the company's image generation Nano Banana technology.

Google suggested several wholesome use cases for the feature, such as re-imagining (not visualising) how modern-day landmarks looked in ancient times, as well as generating mock-ups of

completed real estate projects, creating educational infographics, and giving real-life locations a fantasy feel. Teachers, architects, and urban planners were invited to get creative with the prompts, and Google shared examples as well.

Why was the AI feature taken down?

On July 31, the company posted an update to its launch blog post, confirming that the AI feature in Google Earth had been rolled back over possible policy violations by others.

"We know that people uniquely trust Google Earth for a reliable view of the world. We've seen geospatial professionals using this feature for a range of useful purposes, however we've also seen people sharing screenshots of generated imagery that appear to violate our policies. So we're rolling back this feature in Google Earth while we work on implementing stronger guardrails," stated the update, adding, "It's important to note that generated images didn't appear in the main Google Earth experience for others to see and were watermarked as AI generated."

While the official notice did not blame specific parties or provide examples of the offending images, the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) showed satellite deepfake screenshots that depicted terrorist attacks, human crises, industrial accidents, environmental

destruction, and more.

Some of these images were generated by casual users who managed to access the feature, while others were the result of safety tests run by researchers. The deepfakes ranged in quality from unrealistically violent to highly natural, sparking experts' concern.

Many users online criticised Google over the rollout of the feature, claiming that the potential for misuse of AI in satellite images far outweighed any benefits such a feature could have. Others questioned why the enterprise-level safeguards were so weak and easy to bypass when creating satellite image deepfakes that depicted violence.

What are the risks of fake AI satellite images?

Google defended its feature by highlighting that the AI-generated images did not appear as part of the public Google Earth experience. Even so, there are risks in allowing casual users to create AI satellite deepfakes for personal, commercial, or entertainment value.

Watermarks can be easily cropped out of such media, and the average user may lack the time and knowledge to further investigate a suspicious-looking satellite image – especially if it is presented in a short-form news video that is shared on social media and designed to go viral.

Satellite image deepfakes could also be

used to run real estate scams by changing land or geographic details, to the buyer's detriment. Furthermore, these images would not be appropriate to use in serious academic projects or scholarly works.

At a higher level, satellite image deepfakes could be created to spread harmful misinformation about ongoing conflicts, humanitarian tragedies, or even natural disasters.

This is not a hypothetical danger; during the Iran war in February and March this year, the Tehran Times account on X shared an AI image that appeared to show the aftermath of bombing a U.S. target. This was made with older satellite images, which helped researchers classify it as a fake.

Furthermore, satellite images themselves are not a perfect source of evidence. Multiple regions across the world have not been accurately updated over time, either due to inaccessibility or security regulations that prevent detailed street-level mapping. India and Israel are examples of such countries. To integrate high-quality AI deepfake generation features into these still fallible yet necessary resources adds yet more layers of risk.

The rollback of AI image generation in Google Earth shows that the world's largest internet company is still not ready to address these basic risks.

11A8. How did Google's AI satellite images raise safety concerns?

Google की AI सैटेलाइट इमेज ने सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताएँ कैसे पैदा कीं?

- Google rolled back its **AI image-generation feature in Google Earth** within a day after users created **satellite deepfakes** that appeared to show violence, disasters, and other policy violations; the feature raised concerns over the misuse of fake satellite imagery for **misinformation and scams**.

- उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा ऐसे सैटेलाइट डीपफेक बनाए जाने के बाद, जिनमें हिंसा, आपदाएँ और अन्य नीतिगत उल्लंघन दिखाई देते थे, Google ने एक दिन के भीतर **Google Earth** में अपने **AI इमेज-जनरेशन फीचर** को वापस ले लिया; इस फीचर ने **गलत सूचना और घोटालों** के लिए नकली सैटेलाइट इमेजरी के दुरुपयोग को लेकर चिंताएँ पैदा कीं।
- A new **AI feature** launched by Google in late July remained active for around a day before it was pulled down by the company, amidst serious **safety and misinformation concerns**.
- जुलाई के अंत में Google द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया एक नया **AI फीचर** लगभग एक दिन तक सक्रिय रहा, जिसके बाद गंभीर **सुरक्षा और गलत सूचना संबंधी चिंताओं** के बीच कंपनी ने इसे हटा लिया।
- The launch of the feature and its quick rollback showed how easily even casual internet users broke past Google's **enterprise-level safeguards** in order to create **deepfake satellite images**, in spite of the risks they pose.
- इस फीचर का लॉन्च और इसे शीघ्र वापस लिया जाना यह दर्शाता है कि इससे उत्पन्न जोखिमों के बावजूद सामान्य इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता भी **डीपफेक सैटेलाइट इमेज** बनाने के लिए Google के **एंटरप्राइज़-स्तरीय सुरक्षा उपायों** को कितनी आसानी से पार कर गए।

What was the AI feature launched by Google?

Google द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया AI फीचर क्या था?

- Put simply, users could open **Google Earth** — the company's immersive satellite map of the planet — in order to zoom into a place, choose the **“create image”** option, and type whatever they wanted to see built on top of the original imagery.
- सरल शब्दों में, उपयोगकर्ता **Google Earth** — कंपनी के पृथ्वी के इमर्सिव सैटेलाइट मैप — को खोलकर किसी स्थान पर ज़ूम कर सकते थे, **“create image”** विकल्प चुन सकते थे और मूल इमेजरी के ऊपर जो कुछ भी वे बनते हुए देखना चाहते थे, उसे टाइप कर सकते थे।
- On **July 30**, Google Earth's Product Manager **Bryan Horowitz** shared a blog post that invited users to **“transform any place,” with AI**, the process powered by the company's image generation **Nano Banana technology**.
- **30 जुलाई** को Google Earth के Product Manager **Bryan Horowitz** ने एक ब्लॉग पोस्ट साझा किया, जिसमें उपयोगकर्ताओं को AI के माध्यम से **“transform any place”** के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया था और यह प्रक्रिया कंपनी की इमेज जनरेशन **Nano Banana technology** द्वारा संचालित थी।
- Google suggested several wholesome use cases for the feature, such as re-imagining (not visualising) how **modern-day landmarks looked in ancient times**, as well as generating mock-ups of completed **real estate projects**, creating **educational infographics**, and giving real-life locations a **fantasy feel**.
- Google ने इस फीचर के कई सकारात्मक उपयोग सुझाए, जैसे यह पुनः कल्पना करना (न कि वास्तविक रूप से दिखाना) कि **आधुनिक समय के स्थल प्राचीन काल में कैसे दिखते थे**, साथ ही पूर्ण हो चुकी **रियल एस्टेट परियोजनाओं** के मॉक-अप तैयार करना, **शैक्षिक इन्फोग्राफिक्स** बनाना और वास्तविक स्थानों को **काल्पनिक स्वरूप** प्रदान करना।
- Teachers, architects, and urban planners were invited to get creative with the prompts, and Google shared examples as well.
- **शिक्षकों, वास्तुकारों और शहरी योजनाकारों** को प्रॉम्प्ट के साथ रचनात्मक प्रयोग करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया और Google ने इसके उदाहरण भी साझा किए।

Why was the AI feature taken down?

AI फीचर को क्यों हटाया गया?

- On **July 31**, the company posted an update to its launch blog post, confirming that the AI feature in **Google Earth** had been rolled back over possible **policy violations** by others.

- **31 जुलाई** को कंपनी ने अपने लॉन्च ब्लॉग पोस्ट में एक अपडेट जारी किया, जिसमें पुष्टि की गई कि अन्य लोगों द्वारा संभावित **नीतिगत उल्लंघनों** के कारण **Google Earth** में AI फीचर को वापस ले लिया गया था।
- "We know that people uniquely trust **Google Earth** for a reliable view of the world."
- "हम जानते हैं कि दुनिया का विश्वसनीय दृश्य देखने के लिए लोग विशेष रूप से **Google Earth** पर भरोसा करते हैं।"
- We've seen **geospatial professionals** using this feature for a range of useful purposes, however we've also seen people sharing screenshots of generated imagery that appear to **violate our policies**.
- हमने **भू-स्थानिक पेशेवरों (geospatial professionals)** को इस फीचर का कई उपयोगी उद्देश्यों के लिए इस्तेमाल करते देखा है, हालांकि हमने लोगों को जनरेट की गई इमेजरी के ऐसे स्क्रीनशॉट साझा करते हुए भी देखा है जो हमारी **नीतियों का उल्लंघन** करते प्रतीत होते हैं।
- So we're rolling back this feature in Google Earth while we work on implementing **stronger guardrails**," stated the update, adding, "It's important to note that generated images didn't appear in the main Google Earth experience for others to see and were **watermarked as AI generated**."
- इसलिए हम Google Earth में इस फीचर को वापस ले रहे हैं, जबकि हम **अधिक मजबूत सुरक्षा उपायों (stronger guardrails)** को लागू करने पर काम कर रहे हैं," अपडेट में कहा गया और आगे जोड़ा गया, "यह ध्यान रखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि जनरेट की गई इमेज दूसरों के देखने के लिए मुख्य Google Earth अनुभव में दिखाई नहीं देती थीं और उन पर **AI generated का वॉटरमार्क** लगा हुआ था।"
- While the official notice did not blame specific parties or provide examples of the offending images, the **social media platform X (formerly Twitter)** showed satellite deepfake screenshots that depicted **terrorist attacks, human crises, industrial accidents, environmental**
- हालांकि आधिकारिक नोटिस में किसी विशिष्ट पक्ष को दोषी नहीं ठहराया गया और न ही आपत्तिजनक इमेज के उदाहरण दिए गए, लेकिन **सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X (पूर्व में Twitter)** पर ऐसे सैटेलाइट डीपफेक स्क्रीनशॉट दिखाई दिए, जिनमें **आतंकवादी हमले, मानवीय संकट, औद्योगिक दुर्घटनाएँ, पर्यावरणीय**
- **destruction, and more.**
- **विनाश और अन्य घटनाएँ** दिखाई गई थीं।
- Some of these images were generated by **casual users** who managed to access the feature, while others were the result of **safety tests run by researchers**.
- इनमें से कुछ इमेज ऐसे **सामान्य उपयोगकर्ताओं** द्वारा बनाई गई थीं, जो इस फीचर तक पहुँचने में सफल रहे, जबकि अन्य इमेज **शोधकर्ताओं** द्वारा किए गए **सुरक्षा परीक्षणों** का परिणाम थीं।
- The deepfakes ranged in quality from **unrealistically violent to highly natural**, sparking experts' concern.
- इन डीपफेक की गुणवत्ता **अवास्तविक रूप से हिंसक से लेकर अत्यंत स्वाभाविक** तक थी, जिससे विशेषज्ञों में चिंता पैदा हुई।
- Many users online criticised **Google** over the rollout of the feature, claiming that the potential for misuse of AI in satellite images far outweighed any benefits such a feature could have.
- ऑनलाइन कई उपयोगकर्ताओं ने इस फीचर को शुरू करने को लेकर **Google की आलोचना** की और दावा किया कि सैटेलाइट इमेज में AI के दुरुपयोग की संभावना इस तरह के फीचर से होने वाले किसी भी लाभ से कहीं अधिक थी।
- Others questioned why the **enterprise-level safeguards** were so weak and easy to bypass when creating satellite image deepfakes that depicted violence.
- अन्य लोगों ने सवाल उठाया कि हिंसा दर्शाने वाले सैटेलाइट इमेज डीपफेक बनाते समय **एंटरप्राइज़-स्तरीय सुरक्षा उपाय** इतने कमजोर और आसानी से पार किए जाने योग्य क्यों थे।

What are the risks of fake AI satellite images?

नकली AI सैटेलाइट इमेज के क्या जोखिम हैं?



- Google defended its feature by highlighting that the **AI-generated images** did not appear as part of the public Google Earth experience.
- Google ने अपने फीचर का बचाव करते हुए इस बात पर जोर दिया कि **AI द्वारा बनाई गई इमेज** सार्वजनिक Google Earth अनुभव के हिस्से के रूप में दिखाई नहीं देती थीं।
- Even so, there are risks in allowing casual users to create **AI satellite deepfakes** for personal, commercial, or entertainment value.
- फिर भी, सामान्य उपयोगकर्ताओं को व्यक्तिगत, व्यावसायिक या मनोरंजन के उद्देश्य से **AI सैटेलाइट डीपफेक** बनाने की अनुमति देने में जोखिम है।
- **Watermarks can be easily cropped out** of such media, and the average user may lack the time and knowledge to further investigate a suspicious-looking satellite image — especially if it is presented in a short-form news video that is shared on social media and designed to go viral.
- ऐसे मीडिया से **वॉटरमार्क को आसानी से काटकर हटाया जा सकता है**, और एक सामान्य उपयोगकर्ता के पास संदिग्ध दिखने वाली सैटेलाइट इमेज की आगे जाँच करने के लिए समय और जानकारी की कमी हो सकती है — विशेष रूप से तब, जब उसे सोशल मीडिया पर साझा किए गए और वायरल होने के लिए बनाए गए किसी शॉर्ट-फॉर्म न्यूज़ वीडियो में प्रस्तुत किया गया हो।
- Satellite image deepfakes could also be used to run **real estate scams** by changing land or geographic details, to the buyer's detriment.
- भूमि या भौगोलिक विवरणों को बदलकर सैटेलाइट इमेज डीपफेक का उपयोग **रियल एस्टेट घोटाले** करने के लिए भी किया जा सकता है, जिससे खरीदार को नुकसान हो सकता है।
- Furthermore, these images would not be appropriate to use in **serious academic projects or scholarly works**.
- इसके अतिरिक्त, इन इमेज का उपयोग **गंभीर शैक्षणिक परियोजनाओं या विद्वतापूर्ण कार्यों** में करना उचित नहीं होगा।
- At a higher level, satellite image deepfakes could be created to spread **harmful misinformation** about ongoing conflicts, humanitarian tragedies, or even natural disasters.
- व्यापक स्तर पर, जारी संघर्षों, मानवीय त्रासदियों या यहाँ तक कि प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के बारे में **हानिकारक गलत सूचना** फैलाने के लिए सैटेलाइट इमेज डीपफेक बनाए जा सकते हैं।
- This is not a hypothetical danger; during the **Iran war in February and March this year**, the Tehran Times account on X shared an AI image that appeared to show the aftermath of bombing a U.S. target.
- यह कोई काल्पनिक खतरा नहीं है; **इस वर्ष फरवरी और मार्च में ईरान युद्ध** के दौरान, X पर Tehran Times के अकाउंट ने एक AI इमेज साझा की, जिसमें ऐसा प्रतीत हो रहा था कि वह किसी अमेरिकी लक्ष्य पर बमबारी के बाद की स्थिति दिखा रही थी।
- This was made with **older satellite images**, which helped researchers classify it as a fake.
- इसे **पुरानी सैटेलाइट इमेज** का उपयोग करके बनाया गया था, जिससे शोधकर्ताओं को इसे नकली के रूप में वर्गीकृत करने में मदद मिली।
- Furthermore, **satellite images themselves are not a perfect source of evidence**.
- इसके अतिरिक्त, **सैटेलाइट इमेज स्वयं भी साक्ष्य का पूर्णतः त्रुटिरहित स्रोत नहीं हैं**।
- Multiple regions across the world have not been accurately updated over time, either due to **inaccessibility or security regulations** that prevent detailed street-level mapping.
- दुनिया भर के कई क्षेत्रों को समय के साथ सटीक रूप से अपडेट नहीं किया गया है, जिसका कारण या तो **पहुँच का अभाव या सुरक्षा संबंधी नियम** हैं, जो विस्तृत स्ट्रीट-लेवल मैपिंग को रोकते हैं।
- **India and Israel** are examples of such countries.
- **भारत और इज़राइल** ऐसे देशों के उदाहरण हैं।
- To integrate **high-quality AI deepfake generation features** into these still fallible yet necessary resources adds yet more layers of risk.

- इन अभी भी त्रुटिपूर्ण, लेकिन आवश्यक संसाधनों में उच्च-गुणवत्ता वाले AI डीपफेक जनरेशन फीचर्स को एकीकृत करना जोखिम की और अधिक परतें जोड़ता है।
- The rollback of **AI image generation in Google Earth** shows that the world's largest internet company is still not ready to address these basic risks.
- **Google Earth में AI इमेज जनरेशन** को वापस लिया जाना दर्शाता है कि दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी इंटरनेट कंपनी अभी भी इन बुनियादी जोखिमों से निपटने के लिए तैयार नहीं है।

India's first privately-built FFSC rocket engine signals new dawn in space flight

Globally only three commercial companies have successfully developed high thrust FFSC engines, which are SpaceX and Stoke Space, both from the United States of America, and Land Space from China; the Bengaluru-based space company is the first Indian entity to develop this engine

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Hemanth C.S.

The story so far: A Bengaluru-based space firm, Astrobase Space Technologies, on August 7 unveiled India's first privately-built 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) LOX-Methane rocket engine named EVEREST.

This makes India the fourth nation to have FFSC engine technology after Russia, USA and China.

High thrust

The FFSC rocket engines are very powerful engines where the propellant flows from the tank or the source to the rocket engine's combustion chamber.

Staged combustion refers to combustion taking place in two stages wherein the fuel flows into the rocket engine from one side and the oxidiser from the other side.

In the case of a staged combustion, the engine fuel is injected in relatively small quantities while oxidiser is on the higher side. The fuel and oxidiser which is burnt and gases generated out of it are used for turning the turbines connected to the pump.

The gases generated are not left to the atmosphere but put back into the rocket combustion chamber ensuring that the propellant is utilised and not



Frontier tech: The Full-Flow Staged Combustion LOX-Methane rocket engine. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

wasted.

Key differentiator

FFSC engines are one of the most advanced liquid rocket engine architectures. Neeraj Khandelwal, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Astrobase, told *The Hindu* that unlike conventional rocket engines—where only a portion of the propellants is used to drive the turbo-pumps—the FFSC engine routes both the fuel and the oxidiser through separate pre-burners before they enter the main combustion chamber.

"This allows the turbo-pumps to operate more efficiently while ensuring that all of the propellants



The firm has been selected under Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre's Technology Adoption Fund for development of the rocket engine

ultimately contribute to generating thrust.

The architecture offers several long-term advantages. It enables high propulsion efficiency, supports precise throttle control and is well suited for reusable launch systems.

When paired with LOX-

Methane propellants, it also benefits from cleaner combustion, which can simplify refurbishment and support faster turnaround between missions," he said.

FFSC's importance

While the FFSC cycle is significantly more complex to design and develop than conventional engine cycles, it is widely regarded as an architecture that can support reliable, high-performance and reusable launch vehicles, said Mr. Khandelwal, who founded Astrobase Space Technologies in 2024 with former ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) scientist Devakumar Thammisetty.

"At Astrobase, we see this as an important technology for building indigenous launch capability and strengthening India's long-term access to space," he said.

In rocket science FFSC engines are considered to be very challenging technology which is more efficient over conventional engines. However they are very complex to develop and execute.

First in India

Globally only three commercial companies have successfully developed high thrust FFSC engines, which are SpaceX and Stoke Space, both from the United States of America, and Land Space from China. Of these only SpaceX's Raptor is the only operational FFSC engine as of now.

The Bengaluru-based space company is the first Indian entity to develop this engine and the fourth globally.

Besides this is the first time an Indian company has built a LOX-Methane high thrust engine which bats for cleaner next-generation launch systems.

Reusable vehicles

This development also unlocks reusable launch capabilities up to 30 tonne to low earth orbit and a possible medium lift platform for launching commercial and strategic missions for

the Indian Government and from abroad. The EVEREST has been built using advanced manufacturing, including India's largest industrial 3D printer.

Test flight

The development of the engine started in 2024 and two years later the company unveiled the 800 kN FFSC rocket engine at its facility in the outskirts of Bengaluru. Subsystems of the engine have so far been tested.

Fully integrated testing including the engine hot fire campaign is planned to start in next few months at its test facility Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh. The first flight is targeted for December 2028.

Path ahead

The company said that it plans to manufacture and test around 20 engines before its first orbital flight. Currently, it has established a capacity to build six to eight engines per annum which will be scaled up to build 60 engines per annum.

The company has been selected under the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre's (IN-SPACe) Technology Adoption Fund for the development of this FFSC rocket engine. IN-SPACe is a single-window autonomous agency under the Department of Space.

11A8. India's rst privately-built FFSC rocket engine signals new dawn in space ight

भारत के पहले निजी रूप से निर्मित FFSC रॉकेट इंजन ने अंतरिक्ष उड़ान में नए युग का संकेत दिया

- The story so far: A Bengaluru-based space firm, **Astrobase Space Technologies**, on August 7 unveiled India's first privately-built **800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) LOX Methane rocket engine** named **EVEREST**.
अब तक की कहानी: **Bengaluru-based space firm, Astrobase Space Technologies** ने 7 अगस्त को भारत के पहले निजी रूप से निर्मित **800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) LOX Methane rocket engine** का अनावरण किया, जिसका नाम **EVEREST** रखा गया है।
- This makes India the **fourth nation** to have FFSC engine technology after **Russia, USA and China**.
इसके साथ भारत **Russia, USA और China** के बाद **FFSC engine technology** रखने वाला विश्व का चौथा देश बन गया है।

High thrust

उच्च प्रणोदन

- The **FFSC rocket engines** are very powerful engines where the propellant flows from the tank or the source to the rocket engine's combustion chamber.
FFSC rocket engines अत्यंत शक्तिशाली इंजन होते हैं, जिनमें प्रणोदक टैंक या स्रोत से रॉकेट इंजन के **combustion chamber** तक प्रवाहित होता है।
- Staged combustion** refers to combustion taking place in two stages where the fuel flows into the rocket engine from one side and the oxidiser from the other side.
Staged combustion से आशय दो चरणों में होने वाले दहन से है, जिसमें ईंधन एक ओर से रॉकेट इंजन में प्रवाहित होता है और **oxidiser** दूसरी ओर से प्रवेश करता है।
- In the case of a staged combustion, the engine fuel is injected in relatively small quantities while oxidiser is on the higher side.
Staged combustion के मामले में इंजन ईंधन अपेक्षाकृत कम मात्रा में इंजेक्ट किया जाता है, जबकि **oxidiser** की मात्रा अधिक होती है।
- The fuel and oxidiser which is burnt and gases generated out of it are used for turning the turbines connected to the pump.
जले हुए ईंधन और oxidiser से उत्पन्न गैसों का उपयोग पंप से जुड़े **turbines** को घुमाने के लिए किया जाता है।
- The gases generated are not left to the atmosphere but put back into the rocket combustion chamber ensuring that the propellant is utilised and not wasted.
उत्पन्न गैसों को वायुमंडल में नहीं छोड़ा जाता, बल्कि उन्हें वापस **rocket combustion chamber** में भेज दिया जाता है, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित होता है कि प्रणोदक का उपयोग हो और वह व्यर्थ न जाए।

Key differentiator

प्रमुख विशिष्टता

- FFSC engines** are one of the most advanced liquid rocket engine architectures.
FFSC engines सबसे उन्नत **liquid rocket engine architectures** में से एक हैं।
- Neeraj Khandelwal**, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Astrobase, told The Hindu that unlike conventional rocket engines—where only a portion of the propellants is used to drive the turbo pumps—the FFSC engine routes both the fuel and the oxidiser through separate

pre-burners before they enter the main combustion chamber.

Neeraj Khandelwal, Astrobase के co-founder और Chief Executive Officer, ने The Hindustan Times को बताया कि conventional rocket engines के विपरीत — जहाँ प्रणोदकों के केवल एक हिस्से का उपयोग **turbo pumps** को चलाने के लिए किया जाता है — FFSC engine ईंधन और oxidiser दोनों को मुख्य **combustion chamber** में प्रवेश करने से पहले अलग-अलग **pre-burners** के माध्यम से प्रवाहित करता है।

- “This allows the **turbo pumps** to operate more efficiently while ensuring that all of the propellants ultimately contribute to generating thrust.
“यह **turbo pumps** को अधिक कुशलता से संचालित करने की अनुमति देता है और यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि सभी प्रणोदक अंततः **thrust उत्पन्न करने** में योगदान दें।
- The architecture offers several long-term advantages.
यह architecture कई **दीर्घकालिक लाभ** प्रदान करता है।
- It enables high propulsion efficiency, supports precise throttle control and is well suited for **reusable launch systems**.
यह उच्च **propulsion efficiency** सक्षम करता है, सटीक **throttle control** का समर्थन करता है और **reusable launch systems** के लिए उपयुक्त है।
- When paired with **LOX Methane propellants**, it also benefits from cleaner combustion, which can simplify refurbishment and support faster turnaround between missions,” he said.
जब इसे **LOX Methane propellants** के साथ जोड़ा जाता है, तो इससे स्वच्छ दहन का लाभ भी मिलता है, जो refurbishment को सरल बना सकता है और मिशनों के बीच तेज **turnaround** में सहायता कर सकता है,” उन्होंने कहा।

FFSC's importance

FFSC का महत्व

- While the **FFSC cycle** is significantly more complex to design and develop than conventional engine cycles, it is widely regarded as an architecture that can support reliable, high-performance and reusable launch vehicles, said Mr. Khandelwal, who founded **Astrobase Space Technologies** in 2024 with former **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** scientist **Devakumar Thammisetty**.
Mr. Khandelwal, जिन्होंने 2024 में पूर्व **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** scientist **Devakumar Thammisetty** के साथ **Astrobase Space Technologies** की स्थापना की थी, ने कहा कि यद्यपि **FFSC cycle** को conventional engine cycles की तुलना में डिजाइन और विकसित करना काफी अधिक जटिल है, फिर भी इसे व्यापक रूप से ऐसी architecture माना जाता है जो विश्वसनीय, उच्च-प्रदर्शन वाले और **reusable launch vehicles** का समर्थन कर सकती है।
- “At Astrobase, we see this as an important technology for building indigenous launch capability and strengthening India's long term access to space,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “Astrobase में हम इसे **indigenous launch capability** विकसित करने और अंतरिक्ष तक भारत की **दीर्घकालिक पहुँच** को मजबूत करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण तकनीक के रूप में देखते हैं।”

In rocket science

रॉकेट विज्ञान में

- FFSC engines are considered to be very challenging technology which is more efficient over conventional engines.
FFSC engines को अत्यंत चुनौतीपूर्ण तकनीक माना जाता है, जो conventional engines की तुलना में अधिक कुशल है।

- However they are very complex to develop and execute.
हालाँकि, इन्हें विकसित करना और कार्यान्वित करना अत्यंत जटिल है।

First in India भारत में प्रथम

- Globally only three commercial companies have successfully developed high thrust **FFSC engines**, which are **SpaceX and Stoke Space**, both from the United States of America, and **Land Space** from China.
विश्व स्तर पर केवल तीन वाणिज्यिक कंपनियों ने सफलतापूर्वक उच्च thrust वाले **FFSC engines** विकसित किए हैं, जिनमें **SpaceX और Stoke Space**, दोनों United States of America से, तथा **Land Space** China से हैं।
- Of these only **SpaceX's Raptor** is the only operational FFSC engine as of now.
इनमें वर्तमान में केवल **SpaceX's Raptor** ही operational FFSC engine है।
- The Bengaluru-based space company is the first Indian entity to develop this engine and the fourth globally.
Bengaluru स्थित यह अंतरिक्ष कंपनी इस इंजन को विकसित करने वाली **पहली भारतीय इकाई और विश्व स्तर पर चौथी इकाई** है।
- Besides this is the first time an Indian company has built a **LOX-Methane high thrust engine** which bats for cleaner next-generation launch systems.
इसके अलावा, यह पहली बार है जब किसी भारतीय कंपनी ने **LOX-Methane high thrust engine** बनाया है, जो अधिक स्वच्छ **next-generation launch systems** के पक्ष में है।

Reusable vehicles

पुनः प्रयोज्य वाहन

- This development also unlocks **reusable launch capabilities up to 30 tonne to low earth orbit** and a possible medium lift platform for launching commercial and strategic missions for the Indian Government and from abroad.
यह विकास **low earth orbit तक 30 tonne की reusable launch capabilities** को भी सक्षम करता है और भारतीय सरकार तथा विदेशों से commercial और strategic missions के प्रक्षेपण के लिए संभावित **medium lift platform** का मार्ग खोलता है।
- The **EVEREST** has been built using advanced manufacturing, including India's largest industrial **3D printer**.
EVEREST को उन्नत विनिर्माण तकनीकों का उपयोग करके बनाया गया है, जिसमें भारत का सबसे बड़ा औद्योगिक **3D printer** भी शामिल है।

Test •ight

परीक्षण उड़ान

- The development of the engine started in **2024** and two years later the company unveiled the **800 kN FFSC rocket engine** at its facility in the outskirts of Bengaluru.
इंजन का विकास **2024** में शुरू हुआ और दो वर्ष बाद कंपनी ने Bengaluru के बाहरी क्षेत्र में अपनी सुविधा पर **800 kN FFSC rocket engine** का अनावरण किया।
- Subsystems of the engine have so far been tested.
अब तक इंजन के **subsystems** का परीक्षण किया जा चुका है।
- Fully integrated testing including the engine **hot •re campaign** is planned to start in next few months at its test facility **Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh**.



इंजन के hot •re campaign सहित पूर्ण रूप से एकीकृत परीक्षण अगले कुछ महीनों में Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh स्थित इसकी परीक्षण सुविधा में शुरू करने की योजना है।

- The •rst •ight is targeted for **December 2028**.
पहली flight का लक्ष्य **December 2028** रखा गया है।

Path ahead

आगे की राह

- The company said that it plans to manufacture and test around **20 engines** before its •rst orbital •ight.
कंपनी ने कहा कि वह अपनी पहली **orbital flight** से पहले लगभग **20 engines** का निर्माण और परीक्षण करने की योजना बना रही है।
- Currently, it has established a capacity to build **six to eight engines per annum** which will be scaled up to build **60 engines per annum**.
वर्तमान में उसने प्रति वर्ष **छह से आठ engines** बनाने की क्षमता स्थापित की है, जिसे बढ़ाकर प्रति वर्ष **60 engines** बनाने तक ले जाया जाएगा।
- The company has been selected under the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre's (IN-SPACe) Technology Adoption Fund** for the development of this FFSC rocket engine.
इस FFSC rocket engine के विकास के लिए कंपनी का चयन **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre's (IN-SPACe) Technology Adoption Fund** के तहत किया गया है।
- **IN-SPACe** is a single-window autonomous agency under the **Department of Space**.
IN-SPACe Department of Space के अधीन एक **single-window autonomous agency** है।

GS Paper III: Environment	11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11A8	Agasthyamalai eviction orders still silence Forest Rights Act अगस्त्यमलाई में बेदखली के आदेश अब भी वन अधिकार अधिनियम को मौन कर रहे हैं



A six-month-old Indian vulture (Gyps indicus) being released at the Sri Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary in Ramanagara, Karnataka. The vulture had been rescued and treated by the People for Animals (PfA) Wildlife Hospital in coordination with the Forest Department. P11

A six-month-old Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) being released at the Sri Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary in Ramanagara, Karnataka. The vulture had been rescued and treated by the People for Animals (PfA) Wildlife Hospital in coordination with the Forest Department.



Agasthyamalai eviction orders still silence Forest Rights Act

The FRA does not require that traditional forest-dwellers need to occupy the land they are claiming for three generations before 2005 nor does it prohibit commercial activities on all forest lands – yet the administration and the judiciary have hampered its implementation on these grounds

Agasthyamalai is a 3,500 sq. km biosphere reserve within Tamil Nadu and Kerala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Agasthyamalai is a 3,500 sq. km biosphere reserve within Tamil Nadu and Kerala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Angry outbursts and tears of desperation swept the hillsides in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR), particularly in Theni. In the last few weeks, the Forest Department has issued eviction notices to thousands of households on the Tamil Nadu side alleging they had encroached on forest land.

Based on the findings and recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), the Supreme Court directed a time-bound encroachment eviction plan, rehabilitation where applicable, legal action against wilful violators, and post-eviction ecological restoration.

It also imposed additional penalties against 118 government servants found to be encroachers, and ordered the dismantling of all structures, utilities, logistical facilities, etc. within encroached forest areas.

Finally, the Bench prohibited the diversion of forest land or the start of new non-forest activities within the ABR until all encroachments had been removed.

Likewise, it granted immunity from prosecution to all forest, police, revenue, and other officials involved in surveying, demarcating, and removing encroachments as part of this exercise except in cases involving mala fide or arbitrary action. Significantly, the court directed the CEC to recommend the deployment of paramilitary forces if the Tamil Nadu government failed to comply with the court's directions.

The State is also to decide on the utilisation, retention, relocation or removal of all infrastructure and other establishments belonging to the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, Ltd. (BBTCL) in the Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, in consultation with the CEC.

Historical injustice
Parliament enacted the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in 2006 to undo the historical injustice suffered by forest dwellers. It recognised and vested forest rights on forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who had occupied forest land before December 13, 2005.

The FRA provided for a transparent process for these individuals to claim their individual and community rights, to be verified and approved by gram sabhas. Six member sub-division and district-level committees – with representatives from the Revenue, Tribal, and Forest Departments and the elected members of panchayats – have to examine the claims and issue titles. Those forest land occupations that didn't fall within the FRA's scope could then become the actual encroachment.

But over the years, State governments, the CEC, the Forest Departments, and even the Supreme Court have ignored this basic legal fact. Despite the FRA having operated for two decades, no official has asked for data on forest land occupation falling outside the FRA's scope nor has such information been presented to the public – making the data presented on encroachment and encroachers in any forum suspect.

In fact, in the recent hearings, the Supreme Court should have hauled up the recalcitrant State governments for poor FRA implementation. The Tribal Department, which is the nodal department to implement the Act, has also been problematically silent over these infirmities.

The FRA also prohibits authorities from surveying people who have allegedly encroached on forest land "till the recognition and verification procedure is complete". Violating these forest rights has been described as an atrocity under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, since 2016. Yet courts and officials have continued to breach this principle.

Nowhere does the FRA produce a requirement that other traditional forest dwellers have to have occupied the land they are claiming for three generations (75 years) before 2005. Nor does the Act prohibit commercial activities on all forest lands or cultivating commercial crops there. In fact, the FRA defines "bonafide livelihood needs" to include the "sale of surplus produce arising out of exercise of such rights". It also explicitly permits grazing on all forest lands. Yet the administration and the judiciary have hampered the FRA's implementation on these dubious grounds.

CEC's findings
The ABR spans 3,500 sq. km across Kerala (including parts of Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Idukki, and Thiruvananthapuram) and Tamil Nadu (Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tenkasi, Theni, and Dindigul).

It also covers protected areas as Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, the Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve, the Nelli Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, it includes the Periyar Tiger Reserve and the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.

In March 2025, the Supreme Court directed the CEC to conduct an extensive

The Supreme Court directed a time-bound encroachment eviction plan, rehabilitation where applicable, legal action against wilful violators, and post-eviction ecological restoration at the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

survey of the entire Agasthyamalai landscape and report within three months on non-forestry activities in violation of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.

Based on inputs from the Forest Departments, field visits besides, and the previous Madras High Court orders pertaining to Megamalai, the CEC submitted its interim report on July 10, 2025, and the final report on January 16, 2026. The Court's latest directions were based on the contents of these reports.

Five of its findings follow:
(i) Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve: Around 4,595 individuals encroached 5,071.2 ha across Varusanadu, Megamalai, Gandamanur, and Chinnamanur, per 2020 records. The Theni district magistrate reported 4,601 encroachers had occupied 5,072.6 ha. The CEC also recorded 118 serving or retired government employees had encroached 15 ha.

(ii) Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve: Of the 3,388.7 ha of land leased to BBTCL – of the Wadia Group – roughly 2,300 ha had been handed over to the Forest Department in May 2025. The remaining 89.6 ha housed factories, offices, schools, common places with shops, weigh bridges, etc. Their dismantling was to be completed shortly. Another 10.1 hectares had been occupied by 99 families of workers involved in building the Papanasam Upper and Lower Dams in 1942.

(iii) Kanyakumari Forest Division: Some 427.4 ha had been encroached by 553 persons, of which 257 ha by 47 persons was involved in court cases.

(iv) Periyar Tiger Reserve: About 700 non-tribal inhabitants have lived on tea estates in core areas since the early 20th century.

(v) Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary: 1.3 ha had been occupied by tribal people in Katilappara and Rosemala settlements.

Petitions dismissed
The apex court's new orders relate to appeals against the Madras High Court order denying the petitioners' claims about implementing FRA in Manjalai tea estate and rehabilitating evicted estate workers. The court subsequently extended the case's scope to cover ABR, inside which the estate is located.

The lease of the 3,388.7 ha of land leased to BBTCL for 99 years was set to expire in 2026. The Tamil Nadu government declared this land to be part of the critical tiger habitat of the Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in 2007, notified it as reserve forest in 2018, and issued the eviction notice in 2023. BBTCL then initiated a voluntary retirement scheme for its workers.

These workers filed several PILs and writ petitions challenging the scheme as well as the State's actions, but the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court both dismissed them in 2024 and 2025.

One petition had contended that as the estate had been set up in 1929, the workers should be considered for forest claims under the FRA as 'other traditional forest-dwellers' fulfilling residence in the region for three generations. But the High Court declared these workers to be estate employees, not forest dwellers, and circumscribed them from the FRA's ambit.

Thus, the historical injustice continues. C.R. Bijoy examines natural resource conflicts and governance issues. crbijoy@gmail.com

11A8. Agasthyamalai eviction orders still silence Forest Rights Act

अगस्त्यमलाई में बेदखली के आदेश अब भी वन अधिकार अधिनियम को मौन कर रहे हैं

• Angry outbursts and tears of desperation swept the hillsides in the **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR)**, particularly in **Theni**.

अगस्त्यमलाई जैवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र (ABR) की पहाड़ियों, विशेषकर थेनी, में आक्रोशपूर्ण उद्गार और निराशा के आँसू फैल गए।

• In the last few weeks, the **Forest Department** has issued eviction notices to thousands of households on the Tamil Nadu side alleging they had **encroached on forest land**.

पिछले कुछ सप्ताहों में, वन विभाग ने तमिलनाडु की ओर स्थित हजारों परिवारों को यह आरोप लगाते हुए बेदखली के नोटिस जारी किए हैं कि उन्होंने वन भूमि पर अतिक्रमण किया है।

• Based on the findings and recommendations of the **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)**, the **Supreme Court** directed a time-bound encroachment eviction plan, rehabilitation where applicable, legal action against wilful violators, and post-eviction ecological restoration.

केंद्रीय अधिकारप्राप्त समिति (CEC) के निष्कर्षों और सिफारिशों के आधार पर, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने समयबद्ध अतिक्रमण-बेदखली योजना, जहाँ लागू हो वहाँ पुनर्वास, जानबूझकर उल्लंघन करने वालों के विरुद्ध कानूनी कार्रवाई तथा बेदखली के बाद पारिस्थितिक पुनर्स्थापन का निर्देश दिया।

• It also imposed additional penalties against **118 government servants** found to be encroachers, and ordered the dismantling of all structures, utilities, logistical facilities, etc. within encroached forest areas.

इसने अतिक्रमणकारी पाए गए **118 सरकारी कर्मचारियों** के विरुद्ध अतिरिक्त दंड भी लगाया तथा अतिक्रमित वन क्षेत्रों के भीतर सभी संरचनाओं, उपयोगिताओं, रसद सुविधाओं आदि को ध्वस्त करने का आदेश दिया।

• Finally, the Bench prohibited the diversion of forest land or the start of new non-forest activities within the **ABR** until all encroachments had been removed.

अंततः, पीठ ने सभी अतिक्रमण हटाए जाने तक **ABR** के भीतर वन भूमि के अन्य उपयोग में परिवर्तन या नई गैर-वन गतिविधियों की शुरुआत पर रोक लगा दी।

• Likewise, it granted immunity from prosecution to all forest, police, revenue, and other officials involved in surveying, demarcating, and removing encroachments as part of this exercise except in cases involving **mala fide or arbitrary action**.

इसी प्रकार, न्यायालय ने इस प्रक्रिया के तहत सर्वेक्षण, सीमांकन और अतिक्रमण हटाने में शामिल सभी वन,



पुलिस, राजस्व तथा अन्य अधिकारियों को अभियोजन से छूट प्रदान की, सिवाय उन मामलों के जिनमें दुर्भावनापूर्ण या मनमानी कार्रवाई शामिल हो।

- Significantly, the court directed the CEC to recommend the deployment of paramilitary forces if the Tamil Nadu government failed to comply with the court's directions.

महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, न्यायालय ने निर्देश दिया कि यदि तमिलनाडु सरकार न्यायालय के निर्देशों का अनुपालन करने में विफल रहती है, तो CEC अर्धसैनिक बलों की तैनाती की सिफारिश करे।

- The State is also to decide on the utilisation, retention, relocation or removal of all infrastructure and other establishments belonging to the **Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, Ltd. (BBTCL)** in the **Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve**, in consultation with the CEC.

राज्य को CEC के परामर्श से कलक्कड़-मुंडनथुराई टाइगर रिजर्व में **Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, Ltd. (BBTCL)** से संबंधित सभी अवसंरचनाओं और अन्य प्रतिष्ठानों के उपयोग, संरक्षण, स्थानांतरण या हटाने के संबंध में भी निर्णय लेना है।

Historical injustice

ऐतिहासिक अन्याय

- Parliament enacted the **Forest Rights Act (FRA)** in 2006 to undo the historical injustice suffered by forest dwellers.

संसद ने वन अधिकार अधिनियम (FRA) को 2006 में वनवासियों द्वारा झेले गए ऐतिहासिक अन्याय को दूर करने के लिए अधिनियमित किया था।

- It recognised and vested forest rights on forest-dwelling **Scheduled Tribes** and other traditional forest dwellers who had occupied forest land before **December 13, 2005**.

इसने उन वनवासी अनुसूचित जनजातियों और अन्य पारंपरिक वनवासियों के वन अधिकारों को मान्यता दी और उन्हें निहित किया, जिन्होंने 13 दिसंबर, 2005 से पहले वन भूमि पर कब्जा किया था।

- The FRA provided for a transparent process for these individuals to claim their **individual and community rights**, to be verified and approved by **gram sabhas**.

FRA ने इन व्यक्तियों के लिए अपने व्यक्तिगत और सामुदायिक अधिकारों का दावा करने हेतु एक पारदर्शी प्रक्रिया का प्रावधान किया, जिनका सत्यापन और अनुमोदन ग्राम सभाओं द्वारा किया जाना था।

- Six-member sub-division- and district-level committees — with representatives from the **Revenue, Tribal, and Forest Departments** and the elected members of panchayats — have to examine the claims and issue titles.

छह-सदस्यीय उप-मंडल और जिला-स्तरीय समितियों को — जिनमें राजस्व, जनजातीय और वन विभागों के प्रतिनिधि तथा पंचायतों के निर्वाचित सदस्य शामिल होते हैं — दावों की जाँच करनी होती है और अधिकार-पत्र जारी करने होते हैं।

- Those forest land occupations that didn't fall within the **FRA's scope** could then become the actual encroachment.

वन भूमि पर ऐसे कब्जे, जो FRA के दायरे में नहीं आते थे, तभी वास्तविक अतिक्रमण माने जा सकते थे।

- But over the years, **State governments, the CEC, the Forest Departments, and even the Supreme Court** have ignored this basic legal fact.

लेकिन वर्षों से राज्य सरकारों, CEC, वन विभागों और यहाँ तक कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने इस बुनियादी कानूनी तथ्य की अनदेखी की है।

- Despite the FRA having operated for two decades, no official has asked for data on forest land occupation falling outside the FRA's scope nor has such information been presented to the public — making the data presented on encroachment and encroachers in any forum **suspect**.

FRA के दो दशकों से लागू होने के बावजूद, किसी अधिकारी ने FRA के दायरे से बाहर आने वाले वन भूमि कब्जों से संबंधित आँकड़े नहीं माँगे हैं और न ही ऐसी जानकारी जनता के समक्ष प्रस्तुत की गई है — जिससे किसी भी मंच पर अतिक्रमण और अतिक्रमणकारियों से संबंधित प्रस्तुत आँकड़े संदिग्ध हो जाते हैं।

- In fact, in the recent hearings, the **Supreme Court** should have hauled up the recalcitrant State governments for poor **FRA implementation**.
वास्तव में, हाल की सुनवाईयों में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को जिद्दी राज्य सरकारों को FRA के खराब क्रियान्वयन के लिए जवाबदेह ठहराना चाहिए था।
- The **Tribal Department**, which is the nodal department to implement the Act, has also been problematically silent over these infirmities.
जनजातीय विभाग, जो इस अधिनियम के क्रियान्वयन के लिए नोडल विभाग है, भी इन कमियों पर चिंताजनक रूप से मौन रहा है।
- The FRA also prohibits authorities from evicting people who have allegedly encroached on forest land “till the recognition and verification procedure is complete”.
FRA अधिकारियों को उन लोगों को बेदखल करने से भी रोकता है, जिन पर वन भूमि पर कथित रूप से अतिक्रमण करने का आरोप है, “जब तक मान्यता और सत्यापन की प्रक्रिया पूरी नहीं हो जाती”।
- Violating these forest rights has been described as an **atrocity** under the **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**, since 2016.
2016 से इन वन अधिकारों का उल्लंघन SC/ST (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989 के तहत एक अत्याचार के रूप में वर्णित किया गया है।
- Yet courts and officials have continued to breach this principle.
फिर भी न्यायालयों और अधिकारियों ने इस सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन जारी रखा है।
- Nowhere does the FRA produce a requirement that other traditional forest dwellers have to have occupied the land they are claiming for **three generations (75 years)** before 2005.
FRA में कहीं भी यह आवश्यकता निर्धारित नहीं की गई है कि अन्य पारंपरिक वनवासियों ने जिस भूमि पर अपना दावा किया है, उस पर 2005 से पहले तीन पीढ़ियों (75 वर्षों) तक कब्जा किया होना चाहिए।
- Nor does the Act prohibit **commercial activities** on all forest lands or cultivating commercial crops there.
न ही यह अधिनियम सभी वन भूमियों पर वाणिज्यिक गतिविधियों या वहाँ वाणिज्यिक फसलों की खेती पर प्रतिबंध लगाता है।
- In fact, the FRA defines “**bona fide livelihood needs**” to include the “sale of surplus produce arising out of exercise of such rights”.
वास्तव में, FRA “वास्तविक आजीविका आवश्यकताओं” में “ऐसे अधिकारों के प्रयोग से प्राप्त अधिशेष उपज की बिक्री” को भी शामिल करता है।
- It also explicitly permits **grazing on all forest lands**.
यह सभी वन भूमियों पर चराई की स्पष्ट रूप से अनुमति भी देता है।
- Yet the administration and the judiciary have hampered the **FRA’s implementation** on these dubious grounds.
फिर भी प्रशासन और न्यायपालिका ने इन संदिग्ध आधारों पर FRA के क्रियान्वयन में बाधा उत्पन्न की है।

CEC’s Findings

CEC के निष्कर्ष

- The **ABR** spans **3,500 sq. km** across **Kerala** (including parts of Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Idukki, and Thiruvananthapuram) and **Tamil Nadu** (Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tenkasi, Theni, and Dindigul).
ABR का विस्तार **3,500 वर्ग किमी** क्षेत्र में **केरल** (जिसमें Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Idukki और Thiruvananthapuram के कुछ भाग शामिल हैं) तथा **तमिलनाडु** (Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tenkasi, Theni और Dindigul) तक है।
- It also covers protected areas as **Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve**, the **Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve**, the **Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary**, and the **Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu**.
इसमें तमिलनाडु के **Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve**, **Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger**

Reserve, Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary और Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary जैसे संरक्षित क्षेत्र भी शामिल हैं।

- In Kerala, it includes the **Periyar Tiger Reserve** and the **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary**.
केरल में इसमें **Periyar Tiger Reserve** और **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary** शामिल हैं।
- In **March 2025**, the **Supreme Court** directed the **CEC** to conduct an extensive survey of the entire **Agasthyamalai landscape** and report within three months on non-forestry activities in violation of the **Forest Conservation Act 1980** and the **Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972**.
मार्च 2025 में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **CEC** को पूरे **Agasthyamalai landscape** का व्यापक सर्वेक्षण करने और **Forest Conservation Act 1980** तथा **Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972** के उल्लंघन में की जा रही गैर-वानिकी गतिविधियों पर तीन महीने के भीतर रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया।
- Based on inputs from the **Forest Departments**, field visits besides, and the previous **Madras High Court** orders pertaining to **Megamalai**, the **CEC** submitted its interim report on **July 10, 2025**, and the final report on **January 16, 2026**.
Forest Departments से प्राप्त सूचनाओं, field visits के अतिरिक्त, तथा **Megamalai** से संबंधित पूर्व **Madras High Court** आदेशों के आधार पर **CEC** ने अपनी अंतरिम रिपोर्ट **July 10, 2025** को और final report **January 16, 2026** को प्रस्तुत की।
- The Court's latest directions were based on the contents of these reports.
न्यायालय के नवीनतम निर्देश इन रिपोर्टों की विषय-वस्तु पर आधारित थे।
- **Five of its Findings follow:**
इसके पाँच निष्कर्ष निम्नलिखित हैं:
- **(i) Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve:** Around **4,595 individuals** encroached **5,071.2 ha** across Varusanadu, Megamalai, Gandamanur, and Chinnamanur, per 2020 records.
(i) Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve: 2020 के अभिलेखों के अनुसार, लगभग **4,595 व्यक्तियों** ने Varusanadu, Megamalai, Gandamanur और Chinnamanur में **5,071.2 हेक्टेयर** भूमि पर अतिक्रमण किया था।
- The **Theni district magistrate** reported **4,601 encroachers** had occupied **5,072.6 ha**.
Theni district magistrate ने बताया कि **4,601 अतिक्रमणकारियों** ने **5,072.6 हेक्टेयर** भूमि पर कब्जा कर लिया था।
- The **CEC** also recorded **118 serving or retired government employees** had encroached **15 ha**.
CEC ने यह भी दर्ज किया कि **118 सेवारत या सेवानिवृत्त सरकारी कर्मचारियों** ने **15 हेक्टेयर** भूमि पर अतिक्रमण किया था।
- **(ii) Kalakad- Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve:** Of the **3,388.6 ha** of land leased to **BBTCL — of the Wadia Group** — roughly **3,300 ha** had been handed over to the **Forest Department** in **May 2025**.
(ii) Kalakad- Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve: **BBTCL — of the Wadia Group** — को पट्टे पर दी गई **3,388.6 हेक्टेयर** भूमि में से लगभग **3,300 हेक्टेयर** भूमि **May 2025** में **Forest Department** को सौंप दी गई थी।
- The remaining **89.6 ha** housed factories, offices, schools, common places with shops, weigh bridges, etc.
शेष **89.6 हेक्टेयर** भूमि पर कारखाने, offices, विद्यालय, दुकानों वाले सामान्य स्थान, weigh bridges आदि स्थित थे।
- Their dismantling was to be completed shortly.
उन्हें ध्वस्त करने की प्रक्रिया शीघ्र पूरी की जानी थी।
- Another **10.1 hectares** had been occupied by **99 families of workers** involved in building the **Papanasam Upper and Lower Dams** in 1942.
अन्य **10.1 हेक्टेयर** भूमि पर 1942 में **Papanasam Upper and Lower Dams** के निर्माण में शामिल **99 श्रमिक परिवारों** ने कब्जा कर रखा था।

- (iii) Kannyakumari Forest Division: Some 427.4 ha had been encroached by 553 persons, of which 237 ha by 47 persons was involved in court cases.
(iii) Kannyakumari Forest Division: लगभग 427.4 हेक्टेयर भूमि पर 553 व्यक्तियों ने अतिक्रमण किया था, जिसमें से 47 व्यक्तियों द्वारा अतिक्रमित 237 हेक्टेयर भूमि न्यायालयीन मामलों में शामिल थी।
- (iv) Periyar Tiger Reserve: About 700 non-tribal inhabitants have lived on tea estates in core areas since the early 20th century.
(iv) Periyar Tiger Reserve: लगभग 700 गैर-आदिवासी निवासी 20वीं शताब्दी के प्रारंभ से कोर क्षेत्रों में स्थित चाय बागानों में रह रहे हैं।
- (v) Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary: 1.3 ha had been occupied by tribal people in Kattilappara and Rosemala settlements.
(v) Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary: Kattilappara and Rosemala settlements में 1.3 हेक्टेयर भूमि पर आदिवासी लोगों ने कब्जा कर रखा था।

Petitions dismissed

याचिकाएँ खारिज

- The apex court's new orders relate to appeals against the Madras High Court order denying the petitioners' claims about implementing FRA in Manjolai tea estate and rehabilitating evicted estate workers.
शीर्ष न्यायालय के नए आदेश Madras High Court के उस आदेश के विरुद्ध अपीलों से संबंधित हैं, जिसमें Manjolai tea estate में FRA लागू करने और बेदखल किए गए बागान श्रमिकों के पुनर्वास संबंधी याचिकाकर्ताओं के दावों को अस्वीकार कर दिया गया था।
- The court subsequently extended the case's scope to cover ABR, inside which the estate is located.
इसके बाद न्यायालय ने मामले के दायरे को ABR तक विस्तारित कर दिया, जिसके भीतर यह बागान स्थित है।
- The lease of the 3,388.7 ha of land leased to BBTCL for 99 years was set to expire in 2028.
BBTCL को 99 वर्षों के लिए पट्टे पर दी गई 3,388.7 हेक्टेयर भूमि की लीज 2028 में समाप्त होने वाली थी।
- The Tamil Nadu government declared this land to be part of the critical tiger habitat of the Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in 2007, notified it as reserve forest in 2018, and issued the eviction notice in 2023.
Tamil Nadu government ने 2007 में इस भूमि को Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve के critical tiger habitat का हिस्सा घोषित किया, 2018 में इसे reserve forest के रूप में notified किया और 2023 में बेदखली का नोटिस जारी किया।
- BBTCL then initiated a voluntary retirement scheme for its workers.
इसके बाद BBTCL ने अपने श्रमिकों के लिए voluntary retirement scheme शुरू की।
- These workers filed several PILs and writ petitions challenging the scheme as well as the State's actions, but the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court both dismissed them in 2024 and 2025.
इन श्रमिकों ने इस योजना के साथ-साथ राज्य की कार्रवाइयों को चुनौती देते हुए कई PILs and writ petitions filed कीं, लेकिन Madras High Court और Supreme Court दोनों ने उन्हें क्रमशः 2024 और 2025 में खारिज कर दिया।
- One petition had contended that as the estate had been set up in 1929, the workers should be considered for forest claims under the FRA as 'other traditional forest-dwellers' fulfilling residence in the region for three generations.
एक याचिका में तर्क दिया गया था कि चूंकि यह बागान 1929 में स्थापित किया गया था, इसलिए श्रमिकों को FRA के तहत 'other traditional forest-dwellers' के रूप में वन संबंधी दावों के लिए पात्र माना जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि वे तीन पीढ़ियों से इस क्षेत्र में निवास की शर्त पूरी करते हैं।



- But the **High Court** declared these workers to be estate employees, not forest dwellers, and circumscribed them from the **FRA's** ambi
लेकिन **High Court** ने इन श्रमिकों को वनवासी नहीं बल्कि बागान कर्मचारी घोषित किया और उन्हें **FRA's** ambi से सीमित कर दिया।

Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

- The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**, commonly known as the **Forest Rights Act (FRA)**, seeks to correct the “**historical injustice**” suffered by forest-dwelling communities whose customary rights were inadequately recognised during the consolidation of State forests.
- It recognises their legitimate rights over forest land and resources while linking these rights with **forest conservation and sustainable use**.

Who is Eligible?

- **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs)**: Scheduled Tribe members or communities who primarily reside in and depend on forests or forest lands for **bona fide livelihood needs**.
- **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)**: Persons or communities who have primarily resided in forests or forest lands for **at least three generations (75 years) prior to December 13, 2005** and depend on them for bona fide livelihood needs.
- Importantly, the **75-year requirement concerns qualifying residence in forest/forest land, and does not require occupation of the specific land claimed for 75 years**.

Major Rights Recognised

- **Individual Forest Rights**: Right to hold and live on forest land under occupation for **habitation or self-cultivation for livelihood**.
- **Community Rights**: Traditional rights such as **grazing**, fishing, access to water bodies and seasonal resource access of pastoral and nomadic communities.
- **Minor Forest Produce**: Rights of ownership, collection, use and disposal of **minor forest produce**, including bamboo and other non-timber forest products.
- **Community Forest Resource Rights**: Communities can **protect, regenerate, conserve and manage** traditionally protected forest resources.
- **Habitat Rights**: The Act recognises habitat and habitation rights of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** and pre-agricultural communities.
- **Rights are heritable but not transferable or alienable**.

Institutional Mechanism

- The **Gram Sabha** initiates the process of receiving, verifying and recommending claims.
- Claims are subsequently examined through **Sub-Divisional Level Committees** and finally decided by the **District Level Committee**.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** is the nodal Union Ministry for FRA implementation.

Protection Against Eviction

- Under **Section 4(5)**, eligible forest dwellers cannot be **evicted or removed** from forest land under their occupation until the **recognition and verification process is complete**.



Essay	11 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11A8	English in India, a language that has earned its place भारत में अंग्रेज़ी, एक ऐसी भाषा जिसने अपना स्थान अर्जित किया है

English in India, a language that has earned its place

What makes a language Indian? A recent observation by the Supreme Court of India has revived the debate over whether English can be considered an indigenous language of India. The debate over the place of English in India has often been framed as a contest between English and Indian languages. Such a binary is both historically misleading and politically unhelpful. The promotion of Indian languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Kannada, or Marathi need not — and should not — be predicated upon denying recognition or patronage to English. The future of India's linguistic diversity lies not in choosing one language over another but in nurturing multilingualism. English may not be an indigenous language in the same historical sense as Sanskrit or Tamil, yet, over two centuries, has acquired a legitimate claim to belong to India.

A language transformed
The strongest objection to treating English as an Indian language is that it arrived with British colonialism. It was introduced to facilitate administration, commerce, missionary activity, and what the colonial rulers described as their civilising mission. In its early history, English undoubtedly served the interests of the Empire. Yet, languages cannot be permanently imprisoned by the circumstances of their arrival. Their identities are continually reshaped by the people who speak them. Once English entered India, Indians appropriated it, transformed it, and made it serve Indian aspirations rather than colonial objectives.

By the early 19th century, English had already become an instrument of Indian political and intellectual expression. In 1823, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and his associates submitted one of the earliest petitions in English defending the freedom of the Indian-language press in Calcutta. Later in the century, Dadabhai Naoroji marshalled his famous "Drain Theory" in English to expose the economic exploitation of India under British rule. Swami Vivekananda addressed educated India in English through his celebrated lecture, "My Plan of Campaign", delivered in Madras in 1897. Mahatma Gandhi himself translated *Hind Swaraj* into English, recognising that the language could carry Indian ideas to both national and international audiences. To deny English a place in India is, in some measure, to overlook the contributions of generations of Indians who employed the language to articulate Indian nationalism, social reform, and cultural renaissance.

After Independence, India indeed found a place for English. The Constituent Assembly debates on the language question adopted a



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English is no longer colonial and has evolved into a language, shaped by how Indians speak, think, and imagine themselves

balanced resolution. Moved by K.M. Munshi and N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, it recognised Hindi as the Official Language of the Union and retained English for official purposes. Over the subsequent decades, English has evolved into one of the principal languages of Indian academic and administrative domains, including but not limited to the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. India has also recognised English as a language of Indian creativity. The Sahitya Akademi has treated English as one of the languages of Indian literature, conferring annual awards. Indian Writing in English has developed into one of the richest literary traditions in the postcolonial world. From R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand to Amitav Ghosh and Vikram Seth, Indian writers have demonstrated that English can express Indian experiences with authenticity, subtlety, and artistic distinction.

Reach and scale
It is often argued that only a small section of Indians speak English. This is not exactly the case. The Census of 2011 reports that nearly 129 million Indians chose English as a first, second or third language. These numbers make India one of the largest English-speaking countries in the world. Nearly 2,60,000 people reported English to be their mother tongue. A whopping 83 million identified it as their second language. About 46 million spoke it as their third language. Scholars observe that the number of Indians who possess at least a functional knowledge of English may well have further increased to the range of 180 million to 250 million given the rapid expansion of English-medium education over the last decade. These statistics suggest that English has become the language of aspiration for a large segment of the Indian society.

As an aspirational people, Indians invest considerable effort and money in education. Nearly 31,000 schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) impart education primarily through English. So do the 3,000 schools which are affiliated to comparable boards such as the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations. Let us not forget that English is also the principal medium of education in all premier higher educational institutions of India.

In a wide range of professional fields that produce wealth and service, English has become the language through which India engages with the world. This is an advantage that India presently possesses over several other competing nations, and it would be wise for it to continue to invest its resources in further expanding the English language skills of Indians.

It also needs to be pointed out that India has Indianised English. Raja Rao spoke about it in the

well-known Foreword to his novel *Kanthapura* way back in 1938. Just as Canada and Australia had fashioned their own versions of English, Rao felt, so would India. That prediction has been fully realised. Indian English today possesses its own pronunciation, vocabulary, idioms, and rhetorical conventions. It reflects Indian social realities and cultural sensibilities while remaining part of the larger global family of Englishes.

Taking root

This process of linguistic naturalisation is captured in V.K. Gokak's poem 'English Words': "O winged seeds! You crossed the furrowed seas/To nestle in the warm and silent earth./...You ripened into nectar in fruit-jars/That hung like clustered stars." Gokak's metaphor is striking. English words arrive as seeds from distant shores, but they do not remain foreign. They take root in Indian soil, acquire new life, and bear fruit that belongs as much to India as to anywhere else. A similar sensibility informs A.K. Ramanujan's 'Prayers to Lord Murugan', where an Indian poet employs English not as a borrowed medium but as a natural vehicle for expressing Indian mythology, philosophy, and devotion. Such works demonstrate that languages are ultimately shaped not by their origins but by the communities that inhabit them.

Ironically, many of the strongest advocates of Indian languages have themselves turned to English when addressing a pan-Indian or international audience. Kannada scholar and Jnanpith awardee V.K. Gokak argued for the unity of Indian literature through English in works such as *The Concept of Indian Literature and Pathways to the Unity of Indian Literature*.

Mondlingualism has never been the historical reality of Indian society. India has always deeply cherished languages that Indians speak in their homes and among kith and kin. At the same time, they have spoken in other languages with considerable facility and comfort. English is not in competition with Hindi or Tamil. Rather it is a language that provides Indians with an already historically familiar bridge to connect with other language-speaking communities both within and beyond India.

It is not an important question, therefore, whether English is an indigenous language. It is not. More important is the realisation that through history and literature, constitutional practice and governance, and through everyday usage, English has earned the right to be regarded as one of modern India's own languages. It is useful to remember that English has long ceased to be the language of colonial rulers. It has evolved into one of the several languages in which Indians imagine themselves. Indian English belongs to India.

11A8.

English in India, a language that has earned its place

भारत में अंग्रेज़ी, एक ऐसी भाषा जिसने अपना स्थान अर्जित किया है

- What makes a language Indian?
किसी भाषा को भारतीय क्या बनाता है?
- A recent observation by the **Supreme Court of India** has revived the debate over whether English can be considered an indigenous language of India.
भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की हालिया टिप्पणी ने इस बहस को फिर से जीवित कर दिया है कि क्या अंग्रेज़ी को भारत की स्वदेशी भाषा माना जा सकता है।
- The debate over the place of English in India has often been framed as a contest between English and Indian languages.
भारत में अंग्रेज़ी के स्थान को लेकर बहस को अक्सर अंग्रेज़ी और भारतीय भाषाओं के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है।
- Such a binary is both historically misleading and politically unhelpful.
ऐसी द्विआधारी सोच ऐतिहासिक रूप से भ्रामक और राजनीतिक रूप से अनुपयोगी दोनों हैं।
- The promotion of Indian languages such as **Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Kannada, or Marathi** need not — and should not — be predicated upon denying recognition or patronage to English.

हिंदी, तमिल, तेलुगु, ओड़िया, कन्नड़ या मराठी जैसी भारतीय भाषाओं को बढ़ावा देना अंग्रेज़ी को मान्यता या संरक्षण देने से इनकार करने पर आधारित नहीं होना चाहिए और न ही होना आवश्यक है।

- The future of India's **linguistic diversity** lies not in choosing one language over another but in nurturing multilingualism.
भारत की भाषाई विविधता का भविष्य एक भाषा को दूसरी भाषा के ऊपर चुनने में नहीं, बल्कि बहुभाषिकता को बढ़ावा देने में निहित है।
- English may not be an indigenous language in the same historical sense as **Sanskrit or Tamil**, yet, over two centuries, has acquired a legitimate claim to belong to India.
अंग्रेज़ी भले ही संस्कृत या तमिल के समान ऐतिहासिक अर्थ में स्वदेशी भाषा न हो, फिर भी दो शताब्दियों के दौरान उसने भारत से संबंधित होने का एक वैध दावा अर्जित कर लिया है।

A language transformed

एक परिवर्तित भाषा

- The strongest objection to treating English as an Indian language is that it arrived with **British colonialism**.
अंग्रेज़ी को भारतीय भाषा मानने पर सबसे प्रमुख आपत्ति यह है कि इसका आगमन ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशवाद के साथ हुआ था।
- It was introduced to facilitate administration, commerce, missionary activity, and what the colonial rulers described as their civilising mission.
इसे प्रशासन, व्यापार, मिशनरी गतिविधियों और उस कार्य को सुगम बनाने के लिए लागू किया गया था, जिसे औपनिवेशिक शासक अपना सभ्यतागत मिशन कहते थे।
- In its early history, English undoubtedly served the interests of the Empire.
अपने प्रारंभिक इतिहास में अंग्रेज़ी ने निस्संदेह ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य के हितों की सेवा की।
- Yet, languages cannot be permanently imprisoned by the circumstances of their arrival.
फिर भी, भाषाओं को उनके आगमन की परिस्थितियों के कारण स्थायी रूप से सीमित नहीं किया जा सकता।
- Their identities are continually reshaped by the people who speak them.
उन्हें बोलने वाले लोग उनकी पहचान को निरंतर नया स्वरूप प्रदान करते हैं।
- Once English entered India, Indians appropriated it, transformed it, and made it serve Indian aspirations rather than colonial objectives.
एक बार अंग्रेज़ी के भारत में प्रवेश करने के बाद, भारतीयों ने इसे अपनाया, रूपांतरित किया और इसे औपनिवेशिक उद्देश्यों के बजाय भारतीय आकांक्षाओं की पूर्ति का माध्यम बनाया।
- By the early 19th century, English had already become an instrument of Indian political and intellectual expression.

19वीं शताब्दी के प्रारंभ तक अंग्रेज़ी भारतीय राजनीतिक और बौद्धिक अभिव्यक्ति का एक माध्यम बन चुकी थी।

- In 1823, **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** and his associates submitted one of the earliest petitions in English defending the freedom of the Indian-language press in Calcutta.
1823 में राजा राम मोहन राय और उनके सहयोगियों ने कलकत्ता में भारतीय भाषाओं के प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा के लिए अंग्रेज़ी में प्रारंभिक याचिकाओं में से एक प्रस्तुत की।
- Later in the century, **Dadabhai Naoroji** marshalled his famous "Drain Theory" in English to expose the economic exploitation of India under British rule.
बाद में इसी शताब्दी में, **दादाभाई नौरोजी** ने ब्रिटिश शासन के अंतर्गत भारत के आर्थिक शोषण को उजागर करने के लिए अंग्रेज़ी में अपनी प्रसिद्ध "धन-निकासी सिद्धांत (Drain Theory)" को प्रस्तुत किया।
- Swami Vivekananda** addressed educated India in English through his celebrated lecture, 'My Plan of Campaign', delivered in Madras in 1897.
स्वामी विवेकानंद ने 1897 में मद्रास में दिए गए अपने प्रसिद्ध व्याख्यान 'My Plan of Campaign' के माध्यम से शिक्षित भारत को अंग्रेज़ी में संबोधित किया।

- **Mahatma Gandhi** himself translated Hind Swaraj into English, recognising that the language could carry Indian ideas to both national and international audiences.
महात्मा गांधी ने स्वयं हिंद स्वराज का अंग्रेजी में अनुवाद किया, यह स्वीकार करते हुए कि यह भाषा भारतीय विचारों को राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दोनों प्रकार के पाठकों तक पहुँचा सकती है।
- To deny English a place in India is, in some measure, to overlook the contributions of generations of Indians who employed the language to articulate **Indian nationalism, social reform, and cultural renaissance**.
भारत में अंग्रेजी के स्थान से इनकार करना कुछ हद तक उन पीढ़ियों के भारतीयों के योगदान की अनदेखी करना है, जिन्होंने **भारतीय राष्ट्रवाद, सामाजिक सुधार और सांस्कृतिक पुनर्जागरण** को अभिव्यक्त करने के लिए इस भाषा का उपयोग किया।
- After **Independence**, India indeed found a place for English.
स्वतंत्रता के बाद भारत ने वास्तव में अंग्रेजी के लिए एक स्थान निर्धारित किया।
- The **Constituent Assembly** debates on the language question adopted a balanced resolution.
भाषा के प्रश्न पर **संविधान सभा** की बहसों में एक संतुलित समाधान अपनाया गया।
- Moved by **K.M. Munshi and N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar**, it recognised Hindi as the Official Language of the Union and retained English for official purposes.
के.एम. मुंशी और एन. गोपालस्वामी अय्यंगर द्वारा प्रस्तुत प्रस्ताव में हिंदी को संघ की **राजभाषा** के रूप में मान्यता दी गई और आधिकारिक उद्देश्यों के लिए अंग्रेजी को बनाए रखा गया।
- Over the subsequent decades, English has evolved into one of the principal languages of Indian academic and administrative domains, including but not limited to the **legislature, the executive and the judiciary**.
इसके बाद के दशकों में अंग्रेजी भारतीय शैक्षणिक और प्रशासनिक क्षेत्रों की प्रमुख भाषाओं में से एक के रूप में विकसित हुई है, जिनमें **विधायिका, कार्यपालिका और न्यायपालिका** शामिल हैं, लेकिन ये इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं हैं।
- India has also recognised English as a language of Indian creativity.
भारत ने अंग्रेजी को **भारतीय रचनात्मकता की भाषा** के रूप में भी मान्यता दी है।
- The **Sahitya Akademi** has treated English as one of the languages of Indian literature, conferring annual awards.
साहित्य अकादमी ने अंग्रेजी को भारतीय साहित्य की भाषाओं में से एक माना है और इसके लिए वार्षिक पुरस्कार प्रदान किए हैं।
- **Indian Writing in English** has developed into one of the richest literary traditions in the postcolonial world.
Indian Writing in English उत्तर-औपनिवेशिक विश्व की सबसे समृद्ध साहित्यिक परंपराओं में से एक के रूप में विकसित हुआ है।
- From **R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand to Amitav Ghosh and Vikram Seth**, Indian writers have demonstrated that English can express Indian experiences with authenticity, subtlety, and artistic distinction.
आर.के. नारायण, मुल्क राज आनंद से लेकर अमिताव घोष और विक्रम सेठ तक, भारतीय लेखकों ने यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि अंग्रेजी भारतीय अनुभवों को **प्रामाणिकता, सूक्ष्मता और कलात्मक विशिष्टता** के साथ व्यक्त कर सकती है।

Reach and scale

पहुंच और विस्तार

- It is often argued that only a small section of Indians speak **English**.
अक्सर यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि भारतीयों का केवल एक छोटा-सा वर्ग **अंग्रेजी** बोलता है।
- This is not exactly the case.
यह पूरी तरह सही नहीं है।



- The **Census of 2011** reports that nearly **129 million Indians** chose English as a first, second or third language.
2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार, लगभग **129 मिलियन भारतीयों** ने अंग्रेजी को अपनी पहली, दूसरी या तीसरी भाषा के रूप में चुना।
- These numbers make **India** one of the largest English-speaking countries in the world.
ये आँकड़े **भारत** को विश्व के सबसे बड़े अंग्रेजी-भाषी देशों में से एक बनाते हैं।
- Nearly **2,60,000 people** reported English to be their mother tongue.
लगभग **2,60,000 लोगों** ने अंग्रेजी को अपनी मातृभाषा बताया।
- A whopping **83 million** identified it as their second language.
लगभग **83 मिलियन लोगों** ने इसे अपनी दूसरी भाषा के रूप में identified किया।
- About **46 million** spoke it as their third language.
लगभग **46 मिलियन लोगों** ने इसे अपनी तीसरी भाषा के रूप में बोला।
- Scholars observe that the number of Indians who possess at least a functional knowledge of English may well have further increased to the range of **180 million to 250 million** given the rapid expansion of **English-medium education** over the last decade.
विद्वानों का मानना है कि पिछले दशक में **अंग्रेजी-माध्यम शिक्षा** के तीव्र विस्तार को देखते हुए, कम-से-कम कार्यात्मक अंग्रेजी ज्ञान रखने वाले भारतीयों की संख्या बढ़कर **180 मिलियन से 250 मिलियन** के दायरे में पहुँच गई हो सकती है।
- These statistics suggest that **English has become the language of aspiration** for a large segment of the Indian society.
ये आँकड़े संकेत देते हैं कि भारतीय समाज के एक बड़े वर्ग के लिए **अंग्रेजी आकांक्षा की भाषा** बन गई है।
- As an aspirational people, Indians invest considerable effort and money in education.
आकांक्षी समाज के रूप में, भारतीय शिक्षा में पर्याप्त प्रयास और धन का निवेश करते हैं।
- Nearly **31,000 schools** affiliated to the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** impart education primarily through English.
लगभग **31,000 विद्यालय**, जो **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** से संबद्ध हैं, मुख्य रूप से अंग्रेजी के माध्यम से शिक्षा प्रदान करते हैं।
- So do the **3,000 schools** which are affiliated to comparable boards such as the **Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations**.
इसी प्रकार, **3,000 विद्यालय**, जो **Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations** जैसे समकक्ष बोर्ड से संबद्ध हैं, भी अंग्रेजी के माध्यम से शिक्षा प्रदान करते हैं।
- Let us not forget that **English is also the principal medium of education** in all premier higher educational institutions of India.
यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि भारत के सभी प्रमुख उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में **अंग्रेजी भी शिक्षा का प्रमुख माध्यम** है।
- In a wide range of professional fields that produce wealth and service, English has become the language through which **India engages with the world**.
धन और सेवाओं का सृजन करने वाले व्यापक पेशेवर क्षेत्रों में अंग्रेजी वह भाषा बन गई है जिसके माध्यम से **भारत विश्व के साथ जुड़ता है**।
- This is an advantage that **India** presently possesses over several other competing nations, and it would be wise for it to continue to invest its resources in further expanding the **English language skills of Indians**.
यह एक ऐसा लाभ है जो वर्तमान में **भारत** को कई अन्य प्रतिस्पर्धी देशों की तुलना में प्राप्त है, और भारत के लिए यह विवेकपूर्ण होगा कि वह भारतीयों के **अंग्रेजी भाषा कौशल** के और विस्तार में अपने संसाधनों का निवेश जारी रखे।
- It also needs to be pointed out that **India has Indianised English**.
यह भी उल्लेख करना आवश्यक है कि **भारत ने अंग्रेजी का भारतीयकरण किया है**।



- **Raja Rao** spoke about it in the well-known Foreword to his novel **Kanthapura** way back in 1938.
Raja Rao ने 1938 में ही अपने उपन्यास **Kanthapura** की प्रसिद्ध भूमिका में इसके बारे में चर्चा की थी।
- Just as **Canada and Australia** had fashioned their own versions of English, Rao felt, so would India.
Rao का मानना था कि जिस प्रकार **Canada और Australia** ने अंग्रेजी के अपने-अपने रूप विकसित किए, उसी प्रकार भारत भी ऐसा करेगा।
- That prediction has been fully realised.
यह भविष्यवाणी पूरी तरह साकार हुई है।
- **Indian English** today possesses its own pronunciation, vocabulary, idioms, and rhetorical conventions.
आज **Indian English** का अपना उच्चारण, शब्दावली, मुहावरे और अलंकारिक अभिव्यक्ति की परंपराएँ हैं।
- It reflects Indian social realities and cultural sensibilities while remaining part of the larger global family of Englishes.
यह अंग्रेजी की व्यापक वैश्विक भाषाई परंपरा का हिस्सा बने रहते हुए भारतीय सामाजिक वास्तविकताओं और सांस्कृतिक संवेदनशीलताओं को reflects करता है।

Taking root

जड़ें जमाना

- This process of linguistic naturalisation is captured in **V.K. Gokak's poem 'English Words'**:
"O winged seeds! You crossed the furrowed seas/To nestle in the warm and silent earth./...You ripened into nectar in fruit-jars/That hung like clustered stars."
भाषाई स्वाभाविकीकरण की यह प्रक्रिया **V.K. Gokak की कविता 'English Words'** में अभिव्यक्त होती है:
"O winged seeds! You crossed the furrowed seas/To nestle in the warm and silent earth./...You ripened into nectar in fruit-jars/That hung like clustered stars."
- Gokak's metaphor is striking.
Gokak का रूपक अत्यंत प्रभावशाली है।
- English words arrive as seeds from distant shores, but they do not remain foreign.
अंग्रेजी के शब्द दूर-दराज के तटों से बीजों के रूप में आते हैं, लेकिन वे विदेशी नहीं बने रहते।
- They take root in **Indian soil**, acquire new life, and bear fruit that belongs as much to India as to anywhere else.
वे भारतीय भूमि में जड़ें जमाते हैं, नया जीवन प्राप्त करते हैं और ऐसे फल उत्पन्न करते हैं जो उतने ही भारत के हैं जितने किसी अन्य स्थान के।
- A similar sensibility informs **A.K. Ramanujan's 'Prayers to Lord Murugan'**, where an Indian poet employs English not as a borrowed medium but as a natural vehicle for expressing **Indian mythology, philosophy, and devotion**.
इसी प्रकार की संवेदना **A.K. Ramanujan की 'Prayers to Lord Murugan'** में दिखाई देती है, जहाँ एक भारतीय कवि अंग्रेजी का प्रयोग किसी उधार लिए गए माध्यम के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय पौराणिक कथाओं, दर्शन और भक्ति को अभिव्यक्त करने के एक स्वाभाविक माध्यम के रूप में करता है।
- Such works demonstrate that languages are ultimately shaped not by their origins but by the communities that inhabit them.
ऐसी रचनाएँ दर्शाती हैं कि भाषाएँ अंततः अपनी उत्पत्ति से नहीं, बल्कि उन समुदायों द्वारा आकार ग्रहण करती हैं जो उनका प्रयोग करते हैं।
- Ironically, many of the strongest advocates of **Indian languages** have themselves turned to English when addressing a pan-Indian or international audience.
विडंबना यह है कि भारतीय भाषाओं के कई प्रबल समर्थकों ने स्वयं अखिल भारतीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय श्रोताओं को संबोधित करते समय अंग्रेजी का सहारा लिया है।
- **Kannada scholar and Jnanpith awardee V.K. Gokak** argued for the unity of Indian literature through English in works such as **The Concept of Indian Literature and Pathways**

to the Unity of Indian Literature.

कन्नड़ विद्वान और ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार विजेता V.K. Gokak ने The Concept of Indian Literature और Pathways to the Unity of Indian Literature जैसी कृतियों में अंग्रेजी के माध्यम से भारतीय साहित्य की एकता के पक्ष में तर्क दिया।

- **Monolingualism** has never been the historical reality of Indian society.
एकभाषिकता भारतीय समाज की ऐतिहासिक वास्तविकता कभी नहीं रही है।
- India has always deeply cherished languages that Indians speak in their homes and among kith and kin.
भारत ने सदैव उन भाषाओं को अत्यंत सम्मान दिया है जिन्हें भारतीय अपने घरों और परिजनों तथा निकट संबंधियों के बीच बोलते हैं।
- At the same time, they have spoken in other languages with considerable facility and comfort. साथ ही, उन्होंने अन्य भाषाओं को भी पर्याप्त सहजता और दक्षता के साथ बोला है।
- English is not in competition with **Hindi or Tamil**.
अंग्रेजी का हिंदी या तमिल के साथ कोई प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक संबंध नहीं है।
- Rather it is a language that provides Indians with an already historically familiar bridge to connect with other language-speaking communities both within and beyond India.
बल्कि यह ऐसी भाषा है जो भारतीयों को भारत के भीतर और भारत के बाहर अन्य भाषा-भाषी समुदायों से जुड़ने के लिए पहले से ही ऐतिहासिक रूप से परिचित सेतु प्रदान करती है।
- It is not an important question, therefore, whether English is an indigenous language.
इसलिए यह महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न नहीं है कि अंग्रेजी स्वदेशी भाषा है या नहीं।
- It is not.
वह नहीं है।
- More important is the realisation that through **history and literature, constitutional practice and governance, and through everyday usage**, English has earned the right to be regarded as one of modern India's own languages.
इससे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण यह समझना है कि इतिहास और साहित्य, संवैधानिक व्यवहार और शासन तथा दैनिक उपयोग के माध्यम से अंग्रेजी ने आधुनिक भारत की अपनी भाषाओं में से एक माने जाने का अधिकार अर्जित कर लिया है।
- It is useful to remember that **English has long ceased to be the language of colonial rulers**.
यह स्मरण रखना उपयोगी है कि अंग्रेजी लंबे समय से औपनिवेशिक शासकों की भाषा नहीं रह गई है।
- It has evolved into one of the several languages in which Indians imagine themselves.
यह उन अनेक भाषाओं में से एक के रूप में विकसित हो गई है जिनके माध्यम से भारतीय स्वयं की कल्पना और अभिव्यक्ति करते हैं।
- **Indian English belongs to India.**
Indian English भारत की अपनी भाषा है।