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GS Paper 1: History	07 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
07S8	



Clearing out prayers



Making room: A worker removes notes from a crack in the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest prayer site, ahead of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, in Jerusalem's Old City on Sunday. Visitors place notes in the wall as part of a prayer ritual. REUTERS

Making room: A worker removes notes from a crack in the Western Wall, **Judaism's holiest prayer site**, ahead of **Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, in Jerusalem's Old City** on Sunday. Visitors place notes in the wall as part of a prayer ritual.

Judaism

• **Judaism** is one of the world's oldest **monotheistic religions**, centred on belief in **one God** and a covenantal relationship between God and the Jewish people.

- Its foundational sacred text is the **Torah**, traditionally understood as the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. The wider **Tanakh** contains the Torah, Prophets and Writings. The **Talmud** is another major body of Jewish religious law, interpretation and discussion.
- Judaism originated in the ancient **Middle East** and is historically associated with figures such as **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses**.
- **Moses** occupies a particularly important place in Jewish tradition. The Torah describes God giving the Israelites commandments through Moses, including the **Ten Commandments**.

Major Religious Beliefs and Practices

- Judaism emphasises **worship of one God, ethical conduct, justice, charity, repentance, prayer and observance of divine commandments**, traditionally known as **mitzvot**.
- A Jewish house of worship is called a **synagogue**, while a Jewish religious teacher or scholar is commonly called a **rabbi**.
- **Shabbat (Sabbath)** is the weekly sacred day of rest, beginning at sunset on **Friday** and continuing until nightfall on **Saturday**.
- Jewish dietary laws are called **Kashrut**, and food conforming to these requirements is described as **kosher**.
- **Jerusalem** is Judaism's holiest city. Central to its religious importance is the **Temple Mount**, traditionally associated with the location of the **First and Second Jewish Temples**.
- The **First Temple**, traditionally associated with **King Solomon**, was destroyed by the Babylonians in **586 BCE**.
- The **Second Temple** was subsequently constructed and was greatly expanded during the period of **Herod the Great**. Roman forces destroyed it in **70 CE**.

Western Wall (Kotel)

- The **Western Wall**, or **Kotel**, is part of the ancient retaining-wall complex surrounding the Temple Mount platform; it is **not itself a surviving wall of the Temple building**.

- The **Temple Mount** is Judaism's holiest site. Because of religious restrictions and the site's political and religious sensitivity, the **Western Wall is the principal accessible sacred location for Jewish prayer.**
- Worshippers commonly pray facing the wall and may place **small written prayers between its stones.**
- The Temple Mount is also sacred to **Islam**, where the **Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock** stand. The wider Jerusalem area is also profoundly important to **Christianity**, making the Old City exceptionally significant to all three Abrahamic religions.
- **Rosh Hashanah**, meaning “**Head of the Year,**” marks the Jewish New Year and begins on **1 Tishrei** in the Hebrew calendar.
- It is fundamentally a **religious and spiritual occasion**, rather than simply a New Year celebration involving festivities.
- Jewish tradition associates it with **divine judgment, introspection, prayer and repentance.** It begins the **Ten Days of Repentance (Days of Awe)**, culminating in **Yom Kippur**, the Day of Atonement.
- One of its most characteristic rituals is sounding the **shofar**, usually a ram's horn. Its sound serves as a spiritual call to **reflection and repentance.**
- **Apples dipped in honey** are traditionally eaten to express hope for a **sweet new year.** A common greeting is “**Shanah Tovah,**” meaning roughly “**Have a good year.**”

Major Jewish Religious Festivals

- **Yom Kippur:** The **Day of Atonement**, characterised by fasting, prayer and repentance.
- **Passover (Pesach):** Commemorates the biblical **Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.**
- **Sukkot:** Recalls the Israelites' wilderness journey and has agricultural significance.
- **Hanukkah:** Commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple following the **Maccabean revolt.**

GS Paper 1: Society		07 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07S9	No provision in Forest Rights Act to obtain gram sabha consent for projects: Ministry परियोजनाओं के लिए ग्राम सभा की सहमति प्राप्त करने का वन अधिकार अधिनियम में कोई प्रावधान नहीं: मंत्रालय	
07S9	Keep ST classification criteria free of 'political manipulation': tribal body ST वर्गीकरण के मानदंडों को 'राजनीतिक हेरफेर' से मुक्त रखा जाए: जनजातीय संगठन	
07S9	Parton and Steinem deaths days apart bring double dose of grief for feminists पार्टन और स्टीनम की कुछ दिनों के अंतराल में मृत्यु से नारीवादियों में दोहरी शोक-भावना	



No provision in Forest Rights Act to obtain gram sabha consent for projects: Ministry

The law explicitly states that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is responsible for its implementation. Centre's rules and regulations require that all processes under the forest Act be completed before the concerned government authority can issue a certificate diverting the forests formally

GS I: Society

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

In deliberations with the Union Ministry of Power over government projects delayed due to the "critical bottleneck" of "100% gram sabha consent under the Forest Rights Act (FRA)" for forest clearance, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has said that the 2006 law has "no provision for obtaining consent of the gram sabha for forest clearance", adding that "such matters" related to gram sabha consent "do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs".

In an official communication to the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Desk of the Power Ministry on August 31, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said, "There is no provision for obtaining consent of the Gram Sabha for forest clearance for Stage-II forest clearance in the Scheduled Tribes and

Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules made thereunder. Therefore, such matters do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs."

While the FRA itself does not have the language of gram sabha consent specifically with respect to diverting forest land for non-forestry purposes, the Union government's rules and regulations governing the diversion of forests specifically require that all processes under the FRA be completed before the concerned government authority can issue a certificate diverting the forests formally.

These guidelines, under the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, require the identification of potential FRA claimants, the recognition of their rights where applicable, the vesting of these rights, and then obtaining a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the



Parliamentary panel report on NHPC Limited said the average time for forest clearance of projects is 106 months.

gram sabhas concerned regarding the proposal to divert the said forest land for the stated purpose – all of it as mandated under the FRA. This procedure of obtaining an NOC from gram sabhas is what has commonly come to be known as the procedure for gram sabha consent for forest clearance.

The FRA explicitly states that the Ministry of Tribal

Affairs is the nodal ministry responsible for the law's implementation.

Supreme Court advocate Shomona Khanna, a former legal adviser to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under both the United Progressive Alliance and National Democratic Alliance governments, reacted to the Ministry's position on the FRA in its latest communication to the Power

Ministry by saying, "This is bizarre. If such matters are not under the purview of the Tribal Affairs Ministry, then whose purview is it under?"

House panel report

The deliberations between the Union Power Ministry and the Tribal Affairs Ministry were initiated after an August 3 report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings on NHPC Limited. In this report, the committee, based on discussions with NHPC officials, observed that the average time for forest clearance of under-construction projects was 106 months, and that the requirement that all concerned gram sabhas consent to the diversion of forest land required for the projects had become the "single most critical bottleneck, with projects like the Teesta-IV HEP being indefinitely stalled because consent from small minority of

Gram Panchayats remains pending". In its report, the committee, headed by BJP MP Baijantya Panda, took to the NHPC's recommendation that a "qualified super-majority consent" – consent of 70-75% of the affected gram sabhas – should be sufficient for "large hydropower infrastructure projects of national importance".

The House panel had thus recommended that the Power Ministry discuss the "feasibility" of such a proposal with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Previously, in cases such as the Nicobar mega-infrastructure project or other independent cases related to the implementation of the FRA in States like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and many others, the Tribal Affairs Ministry has claimed that it has no role to play and argued that this was because the FRA mandates implementation of the law to the State or Union Territory governments.

07S9.No provision in Forest Rights Act to obtain gram sabha consent for projects: Ministry

परियोजनाओं के लिए ग्राम सभा की सहमति प्राप्त करने का वन अधिकार अधिनियम में कोई प्रावधान नहीं: मंत्रालय

- The controversy is essentially about **who must approve the diversion of forest land for development projects** and whether **100% of affected Gram Sabhas must agree**.

1. What is the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006?

- The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**, commonly called the **FRA**, recognises the rights of tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers over forests they have historically depended upon.
- The **Gram Sabha**—the assembly of adult voters of a village—plays a central role in identifying and processing these forest-right claims.

2. Where does the confusion arise?

- Suppose a hydropower project requires **500 hectares of forest land covering 10 villages**.



- Before that forest is diverted for the project, the government must address the existing rights of forest-dependent people.
- The **Tribal Affairs Ministry's argument** is very specific:
 - The **FRA itself does not contain an express provision requiring Gram Sabha consent for Stage-II forest clearance.**
- However, according to the material provided, the broader **forest-diversion procedure** requires completion of FRA-related processes, including:

Identify claimants → Recognise forest rights → Vest rights → Obtain Gram Sabha NOC → Proceed with forest diversion.

- This **Gram Sabha NOC** came to be commonly described as “**Gram Sabha consent.**”
- Therefore, the important distinction is:
- **FRA itself** → does not expressly prescribe “100% Gram Sabha consent for Stage-II clearance.”
- **Forest-clearance procedures linked with FRA compliance** → have required Gram Sabha-related documentation/NOC before final diversion.

3. Why has this become a major issue?

- According to the parliamentary committee cited in the material, forest clearances for NHPC's under-construction projects were taking an average of **106 months.**
- Imagine that a project affects **20 Gram Sabhas.** If 18 approve but two remain pending, insisting on approval from **all 20** could potentially hold up the entire project.
- NHPC therefore suggested a “**qualified super-majority**” approach: approval from **70–75% of affected Gram Sabhas** should be sufficient for nationally important large hydropower projects.

4. What is the Governmental Disagreement?

- The **Power Ministry** is concerned about delays to infrastructure projects.
- The **Tribal Affairs Ministry**, meanwhile, says that the FRA contains no provision for such Stage-II consent and that this particular forest-clearance matter does not fall within its purview—even though it is the **nodal ministry for FRA implementation.**
- This creates an institutional question: **if FRA rights must be settled before forest diversion, which authority is ultimately responsible for resolving disputes about Gram Sabha consent?**

5. Why is the issue sensitive?

- There are **two legitimate policy concerns**:
 - **Development:** Roads, dams and hydropower projects should not remain indefinitely stalled because a small fraction of approvals is pending.
 - **Tribal rights:** A numerical majority should not automatically allow projects to override the **land, livelihood, cultural and community forest rights** of adversely affected villages.

Keep ST classification criteria free of 'political manipulation': tribal body

GS I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A resolution was passed at the national convention of the Left-affiliated Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch (AARM) in New Delhi on Sunday, outlining a charter of demands on the rights of Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities pertaining to resources, education, employment, and culture. The demands ranged from increasing the reservation percentage for ST communities and introducing reservations in the private sector to including Adivasi languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and making the criteria for ST classification immune to "political manipulation".

While outfits like the Janjati Suraksha Manch and the Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram have called for introducing



Brinda Karat

a religion criterion to ST classification that will eventually delist ST communities that have converted to Islam or Christianity, the AARM has explicitly opposed both these demands, articulating that only certain criteria needed to be reviewed to do away with outdated conditions for classification.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and AARM vice-president Brinda Karat said that some criteria set by the Lokur Com-

mittee, established in 1965 to look into the criteria for identifying ST communities, had become obsolete, such as the ones requiring a community to be isolated or have shyness of contact to be considered ST, and needed to be reviewed.

Ms. Karat said, "I don't want to name the communities. In various States, the BJP is trying to divide Adivasis by helping people who are not Adivasis [and] encouraging them to demand ST certificates; and that is a very dangerous game they are playing. Ever since the BJP has come into power, or where they are in power, where there are large Adivasi communities, what we are finding is that they are using the State governments and the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] to divide Adivasis so that they can prop up their majoritarian identity framework."

The AARM national convention held in New Delhi saw the participation of delegates from across the country.

The demands

The AARM called for a time-bound review of rejected Forest Rights Act (FRA) claims, empowering gram sabhas, scrapping State task forces working outside their statutory ambit, and freezing forest evictions. On employment, the demands included implementing reservation in all forms of government hiring.

The AARM demanded an increase in the budgetary allocation for education in Adivasi regions; nutritious, and hot cooked mid-day meals; the reintroduction of eggs in school menus; an increase in scholarship amounts; and sports facilities for Adivasi students.

07S9.Keep ST classification criteria free of 'political manipulation': tribal body
ST वर्गीकरण के मानदंडों को 'राजनीतिक हेरफेर' से मुक्त रखा जाए: जनजातीय संगठन

Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch (AARM) and its Demands for Scheduled Tribes

- The **Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch (AARM)**, described in the report as a Left-affiliated organisation working on tribal issues, passed a resolution at its national convention in **New Delhi**, presenting demands concerning the **land, forest, education, employment and cultural rights of Scheduled Tribes (STs)**.

- Scheduled Tribes** are communities specifically recognised under **Article 342 of the Constitution**. STs receive constitutional safeguards and affirmative-action measures, including reservation in education, government employment and legislatures.

Demand for Review of ST Identification Criteria



- AARM argued that some traditional criteria associated with the **Lokur Committee (1965)** have become outdated.
- Historically used indicators included characteristics such as **distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the wider community and backwardness**.
- For example, an Adivasi community may today use smartphones, attend universities and live near towns. According to AARM's argument, such social integration should not automatically undermine its historical tribal identity.
- AARM also **opposed making religion a criterion for ST status** and opposed proposals to remove converted Christian or Muslim tribal persons from ST lists.

Forest and Gram Sabha Rights

- AARM demanded a **time-bound reconsideration of rejected claims under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**, stronger **Gram Sabhas**, and a halt to forest evictions.
- The FRA is important because it recognises specified **individual and community forest rights** of eligible Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Reservation and Employment

- AARM demanded **higher ST reservation**, effective reservation across different forms of government recruitment and the introduction of **reservation in the private sector**.
- These are **demands made by AARM**, not statements of existing nationwide law.

Education and Welfare

- Its educational demands include **greater budgetary allocation for tribal areas, higher scholarships, sports facilities and nutritious hot cooked school meals**, including the reintroduction of eggs in school menus.



Parton and Steinem deaths days apart bring double dose of grief for feminists

Gloria Steinem and Dolly Parton embodied two versions of the same idea – women should know themselves well enough to make the right choices; their deaths eight days apart sent a double dose of grief around the world as many asked who would take their places at forefront of women's rights

GS I: Society
NEWS ANALYSIS

Associated Press

One shaped and delivered the language of feminism. The other rejected the label but showed how feminism can be done: with a microphone dusted in rhinestones, and without apology.

Gloria Steinem and Dolly Parton embodied two towering versions of the same idea: that women should know themselves well enough to make their own choices about matters intimate and societal. Their deaths eight days apart sent a double dose of grief around the world and across generations as many women (and some men) asked who would take their places at the forefront of women's rights.

Steinem, overtly political, went undercover as a Playboy bunny to deliver an expose, founded Ms. Magazine and spent the rest of her life urging women to support each other. Parton, on the other hand, defined herself as a larger-than-life daughter of the American South who told stories with music and included everybody – but refused to play politics or call herself a feminist.

"Dolly taught us to dream big. Gloria taught us to speak up," wrote De-

Mond B. Nason, a New York City singer. "Both reminded us that a woman could walk into a world that told her who she was supposed to be – and simply decide to become something else."

Parton didn't say so, but Steinem insisted more than three decades ago that the pair fit together under the same feminist flag.

"If feminism means each of us finding your unique power, and helping other women do the same, Dolly Parton certainly has done both," Ms. Magazine wrote in 1987, when Ms. Magazine named the singer one of its "Women of the Year."

Many shared the sense that Steinem and Parton belonged together. "Both believed in women: in our ability to decide who we are, make our own choices, take care of one another and shape the world around us," wrote Swati Narayan in a column for American Kahani, an online news outlet for Indian and South Asian Americans.

Between Parton's death on August 25 and Steinem's on September 2, Ms. Magazine re-ran Steinem's essay with an editor's note: "Steinem celebrated Parton not only as a gifted songwriter and magnetic performer, but as a shrewd businessperson who transformed femininity into a



Priceless respect: Flowers outside Gloria Steinem's home after the announcement of her death at the age of 92 in New York. REUTERS

source of humor and power – and used her success to lift up working women, poor communities and the mountain people of her native Tennessee."

Two sides, same coin

The embrace wasn't mutual, at least not publicly. And that, Parton acknowledged, was by design.

"I don't do politics. I have too many fans on both sides of the fence," she said in 2019 on "Dolly Parton's America," RadioLab's podcast. "Of course," she added, "I have my opinion about everything, but I learned years ago to keep your mouth shut about things."

The star was asked directly whether she thought of herself as a feminist. "No, I do not," she said flatly, later explaining that she did not want to be associated with what she viewed as political extremes even as

she advocated for women and their opportunities.

Parton was clear, though, that her lyrics were intended to shine light on women's hardships and the realities of a world that the superstar agreed was dominated by men. She wrote about teenage pregnancy, abortion and adoption in "Down from Dover." She supported equal pay (See: "9 to 5," the movie and the song). One of her most famous songs is called, "Just Because I'm a Woman."

She just didn't use words like "oppression" or "patriarchy." And unlike Steinem, Parton didn't endorse political candidates. Asked on CNN during the 2016 presidential campaign whether she preferred Republican Donald Trump or Democrat Hillary Clinton, she replied: "I think they're both nuts." Feminism splintered un-

der the pressure of public policy debates over such issues as abortion and the rejection of Clinton in the 2016 elections, the rise of Mr. Trump and the modern-day emergence of identity politics.

Steinem's version of feminism today is more aligned with Democrats at a time when, at least for now, the country has swung Republican. Steinem lived to see the Supreme Court overturn the 1973 ruling Roe v. Wade, eliminating the constitutional right to abortion, a pillar of the 1960s feminist movement she embodied. The Equal Rights Amendment remains unratified. And Americans have yet to elect a woman President.

So if you're an opponent of abortion rights or if you voted for Mr. Trump, can you still be a feminist in 2026? And would you want to be called that in public or on social media? To the end, Steinem insisted it wasn't the label that mattered. What counted as feminist was whether a woman knew herself well enough to make her own choices rather than be defined as the daughter or wife of a man.

But partisanship surfaced even in the ritual public mourning for the two women. Parton's passing touched off an immediate expression of grief from sources ranging from Mr.

Trump to her fans in the LGBTQ+ community. Mr. Trump ordered flags to be flown at half-staff as a show of "respect" for her.

In contrast, there was no such rush to recognise Steinem beyond her liberal and centrist constituency, even from conservatives who had expressed respect for her accomplishments as an influential historical figure. Their silence two days after Steinem's death contrasted with the outpouring of grief, thanks and respect for Steinem from leading figures on the left, particularly of her generation. Hillary Clinton, who also saluted Parton, said Steinem's activism was built on optimism despite abundant roadblocks for women.

"The lived experience became much more real and applicable to our entire society when Gloria began to point it out," Ms. Clinton posted. Steinem said for years that she's using her torch to light others. "If we each have a torch, there's a lot more light," she told the National Press Club in 2013.

Social media offered evidence that supporters of both women would pass it on. Liz Webster, an American hair and makeup artist living in Germany, called Steinem and Parton "two very different women who shaped the way I saw what a woman could be."

07S9. Gloria Steinem, Dolly Parton deaths days apart bring double dose of grief for feminists

पार्टन और स्टीनम की कुछ दिनों के अंतराल में मृत्यु से नारीवादियों में दोहरी शोक-भावना

- **Gloria Steinem and Dolly Parton** as two very different women who nevertheless represented a common idea: **women should have the freedom and confidence to define themselves and make their own choices.**

Gloria Steinem: Feminism Through Activism

- **Gloria Steinem** represented an explicitly political form of **American feminism**. She became a prominent figure in the women's movement and co-founded **Ms. magazine**.
- Her feminism challenged social structures that restricted women's choices and emphasised **equality, reproductive rights, economic independence and women's political participation.**
- For Steinem, feminism was not merely about women becoming successful; it meant women possessing the **power to determine their own identity and life choices**, rather than being defined primarily as somebody's wife or daughter.



Dolly Parton: Empowerment Without the Feminist Label

- **Dolly Parton**, by contrast, publicly declined to describe herself as a feminist and generally avoided partisan politics.
- Yet her music frequently addressed women's experiences. Songs discussed subjects such as **unequal treatment, teenage pregnancy and economic difficulties**, while her famous song and film “9 to 5” became associated with workplace inequality and **equal pay**.
- Thus, Parton illustrates the difference between **accepting a political label and practising some of the values associated with it**.

What Is Feminism?

- In basic terms, **feminism advocates social, political, legal and economic equality of the sexes and challenges discrimination based on gender**.
- For example, if a woman and man performing equivalent work are denied equal opportunities merely because of gender, feminism would challenge that inequality.

“Two Sides of the Same Coin”

- Steinem sought change largely through **activism and explicitly feminist arguments**, whereas Parton demonstrated women's **independence, economic success and self-determination through popular culture and personal example**.
- Steinem herself argued that if feminism means discovering one's own power and helping other women do likewise, Parton fitted within that understanding despite rejecting the label.

GS Paper 1: Geography	07 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED	



In this drone photo released by the Geological Agency (Badan Geologi) of Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mount Anak Krakatau spews volcanic smoke in Sunda Strait, Indonesia on September 5.

In this drone photo released by the Geological Agency (Badan Geologi) of Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mount Anak Krakatau spews volcanic smoke in Sunda Strait, Indonesia on September 5.



Mount Anak Krakatau

• **Anak Krakatau**, meaning “Child of Krakatau”, is an **active volcanic island** in the **Sunda Strait of Indonesia**, between the islands of **Java and Sumatra**. It lies along the highly volcanic **Pacific Ring of Fire**.



How Was Anak Krakatau Formed?

• Its story begins with the famous **Krakatau (Krakatoa) eruption of 1883**, one of the most destructive volcanic eruptions in recorded history.

• The 1883 eruption destroyed much of the original volcanic island and generated enormous **tsunamis**, which killed more than **36,000 people** in surrounding coastal regions.



• Decades later, volcanic activity resumed beneath the sea. In **1927**, a new volcano began emerging from the old Krakatau caldera. This volcano became known as **Anak Krakatau**.

• Think of it as a **new volcanic cone growing from the remains of an older volcanic system**.

Why Is the Region So Volcanically Active?

• Indonesia lies near converging **tectonic plates**. Around the Sunda Arc, the **Indo-Australian Plate is subducting beneath the Sunda/Eurasian margin**.

• During **subduction**, one tectonic plate sinks beneath another. This process promotes magma formation, which can rise towards the surface and feed volcanoes.

GS Paper II: Polity		07 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07S9	Judicial integrity — a case the Court cannot ignore न्यायिक सत्यनिष्ठा — एक ऐसा मामला जिसे न्यायालय नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं कर सकता	



Judicial integrity — a case the Court cannot ignore

ISS II: Polity

Serious allegations against the Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, have come to light following reports of letters written by Supreme Court of India judge Justice Sandeep Mehta to the Chief Justice of India (CJI), in which he has sought Justice Sharma's immediate transfer. Justice Mehta, who previously served as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court and is regarded for his uprightness, discipline, and integrity, wrote three such letters on August 2, 10, and 17. The contents of these letters are now partly in the public domain.

Letters that raise serious questions

The letters reportedly refer to complaints about the manner in which Justice Sharma has been functioning. They also highlight alleged instances of victimisation of judges, maladministration, improper "shifting of cases" to his Bench, and nepotism in appointments to the Permanent Lok Adalat. Justice Sharma has allegedly been intimidating some of his colleagues with the threat of retributive measures, including transfers, based on his claimed proximity to the CJI. It is reported that Justice Mehta's letters refer to specific instances of alleged favouritism towards a chosen few among the lawyers and the misuse of power in his capacity as the "master of the roster". Justice Mehta's last letter reportedly expresses concern over the CJI's alleged inaction, particularly as Justice Sharma is due to retire on September 26. So far, there has been no official denial of the reports concerning the contents of the letters. Justice Sharma, of course, has publicly denied the accusations as baseless.

A High Court functioning without a regular Chief Justice and functioning under an Acting Chief Justice for a considerably long period — in the instant case, for about 11 months — is not a good institutional gesture. The fact that Justice Sharma was earlier transferred to the Patna High Court in 2022, and that his request for repatriation to the Rajasthan High Court was rejected by the Collegium in 2023, which instead proposed his transfer to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, is also not a commendable antecedent. Justice Mehta, according to reports, is said to have wondered how such a judge came to be retransferred to the Rajasthan High Court in 2025 and subsequently allowed to function as the Acting Chief Justice, with wide-ranging administrative and judicial powers.

Of late, there have been two crucial developments. First, lawyers at the Rajasthan High Court staged a sit-in protest on the High Court premises, following which Justice Sharma had to opt out from hearing cases. Second, on August 31, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of Justice Sanjay Agrawal as the new Chief Justice of the Rajasthan



Kaleswaram Raj
Lawyer at the
Supreme Court
of India

Allegations
against a High
Court judge
raise serious
questions about
judicial
accountability
in India

High Court. Accordingly Justice Agrawal is now appointed.

Allegations of corruption against sitting judges in India are neither uncommon nor unprecedented. Yet, certain unique features of the present reports are worth noting. A sitting judge of the Supreme Court reportedly alerted the CJI to the conduct of an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court, supported by verifiable material.

Yet, for several weeks, no cogent steps were reportedly initiated by the CJI in this regard. The CJI reportedly said that the allegations could not be treated as findings and that they "must be dealt with strictly through the established institutional mechanism". In view of Justice Sharma's impending retirement, early action by the CJI to Justice Mehta's letter could perhaps have averted some of the disturbing events that subsequently followed.

Transparency International, in its reports, has underlined the growing trust deficit in the Indian judiciary. According to its 2002 report, based on a household survey, the judiciary was identified as the second-most corrupt institution in certain South Asian countries, including India. The report is indeed shocking. Yet, the present situation in India is far more complex and multi-dimensional. There are many fine judges in India's judiciary whose integrity and public image should not be tarnished because of aberrations elsewhere, whether on or off the Bench.

Institutional responsibility, structural issues

The repeated episodes of judicial corruption in India reflect certain fundamental issues concerning the functioning of its higher judiciary.

First, the total lack of criteria, coupled with the unavoidable collaboration between the Collegium and the Executive at the Centre under the present system, makes judicial appointments highly partisan, opaque, and often arbitrary. This mechanism and its processes are incapable of identifying the cleanest and most meritorious candidates. The issue of corruption in the judiciary, like many other institutional concerns, is inseparable from the existing method of selecting candidates for judicial office. A system of inviting applications, as is prevalent in Canada, or an independent body for judicial selection, as in the United Kingdom, remains unthinkable in India.

Second, the lack of an effective mechanism to deal with corruption in the higher judiciary in India has had the effect of perpetuating the menace. The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, is inadequate to tackle the issue and has, for all practical purposes, become defunct. The Supreme Court, in *K. Veeraswami vs Union of India* (1991), held that, for registering a First Information Report against a judge of the higher judiciary, the permission of the CJI is a necessary

precondition. As lawyer Prashant Bhushan rightly observed, "the police does not dare approach the Chief Justice for permission to investigate, unless they already have clinching evidence, which they cannot get, unless they investigate" ("Judicial Accountability or Illusion?", *Economic and Political Weekly*, November 25, 2006). Although the United Progressive Alliance government facilitated the passage of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill in the Lok Sabha in 2012, the Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha in 2014. The subsequent legislative effort to revive the Bill, with some changes, also remained a non-starter. The impeachment of erring judges, as suggested by Articles 124(4) and 217(1)(b) of the Constitution, has proved to be a failure. Likewise, the in-house mechanism adopted by the Supreme Court in 1999 has not proved to be fault-free or even effective.

Earlier crises, different responses

But these considerations could not have been reasons for the CJI not to act promptly upon the concerns allegedly expressed by Justice Mehta. On the contrary, the lack of a permanent systemic solution to the issues raised should have been an additional reason for the CJI to take remedial measures expeditiously and diligently, and to do whatever was possible within his authority. The situation called for judicial statesmanship. In 1990, when an inquiry was underway against Justice V. Ramaswami for alleged misconduct, he was advised by then CJI Sabyasachi Mukharji, to take leave and keep away from judicial work.

Thereafter, when the impeachment motion against Justice Ramaswami failed in Parliament due to the Congress party's strategic abstention, the judge attempted to resume judicial work, with about nine months of his tenure remaining.

However, then CJI Venkatachaliah refused to allocate any cases to him for hearing, notes Justice K. Chandru in his book, *Who Will Judge the Judges?* (2026). Even last year, when partly burnt currency notes were reportedly found in the outhouse of Justice Yashwant Varma at his Delhi residence, then CJI Sanjiv Khanna, quickly transferred him to the Allahabad High Court, where he was not allocated any judicial work, practically. In the reported decision in *XXX vs Union of India* (2025), the Supreme Court emphasised the responsibility of the CJI in matters relating to judicial integrity and allegations of corrupt practices.

Justice Sharma allegedly claimed that the CJI is proximate to him. This was a factor that led to undesirable and avoidable speculations. Given the nature of the allegations and their immediate verifiability, it was imperative that the CJI acted promptly and convincingly, so that further damage to the system and the institution could have been reduced, if not prevented altogether.

07S9. Judicial integrity — a case the Court cannot ignore

न्यायिक सत्यनिष्ठा — एक ऐसा मामला जिसे न्यायालय नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं कर सकता

- Serious allegations against the **Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court**, Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, have come to light following reports of letters written by Supreme Court of India judge Justice Sandeep Mehta to the Chief Justice of India (CJI), in which he has sought Justice Sharma's immediate transfer.

राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय के कार्यवाहक मुख्य न्यायाधीश, न्यायमूर्ति संजीव प्रकाश शर्मा के विरुद्ध गंभीर आरोप सामने आए हैं। ये आरोप भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति संदीप मेहता द्वारा

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) को लिखे गए पत्रों की रिपोर्ट के बाद सामने आए हैं, जिनमें उन्होंने न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा के तत्काल स्थानांतरण की मांग की है।

- Justice Mehta, who previously served as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court and is regarded for his uprightness, discipline, and integrity, wrote three such letters on August 2, 10, and 17. न्यायमूर्ति मेहता, जो पहले राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश के रूप में कार्य कर चुके हैं और अपनी

ईमानदारी, अनुशासन तथा सत्यनिष्ठा के लिए जाने जाते हैं, ने ऐसे तीन पत्र 2, 10 और 17 अगस्त को लिखे।

- The contents of these letters are now partly in the public domain.

इन पत्रों की विषय-वस्तु अब आंशिक रूप से **सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र** में आ चुकी है।

Letters that raise serious questions

गंभीर प्रश्न उठाने वाले पत्र

- The letters reportedly refer to complaints about the manner in which Justice Sharma has been functioning.
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, इन पत्रों में न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा के कार्य करने के तरीके के संबंध में प्राप्त शिकायतों का उल्लेख किया गया है।
- They also highlight alleged instances of victimisation of judges, maladministration, improper "shifting of cases" to his Bench, and nepotism in appointments to the **Permanent Lok Adalat**.
इनमें न्यायाधीशों के कथित उत्पीड़न, कुशासन, उनके पीठ के समक्ष मामलों को अनुचित रूप से "स्थानांतरित" करने तथा **स्थायी लोक अदालत** में नियुक्तियों में भाई-भतीजावाद के कथित मामलों को भी उजागर किया गया है।
- Justice Sharma has allegedly been intimidating some of his colleagues with the threat of retributive measures, including transfers, based on his claimed proximity to the CJI.
कथित रूप से न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा ने CJI के साथ अपनी कथित निकटता के आधार पर कुछ सहयोगियों को स्थानांतरण सहित **प्रतिशोधात्मक कार्रवाइयों** की धमकी देकर डराया है।
- It is reported that Justice Mehta's letters refer to specific instances of alleged favouritism towards a chosen few among the lawyers and the misuse of power in his capacity as the "master of the roster".
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, न्यायमूर्ति मेहता के पत्रों में वकीलों के बीच कुछ चुनिंदा लोगों के प्रति कथित **पक्षपात** के विशिष्ट मामलों और **"मास्टर ऑफ द रोस्टर"** के रूप में अपनी क्षमता में शक्ति के दुरुपयोग का उल्लेख किया गया है।
- Justice Mehta's last letter reportedly expresses concern over the CJI's alleged inaction, particularly as Justice Sharma is due to retire on September 26.
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, न्यायमूर्ति मेहता के अंतिम पत्र में CJI की कथित **निष्क्रियता** पर चिंता व्यक्त की गई है, विशेष रूप से इसलिए क्योंकि न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा 26 सितंबर को सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले हैं।
- So far, there has been no official denial of the reports concerning the contents of the letters.
अब तक, पत्रों की विषय-वस्तु से संबंधित रिपोर्टों का कोई **आधिकारिक खंडन** नहीं किया गया है।
- Justice Sharma, of course, has publicly denied the accusations as baseless.
हालाँकि, न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा ने सार्वजनिक रूप से इन आरोपों को **निराधार** बताते हुए खारिज किया है।
- A High Court functioning without a regular Chief Justice and functioning under an Acting Chief Justice for a considerably long period — in the instant case, for about 11 months — is not a good institutional gesture.
किसी उच्च न्यायालय का नियमित मुख्य न्यायाधीश के बिना और लंबे समय तक कार्यवाहक मुख्य न्यायाधीश के अधीन कार्य करना — वर्तमान मामले में लगभग **11 महीनों** तक — संस्थागत दृष्टि से उचित स्थिति नहीं है।
- The fact that Justice Sharma was earlier transferred to the Patna High Court in 2022, and that his request for repatriation to the Rajasthan High Court was rejected by the Collegium in 2023, which instead proposed his transfer to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, is also not a commendable antecedent.
यह तथ्य भी कोई सराहनीय पूर्ववृत्त नहीं है कि न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा का 2022 में पहले पटना उच्च न्यायालय में स्थानांतरण किया गया था और 2023 में राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय में उनकी **वापसी की मांग** को कॉलेजियम ने अस्वीकार कर दिया था तथा इसके बजाय पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय में उनके स्थानांतरण का प्रस्ताव दिया था।
- Justice Mehta, according to reports, is said to have wondered how such a judge came to be retransferred to the Rajasthan High Court in 2025 and subsequently allowed to function as the Acting Chief Justice, with wide-ranging administrative and judicial powers.
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, न्यायमूर्ति मेहता ने कथित रूप से इस बात पर आश्चर्य व्यक्त किया कि ऐसे न्यायाधीश का



2025 में राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय में पुनः स्थानांतरण कैसे हुआ और बाद में उन्हें व्यापक प्रशासनिक एवं न्यायिक शक्तियों के साथ कार्यवाहक मुख्य न्यायाधीश के रूप में कार्य करने की अनुमति कैसे दी गई।

- Of late, there have been two crucial developments.
हाल ही में, दो महत्वपूर्ण घटनाक्रम हुए हैं।
- First, lawyers at the Rajasthan High Court staged a sit-in protest on the High Court premises, following which Justice Sharma had to opt out from hearing cases.
पहला, राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय के वकीलों ने उच्च न्यायालय परिसर में धरना प्रदर्शन किया, जिसके बाद न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा को मामलों की सुनवाई से अलग होना पड़ा।
- Second, on August 31, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of Justice Sanjay Agrawal as the new Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.
दूसरा, 31 अगस्त को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय कॉलेजियम ने न्यायमूर्ति संजय अग्रवाल को राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय का नया मुख्य न्यायाधीश नियुक्त करने की सिफारिश की।
- Accordingly Justice Agrawal is now appointed.
तदनुसार, न्यायमूर्ति अग्रवाल को अब नियुक्त कर दिया गया है।

Allegations of corruption against sitting judges

पदस्थ न्यायाधीशों के विरुद्ध भ्रष्टाचार के आरोप

- Allegations of corruption against sitting judges in India are neither uncommon nor unprecedented.
भारत में पदस्थ न्यायाधीशों के विरुद्ध भ्रष्टाचार के आरोप न तो असामान्य हैं और न ही अभूतपूर्व।
- Yet, certain unique features of the present reports are worth noting.
फिर भी, वर्तमान रिपोर्टों की कुछ विशिष्ट विशेषताएँ ध्यान देने योग्य हैं।
- A sitting judge of the Supreme Court reportedly alerted the CJI to the conduct of an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court, supported by verifiable material.
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के एक पदस्थ न्यायाधीश ने किसी उच्च न्यायालय के कार्यवाहक मुख्य न्यायाधीश के आचरण के बारे में CJI को सत्यापन योग्य सामग्री के साथ सूचित किया।
- Yet, for several weeks, no cogent steps were reportedly initiated by the CJI in this regard.
फिर भी, रिपोर्टों के अनुसार कई सप्ताह तक CJI द्वारा इस संबंध में कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठाया गया।
- The CJI reportedly said that the allegations could not be treated as findings and that they “must be dealt with strictly through the established institutional mechanism”.
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, CJI ने कहा कि आरोपों को निष्कर्ष नहीं माना जा सकता और उनसे “स्थापित संस्थागत तंत्र के माध्यम से सख्ती से निपटा जाना चाहिए”।
- In view of Justice Sharma’s impending retirement, early action by the CJI to Justice Mehta’s letter could perhaps have averted some of the disturbing events that subsequently followed.
न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा की आसन्न सेवानिवृत्ति को देखते हुए, न्यायमूर्ति मेहता के पत्र पर CJI द्वारा समय रहते कार्रवाई किए जाने से संभवतः बाद में घटित कुछ परेशान करने वाली घटनाओं को टाला जा सकता था।
- Transparency International, in its reports, has underlined the growing trust deficit in the Indian judiciary.
ट्रांसपैरेंसी इंटरनेशनल ने अपनी रिपोर्टों में भारतीय न्यायपालिका में बढ़ते विश्वास के संकट को रेखांकित किया है।
- According to its 2002 report, based on a household survey, the judiciary was identified as the second-most corrupt institution in certain South Asian countries, including India.
इसके 2002 के रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, जो एक घरेलू सर्वेक्षण पर आधारित थी, भारत सहित कुछ दक्षिण एशियाई देशों में न्यायपालिका को दूसरा सबसे भ्रष्ट संस्थान माना गया था।
- The report is indeed shocking.
यह रिपोर्ट वास्तव में चौंकाने वाली है।

- Yet, the present situation in India is far more complex and multi-dimensional.
फिर भी, भारत में वर्तमान स्थिति कहीं अधिक जटिल और बहुआयामी है।
- There are many fine judges in India's judiciary whose integrity and public image should not be tarnished because of aberrations elsewhere, whether on or off the Bench.
भारत की न्यायपालिका में अनेक उत्कृष्ट न्यायाधीश हैं, जिनकी सत्यनिष्ठा और सार्वजनिक छवि को कहीं और हुई अनियमितताओं के कारण, चाहे वे पीठ पर हों या पीठ से बाहर, धूमिल नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

Institutional responsibility, structural issues

संस्थागत उत्तरदायित्व, संरचनात्मक मुद्दे

- The repeated episodes of judicial corruption in India reflect certain fundamental issues concerning the functioning of its higher judiciary.
भारत में न्यायिक भ्रष्टाचार की बार-बार सामने आने वाली घटनाएँ उसकी उच्चतर न्यायपालिका के कामकाज से संबंधित कुछ मूलभूत मुद्दों को प्रतिबिंबित करती हैं।
- First, the total lack of criteria, coupled with the unavoidable collaboration between the Collegium and the Executive at the Centre under the present system, makes judicial appointments highly partisan, opaque, and often arbitrary.
पहला, वर्तमान व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत स्पष्ट मानदंडों का पूर्ण अभाव तथा केंद्र में कॉलेजियम और कार्यपालिका के बीच अपरिहार्य सहयोग न्यायिक नियुक्तियों को अत्यधिक पक्षपातपूर्ण, अपारदर्शी और अक्सर मनमाना बना देता है।
- This mechanism and its processes are incapable of identifying the cleanest and most meritorious candidates.
यह तंत्र और इसकी प्रक्रियाएँ सबसे स्वच्छ एवं सर्वाधिक योग्य उम्मीदवारों की पहचान करने में सक्षम नहीं हैं।
- The issue of corruption in the judiciary, like many other institutional concerns, is inseparable from the existing method of selecting candidates for judicial office.
न्यायपालिका में भ्रष्टाचार का मुद्दा, अन्य अनेक संस्थागत चिंताओं की तरह, न्यायिक पद के लिए उम्मीदवारों के चयन की मौजूदा पद्धति से अलग नहीं किया जा सकता।
- A system of inviting applications, as is prevalent in Canada, or an independent body for judicial selection, as in the United Kingdom, remains unthinkable in India.
कनाडा में प्रचलित आवेदन आमंत्रित करने की व्यवस्था या यूनाइटेड किंगडम की तरह न्यायिक चयन के लिए किसी स्वतंत्र निकाय की व्यवस्था भारत में अभी भी अकल्पनीय बनी हुई है।
- Second, the lack of an effective mechanism to deal with corruption in the higher judiciary in India has had the effect of perpetuating the menace.
दूसरा, भारत की उच्चतर न्यायपालिका में भ्रष्टाचार से निपटने के लिए किसी प्रभावी तंत्र के अभाव ने इस समस्या को बनाए रखने का प्रभाव उत्पन्न किया है।
- The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, is inadequate to tackle the issue and has, for all practical purposes, become defunct.
न्यायाधीश (जांच) अधिनियम, 1968, इस मुद्दे से निपटने के लिए अपर्याप्त है और व्यावहारिक रूप से निष्क्रिय हो चुका है।
- The Supreme Court, in K. Veeraswami vs Union of India (1991), held that, for registering a First Information Report against a judge of the higher judiciary, the permission of the CJI is a necessary precondition.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने K. Veeraswami vs Union of India (1991) मामले में कहा कि उच्चतर न्यायपालिका के किसी न्यायाधीश के विरुद्ध प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट दर्ज करने के लिए CJI की अनुमति आवश्यक पूर्व शर्त है।
- As lawyer Prashant Bhushan rightly observed, "the police does not dare approach the Chief Justice for permission to investigate, unless they already have clinching evidence, which they cannot get, unless they investigate" ("Judicial Accountability or Illusion?", Economic and Political Weekly, November 25, 2006).



जैसा कि अधिवक्ता प्रशांत भूषण ने उचित रूप से कहा, “पुलिस जांच की अनुमति के लिए मुख्य न्यायाधीश के पास जाने का साहस नहीं करती, जब तक कि उसके पास पहले से निर्णायक साक्ष्य न हों, जिन्हें वह जांच किए बिना प्राप्त नहीं कर सकती” (“Judicial Accountability or Illusion?”, Economic and Political Weekly, 25 नवंबर, 2006)।

- Although the United Progressive Alliance government facilitated the passage of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill in the Lok Sabha in 2012, the Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha in 2014.

यद्यपि **संयुक्त प्रगतिशील गठबंधन सरकार** ने 2012 में लोकसभा में न्यायिक मानक और जवाबदेही विधेयक पारित कराने में सहायता की, लेकिन 2014 में 15वीं लोकसभा के विघटन के साथ यह विधेयक **समाप्त हो गया**।

- The subsequent legislative effort to revive the Bill, with some changes, also remained a non-starter.

बाद में कुछ परिवर्तनों के साथ विधेयक को पुनर्जीवित करने का **विधायी प्रयास** भी आगे नहीं बढ़ सका।

- The impeachment of erring judges, as suggested by Articles 124(4) and 217(1)(b) of the Constitution, has proved to be a failure.

संविधान के अनुच्छेद **124(4) और 217(1)(b)** में सुझाए गए दोषी न्यायाधीशों के महाभियोग की प्रक्रिया **विफल** सिद्ध हुई है।

- Likewise, the in-house mechanism adopted by the Supreme Court in 1999 has not proved to be fault-free or even effective.

इसी प्रकार, 1999 में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा अपनाया गया **आंतरिक तंत्र** भी न तो त्रुटिरहित और न ही प्रभावी सिद्ध हुआ है।

Earlier crises, different responses

पूर्ववर्ती संकट, अलग-अलग प्रतिक्रियाएँ

- But these considerations could not have been reasons for the CJI not to act promptly upon the concerns allegedly expressed by Justice Mehta.

लेकिन ये परिस्थितियाँ CJI के लिए न्यायमूर्ति मेहता द्वारा कथित रूप से व्यक्त चिंताओं पर **तत्काल कार्रवाई न करने का कारण** नहीं हो सकती थीं।

- On the contrary, the lack of a permanent systemic solution to the issues raised should have been an additional reason for the CJI to take remedial measures expeditiously and diligently, and to do whatever was possible within his authority.

इसके विपरीत, उठाए गए मुद्दों के लिए किसी स्थायी **व्यवस्थागत समाधान के अभाव** को CJI के लिए शीघ्रता और तत्परता से सुधारात्मक उपाय करने तथा अपने अधिकार क्षेत्र में जो कुछ संभव था, उसे करने का अतिरिक्त कारण होना चाहिए था।

- The situation called for **judicial statesmanship**.

स्थिति में **न्यायिक दूरदर्शिता और राजकीय कौशल** की आवश्यकता थी।

- In 1990, when an inquiry was underway against Justice V. Ramaswami for alleged misconduct, he was advised by then CJI Sabyasachi Mukharji, to take leave and keep away from judicial work.

1990 में, जब न्यायमूर्ति वी. रामास्वामी के विरुद्ध कथित कदाचार की जांच चल रही थी, तब तत्कालीन CJI सब्यसाची मुखर्जी ने उन्हें **छुट्टी लेने और न्यायिक कार्य से दूर रहने** की सलाह दी थी।

- Thereafter, when the impeachment motion against Justice Ramaswami failed in Parliament due to the Congress party's strategic abstention, the judge attempted to resume judicial work, with about nine months of his tenure remaining.

इसके बाद, जब कांग्रेस पार्टी के रणनीतिक मतदान से विरत रहने के कारण न्यायमूर्ति रामास्वामी के विरुद्ध महाभियोग प्रस्ताव संसद में विफल हो गया, तब न्यायाधीश ने अपने कार्यकाल के लगभग नौ महीने शेष रहते **न्यायिक कार्य पुनः शुरू करने** का प्रयास किया।

- However, then CJI Venkatachaliah refused to allocate any cases to him for hearing, notes Justice K. Chandru in his book, Who Will Judge the Judges? (2026).
हालाँकि, तत्कालीन CJI वेंकटचलैया ने उन्हें सुनवाई के लिए कोई मामला आवंटित करने से इनकार कर दिया, जैसा कि न्यायमूर्ति के. चंद्र ने अपनी पुस्तक **Who Will Judge the Judges? (2026)** में उल्लेख किया है।
- Even last year, when partly burnt currency notes were reportedly found in the outhouse of Justice Yashwant Varma at his Delhi residence, then CJI Sanjiv Khanna, quickly transferred him to the Allahabad High Court, where he was not allocated any judicial work, practically. पिछले वर्ष भी, जब न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा के दिल्ली स्थित आवास के बाहरी भवन में कथित रूप से **आंशिक रूप से जले हुए मुद्रा नोट** पाए गए, तब तत्कालीन CJI संजीव खन्ना ने उन्हें शीघ्रता से इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय में स्थानांतरित कर दिया, जहाँ व्यावहारिक रूप से उन्हें कोई न्यायिक कार्य आवंटित नहीं किया गया।
- In the reported decision in XXX vs Union of India (2025), the Supreme Court emphasised the responsibility of the CJI in matters relating to **judicial integrity and allegations of corrupt practices**.
XXX vs Union of India (2025) में रिपोर्ट किए गए निर्णय में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **न्यायिक सत्यनिष्ठा और भ्रष्ट आचरण के आरोपों** से संबंधित मामलों में CJI की जिम्मेदारी पर बल दिया।
- Justice Sharma allegedly claimed that the CJI is proximate to him. न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा ने कथित रूप से दावा किया कि CJI उनके **निकटस्थ** हैं।
- This was a factor that led to undesirable and avoidable speculations. यह एक ऐसा कारक था, जिसने **अवांछनीय और टाली जा सकने वाली अटकलों** को जन्म दिया।
- Given the nature of the allegations and their immediate verifiability, it was imperative that the CJI acted promptly and convincingly, so that further damage to the system and the institution could have been reduced, if not prevented altogether. आरोपों की प्रकृति और उनकी तत्काल **सत्यापन-योग्यता** को देखते हुए, यह आवश्यक था कि CJI शीघ्रता और प्रभावशाली ढंग से कार्रवाई करते, ताकि व्यवस्था और संस्था को होने वाली आगे की क्षति को पूरी तरह रोका न जा सके तो कम से कम **कम किया जा सकता**।

GS Paper II: International Relations		07 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07S9	India, China hold military talks in Arunachal भारत, चीन ने अरुणाचल में सैन्य वार्ता की	
07S9	UN-backed map must reflect Indian position on J&K, Ladakh: govt संयुक्त राष्ट्र समर्थित मानचित्र में जम्मू-कश्मीर, लद्दाख पर भारत के रुख को दर्शाया जाना चाहिए: सरकार	
07S9	As yoga and Ayurveda become part of India's global health diplomacy, experts press for credible standards योग और आयुर्वेद भारत की वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य कूटनीति का हिस्सा बन रहे हैं, विशेषज्ञ विश्वसनीय मानकों पर जोर दे रहे हैं	
07S9	Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to empower the world विश्व को सशक्त बनाने के लिए BRICS की 'POWER' का उपयोग	



India, China hold military talks in Arunachal

The meeting comes ahead of the BRICS Summit, which Chinese President Xi is expected to attend

Talks are being held amid alleged incursions by the Chinese and a military build-up at the LAC

Lieutenant-General Kalia, chief of 3 Corps, led 12-member delegation that included the ITBP

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Amid concerns over conflicting territorial claims and military build-up along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian and Chinese Armies held their first Corps Commander-level meeting in the Eastern Sector on Sunday, marking a significant expansion of the military dialogue mechanism beyond the Ladakh sector.

The meeting was held at the Vacha-Damai Border Personnel Meeting Point in Arunachal Pradesh amid reports of tension in the Taksing area of Upper Subansiri district.

According to Defence Ministry sources, Lieutenant-General Girish Kalia, Commander of the 3 Corps (Spear Corps), led a 12-member delegation that included an Inspector-General of the Indo-Tibetan



Dialogue route: The meeting was held at the Vacha-Damai Border Personnel Meeting Point in Arunachal Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

Border Police.

The 3 Corps, headquartered at Rangapahar in Nagaland, is responsible for operational areas along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian Army has two Corps formations responsible for the frontier in the State — the Tezpur-based 4 Corps and the Rangapahar-based 3 Corps.

The talks are significant

as Corps Commander-level meetings between the two Armies have largely been held at the Chushul-Moldo Border Meeting Point in eastern Ladakh, particularly after the June 2020 Galwan Valley clashes.

The meeting comes days before India hosts the BRICS Summit in New Delhi from September 11 to 13, which Chinese President

Xi Jinping is expected to attend.

The latest meeting comes amid reports of continued Chinese activity and alleged incursions in the Taksing area, despite two high-level engagements since July.

Until now, the Corps Commander-level mechanism had primarily been used to address military is-

'UN map' must reflect Indian position: govt.

NEW DELHI India on Sunday said a United Nations-initiated proposed world map must depict the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in accordance with the country's official map, and any "inaccurate" or "misleading" representation will be unacceptable. » PAGE 6

issues and tensions along the western sector of the India-China border in Ladakh.

The mechanism became particularly important following the Galwan clashes, in which both sides suffered casualties.

Since then, India and China have continued to use military and diplomatic channels to manage dif-

ferences and maintain stability along the LAC.

On August 6, the two countries held the 36th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs. This was followed by the 25th round of talks between the Special Representatives (SR) on the Boundary Question in Beijing on August 26.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval represented India, while the Chinese delegation was led by Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs.

Eight-point document

The two sides signed an eight-point outcome document following the SR-level talks. The agreement included a decision to estab-

lish two additional Border Personnel Meeting Points and new hotlines to strengthen communication and confidence-building mechanisms along the frontier.

According to sources, one of the newly proposed meeting points will be in the Eastern Sector under the operational responsibility of the 3 Corps, while another will be in the Central Sector.

The sources clarified that Jishimath is not among the newly identified meeting points.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army has been closely reviewing its operational preparedness along the frontier. Recently, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth visited the headquarters of the 3 Corps, where formation commanders briefed him about operational readiness and measures being undertaken to strengthen combat capabilities.

07S9. India, China hold military talks in Arunachal

भारत, चीन ने अरुणाचल में सैन्य वार्ता की

- Amid concerns over **conflicting territorial claims** and military build-up along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian and Chinese Armies held their first Corps Commander-level meeting in the Eastern Sector on Sunday, marking a significant expansion of the military dialogue mechanism beyond the Ladakh sector.

वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (LAC) के along पर परस्पर विरोधी क्षेत्रीय दावों और सैन्य जमावड़े को लेकर

चिंताओं के बीच, भारतीय और चीनी सेनाओं ने रविवार को पूर्वी सेक्टर में अपनी पहली **कोर कमांडर-स्तरीय बैठक** की, जो लद्दाख सेक्टर से आगे सैन्य संवाद तंत्र के महत्वपूर्ण विस्तार को दर्शाती है।

- The meeting was held at the Vacha-Damai Border Personnel Meeting Point in Arunachal Pradesh amid reports of tension in the Taksing area of Upper Subansiri district. यह बैठक अरुणाचल प्रदेश के **वाचा-दामाई सीमा कार्मिक बैठक बिंदु** पर ऊपरी सुबनसिरी जिले के तक्सिंग क्षेत्र में तनाव की खबरों के बीच आयोजित की गई।
- According to Defence Ministry sources, Lieutenant-General Girish Kalia, Commander of the 3 Corps (Spear Corps), led a 12-member delegation that included an Inspector-General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. रक्षा मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार, **3 कोर (स्पीयर कोर) के कमांडर लेफ्टिनेंट-जनरल गिरिश कालिया** ने 12 सदस्यीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व किया, जिसमें भारत-तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस के एक महानिरीक्षक भी शामिल थे।
- The 3 Corps, headquartered at Rangapahar in Nagaland, is responsible for operational areas along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. नागालैंड के **रंगापहार** में मुख्यालय वाली 3 कोर अरुणाचल प्रदेश में LAC के along परिचालन क्षेत्रों के लिए जिम्मेदार है।
- The Indian Army has two Corps formations responsible for the frontier in the State — the Tezpur-based 4 Corps and the Rangapahar-based 3 Corps. भारतीय सेना के पास राज्य में सीमा की जिम्मेदारी संभालने वाली दो **कोर संरचनाएँ** हैं — तेजपुर स्थित 4 कोर और रंगापहार स्थित 3 कोर।

- The talks are significant as Corps Commander-level meetings between the two Armies have largely been held at the Chushul-Moldo Border Meeting Point in eastern Ladakh, particularly after the June 2020 Galwan Valley clashes.
यह वार्ता महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि दोनों सेनाओं के बीच **कोर कमांडर-स्तरीय बैठकें** मुख्यतः पूर्वी लद्दाख के चुशुल-मोल्डो सीमा बैठक बिंदु पर आयोजित की जाती रही हैं, विशेषकर जून 2020 की गलवान घाटी झड़पों के बाद।
- The meeting comes days before India hosts the BRICS Summit in New Delhi from September 11 to 13, which Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to attend.
यह बैठक ऐसे समय में हुई है जब भारत 11 से 13 सितंबर तक नई दिल्ली में **BRICS शिखर सम्मेलन** की मेजबानी करने वाला है, जिसमें चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग के भाग लेने की उम्मीद है।
- The latest meeting comes amid reports of continued Chinese activity and alleged incursions in the Taksing area, despite two high-level engagements since July.
जुलाई से अब तक हुई दो उच्च-स्तरीय वार्ताओं के बावजूद, तक्सिंग क्षेत्र में लगातार चीनी गतिविधियों और कथित **घुसपैठ** की खबरों के बीच यह नवीनतम बैठक हुई है।
- Until now, the Corps Commander-level mechanism had primarily been used to address military issues and tensions along the western sector of the India-China border in Ladakh.
अब तक, **कोर कमांडर-स्तरीय तंत्र** का मुख्य रूप से लद्दाख में भारत-चीन सीमा के पश्चिमी सेक्टर में सैन्य मुद्दों और तनाव को संबोधित करने के लिए उपयोग किया जाता रहा है।
- The mechanism became particularly important following the Galwan clashes, in which both sides suffered casualties.
गलवान झड़पों के बाद यह तंत्र विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हो गया, जिसमें **दोनों पक्षों को हताहतियाँ** हुई थीं।
- Since then, India and China have continued to use military and diplomatic channels to manage differences and maintain stability along the LAC.
तब से, भारत और चीन ने LAC पर मतभेदों को प्रबंधित करने और **स्थिरता बनाए रखने** के लिए सैन्य और कूटनीतिक माध्यमों का उपयोग जारी रखा है।
- On August 6, the two countries held the 36th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.
6 अगस्त को दोनों देशों ने **भारत-चीन सीमा मामलों पर परामर्श और समन्वय के लिए कार्य तंत्र** की 36वीं बैठक आयोजित की।
- This was followed by the 25th round of talks between the Special Representatives (SR) on the Boundary Question in Beijing on August 26.
इसके बाद 26 अगस्त को बीजिंग में **विशेष प्रतिनिधियों (SR)** के बीच सीमा प्रश्न पर 25वें दौर की वार्ता हुई।
- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval represented India, while the Chinese delegation was led by Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs.
राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोवाल ने भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व किया, जबकि चीनी प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व वांग यी ने किया, जो चीनी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी की केंद्रीय समिति के राजनीतिक ब्यूरो के सदस्य और विदेश मामलों के लिए केंद्रीय आयोग के कार्यालय के निदेशक हैं।

Eight-point document

आठ-सूत्रीय दस्तावेज

- The two sides signed an eight-point outcome document following the SR-level talks.
SR-स्तरीय वार्ता के बाद दोनों पक्षों ने **आठ-सूत्रीय परिणाम दस्तावेज** पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
- The agreement included a decision to establish two additional Border Personnel Meeting Points and new hotlines to strengthen communication and confidence-building mechanisms along the frontier.
समझौते में सीमा पर **संचार और विश्वास-निर्माण तंत्र** को मजबूत करने के लिए दो अतिरिक्त सीमा कार्मिक बैठक बिंदु और नई हॉटलाइन स्थापित करने का निर्णय शामिल था।



- According to sources, one of the newly proposed meeting points will be in the Eastern Sector under the operational responsibility of the 3 Corps, while another will be in the Central Sector. सूत्रों के अनुसार, नए प्रस्तावित बैठक बिंदुओं में से एक पूर्वी सेक्टर में 3 कोर की परिचालन जिम्मेदारी के अंतर्गत होगा, जबकि दूसरा मध्य सेक्टर में होगा।
- The sources clarified that Joshimath is not among the newly identified meeting points. सूत्रों ने स्पष्ट किया कि जोशीमठ नए पहचाने गए बैठक बिंदुओं में शामिल नहीं है।
- Meanwhile, the Indian Army has been closely reviewing its operational preparedness along the frontier. इस बीच, भारतीय सेना सीमा पर अपनी परिचालन तैयारियों की बारीकी से समीक्षा कर रही है।
- Recently, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth visited the headquarters of the 3 Corps, where formation commanders briefed him about operational readiness and measures being undertaken to strengthen combat capabilities. हाल ही में, सेना प्रमुख जनरल धीरज सेठ ने 3 कोर के मुख्यालय का दौरा किया, जहाँ फॉर्मेशन कमांडरों ने उन्हें परिचालन तत्परता और युद्धक क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने के लिए किए जा रहे उपायों के बारे में जानकारी दी।

UN-backed map must reflect Indian position on J&K, Ladakh: govt.

GS II: IR

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Sunday said a United Nations-initiated proposed world map must depict the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in accordance with the country's official map, and any "inaccurate" or "misleading" representation will be unacceptable.

New Delhi's assertion came two days after it voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution aimed at correcting the world map to promote a more accurate representation of continental landmasses. The resolution titled "Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa" was adopted on Friday.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India highlighted that the resolution does not constitute endorsement of any specific map, projection or depiction of national boundaries.

"India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be depicted in accordance with India's official map. Any inaccurate or misleading depiction is unacceptable," he said.

"Our position on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity is clear, consistent and non-negotiable," he noted.

Mr. Jaiswal further said: "The resolution neither adopts nor authenticates any particular world map, nor does it address political cartography, including international boundaries, disputed territories or place name".

07S9. UN-backed map must reflect Indian position on J&K, Ladakh: govt

संयुक्त राष्ट्र समर्थित मानचित्र में जम्मू-कश्मीर, लद्दाख पर भारत के रुख को दर्शाया जाना चाहिए: सरकार

- India on Sunday said a **United Nations-initiated proposed world map** must depict the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in accordance with the country's official map, and any "inaccurate" or "misleading" representation will be unacceptable.

भारत ने रविवार को कहा कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा शुरू किए गए प्रस्तावित विश्व मानचित्र में जम्मू-कश्मीर और लद्दाख के केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को देश के आधिकारिक मानचित्र के अनुरूप दर्शाया जाना चाहिए और कोई भी "गलत" या "भ्रामक" प्रस्तुति स्वीकार्य नहीं होगी।

- The resolution titled **"Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa"** was adopted on Friday. **"Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa"** शीर्षक वाला प्रस्ताव शुक्रवार को अपनाया गया।



As yoga and Ayurveda become part of India's global health diplomacy, experts press for credible standards

GS II: IR

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Yoga and Ayurveda have moved beyond their traditional wellness identity and are increasingly becoming part of India's global health and diplomatic strategy, with the Centre seeking to expand their footprint through medical tourism, international education, practitioner mobility and trade agreements.

The shift is particularly evident in India's recent trade diplomacy. The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), operationalised in June 2026, and the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) contain dedicated provisions on health-related services and traditional medicine. These include measures to ease licensing, develop standards and facilitate the mobility of Ay-

urveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) practitioners and instructors.

New opportunity

The India-European Union FTA, signed in January 2026, goes further, allowing AYUSH practitioners to use their Indian qualifications in EU countries where no regulatory framework exists and providing for AYUSH wellness centres and clinics.

The agreements represent an attempt to transform AYUSH from being a cultural export to a formalised health and services opportunity.

The India-Oman CEPA contains what the government describes as its first comprehensive commitment on traditional medicine across all modes of supply, while the India-New Zealand FTA has a dedicated "health and tra-



The Centre issued 1,646 AYUSH visas to nationals from 75 countries between January 2024 and February 2025.

ditional medicine" annex covering AYUSH practices.

The New Zealand agreement also provides structured mobility pathways, including a dedicated visa quota for AYUSH practitioners. The government said the agreement would institutionalise cooperation in education, training, standards development and wellness services.

However, the diplomat-

ic push also raises questions about how far formal recognition and market access will translate into actual international demand.

Experts point to the need for credible standards, evidence, regulation, practitioner quality and patient safety if AYUSH is to establish itself in increasingly regulated global healthcare markets.

Senior officials in the Mi-

nistry of AYUSH said the AYUSH visa, overseas training and exchange programmes were also helping expand the sector.

"Foreign medical arrivals rose from 1.83 lakh in 2020 to 6.44 lakh in 2024, as per our data. Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Germany, Russia, Malaysia, Mauritius and Saudi Arabia are among the important markets for AYUSH and Ayurveda treatment. The government does not publish a current consolidated country-wise ranking of AYUSH patients," he said.

Absence of data

However, the figure of 6.44 lakh refers to overall foreign medical arrivals and not specifically AYUSH patients. The absence of consolidated data makes it difficult to assess AYUSH's actual share of India's medical-value-travel market.

The AYUSH visa, introduced in 2023, is another component of the strategy. Between January 2023 and December 2025, a total of 3,375 foreign nationals travelled to India on AYUSH visas or e-AYUSH visas, while another 579 travelled on AYUSH attendant visas or e-AYUSH attendant visas.

Earlier, the Ministry had reported that 1,646 AYUSH visas had been issued to nationals of 75 countries between January 2024 and February 2025.

Education is also emerging as another channel of influence. Under the AYUSH Fellowship Scheme, 260 students from 32 countries were studying AYUSH in Indian institutions.

The Ministry's international cooperation programmes also support training, seminars, conferences and knowledge exchange, including yoga and education overseas.

07S9. As yoga and Ayurveda become part of India's global health diplomacy, experts press for credible standards

योग और आयुर्वेद भारत की वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य कूटनीति का हिस्सा बन रहे हैं, विशेषज्ञ विश्वसनीय मानकों पर जोर दे रहे हैं

- Yoga and Ayurveda have moved beyond their traditional wellness identity and are increasingly becoming part of India's global health and diplomatic strategy, with the Centre seeking to expand their footprint through medical tourism, international education, practitioner mobility and trade agreements.

योग और आयुर्वेद अपनी पारंपरिक स्वास्थ्य एवं कल्याण संबंधी पहचान से आगे बढ़ चुके हैं और तेजी से भारत की वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य एवं कूटनीतिक रणनीति का हिस्सा बन रहे हैं, जबकि केंद्र सरकार चिकित्सा पर्यटन, अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षा, चिकित्सकों की गतिशीलता और व्यापार समझौतों के माध्यम से इनके विस्तार का प्रयास कर रही है।

- The shift is particularly evident in India's recent trade diplomacy. यह बदलाव भारत की हालिया **व्यापार कूटनीति** में विशेष रूप से स्पष्ट दिखाई देता है।
- The **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), operationalised in June 2026, and the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) contain dedicated provisions on health-related services and traditional medicine.** **भारत-ओमान व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौते (CEPA), जिसे जून 2026 में लागू किया गया, और भारत-न्यूजीलैंड मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) में स्वास्थ्य-संबंधी सेवाओं और पारंपरिक चिकित्सा के संबंध में विशिष्ट प्रावधान शामिल हैं।**

- These include measures to ease licensing, develop standards and facilitate the mobility of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) practitioners and instructors. इनमें लाइसेंसिंग को सुगम बनाने, मानक विकसित करने तथा आयुर्वेद, योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी,

सिद्ध, सोवा-रिग्पा और होम्योपैथी (AYUSH) के चिकित्सकों एवं प्रशिक्षकों की गतिशीलता को सुविधाजनक बनाने के उपाय शामिल हैं।

New opportunity

नया अवसर

- The India-European Union FTA, signed in January 2026, goes further, allowing AYUSH practitioners to use their Indian qualifications in EU countries where no regulatory framework exists and providing for AYUSH wellness centres and clinics.
जनवरी 2026 में हस्ताक्षरित भारत-यूरोपीय संघ FTA इससे भी आगे जाता है, क्योंकि यह उन EU देशों में जहाँ कोई नियामक ढाँचा मौजूद नहीं है, AYUSH चिकित्सकों को अपनी भारतीय योग्यताओं का उपयोग करने की अनुमति देता है तथा AYUSH वेल्नेस केंद्रों और क्लीनिकों के लिए प्रावधान करता है।
- The agreements represent an attempt to transform AYUSH from being a cultural export to a formalised health and services opportunity.
ये समझौते AYUSH को केवल सांस्कृतिक निर्यात से एक औपचारिक स्वास्थ्य एवं सेवा अवसर में परिवर्तित करने का प्रयास दर्शाते हैं।
- The India-Oman CEPA contains what the government describes as its first comprehensive commitment on traditional medicine across all modes of supply, while the India-New Zealand FTA has a dedicated “health and traditional medicine” annex covering AYUSH practices.
भारत-ओमान CEPA में सरकार के अनुसार, सभी आपूर्ति माध्यमों में पारंपरिक चिकित्सा के संबंध में उसका पहला व्यापक प्रतिबद्धता प्रावधान शामिल है, जबकि भारत-न्यूजीलैंड FTA में AYUSH पद्धतियों को शामिल करने वाला एक समर्पित “स्वास्थ्य और पारंपरिक चिकित्सा” परिशिष्ट है।
- The New Zealand agreement also provides structured mobility pathways, including a dedicated visa quota for AYUSH practitioners.
न्यूजीलैंड समझौता AYUSH चिकित्सकों के लिए एक समर्पित वीजा कोटा सहित संरचित गतिशीलता मार्ग भी प्रदान करता है।
- The government said the agreement would institutionalise cooperation in education, training, standards development and wellness services.
सरकार ने कहा कि यह समझौता शिक्षा, प्रशिक्षण, मानक विकास और वेल्नेस सेवाओं में सहयोग को संस्थागत रूप प्रदान करेगा।
- However, the diplomatic push also raises questions about how far formal recognition and market access will translate into actual international demand.
हालाँकि, यह कूटनीतिक प्रयास यह प्रश्न भी उठाता है कि औपचारिक मान्यता और बाजार तक पहुँच वास्तविक अंतरराष्ट्रीय मांग में किस सीमा तक परिवर्तित होगी।
- Experts point to the need for credible standards, evidence, regulation, practitioner quality and patient safety if AYUSH is to establish itself in increasingly regulated global healthcare markets.
विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि यदि AYUSH को तेजी से विनियमित हो रहे वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य सेवा बाजारों में अपनी स्थिति स्थापित करनी है, तो विश्वसनीय मानकों, वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण, विनियमन, चिकित्सकों की गुणवत्ता और रोगी सुरक्षा की आवश्यकता है।
- Senior officials in the Ministry of AYUSH said the AYUSH visa, overseas training and exchange programmes were also helping expand the sector.
आयुष मंत्रालय के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने कहा कि AYUSH वीजा, विदेशों में प्रशिक्षण और विनिमय कार्यक्रम भी इस क्षेत्र के विस्तार में सहायता कर रहे हैं।
- “Foreign medical arrivals rose from 1.83 lakh in 2020 to 6.44 lakh in 2024, as per our data.
“हमारे आँकड़ों के अनुसार, विदेशी चिकित्सा यात्रियों की संख्या 2020 में 1.83 लाख से बढ़कर 2024 में 6.44 लाख हो गई।

- Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Germany, Russia, Malaysia, Mauritius and Saudi Arabia are among the important markets for AYUSH and Ayurveda treatment.
बांग्लादेश, नेपाल, श्रीलंका, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, जर्मनी, रूस, मलेशिया, मॉरीशस और सऊदी अरब AYUSH और आयुर्वेद उपचार के लिए महत्वपूर्ण बाजारों में शामिल हैं।
- The government does not publish a current consolidated country-wise ranking of AYUSH patients," he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "सरकार AYUSH रोगियों की वर्तमान **समेकित देशवार रैंकिंग** प्रकाशित नहीं करती है।"

Absence of data

आँकड़ों का अभाव

- However, the figure of 6.44 lakh refers to overall foreign medical arrivals and not specifically AYUSH patients.
हालाँकि, **6.44 लाख** का आँकड़ा समग्र विदेशी चिकित्सा यात्रियों से संबंधित है, न कि विशेष रूप से AYUSH रोगियों से।
- The absence of consolidated data makes it difficult to assess AYUSH's actual share of India's medical-value-travel market.
समेकित आँकड़ों के अभाव में भारत के चिकित्सा-मूल्य-यात्रा बाजार में AYUSH की वास्तविक हिस्सेदारी का आकलन करना कठिन हो जाता है।
- The AYUSH visa, introduced in 2023, is another component of the strategy.
AYUSH वीज़ा, जिसे 2023 में शुरू किया गया था, इस रणनीति का एक अन्य घटक है।
- Between January 2023 and December 2025, a total of 3,375 foreign nationals travelled to India on AYUSH visas or e-AYUSH visas, while another 579 travelled on AYUSH attendant visas or e-AYUSH attendant visas.
जनवरी 2023 और दिसंबर 2025 के बीच कुल **3,375 विदेशी नागरिक** AYUSH वीज़ा या e-AYUSH वीज़ा पर भारत आए, जबकि अन्य **579 लोग** AYUSH अटेंडेंट वीज़ा या e-AYUSH अटेंडेंट वीज़ा पर आए।
- Earlier, the Ministry had reported that 1,646 AYUSH visas had been issued to nationals of 75 countries between January 2024 and February 2025.
इससे पहले, मंत्रालय ने बताया था कि जनवरी 2024 और फरवरी 2025 के बीच **75 देशों के नागरिकों को 1,646 AYUSH वीज़ा** जारी किए गए थे।
- Education is also emerging as another channel of influence.
शिक्षा भी प्रभाव के एक अन्य माध्यम के रूप में उभर रही है।
- Under the AYUSH Fellowship Scheme, 260 students from 32 countries were studying AYUSH in Indian institutions.
AYUSH फेलोशिप योजना के तहत 32 देशों के **260 विद्यार्थी** भारतीय संस्थानों में AYUSH का अध्ययन कर रहे थे।
- The Ministry's international cooperation programmes also support training, seminars, conferences and knowledge exchange, including yoga and education overseas.
मंत्रालय के **अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग कार्यक्रम** प्रशिक्षण, सेमिनार, सम्मेलनों और ज्ञान के आदान-प्रदान का भी समर्थन करते हैं, जिसमें विदेशों में योग और शिक्षा से संबंधित गतिविधियाँ शामिल हैं।



Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to empower the world

07S9. IR

The 18th BRICS Summit is about to be held in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026. China extends full support to India for its BRICS presidency, stands ready to work with all BRICS members and partners to jointly draw a blueprint for the high-quality development of a greater BRICS, and leverage BRICS POWER to empower the world. I would like to share my personal views on the greater BRICS cooperation, with the help of the five letters of the word Power.

The first is P for Principle. The world is now undergoing accelerated transformation unseen in a century, and witnessing a trend toward deepening multipolarity, economic globalisation, and the collective rise of the Global South. In the meantime, hegemonism and power politics are becoming increasingly rampant. Lingering geopolitical conflicts trigger a succession of crises and challenges.

As an important force for world peace and development, BRICS must resolutely uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and safeguard the basic norms of international relations, including sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes, and prevent the world from sliding back into the law of the jungle where the strong prey on the weak.

Upholding international principles

Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity and four global initiatives, including the Global Security Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, which provided China's solutions on addressing common human challenges and building a better world together.

The second is O for Openness. The world economy is currently facing a sluggish recovery, coupled with the spread of protectionism. Certain countries have undermined the international economic and trade order by erecting tariff barriers, seeking decoupling and disrupting supply chains.

It should be recognised that economic globalisation is an inevitable trend of history. BRICS should uphold the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO)



Xu Feihong
The Chinese
Ambassador to India

The five commitments for strengthening BRICS cooperation and empowering the Global South to build a more peaceful, open, and prosperous world

at its core, safeguard the basic principles of the WTO such as the most-favoured-nation treatment, and resist all forms of protectionism. We should join hands to deepen cooperation in energy and mineral resources, infrastructure, and industrial and supply chains to maintain an open global economic landscape.

China stays committed to building an open global economy, so as to share opportunities in openness, and achieve common development.

The third is W for Win-Win. BRICS should adhere to the Spirit of Openness, Inclusiveness and Win-Win cooperation. We should continue putting development at the centre of the BRICS agenda, accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen dialogue and build consensus on launching the formulation of the post-2030 global development agenda, and ensure that Global South countries participate in international cooperation as equals and share the fruits of development.

Economic and financial cooperation

We should pursue mutual benefit and win-win results to further consolidate economic cooperation. It is necessary to strengthen greater BRICS coordination on macroeconomic policies and adopt more trade and investment facilitation measures. We should push forward local currency and cross-border payment cooperation and improve the financial safety net, so as to enhance the ability to ward off external risks. In the face of global energy and food security challenges, we should build a more resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system.

The fourth is E for Engine. BRICS countries account for nearly half of the world's population, around 30% of global economic output, and one-fifth of global trade. We are also home to major natural resources, key manufacturers and vast markets. According to international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, greater BRICS growth will be nearly three times faster than the G-7 by 2028, further highlighting its role as an engine of world economic growth.

We should leverage our respective advantages, deepen practical cooperation in fields such as business, finance, science and technology,

forging more cooperation in the digital economy, smart manufacturing, and new industrialisation. We should actively promote the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with sectors including science and technology, health, agriculture and education, thereby injecting fresh impetus into world economic growth. China has established the China-BRICS AI Development and Cooperation Center and the China-BRICS New Quality Productive Forces Research Center, and welcomes active participation of all parties.

The fifth is R for Responsibility. BRICS countries are the main force in safeguarding fairness and justice and the backbone of promoting unity and cooperation. We must shoulder the responsibility of maintaining world peace and development. Over this year and the next, India and China will take on the BRICS rotating presidency in succession. Maintaining sound coordination between our two countries is conducive to the steady and sustained progress of greater BRICS' cooperation, and will better safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

China-India ties

Since the beginning of this year, under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China-India relations have maintained a momentum of improvement and development. The two sides strengthened dialogues at all levels and promoted exchanges and cooperation in various fields to achieve positive results. Five direct flight routes between the Chinese mainland and India have been resumed. After a six-year suspension, border trade has been reopened.

China looks forward to working with India to translate the important consensus reached by the two leaders into concrete actions, being good-neighbourly friends and partners that help each other, and pushing China-India relations to move forward in a sustained, healthy, and stable manner. May the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi be a great success. We welcome you all to China next year to continue empowering the world with BRICS POWER.

07S9. Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to empower the world

विश्व को सशक्त बनाने के लिए BRICS की 'POWER' का उपयोग

- The 18th **BRICS Summit** is about to be held in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026. 18वाँ **BRICS शिखर सम्मेलन** 12-13 सितंबर, 2026 को नई दिल्ली में आयोजित होने वाला है।
- China extends full support to India for its BRICS presidency, stands ready to work with all BRICS members and partners to jointly draw a blueprint for the high-quality development of a greater BRICS, and leverage BRICS POWER to empower the world.
चीन, भारत के **BRICS अध्यक्ष पद** का पूर्ण समर्थन करता है और सभी BRICS सदस्यों एवं साझेदारों के साथ मिलकर एक विस्तृत BRICS के उच्च-गुणवत्ता वाले विकास की रूपरेखा तैयार करने तथा विश्व को सशक्त बनाने के लिए **BRICS POWER** का उपयोग करने हेतु तैयार है।
- I would like to share my personal views on the greater BRICS cooperation, with the help of the five letters of the word Power.
मैं **Power** शब्द के पाँच अक्षरों की सहायता से व्यापक BRICS सहयोग के संबंध में अपने व्यक्तिगत विचार साझा करना चाहता हूँ।
- The first is **P for Principle**.
पहला अक्षर **P** अर्थात **Principle (सिद्धांत)** है।
- The world is now undergoing accelerated transformation unseen in a century, and witnessing a trend toward deepening multipolarity, economic globalisation, and the collective rise of the Global South.
विश्व वर्तमान में एक सदी में न देखे गए तीव्र परिवर्तन के दौर से गुजर रहा है और **बहुध्रुवीयता के गहराने, आर्थिक वैश्वीकरण तथा ग्लोबल साउथ के सामूहिक उदय** की प्रवृत्ति देख रहा है।
- In the meantime, hegemonism and power politics are becoming increasingly rampant. इस बीच, **वर्चस्ववाद और शक्ति-राजनीति** तेजी से बढ़ती जा रही है।

- Lingering geopolitical conflicts trigger a succession of crises and challenges. लंबे समय से चले आ रहे भू-राजनीतिक संघर्ष लगातार संकटों और चुनौतियों को जन्म दे रहे हैं।
- As an important force for world peace and development, BRICS must resolutely uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and safeguard the basic norms of international relations, including sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes, and prevent the world from sliding back into the law of the jungle where the strong prey on the weak. विश्व शांति और विकास की एक महत्वपूर्ण शक्ति के रूप में, BRICS को संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर के उद्देश्यों और सिद्धांतों को दृढ़ता से बनाए रखना चाहिए तथा संप्रभु समानता, आंतरिक मामलों में हस्तक्षेप न करना और विवादों का शांतिपूर्ण समाधान सहित अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों के बुनियादी मानदंडों की रक्षा करनी चाहिए और विश्व को फिर से उस जंगल के कानून की ओर लौटने से रोकना चाहिए जहाँ शक्तिशाली कमजोरों का शोषण करते हैं।

Upholding international principles अंतरराष्ट्रीय सिद्धांतों को बनाए रखना

- Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity and four global initiatives, including the Global Security Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, which provided China's solutions on addressing common human challenges and building a better world together. चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग ने मानवता के लिए साझा भविष्य वाले समुदाय के निर्माण की दृष्टि तथा ग्लोबल सिक्योरिटी इनिशिएटिव और ग्लोबल गवर्नेंस इनिशिएटिव सहित चार वैश्विक पहलों को प्रस्तुत किया, जिन्होंने मानवता की साझा चुनौतियों का समाधान करने और मिलकर एक बेहतर विश्व का निर्माण करने के लिए चीन के समाधान प्रदान किए।
- The second is O for Openness. दूसरा अक्षर O अर्थात Openness (खुलापन) है।
- The world economy is currently facing a sluggish recovery, coupled with the spread of protectionism. विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था वर्तमान में धीमी आर्थिक पुनर्बहाली का सामना कर रही है, जिसके साथ संरक्षणवाद का प्रसार भी हो रहा है।
- Certain countries have undermined the international economic and trade order by erecting tariff barriers, seeking decoupling and disrupting supply chains. कुछ देशों ने टैरिफ बाधाएँ खड़ी करके, आर्थिक अलगाव का प्रयास करके और आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को बाधित करके अंतरराष्ट्रीय आर्थिक एवं व्यापार व्यवस्था को कमजोर किया है।
- It should be recognised that economic globalisation is an inevitable trend of history. यह स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिए कि आर्थिक वैश्वीकरण इतिहास की एक अपरिहार्य प्रवृत्ति है।
- BRICS should uphold the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, safeguard the basic principles of the WTO such as the most-favoured-nation treatment, and resist all forms of protectionism. BRICS को विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) को केंद्र में रखते हुए बहुपक्षीय व्यापार प्रणाली को बनाए रखना चाहिए, सर्वाधिक अनुकूल राष्ट्र (Most-Favoured-Nation) व्यवहार जैसे WTO के मूल सिद्धांतों की रक्षा करनी चाहिए और सभी प्रकार के संरक्षणवाद का विरोध करना चाहिए।
- We should join hands to deepen cooperation in energy and mineral resources, infrastructure, and industrial and supply chains to maintain an open global economic landscape. हमें एक खुले वैश्विक आर्थिक परिदृश्य को बनाए रखने के लिए ऊर्जा और खनिज संसाधनों, अवसंरचना तथा औद्योगिक एवं आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं में सहयोग को गहरा करने के लिए मिलकर कार्य करना चाहिए।
- China stays committed to building an open global economy, so as to share opportunities in openness, and achieve common development.

चीन एक खुली वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के निर्माण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, ताकि खुलेपन में उपलब्ध अवसरों को साझा किया जा सके और साझा विकास प्राप्त किया जा सके।

- The third is **W for Win-Win**.
तीसरा अक्षर **W** अर्थात **Win-Win (पारस्परिक लाभ)** है।
- BRICS should adhere to the Spirit of Openness, Inclusiveness and Win-Win cooperation.
BRICS को खुलेपन, समावेशिता और पारस्परिक लाभकारी सहयोग की भावना का पालन करना चाहिए।
- We should continue putting development at the centre of the BRICS agenda, accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen dialogue and build consensus on launching the formulation of the post-2030 global development agenda, and ensure that Global South countries participate in international cooperation as equals and share the fruits of development.
हमें BRICS के एजेंडे के केंद्र में विकास को बनाए रखना चाहिए, संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सतत विकास लक्ष्यों के कार्यान्वयन में तेजी लानी चाहिए, संवाद को मजबूत करना चाहिए और 2030 के बाद के वैश्विक विकास एजेंडे के निर्माण की शुरुआत के संबंध में आम सहमति बनानी चाहिए तथा यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि ग्लोबल साउथ के देश अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग में समान रूप से भाग लें और विकास के लाभों को साझा करें।

Economic and financial cooperation आर्थिक और वित्तीय सहयोग

- We should pursue mutual benefit and win-win results to further consolidate economic cooperation.
हमें आर्थिक सहयोग को और सुदृढ़ करने के लिए पारस्परिक लाभ और पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी परिणामों की दिशा में कार्य करना चाहिए।
- It is necessary to strengthen greater BRICS coordination on macroeconomic policies and adopt more trade and investment facilitation measures.
व्यापक BRICS के बीच समष्टि-आर्थिक नीतियों पर समन्वय को मजबूत करना और व्यापार एवं निवेश को सुगम बनाने के लिए अधिक उपाय अपनाना आवश्यक है।
- We should push forward local currency and cross-border payment cooperation and improve the financial safety net, so as to enhance the ability to ward off external risks.
हमें स्थानीय मुद्रा और सीमा-पार भुगतान सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए तथा वित्तीय सुरक्षा-जाल को बेहतर बनाना चाहिए, ताकि बाहरी जोखिमों से निपटने की क्षमता बढ़ाई जा सके।
- In the face of global energy and food security challenges, we should build a more resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system.
वैश्विक ऊर्जा और खाद्य सुरक्षा की चुनौतियों के सामने, हमें अधिक लचीली और टिकाऊ कृषि एवं खाद्य प्रणाली का निर्माण करना चाहिए।
- The fourth is **E for Engine**.
चौथा अक्षर **E** अर्थात **Engine (इंजन)** है।
- BRICS countries account for nearly half of the world's population, around 30% of global economic output, and one-fifth of global trade.
BRICS देश विश्व की लगभग आधी आबादी, वैश्विक आर्थिक उत्पादन के लगभग 30% और वैश्विक व्यापार के पाँचवें हिस्से का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं।
- We are also home to major natural resources, key manufacturers and vast markets.
हमारे पास प्रमुख प्राकृतिक संसाधन, महत्वपूर्ण विनिर्माता और विशाल बाजार भी हैं।
- According to international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, greater BRICS growth will be nearly three times faster than the G-7 by 2028, further highlighting its role as an engine of world economic growth.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) जैसी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एजेंसियों के अनुसार, 2028 तक व्यापक BRICS की वृद्धि

G-7 की तुलना में लगभग तीन गुना तेज होगी, जो विश्व आर्थिक विकास के इंजन के रूप में इसकी भूमिका को और रेखांकित करता है।

- We should leverage our respective advantages, deepen practical cooperation in fields such as business, finance, science and technology, forging more cooperation in the digital economy, smart manufacturing, and new industrialisation.
हमें अपने-अपने **विशिष्ट लाभों** का उपयोग करना चाहिए, व्यापार, वित्त, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में व्यावहारिक सहयोग को गहरा करना चाहिए तथा **डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था, स्मार्ट विनिर्माण और नए औद्योगीकरण** में अधिक सहयोग स्थापित करना चाहिए।
- We should actively promote the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with sectors including science and technology, health, agriculture and education, thereby injecting fresh impetus into world economic growth.
हमें **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** के विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी, स्वास्थ्य, कृषि एवं शिक्षा सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के साथ एकीकरण को सक्रिय रूप से बढ़ावा देना चाहिए, जिससे विश्व आर्थिक विकास में नई गति लाई जा सके।
- China has established the China-BRICS AI Development and Cooperation Center and the China-BRICS New Quality Productive Forces Research Center, and welcomes active participation of all parties.
चीन ने **चीन-BRICS AI विकास एवं सहयोग केंद्र और चीन-BRICS नई गुणवत्ता वाली उत्पादक शक्तियाँ अनुसंधान केंद्र** स्थापित किए हैं और सभी पक्षों की सक्रिय भागीदारी का स्वागत करता है।
- The fifth is **R for Responsibility**.
पाँचवाँ अक्षर **R अर्थात् Responsibility (उत्तरदायित्व)** है।
- BRICS countries are the main force in safeguarding fairness and justice and the backbone of promoting unity and cooperation.
BRICS देश **निष्पक्षता और न्याय की रक्षा करने वाली प्रमुख शक्ति** तथा एकता और सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने की **मुख्य आधारशिला** हैं।
- We must shoulder the responsibility of maintaining world peace and development.
हमें **विश्व शांति और विकास को बनाए रखने का उत्तरदायित्व** उठाना चाहिए।
- Over this year and the next, India and China will take on the BRICS rotating presidency in succession.
इस वर्ष और अगले वर्ष, **भारत और चीन क्रमशः BRICS की घूर्णनशील अध्यक्षता** संभालेंगे।
- Maintaining sound coordination between our two countries is conducive to the steady and sustained progress of greater BRICS' cooperation, and will better safeguard the common interests of developing countries.
हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच **सुदृढ़ समन्वय** बनाए रखना व्यापक BRICS सहयोग की स्थिर और निरंतर प्रगति के लिए अनुकूल है तथा विकासशील देशों के **साझा हितों की बेहतर रक्षा** करेगा।

China-India ties चीन-भारत संबंध

- Since the beginning of this year, under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China-India relations have maintained a momentum of improvement and development.
इस वर्ष की शुरुआत से, दोनों नेताओं **राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग और प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** के रणनीतिक मार्गदर्शन में, चीन-भारत संबंधों ने **सुधार और विकास की गति** को बनाए रखा है।
- The two sides strengthened dialogues at all levels and promoted exchanges and cooperation in various fields to achieve positive results.
दोनों पक्षों ने सभी स्तरों पर **संवाद को मजबूत किया** और विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में आदान-प्रदान एवं सहयोग को बढ़ावा देकर सकारात्मक परिणाम प्राप्त किए।
- Five direct flight routes between the Chinese mainland and India have been resumed.
चीनी मुख्यभूमि और भारत के बीच **पाँच सीधी उड़ान मार्ग** पुनः शुरू किए गए हैं।



- After a six-year suspension, border trade has been reopened.
छह वर्ष के निलंबन के बाद सीमा व्यापार फिर से शुरू किया गया है।
- China looks forward to working with India to translate the important consensus reached by the two leaders into concrete actions, being good-neighbourly friends and partners that help each other, and pushing China-India relations to move forward in a sustained, healthy, and stable manner.
चीन भारत के साथ मिलकर दोनों नेताओं द्वारा प्राप्त **महत्वपूर्ण सहमति को ठोस कार्यों में परिणत करने**, एक-दूसरे की सहायता करने वाले अच्छे पड़ोसी मित्र और साझेदार बनने तथा चीन-भारत संबंधों को **निरंतर, स्वस्थ और स्थिर तरीके से आगे बढ़ाने** की दिशा में कार्य करने की आशा करता है।
- May the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi be a great success.
नई दिल्ली में आयोजित होने वाला **18वाँ BRICS शिखर सम्मेलन** अत्यंत सफल हो।
- We welcome you all to China next year to continue empowering the world with BRICS POWER.
हम आप सभी का अगले वर्ष चीन में स्वागत करते हैं, ताकि **BRICS POWER के माध्यम से विश्व को सशक्त बनाने** का कार्य जारी रखा जा सके।

GS Paper III: Economy		07 September 2026
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India's unemployment data dilemma

GS III: Economy

The government has finally found a way to measure the statistical elephant of unemployment; however, it may be incomplete – much like the blind men who touched different parts of a pachyderm and mistook it for the whole truth.

The challenge in measuring the unemployment rate using the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach – where a person's activity status is determined based on the preceding seven days – is to assess not only whether people are employed, but also the nature of their jobs, the frequency and regularity of their payments, and the overall quality of employment. In an economy where a vast majority of the population are involved in informal work, employment cannot be analysed through a headline rate of high frequency indicator, if it can be called so.

India's decision to transform the quarterly/yearly unemployment data into a monthly indicator is economically desirable, even if its credibility is questionable given the nature of its database, which seldom takes into account circular migration.

Efforts have been made to strengthen India's database comprising EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) and ESIC (Employees' State Insurance Corporation) payroll data, GST-based enterprise information, income tax records, corporate payroll data, gig economy employment data, and rural wage indicators but at present, even these sources remain fragmented. Unlike a



Santosh V. Perumal

mature labour market – comprising payroll surveys, unemployment insurance records, formal contracts, and extensive administrative databases – India's large informal employment market is difficult to track.

Most advanced nations count unemployment using a Labour Force Survey based on the definition of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The U.S., Japan, EU and the U.K. have decades of household survey data with detailed information on full-time versus part-time jobs, hourly wages, job duration, labour mobility, and unemployment spells.

A leading indicator

The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) says that India's unemployment rate for those aged 15 years and above marked a four-month low of 5.1% in July. The review period coincided with the peak of kharif season, when demand for agricultural labour rose for land preparation, transplanting, and allied activities. Since construction, agriculture, small trade, logistics, and local services see seasonal fluctuations, it is likely that July's decline reflects increased hiring in these segments rather than a broad-based expansion in formal sector jobs.

Monthly unemployment should at the best be a leading indicator, not a comprehensive measure of labour market health.

India has a labour market where various reports suggest that 90% of the population are involved in the informal sector; agricultural employment remains seasonal, with wage payments negotiated informally and where

underemployment/ disguised employment is widespread. Indicating limited granularity, data is rather sketchy on wage growth, hours worked, job quality, occupational shifts, and sector-wise employment trends. Therefore, monthly unemployment data reflects seasonal movements rather than structural improvement. A fall in unemployment may indicate distress-driven entry into low-productivity jobs rather than genuine employment creation.

The overall decline in unemployment was owing to rural areas, where unemployment declined to 4.5% from 5%; but it should not be read as a major improvement in the job market. Independent labour studies estimate that there are between 30 to 35 million seasonal labourers moving across India annually, forming the invisible backbone of urban construction and infrastructure.

The July data saw an increase in the labour force participation rate, a positive supply-side signal, but stronger investment and job creation prefix sustainable employment recovery. The challenge is to convert this participation into stable, high-productivity jobs.

The revamped PLFS is a significant improvement over earlier low-frequency labour statistics but its success ultimately depends on whether it gauges the reality of the job market – not merely measuring it more frequently. A credible labour market barometer is the need of the hour to capture the livelihoods of millions of workers.

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07S9. India's unemployment data dilemma

भारत के बेरोजगारी आँकड़ों की दुविधा

- The challenge in measuring the unemployment rate using the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** approach — where a person's activity status is determined based on the preceding seven days — is to assess not only whether people are employed, but also the nature of their jobs, the frequency and regularity of their payments, and the overall quality of employment.

वर्तमान साप्ताहिक स्थिति (CWS) दृष्टिकोण का उपयोग करके बेरोजगारी दर को मापने की चुनौती—जिसमें किसी व्यक्ति की गतिविधि स्थिति का निर्धारण पिछले सात दिनों के आधार पर किया जाता है—केवल यह आकलन करना नहीं है कि लोग रोजगार में हैं या नहीं, बल्कि उनके कार्य की प्रकृति, भुगतान की आवृत्ति एवं नियमितता और रोजगार की **समग्र गुणवत्ता** का आकलन करना भी है।



- In an economy where a vast majority of the population are involved in informal work, employment cannot be analysed through a headline rate of high frequency indicator, if it can be called so.
ऐसी अर्थव्यवस्था में, जहाँ आबादी का एक विशाल बहुमत **अनौपचारिक कार्य** में संलग्न है, रोजगार का विश्लेषण किसी उच्च-आवृत्ति संकेतक की केवल प्रमुख दर के माध्यम से नहीं किया जा सकता, यदि इसे ऐसा कहा भी जा सकता है।
- India's decision to transform the quarterly/yearly unemployment data into a monthly indicator is economically desirable, even if its credibility is questionable given the nature of its database, which seldom takes into account circular migration.
भारत द्वारा **त्रैमासिक/वार्षिक बेरोजगारी आँकड़ों को मासिक संकेतक** में परिवर्तित करने का निर्णय आर्थिक रूप से वांछनीय है, भले ही इसके डेटाबेस की प्रकृति को देखते हुए इसकी विश्वसनीयता संदिग्ध हो, क्योंकि यह डेटाबेस **चक्रीय प्रवासन** को शायद ही कभी ध्यान में रखता है।
- Efforts have been made to strengthen India's database comprising **EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation)** and **ESIC (Employees' State Insurance Corporation)** payroll data, GST-based enterprise information, income tax records, corporate payroll data, gig economy employment data, and rural wage indicators but at present, even these sources remain fragmented.
भारत के डेटाबेस को मजबूत करने के प्रयास किए गए हैं, जिसमें **EPFO (कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन)** और **ESIC (कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम)** के पेंशन आँकड़े, GST-आधारित उद्यम संबंधी जानकारी, आयकर अभिलेख, कॉर्पोरेट पेंशन आँकड़े, **गिग अर्थव्यवस्था के रोजगार आँकड़े** और ग्रामीण मजदूरी संकेतक शामिल हैं, लेकिन वर्तमान में ये स्रोत भी खंडित हैं।
- Unlike a mature labour market — comprising payroll surveys, unemployment insurance records, formal contracts, and extensive administrative databases — India's large informal employment market is difficult to track.
एक **परिपक्व श्रम बाजार** के विपरीत—जिसमें पेंशन सर्वेक्षण, बेरोजगारी बीमा अभिलेख, औपचारिक अनुबंध और व्यापक प्रशासनिक डेटाबेस शामिल होते हैं—भारत के विशाल **अनौपचारिक रोजगार बाजार** पर नज़र रखना कठिन है।
- Most advanced nations count unemployment using a Labour Force Survey based on the definition of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.
अधिकांश विकसित राष्ट्र **अंतरराष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (ILO)** की परिभाषा पर आधारित **श्रम बल सर्वेक्षण** के माध्यम से बेरोजगारी की गणना करते हैं।
- The U.S., Japan, EU and the U.K. have decades of household survey data with detailed information on full-time versus part-time jobs, hourly wages, job duration, labour mobility, and unemployment spells.
अमेरिका, जापान, यूरोपीय संघ और ब्रिटेन के पास दशकों से घरेलू सर्वेक्षणों के आँकड़े उपलब्ध हैं, जिनमें पूर्णकालिक और अंशकालिक रोजगार, प्रति घंटा मजदूरी, रोजगार की अवधि, श्रम गतिशीलता और बेरोजगारी की अवधियों के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी होती है।

A leading indicator

एक प्रमुख संकेतक

- The latest **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** says that India's unemployment rate for those aged 15 years and above marked a four-month low of 5.1% in July.
नवीनतम **आवधिक श्रम बल सर्वेक्षण (PLFS)** के अनुसार, 15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के लोगों के लिए भारत की बेरोजगारी दर जुलाई में **5.1% के चार महीने के निम्नतम स्तर** पर पहुँच गई।
- The review period coincided with the peak of kharif season, when demand for agricultural labour rose for land preparation, transplanting, and allied activities.
समीक्षा अवधि **खरीफ मौसम के चरम** के साथ मेल खाती है, जब भूमि की तैयारी, रोपाई और संबद्ध गतिविधियों के लिए कृषि श्रम की मांग बढ़ गई।

- Since construction, agriculture, small trade, logistics, and local services see seasonal fluctuations, it is likely that July's decline reflects increased hiring in these segments rather than a broad-based expansion in formal sector jobs.
चूँकि निर्माण, कृषि, छोटे व्यापार, लॉजिस्टिक्स और स्थानीय सेवाओं में मौसमी उतार-चढ़ाव देखने को मिलता है, इसलिए संभावना है कि जुलाई में आई गिरावट औपचारिक क्षेत्र में व्यापक रोजगार विस्तार के बजाय इन क्षेत्रों में बढ़ी हुई नियुक्तियों को दर्शाती है।
- Monthly unemployment should at the best be a **leading indicator**, not a comprehensive measure of labour market health.
मासिक बेरोजगारी को अधिकतम एक **प्रमुख संकेतक** माना जाना चाहिए, न कि श्रम बाजार के स्वास्थ्य का व्यापक माप।
- India has a labour market where various reports suggest that 90% of the population are involved in the informal sector; agricultural employment remains seasonal, with wage payments negotiated informally and where underemployment/ disguised employment is widespread.
भारत का श्रम बाजार ऐसा है जहाँ विभिन्न रिपोर्टों के अनुसार **90% आबादी अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र** में संलग्न है; कृषि रोजगार मौसमी बना हुआ है, जहाँ मजदूरी का भुगतान अनौपचारिक रूप से तय किया जाता है और **अल्परोजगार/प्रच्छन्न रोजगार** व्यापक है।
- Indicating limited granularity, data is rather sketchy on wage growth, hours worked, job quality, occupational shifts, and sector-wise employment trends.
सीमित **सूक्ष्मता (granularity)** को दर्शाते हुए, मजदूरी वृद्धि, काम किए गए घंटों, रोजगार की गुणवत्ता, व्यावसायिक बदलावों और क्षेत्रवार रोजगार प्रवृत्तियों के संबंध में आँकड़े अपेक्षाकृत अस्पष्ट हैं।
- Therefore, monthly unemployment data reflects seasonal movements rather than structural improvement.
इसलिए, **मासिक बेरोजगारी आँकड़े** संरचनात्मक सुधार के बजाय मौसमी बदलावों को दर्शाते हैं।
- A fall in unemployment may indicate distress-driven entry into low-productivity jobs rather than genuine employment creation.
बेरोजगारी में गिरावट वास्तविक रोजगार सृजन के बजाय **कम उत्पादकता वाले रोजगारों में विवशताजनित प्रवेश** का संकेत दे सकती है।
- The overall decline in unemployment was owing to rural areas, where unemployment declined to 4.5% from 5%; but it should not be read as a major improvement in the job market.
बेरोजगारी में समग्र गिरावट **ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों** के कारण हुई, जहाँ बेरोजगारी 5% से घटकर **4.5%** हो गई; लेकिन इसे रोजगार बाजार में बड़े सुधार के रूप में नहीं देखा जाना चाहिए।
- Independent labour studies estimate that there are between 30 to 35 million seasonal labourers moving across India annually, forming the invisible backbone of urban construction and infrastructure.
स्वतंत्र श्रम अध्ययनों का अनुमान है कि प्रत्येक वर्ष **3 से 3.5 करोड़ मौसमी श्रमिक** पूरे भारत में प्रवास करते हैं, जो शहरी निर्माण और अवसंरचना की **अदृश्य आधारशिला** हैं।
- The July data saw an increase in the **labour force participation rate**, a positive supply-side signal, but stronger investment and job creation prefix sustainable employment recovery.
जुलाई के आँकड़ों में **श्रम बल भागीदारी दर** में वृद्धि देखी गई, जो आपूर्ति-पक्ष का एक सकारात्मक संकेत है, लेकिन मजबूत निवेश और रोजगार सृजन **टिकाऊ रोजगार सुधार** के लिए पूर्वापेक्षित हैं।
- The revamped **PLFS** is a significant improvement over earlier low-frequency labour statistics but its success ultimately depends on whether it gauges the reality of the job market — not merely measuring it more frequently.
पुनर्गठित **PLFS** पहले के कम-आवृत्ति वाले श्रम आँकड़ों की तुलना में एक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार है, लेकिन इसकी सफलता अंततः इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि यह रोजगार बाजार की **वास्तविक स्थिति का आकलन** करता है या नहीं—न कि केवल उसे अधिक बार मापता है।
- A credible labour market barometer is the need of the hour to capture the livelihoods of millions of workers.



लाखों श्रमिकों की आजीविका की वास्तविक स्थिति को समझने के लिए एक विश्वसनीय श्रम बाजार संकेतक की आज तत्काल आवश्यकता है।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		07 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07S9	Sharpest pictures of sun's surface reveal previously unseen whirlpools सूर्य की सतह की सर्वाधिक स्पष्ट तस्वीरों में पहले कभी न देखे गए भंवरो का खुलासा	
07S9	Sulphuric acid: not so deadly सल्फ्यूरिक अम्ल: उतना घातक नहीं	
07S9	Steady gaze स्थिर दृष्टि	
07S9	Why Australia's music industry banned AI music in chart listing ऑस्ट्रेलिया के संगीत उद्योग ने चार्ट में AI संगीत को सूचीबद्ध करने पर प्रतिबंध क्यों लगाया	
07S9	Bhutan leads Southeast Asia region in eliminating rabies भूटान ने रेबीज़ उन्मूलन में दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया क्षेत्र में नेतृत्व किया	

Sharpest pictures of sun's surface reveal previously unseen whirlpools

In all pictures taken of the sun's surface in the past century, the edges of its convection cells were blurred; for decades, solar physicists wondered if these edges were really frayed or if they could find more detail if they observed the cells using a more powerful telescope; new images have settled the debate

THE GIST
Shamim Haque Mondal

Scientists have used the world's largest telescope to study the sun to capture the highest-resolution pictures yet of the sun's surface, revealing small, violent plasma whirlpools moving across it.

The discovery could change how scientists understand the way energy and magnetic fields move through the sun's atmosphere. These whirlpools seem like an efficient way to move energy and magnetic flux, and could also be responsible for braiding the sun's magnetic fields at small scales.

Such braided fields are thought to store and release the energy that powers solar flares and other eruptions – and may help explain why the sun's outer atmosphere is so unexpectedly hot.

The team's findings were published in *Nature* on August 5.

Details on the edge

The part of the sun that we see is called the photosphere. This is a chaotic environment filled with a rolling mass of superheated plasma. The light we see on the earth is energy emitted by this plasma.

Astronomers have been taking pictures of the sun's exterior for a long time, and they have always seen a beehive-like structure there. The cells in this structure are called convection cells. Each cell spans up to around 2,000 km – the distance from Mumbai to Guwahati – and lasts for 5-10 minutes before dissipating. The visible features of a convection cell are called granules. All these granules together form the outer visible layer of the sun.

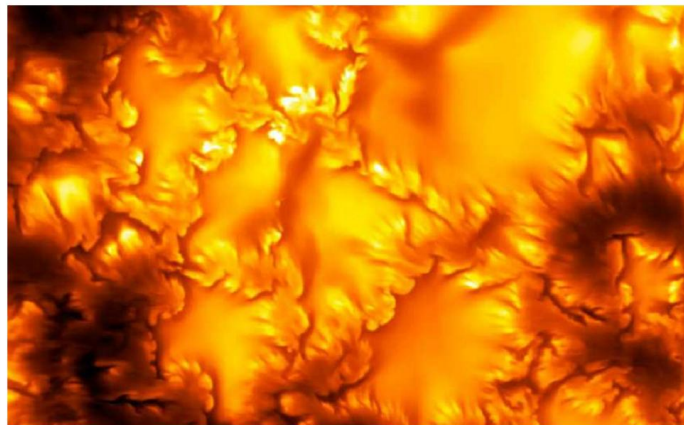
In all the pictures taken of the sun's surface in the past century, the edges of these granules were blurred. They looked like frayed cotton.

And for decades, solar physicists have wondered if these edges are really frayed or if they will find more detail if they observe them using a more powerful telescope. The new images have settled the debate.

"The weakness is in the telescope's aperture," the researchers – from the U.S. National Science Foundation National Solar Observatory (NSO), Germany's Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS), and the High Altitude Observatory (HAO) – wrote in their paper in *Nature*.

It seems that with telescopes whose primary mirrors are smaller than two metres wide, it is not possible for physicists to observe the fundamental perturbations on the sun's surface.

For their study, the researchers turned to the NSF Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) in Hawaii. Perched



The highest-resolution image of the sun's surface ever captured, by the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope. At the edges of the solar granules, the image reveals fringed-looking structures that display swirling motions. NSF/NSO/AURA/MPS

near the 10,000-foot-high summit of the Haleakalā volcano, the DKIST features a giant four metres primary mirror. It started scientific operations in late 2019.

The team used it to observe a magnetically active region on the sun called NOAA H4060, capturing light at a wavelength of 416 nanometres (which is visible light of a blue-violet colour). They also paired the telescope with a high-speed FastCam camera developed jointly by NSO and MPS. The camera had an exposure time of 100 microseconds, capturing up to 740 frames per second.

With the help of this camera, the researchers took many pictures of the sun's turbulent atmosphere. Then, one member of the research team, Michiel van Noort of MPS, used an advanced image processing technology called multi-frame blind deconvolution to remove the blurring that occurs when the sun is photographed from the earth. Then the team combined multiple cleaned-up images to recover a clear image.

Dr. Noort used this technology to capture images of the sun's surface of dimension 5,800 km x 4,350 km at a resolution of 19 km. This is like being able to spot a 10-rupee coin in Mumbai from Pune. Thus, the team found that the edges of the solar granules are innumerable small coils of plasma, each only 25-70 km long, separated by around

65 km. And they had their own little magnetic fields.

Wind over a river

The researchers also found that these small plasma coils moved along the boundaries of the granules, twisting and interacting with one another. And as they did, they generated whirlpools in the plasma – vortices that spun rapidly and changed shape within seconds.

When a strong wind blows over a calm river, small whirlpools form on the water. Generally, physicists say, a vortex is formed at the interface where two adjacent fluids move past each other at different speeds. The same thing has been found happening on the sun.

Scientists have previously found such whirlpools in the atmosphere of gaseous planets like Jupiter.

This is the first time scientists have seen such a wave moving on the surface of the sun. These whirlpools in the sun's plasma also rapidly grow in size. The scientists found that the fastest-growing vortices became 2.7-times larger than their original size in just 18 seconds. Even those that grew a little slower took only 71 seconds to reach this size. They rotated at about 1.6-2.8 km/s.

The scientists found that, over three minutes, these whirlpools constantly

form, merge with each other, and break up again.

A new way

The team confirmed its observations with the DKIST using magneto-hydrodynamics simulations on a computer. In both cases, the vortices' rotational speed and energy were the same. In other words, these whirlpools are essentially the sun's engines: they capture the sun's internal magnetic energy and radiate it out into the universe.

The simulations also suggested the whirlpools lie 100-400 km below the photosphere.

The findings give solar physicists a new way to investigate the boundary between convection and magnetism. The whirlpools generate turbulence and constantly distort the magnetic fields. In doing so, they could provide the small-scale motion needed to braid magnetic field lines and release magnetic energy higher in the atmosphere.

The next step is to determine how much energy these instabilities transport and how the small vortices are connected to the more energetic events of the sun's atmosphere.

(Shamim Haque Mondal is with the Physics Division, State Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. shamimmondal709@gmail.com)

THE GIST

New images captured by the world's largest telescope have provided the clearest view yet of the sun's surface, helping scientists better understand how energy and magnetic fields move through its atmosphere

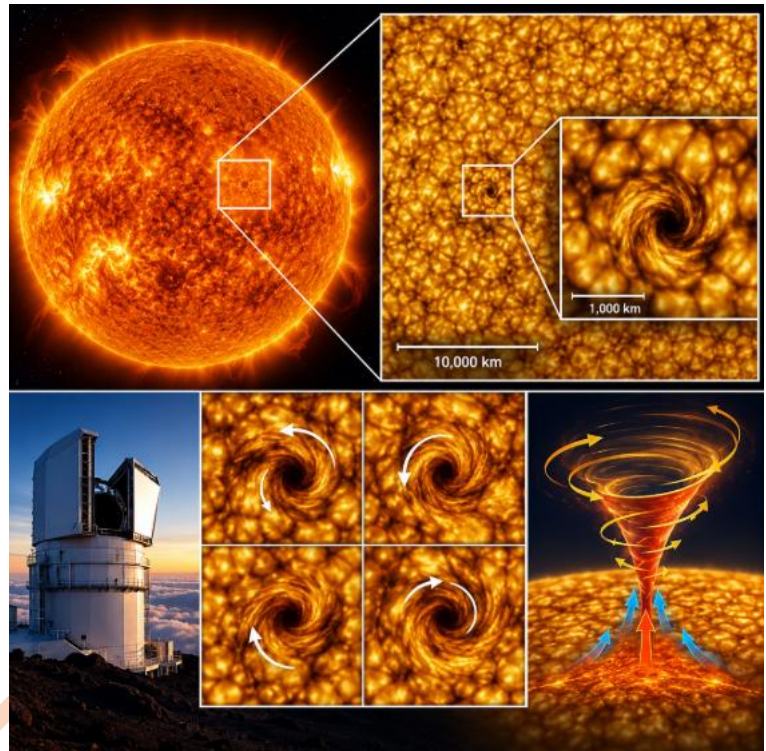
Scientists used the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope in Hawaii, which has a giant four metres mirror, to capture the sharpest images of the sun's surface; its advanced imaging capabilities allowed researchers to observe tiny solar features that smaller telescopes could not detect

Scientists found that tiny plasma coils on the sun's surface continuously move, twist and interact, and create fast-spinning whirlpools similar to those formed when strong winds disturb water. These vortices grow rapidly, merge and break apart within seconds, revealing a highly dynamic process never before observed

07S9. Sharpest pictures of sun's surface reveal previously unseen whirlpools
सूर्य की सतह की सर्वाधिक स्पष्ट तस्वीरों में पहले कभी न देखे गए भंवरो का खुलासा

- Scientists have used the **world's largest telescope** to study the sun to capture the highest-resolution pictures yet of the sun's surface, revealing small, violent **plasma whirlpools** moving across it.
- वैज्ञानिकों ने सूर्य का अध्ययन करने के लिए दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी दूरबीन का उपयोग करते हुए सूर्य की सतह की अब तक की सर्वाधिक उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन वाली तस्वीरें खींची हैं, जिनमें इसकी सतह पर गतिशील छोटे और हिंसक प्लाज्मा भंवरो का पता चला है।

- Such braided fields are thought to store and release the energy that powers **solar flares** and other eruptions — and may help explain why the sun's outer atmosphere is so unexpectedly hot.
- ऐसे आपस में उलझे हुए चुंबकीय क्षेत्रों के बारे में माना जाता है कि वे उस ऊर्जा को संचित और मुक्त करते हैं, जो **सौर ज्वालाओं** तथा अन्य विस्फोटों को शक्ति प्रदान करती है — और यह समझाने में भी सहायता कर सकते हैं कि सूर्य का बाहरी वायुमंडल अप्रत्याशित रूप से इतना गर्म क्यों है।
- 
- The image is a composite. On the left, a tall, white, cylindrical solar observatory is perched on a dark, rocky mountain peak. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. On the right, there are four square panels arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each panel shows a close-up of the sun's surface, characterized by a bright, turbulent, orange-yellow plasma. Overlaid on these panels are white, swirling, vortex-like patterns that represent complex magnetic field structures. Some of these patterns have small white arrows indicating a clockwise or counter-clockwise rotational direction.



Details on the edge किनारे का विवरण

- The **part of the sun that we see is called the photosphere.**
सूर्य के जिस भाग को हम देखते हैं, उसे **प्रकाशमंडल (फोटोस्फीयर)** कहा जाता है।
- This is a chaotic environment filled with a roiling mass of **superheated plasma.**
यह एक अराजक वातावरण है, जो अत्यधिक गर्म **प्लाज़्मा** के उथल-पुथल से भरे द्रव्यमान से युक्त है।
- The **light we see on the earth is energy emitted by this plasma.**
पृथ्वी पर हमें दिखाई देने वाला प्रकाश इसी प्लाज़्मा द्वारा उत्सर्जित ऊर्जा है।
- Astronomers have been taking pictures of the sun's exterior for a long time, and they have always seen a **beehive-like structure** there.
खगोलविद लंबे समय से सूर्य के बाहरी भाग की तस्वीरें लेते रहे हैं और उन्होंने वहाँ हमेशा **मधुमक्खी के छते जैसी संरचना** देखी है।
- The cells in this structure are called **convection cells.**
इस संरचना में मौजूद कोशिकाओं को **संवहन कोशिकाएँ** कहा जाता है।
- **Each cell spans up to around 2,000 km — the distance from Mumbai to Guwahati — and lasts for 5-10 minutes before dissipating.**
प्रत्येक कोशिका लगभग 2,000 किमी तक फैली होती है — जो मुंबई से गुवाहाटी के बीच की दूरी के बराबर है — और विलुप्त होने से पहले 5-10 मिनट तक बनी रहती है।
- The **visible features of a convection cell are called granules.**
संवहन कोशिका की दिखाई देने वाली विशेषताओं को **ग्रैन्युल्स** कहा जाता है।

- All these granules together form the **outer visible layer of the sun**.
ये सभी ग्रैन्यूल्स मिलकर सूर्य की बाहरी दृश्यमान परत का निर्माण करते हैं।
- The team used it to observe a **magnetically active region** on the sun called NOAA 14060, capturing light at a wavelength of 416 nanometres (which is visible light of a blue-violet colour).
शोध दल ने इसका उपयोग सूर्य पर NOAA 14060 नामक एक चुंबकीय रूप से सक्रिय क्षेत्र का अवलोकन करने के लिए किया और 416 नैनोमीटर की तरंगदैर्घ्य पर प्रकाश को कैप्चर किया (जो नीले-बैंगनी रंग का दृश्य प्रकाश है)।
- Thus, the team found that the edges of the solar granules are innumerable small coils of plasma, each only 25-170 km long, separated by around 65 km.
इस प्रकार, शोध दल ने पाया कि सौर ग्रैन्यूल्स के किनारे असंख्य छोटे प्लाज़्मा कुंडल हैं, जिनमें से प्रत्येक की लंबाई केवल 25-170 किमी है और वे लगभग 65 किमी की दूरी पर एक-दूसरे से अलग हैं।

Wind over a river

नदी के ऊपर बहती हवा

- The researchers also found that these small plasma coils moved along the boundaries of the granules, twisting and interacting with one another.
शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी पाया कि ये छोटे प्लाज़्मा कुंडल ग्रैन्यूल्स की सीमाओं के साथ गति करते हुए एक-दूसरे के साथ मुड़ते और परस्पर क्रिया करते थे।
- Scientists have previously found such whirlpools in the atmosphere of gaseous planets like Jupiter.
वैज्ञानिकों ने इससे पहले बृहस्पति जैसे गैसीय ग्रहों के वायुमंडल में इस प्रकार के भँवर पाए हैं।

Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST)

- The Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) is the world's largest and most powerful solar telescope. It is designed specifically to study the Sun, especially its surface, atmosphere, magnetic fields, sunspots, solar flares and other processes related to space weather.
- It is located near the summit of Haleakalā volcano on Maui, Hawai'i, USA, at an altitude of about 10,000 feet (around 3,000 metres).
- The telescope is operated by the National Solar Observatory (NSO) with support from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA).

Why is DKIST Special?

- Its most important feature is its enormous 4-metre primary mirror, the largest mirror used in any solar telescope. It collects roughly seven times more sunlight than previous major solar telescopes, allowing scientists to observe extremely small structures on the Sun.
- In simple terms, a larger telescope mirror works somewhat like a larger eye. The more light it collects, the finer the details it can distinguish.
- DKIST uses an off-axis optical design. This reduces unwanted scattered light and helps scientists observe faint structures near very bright regions of the Sun.
- It also uses adaptive optics, a technology that continuously corrects the blurring caused by turbulence in Earth's atmosphere. It is similar to electronically correcting a shaky or distorted image while it is being recorded.

What Part of the Sun Does It Study?

- DKIST can study different layers of the Sun, from the photosphere to the chromosphere



and parts of the **corona**.

- The **photosphere** is the visible “surface” of the Sun. It contains structures called **granules**, produced by convection.
- Imagine boiling water. **Hot material rises**, loses heat and then sinks again. A broadly similar process occurs in the Sun’s plasma, producing the granular appearance of the photosphere.
- DKIST’s early observations resolved solar structures only about **30 km across**, a major improvement over previous ground-based solar observations.

Role of Magnetic Fields

- The Sun is made mainly of **plasma**, an electrically charged state of matter. Because charged particles move through the Sun, they generate powerful **magnetic fields**.
- DKIST is especially important because it can measure the **strength and direction of solar magnetic fields** with exceptional detail.
- Magnetic fields are central to understanding **sunspots, solar flares, coronal mass ejections (CMEs), solar wind and coronal heating**.

Important Instruments

- **Visible Broadband Imager (VBI):** Produces extremely sharp images of the solar surface.
- **Visible Spectro-Polarimeter (ViSP):** Separates sunlight into different wavelengths, somewhat like a **prism creating a rainbow**, and helps measure magnetic fields.
- **Cryogenic Near-Infrared Spectro-Polarimeter (Cryo-NIRSP):** Studies the faint solar corona in infrared wavelengths.
- **Visible Tunable Filter (VTF):** A major imaging spectro-polarimeter. Its first-light observations were achieved recently, with science verification and commissioning progressing in **2026**.

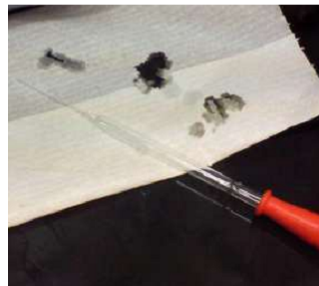
Sulphuric acid: not so deadly

GS III: S&T
Vasudevan Mukunth

Researchers have found that certain peptides — short chains of amino acids that make up proteins — are not only stable in 98% concentrated sulphuric acid but also fold into the complex 3D shapes required to perform the functions central to life.

Thus, the findings, published *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on September 4, defy the assumption that concentrated sulphuric acid is a bane for the building blocks of life. Scientists had previously found nucleic acid bases and amino acids to be stable in the same solvent; this is the first time a macromolecule important to biology has been shown to be capable of the same feat.

Normally, strong acids break down peptides in a process called hydrolysis; as the name suggests, water molecules break down one or more important bonds. Since 98% sulphuric acid contains almost no water, the reaction that would normally shred the peptide bonds can’t happen, allowing the peptides to remain stable for several weeks at room temperature. Using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, the researchers found that these peptides folded into a specific shape called an omega loop, using the sulphuric acid molecules themselves as a kind of scaffolding to help maintain the shape.



Drops of 98% concentrated sulphuric acid rapidly dehydrate tissue paper, leaving behind carbon, which stains it black. PUBLIC DOMAIN

This is however a significant departure from how proteins behave in water, where they typically form different structures like helices or sheets. The findings are important for the search for life beyond the earth. For example, Venus is covered in clouds of concentrated sulphuric acid, which scientists previously assumed were too harsh an environment to host any complex chemistry. The new findings question this assumption.

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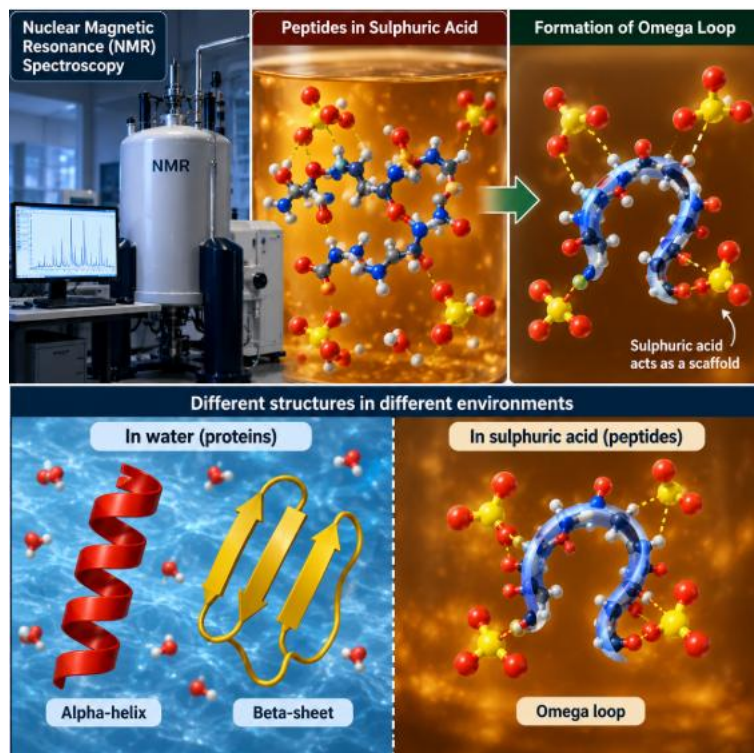
07S9. Sulphuric acid: not so deadly सल्फ्यूरिक अम्ल: उतना घातक नहीं

Peptides Surviving in Concentrated Sulphuric Acid

- Researchers have found that **some peptides**, which are short chains of amino acids, can remain stable even in **98% concentrated sulphuric acid**.
- This is surprising because strong acids are usually thought to destroy important biological molecules.

Peptides and Proteins

- Amino acids** are the basic building blocks of proteins.
- When a few amino acids join together, they form a **peptide**.
- Long peptide chains fold into **proteins**, and their 3D shape determines their function.
- A simple example is a **key and lock**. A protein must have the correct shape to fit and perform a specific biological task.

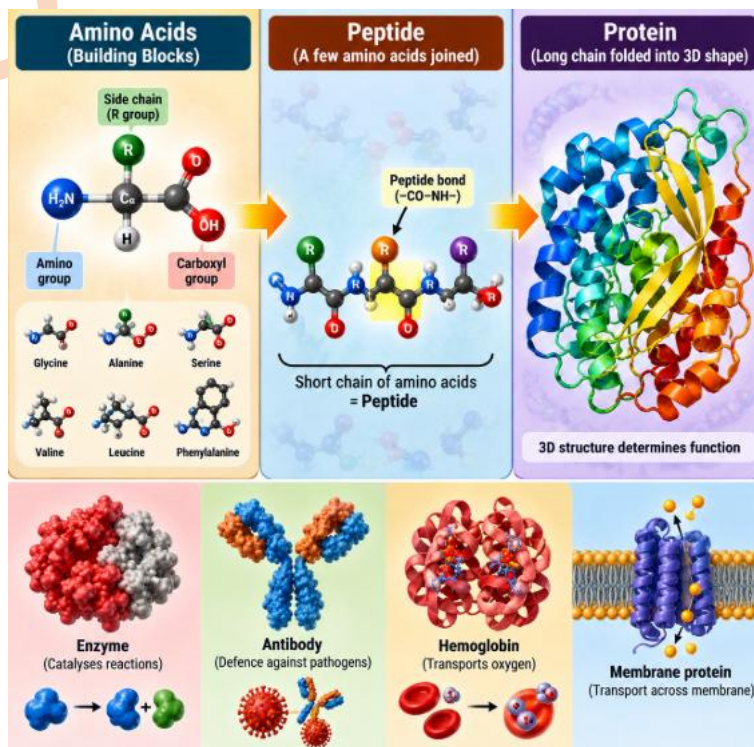


Why Does Strong Acid Usually Destroy Peptides?

- Strong acids** generally promote **hydrolysis**, in which **water molecules** help break **peptide bonds**.
- However, **98% sulphuric acid** contains **very little water**. Therefore, the usual hydrolysis reaction is greatly reduced, allowing peptide bonds to survive for weeks at room temperature.

Omega Loop Formation

- Using **Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy**, scientists found that the peptides did not remain **shapeless**.
- They folded into a stable structure called an **omega loop**.
- Sulphuric acid molecules themselves helped support this structure, acting somewhat like a **scaffold**.
- This is different from proteins in water, which often form **alpha-helices** and **beta-sheets**.



Why Is This Important for Life Beyond Earth?

- The discovery is important for astrobiology, the study of possible life beyond Earth.
- Venus has clouds containing highly concentrated sulphuric acid. Such conditions were once considered too hostile for complex biological chemistry.



- The new finding does not prove that life exists on Venus. It only shows that some biologically important molecules may survive and fold in such extreme conditions.

GS III: S&T

Steady gaze

ISRO's EOS-05 satellite has uses in varied areas from security to weather

The successful launch of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) EOS-05 satellite is India's first earth-imaging satellite bound for a geosynchronous orbit, meaning that it is locked-in to the earth's rotation and can be tuned to continuously observe the same location. The rocket placed it in a transfer orbit early on Friday; onboard thrusters are expected to raise it to its final perch at some 36,000 kilometres above the earth's surface over the coming weeks. From there it can track fast-changing events such as floods, cyclones and forest fires, and monitor crops, forests, water bodies and land use. Unlike a conventional camera, its sensors examine how the earth's surface reflects different wavelengths of light, helping distinguish vegetation, water and other land cover. Because it is perched farther away than conventional low-orbit imaging satellites, its strength is not ultra-fine detail but the ability to return to the same broad areas very frequently. India has long had eyes in geostationary orbit, but they have been weather satellites, namely the INSAT-3D series. Its dedicated earth-imaging satellites have operated in low, polar or sun-synchronous orbits. Flying a few hundred kilometres up, they capture much finer detail, but move constantly around the planet, imaging a different strip of territory on successive passes and taking days to return.

EOS-05's timing could hardly be better. Given the devastation by the Bhote Koshi deluge in Nepal, which has claimed 1,344 lives, such satellites can play some role in understanding changes in landforms and how they may act as precursors to glacier-breaks and avalanches. Or, as winter approaches in north India, in establishing whether stubble fires over Punjab have genuinely declined or burning has simply shifted in time to slip past the polar satellites. ISRO has described the EOS-05 as a "strategic" satellite, a term that stretches from security to weather. All of this is premised on the data reaching a wide enough set of analysts who can turn the images into forecasts and actionable insight. There is cheer, too, that ISRO's first successful launch of 2026 – and another vote of confidence in the cryogenic stage that failed the agency in 2021 – comes after setbacks. But that does not soften the temperamental nature of launches. Two consecutive failures of the PSLV, the agency's workhorse since the 1990s, in May last year and again this January, both traced to the third stage, suggest that dependability is not infallibility. The usefulness of its payloads, and the cadence of its launches, should be ISRO's calling card, rather than any single launch as the hallmark of institutional credibility.

स्थित है, इसलिए इसकी क्षमता अत्यधिक सूक्ष्म विवरण प्राप्त करने में नहीं, बल्कि विस्तृत क्षेत्रों में बार-बार लौटकर उनका अवलोकन करने में है।

- India has long had eyes in geostationary orbit, but they have been weather satellites, namely the INSAT-3D series.

भारत के पास लंबे समय से भू-स्थिर कक्षा (geostationary orbit) में उपग्रह रहे हैं, लेकिन वे मौसम संबंधी उपग्रह रहे हैं, अर्थात् INSAT-3D श्रृंखला।

- Its dedicated earth-imaging satellites have operated in low, polar or sun-synchronous orbits. इसके समर्पित पृथ्वी-इमेजिंग उपग्रह निम्न, ध्रुवीय या सूर्य-समकालिक कक्षाओं में संचालित होते रहे हैं।
- Flying a few hundred kilometres up, they capture much finer detail, but move constantly around the planet, imaging a different strip of territory on successive passes and taking days

07S9. Steady gaze स्थिर दृष्टि

- The successful launch of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) EOS-05 satellite is India's first earth-imaging satellite bound for a geosynchronous orbit, meaning that it is locked-in to the earth's rotation and can be tuned to continuously observe the same location.

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) के EOS-05 उपग्रह का सफल प्रक्षेपण भारत का पहला पृथ्वी-इमेजिंग उपग्रह है, जिसे भू-समकालिक कक्षा (geosynchronous orbit) के लिए भेजा गया है, जिसका अर्थ है कि यह पृथ्वी के घूर्णन के साथ समकालिक रहता है और इसे एक ही स्थान का लगातार अवलोकन करने के लिए समायोजित किया जा सकता है।

- The rocket placed it in a transfer orbit early on Friday; onboard thrusters are expected to raise it to its final perch at some 36,000 kilometres above the earth's surface over the coming weeks.

रॉकेट ने शुक्रवार तड़के इसे स्थानांतरण कक्षा (transfer orbit) में स्थापित किया; आगामी सप्ताहों में ऑनबोर्ड थ्रस्टर इसे पृथ्वी की सतह से लगभग 36,000 किलोमीटर ऊपर इसकी अंतिम कक्षा में पहुँचाने की उम्मीद है।

- From there it can track fast-changing events such as floods, cyclones and forest fires, and monitor crops, forests, water bodies and land use.

वहाँ से यह बाढ़, चक्रवात और वनाग्नि जैसी तेजी से बदलने वाली घटनाओं पर नज़र रख सकता है तथा फसलों, वनों, जल निकायों और भूमि उपयोग की निगरानी कर सकता है।

- Unlike a conventional camera, its sensors examine how the earth's surface reflects different wavelengths of light, helping distinguish vegetation, water and other land cover.

पारंपरिक कैमरे के विपरीत, इसके संसार यह जाँचते हैं कि पृथ्वी की सतह प्रकाश की विभिन्न तरंगदैर्घ्य को किस प्रकार परावर्तित करती है, जिससे वनस्पति, जल और अन्य भूमि आवरण के बीच अंतर करने में सहायता मिलती है।

- Because it is perched farther away than conventional low orbit imaging satellites, its strength is not ultra fine detail but the ability to return to the same broad areas very frequently.

क्योंकि यह पारंपरिक निम्न-कक्षा वाले इमेजिंग उपग्रहों की तुलना में अधिक दूर

to return.

कुछ सौ किलोमीटर की ऊँचाई पर उड़ते हुए, वे कहीं अधिक सूक्ष्म विवरण प्राप्त करते हैं, लेकिन लगातार पृथ्वी के चारों ओर घूमते रहते हैं, क्रमिक चक्करों में भू-भाग की अलग-अलग पट्टियों की तस्वीर लेते हैं और वापस लौटने में कई दिन लगाते हैं।

- EOS-05's timing could hardly be better.

EOS-05 का समय इससे बेहतर शायद ही हो सकता था।

- Given the devastation by the Bhote Koshi deluge in Nepal, which has claimed 1,344 lives, such satellites can play some role in understanding changes in landforms and how they may act as precursors to glacier-breaks and avalanches.

नेपाल में भोटे कोशी बाढ़ से हुई तबाही को देखते हुए, जिसमें 1,344 लोगों की जान जा चुकी है, ऐसे उपग्रह भू-आकृतियों में होने वाले परिवर्तनों को समझने में कुछ भूमिका निभा सकते हैं और यह जानने में सहायता कर सकते हैं कि ये परिवर्तन हिमनद टूटने और हिमस्खलन के पूर्व संकेतक के रूप में किस प्रकार कार्य कर सकते हैं।

- Or, as winter approaches in north India, in establishing whether stubble fires over Punjab have genuinely declined or burning has simply shifted in time to slip past the polar satellites.

या, जैसे-जैसे उत्तर भारत में सर्दी निकट आती है, वे यह निर्धारित करने में सहायता कर सकते हैं कि पंजाब में पराली की आग वास्तव में कम हुई है या जलाने का समय केवल इतना बदल गया है कि वह ध्रुवीय उपग्रहों की निगरानी से बच जाए।

- ISRO has described the EOS-05 as a "strategic" satellite, a term that stretches from security to weather.

ISRO ने EOS-05 को एक "रणनीतिक" उपग्रह बताया है, यह ऐसा शब्द है जिसका दायरा सुरक्षा से लेकर मौसम तक फैला हुआ है।

- All of this is premised on the data reaching a wide enough set of analysts who can turn the images into forecasts and actionable insight.

यह सब इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि डेटा पर्याप्त व्यापक संख्या में विश्लेषकों तक पहुँचे, जो इन तस्वीरों को पूर्वानुमानों और कार्रवाई योग्य अंतर्दृष्टि में परिवर्तित कर सकें।

- There is cheer, too, that ISRO's first successful launch of 2026—and another vote of confidence in the cryogenic stage that failed the agency in 2021—comes after setbacks.

यह भी उत्साह का विषय है कि 2026 में ISRO का पहला सफल प्रक्षेपण—और उस क्रायोजेनिक चरण में फिर से विश्वास का प्रदर्शन, जो 2021 में एजेंसी के लिए विफल रहा था—कई असफलताओं के बाद हुआ है।



Why Australia's music industry banned AI music in chart listing

Australia's ARIA has barred wholly AI-generated songs from its charts while allowing music made substantially by humans with AI assistance; the move has intensified calls for transparent AI labelling and greater accountability from streaming platforms

GS III: S&T

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

Australia's music industry body — the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) — on August 25 banned songs wholly made using AI, noting such tracks will be ineligible for listing on its charts. The announcement comes after the viral fame of an AI remix of Madonna's 1989 song 'Like a Prayer,' made by Australian music producer and disc jockey Josh Fawaz earlier this year. The AI song enjoyed multiple weeks on the country's top 20 chart and ranked second on ARIA's top 20 Australian singles chart, per AP. It also scored over 23 million views on YouTube.

The use of AI to compose the song was not clearly disclosed initially, angering listeners and musicians who want synthetic music to be transparently labelled.

Which songs are banned under the new rules?

The industry body ARIA's rules do not ban outright the use of AI in music. Neither does it have a zero-tolerance policy for AI in art. Instead, the updated code notes that a recording developed with the help of Gen AI is eligible for listing when it is "substantially human made" and "raises no stream or chart manipulation concerns." This still leaves a lot of room for artists to create music with Generative AI tools.

In fact, ARIA CEO Annabelle Herd

To truly exclude AI-generated music from human creations, even casual listeners need a reliable way to differentiate between the two; for this, transparent labelling standards are required across platforms

insisted that the chart listings should evolve to "keep room for" artists already using AI tools in their work.

"The ARIA Charts will always remain a transparent measurement of the music Australia consumes, but a chart that rewards uncensored AI output would undercut the very basis of the recorded music we exist to represent," she said.

What penalties will users and distributors face?

ARIA has stated that it may reject ineligible recordings, apart from excluding them and removing them from charts whenever needed, adjusting chart positions, withdrawing accreditations, or rescinding its awards.

But when considering the global music industry as a whole, there is not much punitive action that original music artists and producers can take against users making AI-generated versions of their songs. The optics of a world-famous singer suing a small creator over an AI remix do not favour the true creators.

Instead, musical artists and the companies representing them have been taking AI music generation platforms such



as Suno and Udio to court, accusing them of using copyrighted works without permission.

In late August, music publishers including Sony Music Publishing and Warner Chappell sued Anthropic, as well as its co-founders Dario Amodei and Benjamin Mann, alleging digital piracy and the data harvesting of copyrighted works.

Anthropic disagreed with the claims and intends to defend itself in court, reported *TechCrunch*.

Scraping copyrighted content to build AI is still a grey area. However, the 2025 ruling against Anthropic in the authors' lawsuit that ended in a landmark \$1.5 billion settlement made one thing clear: that U.S. courts may take a more serious view of AI companies pirating copyrighted content for AI development.

Will music platforms be held accountable for AI?

To truly exclude AI-generated music from human creations, even casual listeners need a reliable way to differentiate between the two at first glance. For this, transparent labelling standards are

required across streaming platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music.

Later this month, Spotify users can expect to see "AI Persona" labels that identify artists who were entirely created with AI. In addition to this, Spotify will not include AI Personas in listeners' editorial or algorithmic recommendations.

The labels will depend on both self-disclosure as well as the platform's own checking process. Users will also be able to learn if the artist self-disclosed their AI status, or if Spotify had to apply the label.

While this label applies to AI artists, the platform has features such as AI Credits and SongDNA in order to understand if specific tracks were created with AI.

But more users are asking for ways to filter AI-generated or AI-assisted music entirely. A spike in unlabelled AI song tracks on platforms such as Instagram makes it difficult for creators to curate background music for their videos and photos. For example, art-based businesses marketing handmade goods to buyers can face flak over accidentally using AI music in their Reels. Taking down and re-uploading the Reel would cost them views.

Challenges exist offline as well. Music lovers and connoisseurs have complained that AI soundtracks are seeping into more public spaces, as commercial properties such as stores and cafés err on the side of caution by choosing generic AI music over popular licensed tracks they may need to pay for.

07S9. Why Australia's music industry banned AI music in chart listing

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के संगीत उद्योग ने चार्ट में AI संगीत को सूचीबद्ध करने पर प्रतिबंध क्यों लगाया

- Australia's music industry body — the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) — on August 25 banned songs wholly made using AI, noting such tracks will be ineligible for listing on its charts.

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के संगीत उद्योग के संगठन—Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA)—ने 25 अगस्त को पूरी तरह AI का उपयोग करके बनाए गए गीतों पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया और कहा कि ऐसे गीत उसके चार्ट में सूचीबद्ध किए जाने के पात्र नहीं होंगे।

- The announcement comes after the viral fame of an AI remix of Madonna's 1989 song 'Like a Prayer,' made by Australian music producer and disc jockey Josh Fawaz earlier this year. यह घोषणा ऑस्ट्रेलियाई संगीत निर्माता और डिस्क जॉकी Josh Fawaz द्वारा इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में बनाए गए Madonna के 1989 के गीत 'Like a Prayer' के AI रीमिक्स को वायरल प्रसिद्धि मिलने के बाद हुई है।
- The AI song enjoyed multiple weeks on the country's top 20 chart and ranked second on ARIA's top 20 Australian singles chart, per AP. AP के अनुसार, इस AI गीत ने देश के शीर्ष 20 चार्ट में कई सप्ताह बिताए और ARIA के शीर्ष 20 ऑस्ट्रेलियाई सिंगल्स चार्ट में दूसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया।
- It also scored over 23 million views on YouTube. इसे YouTube पर 2.3 करोड़ से अधिक व्यूज भी मिले।

- The use of AI to compose the song was not clearly disclosed initially, angering listeners and musicians who want synthetic music to be transparently labelled.
गीत की रचना में AI के उपयोग का प्रारंभ में स्पष्ट रूप से खुलासा नहीं किया गया था, जिससे वे श्रोता और संगीतकार नाराज़ हुए जो चाहते हैं कि कृत्रिम रूप से निर्मित संगीत की पारदर्शी लेबलिंग की जाए।

Which songs are banned under the new rules?

नए नियमों के तहत किन गीतों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है?

- The industry body ARIA's rules do not ban outright the use of AI in music.
उद्योग संगठन ARIA के नियम संगीत में AI के उपयोग पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध नहीं लगाते हैं।
- Neither does it have a zero-tolerance policy for AI in art.
न ही कला में AI के लिए इसकी शून्य-सहिष्णुता नीति है।
- Instead, the updated code notes that a recording developed with the help of Gen AI is eligible for listing when it is "substantially human made" and "raises no stream or chart manipulation concerns."
इसके बजाय, अद्यतन संहिता में कहा गया है कि Gen AI की सहायता से तैयार की गई रिकॉर्डिंग सूचीबद्ध किए जाने के लिए पात्र है, जब वह "मुख्यतः मानव द्वारा निर्मित" हो और "स्ट्रीम या चार्ट में हेरफेर संबंधी कोई चिंता उत्पन्न न करती हो।"
- This still leaves a lot of room for artists to create music with Generative AI tools.
इससे कलाकारों के लिए Generative AI उपकरणों के माध्यम से संगीत बनाने की पर्याप्त गुंजाइश बनी रहती है।
- In fact, ARIA CEO Annabelle Herd insisted that the chart listings should evolve to "keep room for" artists already using AI tools in their work.
वास्तव में, ARIA की CEO Annabelle Herd ने जोर दिया कि चार्ट सूचीकरण व्यवस्था को इस प्रकार विकसित होना चाहिए कि उन कलाकारों के लिए "स्थान बना रहे" जो पहले से अपने कार्य में AI उपकरणों का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।
- "The ARIA Charts will always remain a transparent measurement of the music Australia consumes, but a chart that rewards unlicensed AI output would undercut the very basis of the recorded music we exist to represent," she said.
उन्होंने कहा, "ARIA Charts हमेशा ऑस्ट्रेलिया द्वारा सुने जाने वाले संगीत का एक पारदर्शी माप बने रहेंगे, लेकिन ऐसा चार्ट जो बिना लाइसेंस वाले AI आउटपुट को पुरस्कृत करता है, उस रिकॉर्डेड संगीत की मूल भावना को ही कमजोर कर देगा, जिसका प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए हमारा अस्तित्व है।"

What penalties will users and distributors face?

उपयोगकर्ताओं और वितरकों को किन दंडों का सामना करना पड़ेगा?

- ARIA has stated that it may reject ineligible recordings, apart from excluding them and removing them from charts whenever needed, adjusting chart positions, withdrawing accreditations, or rescinding its awards.
ARIA ने कहा है कि वह अपात्र रिकॉर्डिंग को अस्वीकार कर सकता है और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर उन्हें चार्ट से बाहर करने एवं हटाने के अलावा, चार्ट में उनके स्थानों को समायोजित कर सकता है, मान्यताएँ वापस ले सकता है या अपने पुरस्कार रद्द कर सकता है।
- But when considering the global music industry as a whole, there is not much punitive action that original music artistes and producers can take against users making AI-generated versions of their songs.
लेकिन वैश्विक संगीत उद्योग को समग्र रूप से देखते हुए, मूल संगीत कलाकारों और निर्माताओं के पास अपने गीतों के AI-जनित संस्करण बनाने वाले उपयोगकर्ताओं के विरुद्ध दंडात्मक कार्रवाई करने के बहुत अधिक विकल्प नहीं हैं।



- The optics of a world-famous singer suing a small creator over an AI remix do not favour the true creators.
किसी विश्वप्रसिद्ध गायक द्वारा AI रीमिक्स को लेकर किसी छोटे निर्माता पर मुकदमा करने की स्थिति की सार्वजनिक छवि वास्तविक रचनाकारों के पक्ष में नहीं जाती।
- Instead, musical artistes and the companies representing them have been taking AI music generation platforms such as Suno and Udio to court, accusing them of using copyrighted works without permission.
इसके बजाय, संगीत कलाकार और उनका प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाली कंपनियाँ Suno और Udio जैसे AI संगीत-निर्माण प्लेटफॉर्मों को अदालत में ले जा रही हैं और उन पर बिना अनुमति कॉपीराइट वाली रचनाओं का उपयोग करने का आरोप लगा रही हैं।
- In late August, music publishers including Sony Music Publishing and Warner Chappell sued Anthropic, as well as its co-founders Dario Amodei and Benjamin Mann, alleging digital piracy and the data harvesting of copyrighted works.
अगस्त के अंत में, Sony Music Publishing और Warner Chappell सहित संगीत प्रकाशकों ने Anthropic तथा उसके सह-संस्थापकों Dario Amodei और Benjamin Mann के विरुद्ध मुकदमा दायर किया और उन पर डिजिटल पाइरेसी तथा कॉपीराइट वाली रचनाओं से डेटा एकत्र करने का आरोप लगाया।
- Anthropic disagreed with the claims and intends to defend itself in court, reported TechCrunch.
TechCrunch की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, Anthropic ने इन आरोपों से असहमति जताई और अदालत में अपना बचाव करने का इरादा व्यक्त किया है।
- Scraping copyrighted content to build AI is still a grey area.
AI के निर्माण के लिए कॉपीराइट वाली सामग्री को स्कैप करना अभी भी एक अस्पष्ट कानूनी क्षेत्र है।
- However, the 2025 ruling against Anthropic in the authors' lawsuit that ended in a landmark \$1.5 billion settlement made one thing clear: that U.S. courts may take a more serious view of AI companies pirating copyrighted content for AI development.
हालाँकि, लेखकों द्वारा दायर मुकदमे में 2025 में Anthropic के विरुद्ध दिए गए फैसले, जो 1.5 अरब डॉलर के ऐतिहासिक समझौते के साथ समाप्त हुआ, ने एक बात स्पष्ट कर दी: अमेरिकी अदालतें AI विकास के लिए कॉपीराइट वाली सामग्री की चोरी करने वाली AI कंपनियों को अधिक गंभीरता से देख सकती हैं।

Will music platforms be held accountable for AI?

क्या संगीत प्लेटफॉर्म AI के लिए जवाबदेह ठहराए जाएंगे?

- To truly exclude AI-generated music from human creations, even casual listeners need a reliable way to differentiate between the two at first glance.
AI-जनित संगीत को मानव-निर्मित रचनाओं से वास्तव में अलग रखने के लिए, सामान्य श्रोताओं को भी पहली नज़र में दोनों के बीच विश्वसनीय ढंग से अंतर करने का तरीका चाहिए।
- For this, transparent labelling standards are required across streaming platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music.
इसके लिए Spotify और Apple Music जैसे स्ट्रीमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों पर पारदर्शी लेबलिंग मानकों की आवश्यकता है।
- Later this month, Spotify users can expect to see "AI Persona" labels that identify artists who were entirely created with AI.
इस महीने के अंत में, Spotify उपयोगकर्ताओं को "AI Persona" लेबल दिखाई देने की उम्मीद है, जो उन कलाकारों की पहचान करेंगे जिन्हें पूरी तरह AI द्वारा बनाया गया है।
- In addition to this, Spotify will not include AI Personas in listeners' editorial or algorithmic recommendations.
इसके अतिरिक्त, Spotify श्रोताओं की संपादकीय या एल्गोरिदमिक अनुशंसाओं में AI Personas को शामिल नहीं करेगा।



- The labels will depend on both self-disclosure as well as the platform's own checking process. ये लेबल **स्व-प्रकटीकरण** और प्लेटफॉर्म की अपनी जाँच प्रक्रिया, दोनों पर निर्भर होंगे।
- Users will also be able to learn if the artist self-disclosed their AI status, or if Spotify had to apply the label. उपयोगकर्ता यह भी जान सकेंगे कि कलाकार ने स्वयं अपनी **AI स्थिति का खुलासा** किया था या Spotify को यह लेबल लगाना पड़ा।
- While this label applies to AI artists, the platform has features such as AI Credits and SongDNA in order to understand if specific tracks were created with AI. जहाँ यह लेबल **AI कलाकारों** पर लागू होता है, वहीं प्लेटफॉर्म के पास **AI Credits और SongDNA** जैसी सुविधाएँ भी हैं, ताकि यह पता लगाया जा सके कि विशिष्ट ट्रैक AI की सहायता से बनाए गए थे या नहीं।
- But more users are asking for ways to filter AI-generated or AI-assisted music entirely. लेकिन अधिक से अधिक उपयोगकर्ता **AI-जनित या AI-सहायित संगीत को पूरी तरह फ़िल्टर करने** के तरीकों की माँग कर रहे हैं।
- A spike in unlabelled AI song tracks on platforms such as Instagram makes it difficult for creators to curate background music for their videos and photos. Instagram जैसे प्लेटफॉर्मों पर **बिना लेबल वाले AI गीतों** में वृद्धि से रचनाकारों के लिए अपने वीडियो और तस्वीरों हेतु पृष्ठभूमि संगीत का चयन करना कठिन हो जाता है।
- For example, art-based businesses marketing handmade goods to buyers can face flak over accidentally using AI music in their Reels. उदाहरण के लिए, हस्तनिर्मित वस्तुओं का विपणन करने वाले **कला-आधारित व्यवसायों** को अपने Reels में गलती से AI संगीत का उपयोग करने पर आलोचना का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- Taking down and re-uploading the Reel would cost them views. Reel को हटाकर दोबारा अपलोड करने से उन्हें **व्यूज़ का नुकसान** होगा।
- Challenges exist offline as well. **ऑफलाइन क्षेत्र में भी चुनौतियाँ मौजूद हैं।**
- Music lovers and connoisseurs have complained that AI soundtracks are seeping into more public spaces, as commercial properties such as stores and cafés err on the side of caution by choosing generic AI music over popular licensed tracks they may need to pay for. संगीत प्रेमियों और पारखियों ने शिकायत की है कि **AI साउंडट्रैक अधिक सार्वजनिक स्थानों में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं**, क्योंकि स्टोर और कैफ़े जैसी व्यावसायिक प्रतिष्ठान सावधानी बरतते हुए लोकप्रिय लाइसेंस प्राप्त ट्रैकों, जिनके लिए उन्हें भुगतान करना पड़ सकता है, के बजाय सामान्य **AI संगीत** चुन रहे हैं।

Bhutan leads Southeast Asia region in eliminating rabies

GS III: S&T
Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Bhutan has become the first country in the World Health Organization's Southeast Asia region to eliminate dog-transmitted rabies as a public health problem. The WHO, on Saturday, validated Bhutan's achievement. The mountain kingdom's last rabies death was in June 2023. Rabies is a viral disease that is almost always fatal if clinical symptoms appear. It is estimated that rabies still claims the lives of approximately 59,000 people each year, with a third of these fatalities occurring in India, where it remains a

huge problem with local bodies failing at animal birth control and vaccination programmes.

The disease is endemic throughout the country except for the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, and cases are reported from all over the country, the year round. About 96% of the mortality and morbidity is associated with dog bites.

Target for 2030
The National Rabies Control Programme aims to reduce mortality from rabies among human beings and progressively achieve the target of bringing rabies deaths to zero by 2030.



Rabies is almost always fatal if clinical symptoms appear.

In a message shared on the WHO website, its Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, congratulated Bhutan "which is another step towards our goal to end human deaths from dog-transmitted rabies by 2030".

He further noted the interventions that made the

success possible: "Bhutan's success shows that the health of humans, animals and the environment we share is inextricably linked. By uniting health workers, veterinarians, and communities, Bhutan has shown that the fight against rabies is won not in silos, but through solidarity across all sectors."

Two-pronged strategy
WHO validation recognises that a country has eliminated dog-transmitted human rabies and consequently through the absence of human deaths from the disease for at least two years, while demonstrating the capacity to prevent trans-

mission from re-emerging.

Rabies deaths are preventable. A two-pronged strategy is advocated globally – vaccinating dogs to curb the disease at source, and using post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) after a bite. PEP consists of thoroughly washing the bite area with water and soap, administering a full course of human rabies vaccine, and whenever necessary, rabies immunoglobulins.

Nilesh Buddha, Officer-in-Charge, WHO South-East Asia Region, complimented the country: "The dedication of health workers, veterinary professionals and De-suung volunteers known as 'Guardians

of Peace' helped take dog vaccination, population management and community awareness to every part of the country."

A strong collaboration was initiated between the Ministries of Health and the Agriculture and Livestock, together with partners, local governments and communities, united through a One Health approach, Bhutan's Health Ministry sources explained. Continued access to PEP, mass dog vaccination, dog population management, community engagement and strengthened surveillance marked the country's programme.

07S9. Bhutan leads Southeast Asia region in eliminating rabies

भूटान ने रेबीज़ उन्मूलन में दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया क्षेत्र में नेतृत्व किया

- Bhutan has become the first country in the **World Health Organization's Southeast Asia region** to eliminate dog-transmitted rabies as a public health problem.
भूटान विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया क्षेत्र का पहला देश बन गया है जिसने कुत्तों से फैलने वाले रेबीज़ को सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य समस्या के रूप में समाप्त कर दिया है।
- The WHO, on Saturday, validated Bhutan's achievement.
WHO ने शनिवार को भूटान की इस उपलब्धि को प्रमाणित किया।
- The mountain kingdom's last rabies death was in June 2023.
इस पर्वतीय देश में रेबीज़ से अंतिम मृत्यु जून 2023 में हुई थी।
- Rabies is a viral disease that is almost always fatal if clinical symptoms appear.
रेबीज़ एक विषाणुजनित रोग है, जो नैदानिक लक्षण प्रकट होने पर लगभग हमेशा घातक होता है।
- It is estimated that rabies still claims the lives of approximately 59,000 people each year, with a third of these fatalities occurring in India, where it remains a huge problem with local bodies failing at animal birth control and vaccination programmes.
अनुमान है कि रेबीज़ से अभी भी प्रत्येक वर्ष लगभग 59,000 लोगों की मृत्यु होती है, जिनमें से एक-तिहाई मौतें भारत में होती हैं, जहाँ यह अभी भी एक बड़ी समस्या बनी हुई है और स्थानीय निकाय पशु जन्म नियंत्रण तथा टीकाकरण कार्यक्रमों में विफल रहे हैं।
- The disease is endemic throughout the country except for the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, and cases are reported from all over the country, the year round.
अंडमान और निकोबार तथा लक्षद्वीप द्वीपसमूह को छोड़कर यह रोग पूरे देश में स्थानिक है और पूरे वर्ष देश के सभी हिस्सों से इसके मामले सामने आते हैं।
- About 96% of the mortality and morbidity is associated with dog bites.
लगभग 96% मृत्यु और रुग्णता कुत्ते के काटने से संबंधित है।

Target for 2030

2030 का लक्ष्य

- The National Rabies Control Programme aims to reduce mortality from rabies among human beings and progressively achieve the target of bringing rabies deaths to zero by 2030.
राष्ट्रीय रेबीज़ नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य मनुष्यों में रेबीज़ से होने वाली मृत्यु को कम करना और क्रमिक रूप से 2030 तक रेबीज़ से होने वाली मौतों को शून्य करने का लक्ष्य प्राप्त करना है।
- In a message shared on the WHO website, its Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, congratulated Bhutan "which is another step towards our goal to end human deaths from dog-transmitted rabies by 2030".
WHO की वेबसाइट पर साझा किए गए एक संदेश में इसके महानिदेशक Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus ने भूटान को बधाई दी और कहा कि यह "2030 तक कुत्तों से फैलने वाले रेबीज़ से होने वाली मानव मौतों को समाप्त करने के हमारे लक्ष्य की दिशा में एक और कदम" है।
- He further noted the interventions that made the success possible: "Bhutan's success shows that the health of humans, animals and the environment we share is inextricably linked. उन्होंने आगे उन उपायों का उल्लेख किया जिनसे यह सफलता संभव हुई: "भूटान की सफलता दर्शाती है कि मनुष्यों, पशुओं और हमारे साझा पर्यावरण का स्वास्थ्य अविभाज्य रूप से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- By uniting health workers, veterinarians, and communities, Bhutan has shown that the fight against rabies is won not in silos, but through solidarity across all sectors."
स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों, पशु चिकित्सकों और समुदायों को एकजुट करके भूटान ने दिखाया है कि रेबीज़ के विरुद्ध लड़ाई अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों में नहीं, बल्कि सभी क्षेत्रों के बीच एकजुटता के माध्यम से जीती जाती है।"

Two-pronged strategy

दो-आयामी रणनीति

- WHO validation recognises that a country has eliminated dog-transmitted human rabies and consequently through the absence of human deaths from the disease for at least two years, while demonstrating the capacity to prevent transmission from re-emerging.
WHO का प्रमाणीकरण यह मान्यता देता है कि किसी देश ने कुत्तों से फैलने वाले मानव रेबीज़ को समाप्त कर दिया है और परिणामस्वरूप कम से कम दो वर्षों तक इस रोग से मानव मृत्यु नहीं हुई है, साथ ही वह संक्रमण के पुनः उभरने से रोकने की क्षमता भी प्रदर्शित करता है।
- Rabies deaths are preventable.
रेबीज़ से होने वाली मौतों को रोका जा सकता है।
- A two-pronged strategy is advocated globally — vaccinating dogs to curb the disease at source, and using **post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)** after a bite.
वैश्विक स्तर पर दो-आयामी रणनीति अपनाने की वकालत की जाती है—रोग को स्रोत पर ही नियंत्रित करने के लिए कुत्तों का टीकाकरण करना और काटे जाने के बाद **पोस्ट-एक्सपोज़र प्रोफिलैक्सिस (PEP)** का उपयोग करना।
- PEP consists of thoroughly washing the bite area with water and soap, administering a full course of human rabies vaccine, and whenever necessary, rabies immunoglobulins.
PEP में काटे गए स्थान को **पानी और साबुन से अच्छी तरह धोना**, मानव रेबीज़ वैक्सीन का पूरा कोर्स देना और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर **रेबीज़ इम्युनोग्लोबुलिन** देना शामिल है।
- Nilesh Buddha, Officer in-Charge, WHO South East Asia Region, complimented the country: “The dedication of health workers, veterinary professionals and De-suung volunteers known as ‘Guardians of Peace’ helped take dog vaccination, population management and community awareness to every part of the country.”
WHO दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया क्षेत्र के प्रभारी अधिकारी **Nilesh Buddha** ने देश की सराहना करते हुए कहा: “स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों, पशु चिकित्सा पेशेवरों और ‘**Guardians of Peace**’ के रूप में जाने जाने वाले **De-suung स्वयंसेवकों** के समर्पण ने कुत्तों के टीकाकरण, उनकी आबादी के प्रबंधन और सामुदायिक जागरूकता को देश के प्रत्येक हिस्से तक पहुँचाने में सहायता की।”
- A strong collaboration was initiated between the Ministries of Health and the Agriculture and Livestock, together with partners, local governments and communities, united through a **One Health** approach, Bhutan’s Health Ministry sources explained.
भूटान के स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने बताया कि **स्वास्थ्य तथा कृषि एवं पशुधन मंत्रालयों** के बीच साझेदारों, स्थानीय सरकारों और समुदायों के साथ मजबूत सहयोग स्थापित किया गया, जो **One Health दृष्टिकोण** के माध्यम से एकजुट हुए।
- Continued access to PEP, mass dog vaccination, dog population management, community engagement and strengthened surveillance marked the country’s programme.
PEP तक निरंतर पहुँच, बड़े पैमाने पर कुत्तों का टीकाकरण, कुत्तों की आबादी का प्रबंधन, सामुदायिक सहभागिता और सुदृढ़ निगरानी देश के कार्यक्रम की प्रमुख विशेषताएँ रही।

PCS Special:		07 September
07S9	18 centuries: tracing Smriti Mandhana’s journey to the top 18 शतक: स्मृति मंधाना की शीर्ष तक की यात्रा का क्रमिक विवरण	
07S9	In Uttar Pradesh, a language of loss उत्तर प्रदेश में, क्षरण की एक भाषा	



18 centuries: tracing Smriti Mandhana's journey to the top

With her record-breaking century at the Asia Cup, Smriti Mandhana surpassed Mithali Raj to become the highest run scorer in women's international cricket

PCS

DATA POINT

Devvanshi Bihani

When Smriti Mandhana scored her 18th international century against Hong Kong at the Women's T20 Asia Cup in Dubai on September 3 – in just 57 balls – she set a new record for scoring the highest number of centuries in women's international cricket across all formats. That was not the only record she broke in that match.

By the time she was run out for 124, she had overtaken her former captain Mithali Raj to become the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket. She had taken her career tally to 10,880 runs, 12 more than Mithali's record of 10,868. Her score was also the highest in the history of the Women's T20 Asia Cup, surpassing Chamari Athapaththu's 119 not out from 2024.

Her seven sixes took her career tally to 95, making her the leading six-hitter for India in women's T20Is and the fourth-highest in the world. Smriti also became the first Indian woman to score more than one century in the T20 format, and while doing so, she equalled Mithali's record of 93 fifty-plus scores in international cricket.

Mandhana's century-making was a slow burn before it became a sprint. Her international career began with a T20 match against Bangladesh in April 2013, three months before she turned 17. She waited for three years to taste her first century, in her 32nd international innings in 2016 against Australia. But it took 115 more innings and five years to reach her fifth, and another 92 innings to get to 10. Then, the sprint started. Ten of her 18 centuries came within the last two years, and at a notably higher strike rate (Chart 1).

Winning streak

That acceleration becomes even more striking when compared

with the other top five century-makers. Australia's Meg Lanning reached 10 hundreds in 123 innings, just about half the number of 239 innings that Smriti took to score hers. All the other four crossed the milestone of 10 before their 200th innings. In contrast, Smriti's performance has soared after she crossed her 200th (Chart 2). Of Smriti's 18 centuries, 14 came from ODIs, two in Tests and two in T20Is.

In ODIs, she has scored 5,411 runs with an average of 47.88. In 16 Test innings, she scored 788 with an average of 52.53 and in 167 T20I innings, she scored 4,681 runs with an average of 30.65. Across all three formats, she has 10,880 runs, 75 fifties and an average of 38.86, showing that her record is built on consistency as much as several spectacular peaks.

Moreover, the pace at which she has accumulated her runs really sets her apart.

While she had already become the fastest woman to reach 10,000 runs in just 281 innings, she has now become the highest run scorer in 303 international innings – fewer than the other four players with more than 10,000 runs, all of whom, except Stafanie Taylor, are now retired from international cricket (Chart 3).

This pace is reflected in how Smriti clearly stands out with her overall strike rate of 99.57. It is nearly 10 points higher than Suzie, the next fastest among the five. Batting average is the only indicator where she lags among the five, but that too only against her compatriot and inspiration Mithali (Chart 4). She is in the same league as the other three.

A few years back, she had said that her mother taught her to persevere – "to go on till reaching the top". Smriti had also said that she wanted to be the best batter in the world. At just 30, she may have already realised that ambition. But, as she said in the press conference after her records-breaking Hong Kong match, "it is just the start".

Gearing up for higher peaks

The data for the charts were sourced from Statsguru, the searchable cricket statistics database available at cricinfo.com. All the figures are as of September 4, 2026, when the data was collected

CHART 1: Ten of Smriti's 18 centuries came in the last two years. Her centuries have also been accompanied by a higher strike rate

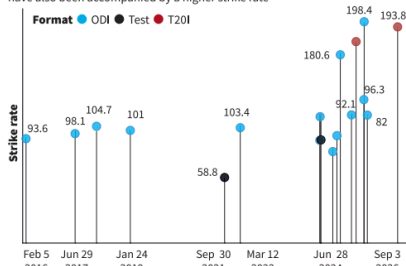


CHART 2: Most of the centuries of the other top scorers came before their 200th innings. Smriti became prolific after crossing her 200th

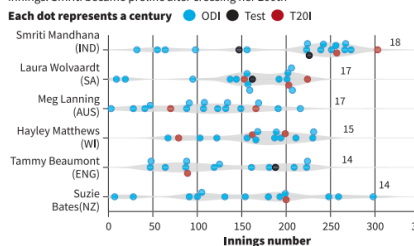


CHART 4: Smriti took fewer innings to become the top scorer with a higher strike rate while Mithali holds the highest average

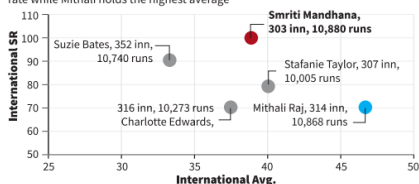
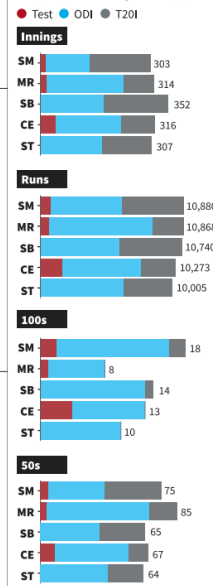


CHART 3: Smriti's innings, runs, centuries, and fifties, in comparison with the other four players who have scored over 10,000 runs in women's international cricket

Mithali Raj - MR (IND), Smriti Mandhana - SM (IND), Suzie Bates - SB (NZ), Charlotte Edwards - CE (ENG), Stafanie Taylor - ST (WI)



07S9. 18 centuries: tracing Smriti Mandhana's journey to the top

18 शतक: स्मृति मंधाना की शीर्ष तक की यात्रा का क्रमिक विवरण

- When Smriti Mandhana scored her **18th international century** against Hong Kong at the Women's T20 Asia Cup in Dubai on September 3 — in just 57 balls — she set a new record for scoring the highest number of centuries in women's international cricket across all formats. जब स्मृति मंधाना ने 3 सितंबर को दुबई में महिला T20 एशिया कप में हांगकांग के विरुद्ध केवल 57 गेंदों में अपना **18वाँ अंतरराष्ट्रीय शतक** बनाया, तो उन्होंने महिला अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट के सभी प्रारूपों में सर्वाधिक शतक बनाने का नया रिकॉर्ड स्थापित किया।
- That was not the only record she broke in that match. उस मैच में उन्होंने केवल यही एक रिकॉर्ड नहीं तोड़ा।
- By the time she was run out for 124, she had overtaken her former captain Mithali Raj to become the **highest run-scorer in women's international cricket**.

जब वह 124 रन पर रन आउट हुई, तब तक उन्होंने अपनी पूर्व कप्तान मिताली राज को पीछे छोड़कर **महिला अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट में सर्वाधिक रन बनाने वाली खिलाड़ी** का स्थान हासिल कर लिया था।

- She had taken her career tally to 10,880 runs, 12 more than Mithali's record of 10,868. उन्होंने अपने करियर के कुल रनों की संख्या **10,880** तक पहुँचा दी थी, जो मिताली के 10,868 रनों के रिकॉर्ड से 12 रन अधिक है।
- Her score was also the highest in the history of the Women's T20 Asia Cup, surpassing Chamari Athapaththu's 119 not out from 2024. उनका स्कोर महिला T20 एशिया कप के इतिहास में भी **सर्वाधिक** रहा, जिसने 2024 में चमारी अटापट्टू के नाबाद 119 रन के रिकॉर्ड को पीछे छोड़ दिया।
- Her seven sixes took her career tally to 95, making her the leading six-hitter for India in women's T20Is and the fourth-highest in the world. उनके सात छक्कों ने उनके करियर में छक्कों की संख्या **95** तक पहुँचा दी, जिससे वह महिला T20I में भारत के लिए सर्वाधिक छक्के लगाने वाली खिलाड़ी और विश्व में चौथे स्थान पर पहुँच गई।
- Smriti also became the first Indian woman to score more than one century in the T20 format, and while doing so, she equalled Mithali's record of 93 fifty-plus scores in international cricket. स्मृति T20 प्रारूप में **एक से अधिक शतक** बनाने वाली पहली भारतीय महिला भी बन गई और ऐसा करते हुए उन्होंने अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट में मिताली के **93 पचास-प्लस स्कोर** के रिकॉर्ड की बराबरी कर ली।
- Mandhana's century-making was a slow burn before it became a sprint. मंधाना के शतक बनाने का सिलसिला तेज़ी पकड़ने से पहले **धीमी गति से आगे बढ़ा**।
- Her international career began with a T20 match against Bangladesh in April 2013, three months before she turned 17. उनके अंतरराष्ट्रीय करियर की शुरुआत अप्रैल 2013 में बांग्लादेश के विरुद्ध एक T20 मैच से हुई, जब उनके 17 वर्ष के होने में तीन महीने शेष थे।
- She waited for three years to taste her first century, in her 32nd international innings in 2016 against Australia. उन्होंने अपना पहला शतक बनाने के लिए तीन वर्ष प्रतीक्षा की, जो उन्होंने 2016 में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के विरुद्ध अपनी **32वीं अंतरराष्ट्रीय पारी** में बनाया।
- But it took 115 more innings and five years to reach her fifth, and another 92 innings to get to 10. लेकिन पाँचवाँ शतक बनाने में उन्हें 115 और पारियाँ तथा पाँच वर्ष लगे और 10 शतकों तक पहुँचने में उन्हें इसके बाद 92 और पारियाँ लगीं।
- Then, the sprint started. इसके बाद **तेज़ गति का दौर** शुरू हुआ।
- Ten of her 18 centuries came within the last two years, and at a notably higher strike rate (Chart 1). उनके 18 में से **10 शतक पिछले दो वर्षों** में आए और इस दौरान उनका स्ट्राइक रेट उल्लेखनीय रूप से अधिक रहा (चार्ट 1)।

Winning streak

लगातार सफलता का दौर

- That acceleration becomes even more striking when compared with the other top five century makers. अन्य शीर्ष पाँच शतक बनाने वाली खिलाड़ियों से तुलना करने पर यह **तेज़ी** और भी उल्लेखनीय हो जाती है।
- Australia's Meg Lanning reached 10 hundreds in 123 innings, just about half the number of 239 innings that Smriti took to score hers. ऑस्ट्रेलिया की मेग लैनिंग ने 123 पारियों में 10 शतक बनाए, जो स्मृति द्वारा 10 शतक बनाने में लगी **239 पारियों की लगभग आधी संख्या** है।

- All the other four crossed the milestone of 10 before their 200th innings.
अन्य चारों खिलाड़ियों ने अपनी **200वीं पारी से पहले** 10 शतकों का पड़ाव पार कर लिया था।
- In contrast, Smriti's performance has soared after she crossed her 200th (Chart 2).
इसके विपरीत, स्मृति का प्रदर्शन उनकी **200वीं पारी पार करने के बाद** तेजी से उभरा है (चार्ट 2)।
- Of Smriti's 18 centuries, 14 came from ODIs, two in Tests and two in T20Is.
स्मृति के 18 शतकों में से **14 वनडे**, दो टेस्ट और दो T20I में आए हैं।
- In ODIs, she has scored 5,411 runs with an average of 47.88.
वनडे में उन्होंने **5,411 रन** बनाए हैं और उनका औसत 47.88 है।
- In 16 Test innings, she scored 788 with an average of 52.53 and in 167 T20I innings, she scored 4,681 runs with an average of 30.65.
16 टेस्ट पारियों में उन्होंने 788 रन बनाए हैं, जिसमें उनका औसत 52.53 है, और 167 T20I पारियों में उन्होंने **4,681 रन** बनाए हैं, जिसमें उनका औसत 30.65 है।
- Across all three formats, she has 10,880 runs, 75 fifties and an average of 38.86, showing that her record is built on consistency as much as several spectacular peaks.
तीनों प्रारूपों में उनके नाम **10,880 रन, 75 अर्धशतक और 38.86 का औसत** है, जो दर्शाता है कि उनका रिकॉर्ड कई शानदार उपलब्धियों के साथ-साथ निरंतरता पर भी आधारित है।
- Moreover, the pace at which she has accumulated her runs really sets her apart.
इसके अलावा, जिस **गति से उन्होंने रन बनाए हैं**, वह वास्तव में उन्हें अन्य खिलाड़ियों से अलग करती है।
- While she had already become the fastest woman to reach 10,000 runs in just 281 innings, she has now become the highest run scorer in 303 international innings — fewer than the other four players with more than 10,000 runs, all of whom, except Stafanie Taylor, are now retired from international cricket (Chart 3).
जहाँ वह पहले ही केवल **281 पारियों में 10,000 रन** तक पहुँचने वाली सबसे तेज़ महिला बन चुकी थीं, वहीं अब वह 303 अंतरराष्ट्रीय पारियों में सर्वाधिक रन बनाने वाली खिलाड़ी बन गई हैं — यह 10,000 से अधिक रन बनाने वाली अन्य चार खिलाड़ियों की पारियों से कम है, जिनमें स्टेफनी टेलर को छोड़कर सभी अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट से संन्यास ले चुकी हैं (चार्ट 3)।
- This pace is reflected in how Smriti clearly stands out with her overall strike rate of 99.57.
यह गति इस बात से भी परिलक्षित होती है कि स्मृति **99.57 के समय स्ट्राइक रेट** के साथ स्पष्ट रूप से सबसे अलग दिखाई देती हैं।
- It is nearly 10 points higher than Suzie, the next fastest among the five.
यह पाँचों में अगली सबसे तेज़ खिलाड़ी सूजी से **लगभग 10 अंक अधिक** है।
- Batting average is the only indicator where she lags among the five, but that too only against her compatriot and inspiration Mithali (Chart 4).
बल्लेबाजी औसत एकमात्र ऐसा संकेतक है जिसमें वह इन पाँचों के बीच पीछे हैं, लेकिन इसमें भी केवल अपनी **हमवतन और प्रेरणास्रोत मिताली** से पीछे हैं (चार्ट 4)।
- She is in the same league as the other three.
वह अन्य तीन खिलाड़ियों के **समकक्ष** हैं।
- A few years back, she had said that her mother taught her to persevere — “to go on till reaching the top”.
कुछ वर्ष पहले उन्होंने कहा था कि उनकी माँ ने उन्हें **दृढ़ता से प्रयास करते रहने** — “शीर्ष तक पहुँचने तक आगे बढ़ते रहने” — की सीख दी थी।
- Smriti had also said that she wanted to be the best batter in the world.
स्मृति ने यह भी कहा था कि वह **दुनिया की सर्वश्रेष्ठ बल्लेबाज** बनना चाहती थीं।
- At just 30, she may have already realised that ambition.
केवल 30 वर्ष की आयु में, संभवतः उन्होंने अपनी उस **महत्वाकांक्षा को पहले ही साकार** कर लिया है।
- But, as she said in the press conference after her records-breaking Hong Kong match, “it is just the start”.



लेकिन, जैसा कि उन्होंने हांगकांग के विरुद्ध रिकॉर्ड तोड़ने वाले मैच के बाद प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा, “यह तो बस शुरुआत है।”

In Uttar Pradesh, a language of loss

Urdu, the language of poetry and love, an amalgamation of many languages, is witnessing a decline. **Mayank Kumar** finds that amid shifting government priorities and dwindling patronage, the lovers of this language worry about its future



Charbagh railway station, in Lucknow, with signage in three languages, including Urdu. **SANDEEP SAKHIA**

Naeem Ahmed, 58, stands on a stool arranging books. He focusses unusually hard on a task he has been doing for decades, something muscle memory would have carried him through. Naeem rented a 120-or-so-square-foot space five months ago, at Lucknow's bustling Nakhas Chauraha, to relocate his bookstore, Danish Mahal, from Aminabad. At Nakhas Chauraha, crowds, traffic, and noise overwhelm the senses, and his bookstore stands cheek by jowl with plastic buckets and synthetic suits. Aminabad was where Urdu lovers from across the city gathered, and the air was once filled with spices and the shops with chikan kari embroidery. "I am not able to generate a profit, but I want to keep my family's love alive. The only option was shifting here," says Naeem, adding that the rent is far lower here. Danish Mahal has been synonymous with Urdu literature and language in Lucknow, and for over 85 years was a refuge for poets, scholars, writers, and intellectuals. The bookstore moved to its new location in December 2025, but has been operational since 1939. "From the beginning our bookstore was located in Aminabad (in Lucknow). Urdu lovers from across the city would gather to buy books and discuss them over cups of tea, but rising book costs and decreasing profit forced us to close there," says Naeem, who graduated in Urdu literature from Lucknow University.

Urdu is Uttar Pradesh's second official language, but even from the 2001 Census to the 2011 count, the number of Urdu speakers who selected it as their mother tongue dropped from 12.1 million to 10.9 million. Naeem and his son themselves converse in Hindi.

Lucknow's Awadhi traditions, built from the 18th century onwards, with the fracturing of the Mughal empire, are defined by *tehzeeb*, roughly translating to a culture based on the arts and refinement. *Pehli cup* (you first), often parodied in Hindi movies, is the philosophy of humility embedded within everyday Urdu conversation.

Across Lucknow, advertising in Urdu is absent, and public messaging is mostly in Hindi. The point of the few murals with Urdu lettering is peeling.

Lucknow residents say that in a post-Babri Masjid Uttar Pradesh, a narrative of Urdu associated with Muslim conquerors from a distant land, is being built.

The Urdu disconnect

"My father, Naeem Ahmed, started the shop and spent over 70 years serving Urdu lovers. He managed to make ends meet; I hope I can do the same," Naeem says, slowly. He laments that Urdu faces challenges now, and the immediate impact is on bookshops.

"I was paying 18,000 a month as rent, but over the past seven years, I have not been able to make that. How long will I suffer losses," he asks, as if of many things: the diminishing book business, a failing family venture, and a language that is slowly being eroded. "At least few prominent Urdu book shops have closed in Lucknow over the past decade. None of them was able to make a profit."

Sensing the volatility of the market, the limited use of Urdu in daily discourse, and a government whose support of the language has been dwindling, he advised his son, Nabil Ahmed, 25, to

choose another trade. "My son holds an MBA degree and is running a garment shop. I can't ask him to enter a loss-making business," says Naeem, whose son's shop is next door.

About three kilometres from Nakhas Chauraha is the Dargah Hazrat Abbas, built in the late 1800s. Faiz Bagir runs KB collection, a garment shop where he sells sherwanis and salwar-suits.

"I have an MA degree in Urdu from Lucknow University, but there are no jobs in the market for us. The only option is to sit for NET (National Eligibility Test) and JRF (Junior Research Fellowship)," he says. These provide entryways into an Assistant Professor job and PhD admissions in universities, respectively. "But even if we pass, there are so many applicants for a job," says Bagir.

Before 2010, he adds, there used to be a good number of Urdu translator jobs in multiple government departments. "It used to be a major attraction, but with modern digital methods of translation, opportunities have diminished," he says, adding that this has disconnected a new generation of job seekers from Urdu.

At Bagir's shop, Asad Rizvi, in his 40s, sits on a plastic chair, sipping tea. A Lucknow local and freelance journalist, he says the government neglects Urdu in multiple ways.

"Urdu newspapers are closing across U.P. I have seen five newspapers shut because the government stopped advertising in them or just kept advertising to the minimum," he says, vocalising the pain of many locally-circulated newspapers dependent on government advertising, because large corporate houses choose national brands to place ads. Rizvi says it is local newspapers that are living textbooks for people, because they give both hyper-local news and an opportunity to improve language.

Rizvi holds forth on how Urdu journalism played a part in India's struggle for independence. Mawshi Muhammad Bagir, who founded and edited the *Delhi Urdu Akhbar* in the 1850s, was one of the pioneers of Urdu journalism. "His newspaper reported on the events in Delhi in 1857 (during the first war of independence). The British saw it as being sympathetic to the rebels. After the British recaptured Delhi, he was arrested," says Rizvi, a raconteur.

"On September 16 that year, he was executed

by a firing squad on the orders of a British officer. He is remembered as the first journalist in India to be executed for his journalism," Rizvi ends, with a flourish.

Education suffers

Anees Ashfaq, a former head of Urdu Department in Lucknow University, sits surrounded by many Urdu books in his library at home. He says the beauty of Urdu is in its syncretism. Urdu evolved in the Gangetic plains during the eras of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire, between the 12th and 19th Centuries. It is a linguistic amalgamation of local dialects derived from Prakrit, such as Khari Boli and Braj Bhasha, incorporating Persian, Arabic, and Turkish vocabulary. "The region that is now Uttar Pradesh played a pivotal role in shaping its grammar, enhancing its literature, and establishing its cultural institutions," says Ashfaq.

The spoken variants were initially known as Hindi, Hindustani, or Rekhta, before evolving into the standardised form of Urdu. The daily exchanges between local communities and administrative courts in northern India solidified its status as the prevalent lingua franca.

Now, Lucknow University is experiencing a decline in student enrolment within its Urdu Department. For MA Urdu in the current academic session, 2025-27, there are only 65 students in a course where 120 seats are available.

This is a steep drop from previous decades when the university had to increase seats to meet high demand.

A 20-minute auto ride from Dargah Hazrat Abbas leads to the Uttar Pradesh Urdu Akademi. Set up in 1972 to promote Urdu, the academy now chooses to speak—in any language.

The Secretary did not take calls, respond to messages, or answer an email. There has been no Executive Committee for almost three years now, says local Hindi media.

Lucknow residents say some of the academy's regular activities, like book publishing, library operations, and Urdu coaching, are still on-going, though not in the robust way they were once conducted.

Some major initiatives, like annually honouring Urdu writers, poets, and journalists have been suspended. Staff shortages have also become a major

problem. While the Academy previously employed 54 employees, this number has now dwindled to just 18. Most employees have retired, and new recruitment is not happening.

"The Executive Committee has the authority to recommend staff requirements to the State government," says Mumtaz Ahmed, an accountant of the Urdu Akademi. Until a committee is formed, the recruitment process cannot begin. The minority welfare department is in charge of appointing the committee.

Naeem, from Danish Mahal bookstore, says the academy, which used to purchase books regularly from the shop, has not placed any order for almost a decade now.

Booksellers say that until about a decade ago, they stocked Urdu books from Pakistani writers, but they stopped sourcing these fearing that any contact with people from across the border would bring them trouble.

Structural and elementary issue

Urdu language proponents and Lucknow residents say the crisis of Urdu is structural, as the language is not utilised as a medium of instruction in mainstream schools. However, it is on both the Central Board of Secondary Education's list of first languages, as well as on the Uttar Pradesh education board's medium through which education can be imparted.

"Urdu is often regarded as a secondary language due to the lack of trained teachers. In urban and elite education institutions, English prevails, while rural and government schools emphasise Hindi along with English," says Tariq Qamar, 51, who writes Urdu poetry and participates in literary events around the country.

Urdu is both spoken and taught in madrasas, but over 7,000 recognised madrasas in U.P. have not received funds from the government for over six years. The government has also not paid the honorarium to teachers, some of whom impart Urdu education.

"Those teaching modern subjects also give education to pupils on Islamic subjects and Urdu. Many of these madrasas survived for years on these grants paid to teachers. With no grant, these teachers are not motivated to impart quality education, ultimately harming Urdu and other traditional languages like Arabic," said Shahid Ali, a teacher who teaches Social Science along with Urdu and Arabic.

On August 5, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister linked madrasas with terrorism. Rizvi links the crisis of Urdu with the situation of Muslims in the political discourse: "Sadly Urdu is connected with the religious and ethnic identity of Muslims, which has led to its marginalization in India." He adds that as English becomes more prevalent, Urdu literature and the cultural experiences that go with it, such as mushaira performances, are increasingly losing relevance for the youth.

Urdu enthusiasts say literature and language education must adapt to connect with the youth. "The language must evolve to include science, technology, environment, and social sciences. Only then will the youth want to learn or engage with Urdu," Bagir says.

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Naeem Ahmed, who owns Danish Mahal bookstore in Lucknow. **SANDEEP SAKHIA/SANDEEP SAKHIA**



07S9. In Uttar Pradesh, a language of loss

उत्तर प्रदेश में, क्षरण की एक भाषा

- Naeem Ahmed, 58, stands on a stool arranging books.
नायेम अहमद, 58, एक स्टूल पर खड़े होकर **किताबें व्यवस्थित** कर रहे हैं।
- He focuses unusually hard on a task he has been doing for decades, something muscle memory would have carried him through.
वह उस काम पर असामान्य रूप से अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं, जिसे वह **दशकों से करते आ रहे हैं**, ऐसा काम जिसे सामान्यतः उनकी सहज आदत अपने-आप पूरा कर देती।
- Naeem rented a 120-or-so-square-foot space five months ago, at Lucknow's bustling Nakhas Chauraha, to relocate his bookshop, Danish Mahal, from Aminabad.
नईम ने पाँच महीने पहले लखनऊ के व्यस्त **नखास चौराहा** पर लगभग 120 वर्ग फुट की जगह किराए पर ली, ताकि अपनी किताबों की दुकान **दानीश महल** को अमीनाबाद से यहाँ स्थानांतरित कर सकें।
- At Nakhas Chauraha, crowds, traffic, and noise overwhelm the senses, and his bookstore stands cheek by jowl with plastic buckets and synthetic suits.
नखास चौराहे पर भीड़, यातायात और शोर इंद्रियों को अभिभूत कर देते हैं, और उनकी किताबों की दुकान **प्लास्टिक की बाल्टियों और सिंथेटिक सूटों** की दुकानों से सटी हुई है।
- Aminabad was where Urdu lovers from across the city gathered, and the air was once filled with spices and the shops with chikankari embroidery.
अमीनाबाद वह स्थान था जहाँ पूरे शहर से **उर्दू प्रेमी** एकत्र होते थे, और कभी यहाँ की हवा मसालों की सुगंध से तथा दुकानें **चिकनकारी कढ़ाई** से भरी रहती थीं।
- "I am not able to generate a profit, but I want to keep my family's love alive.
"मैं लाभ नहीं कमा पा रहा हूँ, लेकिन अपने परिवार के प्रेम को जीवित रखना चाहता हूँ।"
- The only option was shifting here," says Naeem, adding that the rent is far lower here.
यहाँ स्थानांतरित होना ही एकमात्र विकल्प था," नईम कहते हैं और जोड़ते हैं कि यहाँ **किराया काफी कम** है।
- Danish Mahal has been synonymous with Urdu literature and language in Lucknow, and for over 85 years was a refuge for poets, scholars, writers, and intellectuals.
दानीश महल लखनऊ में **उर्दू साहित्य और भाषा का पर्याय** रहा है और 85 वर्षों से अधिक समय तक कवियों, विद्वानों, लेखकों और बुद्धिजीवियों के लिए एक आश्रयस्थल रहा।
- The bookstore moved to its new location in December 2025, but has been operational since 1939.
किताबों की दुकान दिसंबर 2025 में अपने नए स्थान पर चली गई, लेकिन यह **1939 से संचालित** हो रही है।
- "From the beginning our bookshop was located in Aminabad.
"शुरुआत से ही हमारी किताबों की दुकान अमीनाबाद में स्थित थी।"
- Urdu lovers from across the city would gather to buy books and discuss them over cups of tea, but rising book costs and decreasing profit forced us to close there," says Naeem, who graduated in Urdu Literature from Lucknow University.
पूरे शहर से उर्दू प्रेमी किताबें खरीदने और चाय की प्यालियों पर उनके बारे में चर्चा करने के लिए एकत्र होते थे, लेकिन **किताबों की बढ़ती लागत और घटते लाभ** ने हमें वहाँ दुकान बंद करने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया," लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय से उर्दू साहित्य में स्नातक नईम कहते हैं।
- Urdu is Uttar Pradesh's second official language, but even from the 2001 Census to the 2011 count, the number of Urdu speakers who selected it as their mother tongue dropped from 12.1 million to 10.9 million.
उर्दू उत्तर प्रदेश की दूसरी आधिकारिक भाषा है, लेकिन 2001 की जनगणना से 2011 की जनगणना तक, इसे अपनी मातृभाषा बताने वाले उर्दू भाषियों की संख्या **1.21 करोड़ से घटकर 1.09 करोड़** हो गई।
- Naeem and his son themselves converse in Hindi.
नईम और उनका बेटा स्वयं **हिंदी में बातचीत** करते हैं।
- Lucknow's Awadhi traditions, built from the 18th Century onwards, with the fracturing of the Mughal empire, are defined by tehzeeb, roughly translating to a culture based on the arts and



refinement.

18वीं शताब्दी से मुगल साम्राज्य के विघटन के साथ विकसित लखनऊ की अवधी परंपराएँ तहजीब से परिभाषित होती हैं, जिसका मोटे तौर पर अर्थ कला और परिष्कार पर आधारित संस्कृति है।

- 'Pehle aap (you first),' often parodied in Hindi movies, is the philosophy of humility embedded within everyday Urdu conversation.
'पहले आप (you first)', जिसकी हिंदी फिल्मों में अक्सर पैरोडी की जाती है, दैनिक उर्दू बातचीत में निहित विनम्रता के दर्शन को दर्शाता है।
- Across Lucknow, advertising in Urdu is absent, and public messaging is mostly in Hindi.
पूरे लखनऊ में उर्दू में विज्ञापन लगभग अनुपस्थित हैं और सार्वजनिक संदेश मुख्यतः हिंदी में होते हैं।
- The paint of the few murals with Urdu lettering is peeling.
उर्दू लेखन वाले कुछ भित्तिचित्रों का रंग उखड़ रहा है।
- Lucknow residents say that in a post-Babri Masjid Uttar Pradesh, a narrative of Urdu associated with Muslim conquerors from a distant land, is being built.
लखनऊ के निवासियों का कहना है कि बाबरी मस्जिद के बाद के उत्तर प्रदेश में उर्दू को दूर देश से आए मुस्लिम विजेताओं से जोड़ने वाली एक धारणा निर्मित की जा रही है।

The Urdu disconnect

उर्दू से बढ़ता विच्छेद

- "My father, Naseem Ahmed, started the shop and spent over 70 years serving Urdu lovers.
"मेरे पिता, नसीम अहमद ने यह दुकान शुरू की और 70 से अधिक वर्षों तक उर्दू प्रेमियों की सेवा की।
- He managed to make ends meet; I hope I can do the same," Naeem says, slowly.
उन्होंने किसी तरह गुजारा चलाया; मुझे आशा है कि मैं भी ऐसा ही कर पाऊंगा," नईम धीरे से कहते हैं।
- He laments that Urdu faces challenges now, and the immediate impact is on bookshops.
वह अफसोस जताते हैं कि उर्दू अब चुनौतियों का सामना कर रही है, और इसका तत्काल प्रभाव किताबों की दुकानों पर पड़ रहा है।
- "I was paying ₹18,000 a month as rent, but over the past seven years, I have not been able to make that.
"मैं प्रति माह ₹18,000 किराया दे रहा था, लेकिन पिछले सात वर्षों में मैं इतनी आय भी नहीं कर पाया हूँ।
- How long will I suffer losses," he asks, as if of many things: the diminishing book business, a failing family venture, and a language that is slowly being eroded.
मैं कब तक नुकसान सहता रहूँगा," वह पूछते हैं, मानो वह कई चीजों के बारे में पूछ रहे हों: घटता हुआ पुस्तक व्यवसाय, असफल होता पारिवारिक उद्यम और धीरे-धीरे क्षीण होती एक भाषा।
- "At least five prominent Urdu book shops have closed in Lucknow over the past decade.
"पिछले एक दशक में लखनऊ की कम से कम पाँच प्रमुख उर्दू किताबों की दुकानें बंद हो चुकी हैं।
- None of them was able to make a profit."
इनमें से कोई भी लाभ नहीं कमा सकी।"
- Sensing the volatility of the market, the limited use of Urdu in daily discourse, and a government whose support of the language has been dwindling, he advised his son, Nabil Ahmed, 25, to choose another trade.
बाजार की अस्थिरता, दैनिक संवाद में उर्दू के सीमित उपयोग और भाषा के प्रति सरकार के घटते समर्थन को देखते हुए उन्होंने अपने 25 वर्षीय बेटे नबील अहमद को कोई दूसरा व्यवसाय चुनने की सलाह दी।
- "My son holds an MBA degree and is running a garment shop.
"मेरे बेटे के पास MBA की डिग्री है और वह कपड़ों की दुकान चला रहा है।
- I can't ask him to enter a loss-making business," says Naeem, whose son's shop is next door.
मैं उससे घाटे वाले व्यवसाय में आने के लिए नहीं कह सकता," नईम कहते हैं, जिनके बेटे की दुकान बगल में है।

- About three kilometres from Nakhas Chauraha is the Dargah Hazrat Abbas, built in the late 1800s.
नखास चौराहे से लगभग तीन किलोमीटर दूर दरगाह हज़रत अब्बास है, जिसका निर्माण 1800 के दशक के उत्तरार्ध में हुआ था।
- Faiz Baqir runs RB collection, a garment shop where he sells sherwanis and salwar-suits.
फ़ैज़ बाकिर RB Collection नामक कपड़ों की दुकान चलाते हैं, जहाँ वह शेरवानी और सलवार-सूट बेचते हैं।
- "I have an MA degree in Urdu from Lucknow University, but there are no jobs in the market for us.
"मेरे पास लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय से उर्दू में MA की डिग्री है, लेकिन बाज़ार में हमारे लिए कोई नौकरी नहीं है।
- The only option is to sit for NET (National Eligibility Test) and JRF (Junior Research Fellowship)," he says.
एकमात्र विकल्प NET (राष्ट्रीय पात्रता परीक्षा) और JRF (जूनियर रिसर्च फेलोशिप) की परीक्षा देना है," वह कहते हैं।
- These provide entryways into an Assistant Professor job and PhD admissions in universities, respectively.
ये क्रमशः सहायक प्रोफेसर की नौकरी और विश्वविद्यालयों में PhD प्रवेश के मार्ग प्रदान करते हैं।
- "But even if we pass, there are so many applicants for a job," says Baqir.
"लेकिन यदि हम उत्तीर्ण भी हो जाएँ, तब भी एक नौकरी के लिए इतने अधिक आवेदक हैं," बाकिर कहते हैं।
- Before 2010, he adds, there used to be a good number of Urdu translator jobs in multiple government departments.
वह आगे कहते हैं कि 2010 से पहले कई सरकारी विभागों में उर्दू अनुवादक की अच्छी संख्या में नौकरियाँ हुआ करती थीं।
- "It used to be a major attraction, but with modern digital methods of translation, opportunities have diminished," he says, adding that this has disconnected a new generation of job seekers from Urdu.
"यह एक बड़ा आकर्षण हुआ करता था, लेकिन अनुवाद की आधुनिक डिजिटल विधियों के कारण अवसर कम हो गए हैं," वह कहते हैं और जोड़ते हैं कि इससे नौकरी तलाशने वाली नई पीढ़ी का उर्दू से विच्छेद हुआ है।
- At Baqir's shop, Asad Rizvi, in his 40s, sits on a plastic chair, sipping tea.
बाकिर की दुकान पर 40 के दशक के असद रिज़वी प्लास्टिक की कुर्सी पर बैठकर चाय पी रहे हैं।
- A Lucknow local and freelance journalist, he says the government neglects Urdu in multiple ways.
लखनऊ निवासी और स्वतंत्र पत्रकार रिज़वी कहते हैं कि सरकार कई तरीकों से उर्दू की उपेक्षा करती है।
- "Urdu newspapers are closing across U.P.
"पूरे उत्तर प्रदेश में उर्दू समाचार-पत्र बंद हो रहे हैं।
- I have seen five newspapers shut because the government stopped advertising in them or just kept advertising to the minimum," he says, vocalising the pain of many locally-circulated newspapers dependent on government advertising, because large corporate houses choose national brands to place ads.
मैंने पाँच समाचार-पत्रों को बंद होते देखा है क्योंकि सरकार ने उनमें विज्ञापन देना बंद कर दिया या केवल न्यूनतम विज्ञापन दिए," वह कहते हैं, और इस प्रकार उन अनेक स्थानीय स्तर पर प्रसारित समाचार-पत्रों की पीड़ा व्यक्त करते हैं जो सरकारी विज्ञापनों पर निर्भर हैं, क्योंकि बड़े कॉर्पोरेट घराने विज्ञापन देने के लिए राष्ट्रीय ब्रांडों को चुनते हैं।
- Rizvi says it is local newspapers that are living textbooks for people, because they give both hyper-local news and an opportunity to improve language.
रिज़वी कहते हैं कि स्थानीय समाचार-पत्र लोगों के लिए जीवंत पाठ्यपुस्तकें हैं, क्योंकि वे अत्यधिक स्थानीय समाचार देने के साथ-साथ भाषा में सुधार का अवसर भी प्रदान करते हैं।
- Rizvi holds forth on how Urdu journalism played a part in India's struggle for independence.
रिज़वी विस्तार से बताते हैं कि उर्दू पत्रकारिता ने भारत के स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष में किस प्रकार भूमिका निभाई।



- Maulvi Muhammad Baqir, who founded and edited the Delhi Urdu Akhbar in the 1850s, was one of the pioneers of Urdu journalism.
मौलवी मुहम्मद बाकिर, जिन्होंने 1850 के दशक में *दिल्ली उर्दू अखबार* की स्थापना और संपादन किया, उर्दू पत्रकारिता के अग्रदूतों में से एक थे।
- "His newspaper reported on the events in Delhi in 1857 (during the first war of Independence).
"उनके समाचार-पत्र ने 1857 में दिल्ली की घटनाओं की रिपोर्टिंग की थी (प्रथम स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के दौरान)।
- The British saw it as being sympathetic to the rebels.
अंग्रेजों ने इसे विद्रोहियों के प्रति सहानुभूतिपूर्ण माना।
- After the British recaptured Delhi, he was arrested," says Rizvi, a raconteur.
अंग्रेजों द्वारा दिल्ली पर पुनः अधिकार करने के बाद उन्हें गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया," किस्सागो रिज़वी कहते हैं।
- "On September 16 that year, he was executed by a firing squad on the orders of a British officer.
"उसी वर्ष 16 सितंबर को एक ब्रिटिश अधिकारी के आदेश पर उन्हें गोली मारने वाले दस्ते द्वारा मृत्युदंड दिया गया।
- He is remembered as the first journalist in India to be executed for his journalism," Rizvi ends, with a flourish.
उन्हें भारत के पहले ऐसे पत्रकार के रूप में याद किया जाता है जिन्हें उनकी पत्रकारिता के लिए मृत्युदंड दिया गया," रिज़वी प्रभावशाली अंदाज़ में अपनी बात समाप्त करते हैं।

Education suffers शिक्षा प्रभावित होती है

- Anees Ashfaq, a former head of Urdu Department in Lucknow University, sits surrounded by many Urdu books in his library at home.
लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय के उर्दू विभाग के पूर्व प्रमुख **अनीस अशफ़ाक़** अपने घर के पुस्तकालय में अनेक उर्दू पुस्तकों से घिरे बैठे हैं।
- He says the beauty of Urdu is in its syncretism.
वह कहते हैं कि उर्दू की सुंदरता उसके समन्वयवाद में निहित है।
- Urdu evolved in the Gangetic plains during the eras of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire, between the 12th and 19th Centuries.
उर्दू का विकास 12वीं और 19वीं शताब्दी के बीच दिल्ली सल्तनत और मुगल साम्राज्य के काल में गंगा के मैदानी क्षेत्रों में हुआ।
- It is a linguistic amalgamation of local dialects derived from Prakrit, such as Khari Boli and Braj Bhasha, incorporating Persian, Arabic, and Turkic vocabulary.
यह प्राकृत से विकसित स्थानीय बोलियों, जैसे खड़ी बोली और ब्रज भाषा, का भाषाई समामेलन है, जिसमें फ़ारसी, अरबी और तुर्की शब्दावली भी समाहित है।
- "The region that is now Uttar Pradesh played a pivotal role in shaping its grammar, enhancing its literature, and establishing its cultural institutions," says Ashfaq.
अशफ़ाक़ कहते हैं, "जो क्षेत्र आज उत्तर प्रदेश है, उसने इसके व्याकरण को आकार देने, इसके साहित्य को समृद्ध करने और इसके सांस्कृतिक संस्थानों की स्थापना में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।"
- The spoken variants were initially known as Hindvi, Hindustani, or Rekhta, before evolving into the standardised form of Urdu.
बोलचाल के इन रूपों को प्रारंभ में हिंदवी, हिंदुस्तानी या रेख्ता के नाम से जाना जाता था, जो बाद में उर्दू के मानकीकृत रूप में विकसित हुए।
- The daily exchanges between local communities and administrative courts in northern India solidified its status as the prevalent lingua franca.

उत्तर भारत में स्थानीय समुदायों और प्रशासनिक न्यायालयों के बीच दैनिक आदान-प्रदान ने इसे प्रचलित संपर्क भाषा (lingua franca) के रूप में इसकी स्थिति को सुदृढ़ किया।

- Now, Lucknow University is experiencing a decline in student enrolment within its Urdu Department.
अब लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय के उर्दू विभाग में विद्यार्थियों के नामांकन में गिरावट देखी जा रही है।
- For MA Urdu in the current academic session, 2026-27, there are only 65 students in a course where 120 seats are available.
वर्तमान शैक्षणिक सत्र 2026-27 में MA उर्दू के पाठ्यक्रम में 120 सीटें उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद केवल 65 विद्यार्थी हैं।
- This is a steep drop from previous decades when the university had to increase seats to meet high demand.
यह पिछले दशकों की तुलना में भारी गिरावट है, जब उच्च मांग को पूरा करने के लिए विश्वविद्यालय को सीटों की संख्या बढ़ानी पड़ती थी।
- A 20-minute auto ride from Dargah Hazrat Abbas leads to the Uttar Pradesh Urdu Akademi.
दरगाह हज़रत अब्बास से ऑटो द्वारा 20 मिनट की यात्रा के बाद उत्तर प्रदेश उर्दू अकादमी पहुँचते हैं।
- Set up in 1972 to promote Urdu, the academy now chooses not to speak — in any language.
उर्दू को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 1972 में स्थापित अकादमी अब किसी भी भाषा में बोलना नहीं चाहती।
- The Secretary did not take calls, respond to messages, or answer an email.
सचिव ने न तो फोन का जवाब दिया, न संदेशों का उत्तर दिया और न ही ईमेल का जवाब दिया।
- There has been no Executive Committee for almost three years now, says local Hindi media.
स्थानीय हिंदी मीडिया के अनुसार, लगभग तीन वर्षों से कोई कार्यकारी समिति नहीं है।
- Lucknow residents say some of the academy's regular activities, like book publishing, library operations, and Urdu coaching, are still ongoing, though not in the robust way they were once conducted.
लखनऊ के निवासियों का कहना है कि अकादमी की कुछ नियमित गतिविधियाँ, जैसे पुस्तक प्रकाशन, पुस्तकालय संचालन और उर्दू प्रशिक्षण, अभी भी जारी हैं, हालांकि वे उस सशक्त तरीके से नहीं चल रही हैं जिस प्रकार पहले संचालित होती थीं।
- Some major initiatives, like annually honouring Urdu writers, poets, and journalists have been suspended.
कुछ प्रमुख पहलें, जैसे उर्दू लेखकों, कवियों और पत्रकारों को प्रतिवर्ष सम्मानित करना, निलंबित कर दी गई हैं।
- Staff shortages have also become a major problem.
कर्मचारियों की कमी भी एक बड़ी समस्या बन गई है।
- While the Academy previously employed 54 employees, this number has now dwindled to just 18.
जहाँ अकादमी में पहले 54 कर्मचारी कार्यरत थे, वहीं अब यह संख्या घटकर केवल 18 रह गई है।
- Most employees have retired, and new recruitment is not happening.
अधिकांश कर्मचारी सेवानिवृत्त हो चुके हैं और नई नियुक्तियाँ नहीं हो रही हैं।
- "The Executive Committee has the authority to recommend staff requirements to the State government," says Mumtaz Ahmed, an accountant of the Urdu Akademi.
उर्दू अकादमी के लेखाकार मुमताज अहमद कहते हैं, "कार्यकारी समिति को राज्य सरकार के समक्ष कर्मचारियों की आवश्यकता की सिफारिश करने का अधिकार है।"
- Until a committee is formed, the recruitment process cannot begin.
जब तक एक समिति का गठन नहीं होता, भर्ती प्रक्रिया शुरू नहीं हो सकती।
- The minority welfare department is in charge of appointing the committee.
अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण विभाग समिति की नियुक्ति के लिए जिम्मेदार है।
- Naeem, from Danish Mahal bookstore, says the academy, which used to purchase books regularly from the shop, has not placed any order for almost a decade now.

दनिश महल बुकस्टोर के नईम कहते हैं कि अकादमी, जो पहले दुकान से नियमित रूप से पुस्तकें खरीदती थी, ने अब लगभग एक दशक से कोई ऑर्डर नहीं दिया है।

- Booksellers say that until about a decade ago, they stocked Urdu books from Pakistani writers, but they stopped sourcing these fearing that any contact with people from across the border would bring them trouble.

पुस्तक विक्रेताओं का कहना है कि लगभग एक दशक पहले तक वे पाकिस्तानी लेखकों की उर्दू पुस्तकें रखते थे, लेकिन उन्होंने इन्हें मँगाना बंद कर दिया क्योंकि उन्हें डर था कि सीमा पार के लोगों के साथ किसी भी प्रकार का संपर्क उनके लिए परेशानी खड़ी कर सकता है।

Structural and elementary issue संरचनात्मक और बुनियादी समस्या

- Urdu language proponents and Lucknow residents say the crisis of Urdu is structural, as the language is not utilised as a medium of instruction in mainstream schools.
उर्दू भाषा के समर्थकों और लखनऊ के निवासियों का कहना है कि उर्दू का संकट संरचनात्मक है, क्योंकि मुख्यधारा के विद्यालयों में इस भाषा का शिक्षण के माध्यम के रूप में उपयोग नहीं किया जाता।
- However, it is on both the Central Board of Secondary Education's list of first languages, as well as on the Uttar Pradesh education board's medium through which education can be imparted.
हालाँकि, यह केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (CBSE) की प्रथम भाषाओं की सूची में शामिल है और उत्तर प्रदेश शिक्षा बोर्ड के उन माध्यमों में भी शामिल है जिनके माध्यम से शिक्षा प्रदान की जा सकती है।
- "Urdu is often regarded as a secondary language due to the lack of trained teachers.
"प्रशिक्षित शिक्षकों की कमी के कारण उर्दू को अक्सर एक द्वितीयक भाषा माना जाता है।
- In urban and elite education institutions, English prevails, while rural and government schools emphasize Hindi along with English," says Tariq Qamar, 51, who writes Urdu poetry and participates in literary events around the country.
शहरी और अभिजात्य शिक्षण संस्थानों में अंग्रेजी का प्रभुत्व है, जबकि ग्रामीण और सरकारी विद्यालय अंग्रेजी के साथ हिंदी पर जोर देते हैं," 51 वर्षीय तारिक क़मर कहते हैं, जो उर्दू कविता लिखते हैं और देशभर में साहित्यिक कार्यक्रमों में भाग लेते हैं।
- Urdu is both spoken and taught in madrasas, but over 7,000 recognised madrasas in U.P. have not received funds from the government for over six years.
मदरसों में उर्दू बोली और पढ़ाई दोनों जाती है, लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में 7,000 से अधिक मान्यता प्राप्त मदरसों को छह वर्षों से अधिक समय से सरकार से धनराशि प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।
- The government has also not paid the honorarium to teachers, some of whom impart Urdu education.
सरकार ने शिक्षकों को मानदेय का भुगतान भी नहीं किया है, जिनमें से कुछ उर्दू की शिक्षा प्रदान करते हैं।
- "Those teaching modern subjects also give education to pupils on Islamic subjects and Urdu.
"आधुनिक विषय पढ़ाने वाले शिक्षक ही विद्यार्थियों को इस्लामी विषयों और उर्दू की शिक्षा भी देते हैं।
- Many of these madrasas survived for years on these grants paid to teachers.
इनमें से कई मदरसे वर्षों तक शिक्षकों को दिए जाने वाले इन अनुदानों के आधार पर चलते रहे।
- With no grant, these teachers are not motivated to impart quality education, ultimately harming Urdu and other traditional languages like Arabic," said Shahid Ali, a teacher who teaches Social Science along with Urdu and Arabic.
अनुदान न मिलने के कारण ये शिक्षक गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए प्रेरित नहीं हैं, जिससे अंततः उर्दू और अरबी जैसी अन्य पारंपरिक भाषाओं को नुकसान पहुँच रहा है," उर्दू और अरबी के साथ सामाजिक विज्ञान पढ़ाने वाले शिक्षक शाहिद अली ने कहा।
- On August 5, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister linked madrasas with terrorism.
5 अगस्त 2026 को उत्तर प्रदेश के उपमुख्यमंत्री ने मदरसों को आतंकवाद से जोड़ा।



- Rizvi links the crisis of Urdu with the situation of Muslims in the political discourse: "Sadly Urdu is connected with the religious and ethnic identity of Muslims, which has led to its marginalization in India."
रिज़वी उर्दू के संकट को राजनीतिक विमर्श में मुसलमानों की स्थिति से जोड़ते हैं: "दुर्भाग्य से उर्दू को मुसलमानों की धार्मिक और जातीय पहचान से जोड़ दिया गया है, जिसके कारण भारत में इसका हाशियाकरण हुआ है।"
- He adds that as English becomes more prevalent, Urdu literature and the cultural experiences that go with it, such as mushaira performances, are increasingly losing relevance for the youth.
उन्होंने कहा कि जैसे-जैसे अंग्रेजी का प्रसार बढ़ रहा है, उर्दू साहित्य और उससे जुड़े सांस्कृतिक अनुभव, जैसे मुशायरे, युवाओं के लिए लगातार अपनी प्रासंगिकता खो रहे हैं।
- Urdu enthusiasts say literature and language education must adapt to connect with the youth.
उर्दू के समर्थकों का कहना है कि युवाओं से जुड़ने के लिए साहित्य और भाषा की शिक्षा को अनुकूलित करना आवश्यक है।
- "The language must evolve to include science, technology, environment, and social sciences.
"भाषा को विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, पर्यावरण और सामाजिक विज्ञान को समाहित करने के लिए विकसित होना चाहिए।
- Only then will the youth want to learn or engage with Urdu," Baqir says.
तभी युवा उर्दू सीखने या उससे जुड़ने के लिए इच्छुक होंगे," बाकिर कहते हैं।