



PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur.

Contact Number: 9971932488

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18_11_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

- 1. India and Nigeria will join hands to tackle terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking: PM (GS Paper-II: India-Africa)**
- 2. India conducts 'historic' flight test of hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
- 3. COP-29 discussions flagging, no progress made on issues critical to developing countries: India (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
- 4. Growing epidemic (GS Paper-II: Health Sector)**
- 5. The 'new' Justitia and reimagining justice (GS Paper-II: Judiciary)**
- 6. A devastating blow to global climate efforts (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
- 7. Why is Germany headed for snap polls? (GS Paper-II: Comparison of Constitution: German Electoral System)**
- 8. Why were the Kerala IAS officers suspended? (GS Paper-II: Governance)**
- 9. Why is a U.K. consumer protection group going after Apple's iCloud? (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
- 10. Ahead of polls, Centre eases norms for soya bean procurement (GS Paper-III: Issue Associated With Direct and Indirect Subsidies)**
- 11. Centre aims to make Andaman and Nicobar Islands a tuna export hub (GS Paper-III: Food Security)**

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India and Nigeria will join hands to tackle terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking: PM

GS Paper II: India-Africa
Press Trust of India
Agence France-Presse
ABUJA

India accords high priority to its strategic partnership with Nigeria and it will work towards boosting ties in a range of areas, including defence, energy and trade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during talks with Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu here on Sunday.

In his televised opening remarks at the meeting, Mr. Modi identified terrorism, separatism, piracy and drug trafficking as major challenges, and said the two countries would continue to work together to deal with them.

Mr. Modi arrived in Abuja early on Sunday on the first trip to the country by an Indian Prime Minister after 17 years. "We give high priority to our strateg-



Strong ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at an exchange of agreements in Abuja. PTI

ic partnership with Nigeria... I am confident that a new chapter in our ties will begin following our talks," the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Modi described the nearly 60,000-strong Indian expatriate community as a key pillar of India-Nigeria relations, and thanked Mr. Tinubu for ensuring their welfare.

The Prime Minister announced that India was

sending 20 tonnes of relief supplies for Nigerian people affected by last month's floods.

He referred to the African Union becoming a permanent member of the G-20 at the India-hosted summit of the grouping last year and described it as a significant outcome.

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में रिश्तों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काम करेंगे, जिसमें रक्षा, ऊर्जा, और व्यापार शामिल हैं।

- During talks with Nigerian President **Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, Mr. Modi identified **terrorism, separatism, piracy, and drug trafficking** as major challenges.

नाइजीरिया के राष्ट्रपति **बोला अहमद तिनुबू** के साथ वार्ता के दौरान, श्री मोदी ने **आतंकवाद, संप्रदायवाद, समुद्री डकैती, और नशीली दवाओं की तस्करी** को प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ बताया।

- **India and Nigeria** will continue to work together to tackle these challenges.
 - **भारत और नाइजीरिया** इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए साथ काम करते रहेंगे।
 - Prime Minister Modi arrived in **Abuja** on his first trip to **Nigeria** after **17 years**.
- प्रधानमंत्री मोदी 17 वर्षों बाद अपने पहले यात्रा पर **अबुजा** पहुंचे।

India and Nigeria will join hands to tackle terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking: PM

भारत और नाइजीरिया आतंकवाद, पाइरेसी, ड्रग ट्रे cking: पीएम से निपटने के लिए हाथ मिलेंगे

India-Nigeria Strategic Partnership

भारत-नाइजीरिया रणनीतिक साझेदारी

- India accords high priority to its strategic partnership with **Nigeria**.

भारत **नाइजीरिया** के साथ अपनी रणनीतिक साझेदारी को उच्च प्राथमिकता देता है।

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will work towards boosting ties in various areas including **defence, energy, and trade**.

प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** विभिन्न क्षेत्रों





- He expressed confidence that a new chapter in **India-Nigeria relations** will begin after the talks.
उन्होंने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि वार्ता के बाद **भारत-नाइजीरिया संबंधों** में एक नया अध्याय शुरू होगा।
- Mr. Modi described the nearly **60,000-strong** Indian expatriate community as a key pillar of **India-Nigeria relations**.
श्री मोदी ने **60,000** की संख्या वाले भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय को **भारत-नाइजीरिया संबंधों** का एक प्रमुख स्तंभ बताया।
- He thanked President Tinubu for ensuring the welfare of the Indian community in **Nigeria**.
उन्होंने राष्ट्रपति **तिनुबू** को **नाइजीरिया** में भारतीय समुदाय की भलाई सुनिश्चित करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।
- Prime Minister Modi announced that **India** will send **20 tonnes** of relief supplies to **Nigeria**, affected by last month's floods.
प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने घोषणा की कि **भारत 20 टन** राहत सामग्री **नाइजीरिया** भेजेगा, जो पिछले महीने की बाढ़ से प्रभावित हुआ है।
- Mr. Modi referred to the **African Union** becoming a permanent member of the **G-20** at the **India-hosted** summit last year.
श्री मोदी ने पिछले साल **भारत** द्वारा आयोजित **जी-20** सम्मेलन में **अफ्रीकी संघ** को **जी-20** का स्थायी सदस्य बनने का उल्लेख किया।
- He described this as a significant outcome of the summit.
उन्होंने इसे सम्मेलन का एक महत्वपूर्ण परिणाम बताया।



India conducts 'historic' flight test of hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km

GS Paper III: S&T

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India on Sunday announced the successful flight test of its maiden long-range hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the flight test late on Saturday from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha coast, the latest in a series of missile tests in the past two months.

"The missile is designed to carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 km for all the services of the armed forces," the



High aims: Flight trial of the hypersonic missile being done off the coast of Odisha. PTI

DRDO said in a statement. "The missile was tracked by various range systems, deployed in multiple domains. The flight data obtained from down-range ship stations confirmed the successful terminal manoeuvres and impact with high degree of accuracy."

Congratulating the DRDO, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on X, "India has achieved a major milestone by successfully conducting flight trial of long range hypersonic missile... This is a historic moment and this significant achievement has put our country in the group of select nations having capabilities of such critical and advanced military technologies."

This missile has been indigenously developed by DRDO. Hypersonic weapons are manoeuvrable and can fly at speeds of at least Mach 5, five times the speed of sound.

India conducts 'historic' flight test of hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km

भारत ने 1,500 किमी रेंज की हाइपरसोनिक मिसाइल का 'ऐतिहासिक' उड़ान परीक्षण किया

India on Sunday announced the successful flight test of its maiden long-range hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km.

भारत ने रविवार को अपनी पहली लंबी दूरी की 1,500 किमी रेंज वाली हाइपरसोनिक मिसाइल के सफल उड़ान परीक्षण की घोषणा की।

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the flight test late on Saturday from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast. रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन (DRDO) ने शनिवार देर रात उड़ान परीक्षण डॉ. ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम द्वीप, ओडिशा के तट से किया।
- "The missile is designed to carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 km for all the services of the armed forces," the DRDO said in a statement. DRDO ने एक बयान में कहा, "यह मिसाइल सशस्त्र बलों की सभी सेवाओं के लिए 1,500 किमी से अधिक की दूरी पर विभिन्न पेलोड ले जाने के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई है।"
- "The missile was tracked by various range systems, deployed in multiple domains. The flight data obtained from down-range ship stations confirmed the successful terminal manoeuvres and impact with high degree of accuracy." "मिसाइल को कई डोमेन में तैनात विभिन्न रेंज सिस्टम द्वारा ट्रैक किया गया। डाउन-रेंज शिप स्टेशनों से प्राप्त उड़ान डेटा ने सटीकता के साथ सफल टर्मिनल गतियों और प्रभाव की पुष्टि की।"



- Congratulating the DRDO, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** said on X, **“India has achieved a major milestone by successfully conducting flight trial of long range hypersonic missile... This is a historic moment and this significant achievement has put our country in the group of select nations having capabilities of such critical and advanced military technologies.”**

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने X पर DRDO को बधाई देते हुए कहा, "भारत ने लंबी दूरी की हाइपरसोनिक मिसाइल का सफल उड़ान परीक्षण कर एक बड़ा मील का पत्थर हासिल किया है... यह एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण है और इस महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि ने हमारे देश को ऐसी महत्वपूर्ण और उन्नत सैन्य प्रौद्योगिकियों की क्षमता रखने वाले चुनिंदा राष्ट्रों के समूह में ला दिया है।"

- This missile has been indigenously developed by **DRDO**.
यह मिसाइल **DRDO** द्वारा स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित की गई है।
- **Hypersonic weapons are manoeuvrable and can fly at speeds of at least Mach 5, five times the speed of sound.**

हाइपरसोनिक हथियार चालनीय होते हैं और कम से कम **मैक 5**, यानी ध्वनि की गति से पांच गुना अधिक गति पर उड़ सकते हैं।

COP-29 discussions flagging, no progress made on issues critical to developing countries: India

GS Paper III: Environment

Press Trust of India

BAKU

At COP-29 in Baku, India has expressed frustration with developed countries for not seriously discussing supporting climate action in developing nations, saying it is impossible to tackle climate change without financial and technological help.

At the closing plenary of a meeting of subsidiary bodies on the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) on Saturday, India said developed countries, which had historically contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions and had more resources and ability to act on climate change, had repeatedly delayed cli-



Rising temperature: Activists participating in a demonstration at COP-29 in Baku on Saturday. AP

mate action and continuously shifted goalposts. “We have seen no progress in matters critical for developing countries [during the past week of the conference]. Our part of the world is facing some of the worst impacts of climate

change with far lower capacity to recover from those impacts or to adapt to the changes to the climatic system for which we are not responsible,” India’s deputy lead negotiator Neelesh Sah said.

He said the MWP was

meant to help, not punish, and must respect each country’s right to set its own climate goals based on its unique needs. If there were no means of implementation – financial support, technology, and capacity-building – developing and low-income economies could not cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to its effects.

“How can we discuss climate action when it is being made impossible for us to act, even as our challenges in dealing with the impacts of climate change are increasing,” he asked.

“We now have to meet our developmental needs in a situation where the carbon budget is depleting and the impacts of climate

change are increasing. We are being asked to increase mitigation ambition by those who have shown no such ambition,” Mr. Sah said.

The MWP was created two years ago at COP-27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, to help support mitigation. Consultations on it have remained tense, with developing countries saying that it is meant to help nations share ideas, experiences, and solutions. They argue that it is not supposed to create new targets or force any country to take specific actions.

On the other hand, developed countries want the MWP to push for stronger, more immediate action from all countries.





COP-29 discussions flagging, no progress made on issues critical to developing countries: India

सीओपी-29 चर्चाएं धीमी, विकासशील देशों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर कोई प्रगति नहीं: भारत

At COP-29 in Baku, India expressed frustration with developed countries for not seriously discussing supporting climate action in developing nations. **India stated that tackling climate change is impossible without financial and technological help.**

बक्य में सीओपी-29 में, भारत ने विकसित देशों द्वारा विकासशील देशों में जलवायु कार्रवाई का समर्थन करने पर गंभीर चर्चा न करने पर नाराजगी व्यक्त की। भारत ने कहा कि **वित्तीय और प्रौद्योगिकीय सहायता के बिना जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटना असंभव है।**

- At the closing plenary of a meeting on the **Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)** on Saturday, India highlighted that developed countries, which historically contributed the most to **greenhouse gas emissions**, had delayed climate action and shifted goalposts repeatedly.

शनिवार को शमन कार्य कार्यक्रम (MWP) की बैठक की समापन प्लेनरी में, भारत ने कहा कि विकसित देशों, जिन्होंने ऐतिहासिक रूप से ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन में सबसे अधिक योगदान दिया है, ने जलवायु कार्रवाई में बार-बार देरी की और लक्ष्यों को बदला।

- **India's deputy lead negotiator Neelesh Sah** stated, "We have seen no progress in matters critical for developing countries. Our region faces some of the worst impacts of climate change with far lower capacity to recover or adapt to these changes."

भारत के उप मुख्य वार्ताकार नीलेश साह ने कहा, "हमने विकासशील देशों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण मामलों में कोई प्रगति नहीं देखी है। हमारा क्षेत्र जलवायु परिवर्तन के सबसे बुरे प्रभावों का सामना कर रहा है और इन परिवर्तनों से उबरने या अनुकूलित करने की क्षमता भी काफी कम है।"

- Mr. Sah emphasized that the **MWP**, created two years ago at **COP-27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt**, was meant to support and not punish. It must respect each country's right to set its own **climate goals** based on unique needs.

श्री साह ने बताया कि **MWP**, जो दो साल पहले **सीओपी-27** में **शर्म-अल-शेख**, मिस्र में स्थापित किया गया था, का उद्देश्य समर्थन करना था, न कि दंड देना। इसे प्रत्येक देश के **जलवायु लक्ष्यों** को उसकी विशिष्ट आवश्यकताओं के आधार पर तय करने के अधिकार का सम्मान करना चाहिए।

- He stated that without means of implementation such as **financial support**, **technology**, and **capacity-building**, developing and low-income economies could not





reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** or adapt to its effects.

उन्होंने कहा कि बिना **वित्तीय सहायता, प्रौद्योगिकी, और क्षमता निर्माण** जैसे साधनों के, विकासशील और निम्न-आय वाली अर्थव्यवस्थाएं **ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन** को कम करने या उसके प्रभावों के अनुकूल होने में सक्षम नहीं हो सकतीं।

- **Developed countries are asking developing nations to increase mitigation ambition, even though they themselves have not shown such ambition.**

विकसित देश विकासशील देशों से **शमन की महत्वाकांक्षा** बढ़ाने को कह रहे हैं, जबकि उन्होंने स्वयं ऐसा कोई उदाहरण पेश नहीं किया है।

- **The consultations on MWP remain tense, with developing nations arguing that it is meant to help nations share ideas and experiences and is not supposed to create new targets or enforce specific actions.**

MWP पर विचार-विमर्श तनावपूर्ण है, क्योंकि विकासशील देशों का कहना है कि इसका उद्देश्य राष्ट्रों को विचार और अनुभव साझा करने में मदद करना है, न कि नए लक्ष्य बनाना या किसी विशेष कार्रवाई को लागू करना।

- On the other hand, developed nations want the **MWP** to push for stronger and immediate climate actions from all countries.

दूसरी ओर, विकसित देश चाहते हैं कि **MWP** सभी देशों से मजबूत और त्वरित जलवायु कार्रवाई के लिए दबाव डाले।





GS Paper II: Health Sector

Growing epidemic

India has to scale up diagnosis to meet the 2030 WHO target for diabetes

From around 200 million in 1990, the number of people with diabetes has quadrupled globally to over 800 million in 2022 while the global diabetes prevalence in adults rose from 7% to 14% between 1990 and 2022, as in data released in *The Lancet* on November 13. At 212 million, India has the highest number of people with diabetes as against China's prevalence of 148 million. India also topped the list of countries with 133 million people over the age of 30 years with untreated diabetes as against 78 million in China. One reason for the steep increase in the number of those with diabetes was the methodology used for pooling and analysing the data – being on medication for diabetes, or having a fasting plasma glucose of 7.0 mmol/L or more, or an HbA1c of 6.5% or more. Unlike earlier studies that mostly relied on elevated fasting plasma glucose or other single-biomarker data, the analysis by the NCD Risk Factor Collaboration with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) included people whose fasting plasma glucose or glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) was elevated. Taking into account elevated fasting plasma glucose alone without including those with elevated glycated haemoglobin, the study notes, misses out many people with diabetes, particularly in south Asia. That diabetes prevalence in India has increased in the last three decades is beyond doubt even if the absolute numbers are contested.

While consumption of unhealthy food, particularly high-calorie foods rich in carbohydrates and saturated fat, and a sedentary lifestyle are two major controllable risk factors for diabetes, the role of tobacco in causing diabetes has not been highlighted sufficiently. According to a November 2023 WHO report, there is overwhelming evidence that cigarette smoking raises the risk of developing diabetes by 30%-40% compared with those who do not smoke. Nicotine, the addictive substance in tobacco, impairs the function and amount of insulin producing beta cells, thereby affecting insulin production and regulation of glucose production, which together play an important role in the onset of diabetes. Nicotine also induces insulin resistance, another factor causing diabetes. Besides sharply lowering the risk of diabetes, avoiding tobacco in all forms is associated with a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and mortality in people with diabetes. The role of managing gestational diabetes in reducing the risk of both mother and child developing diabetes at a later date cannot be overemphasised. With 133 million people remaining undiagnosed, India has to rapidly scale up diagnosis to meet the 2030 WHO target for diabetes – 80% of people with diabetes are diagnosed and 80% of people with diagnosed diabetes have good control of glycaemia.

Growing Epidemic

बढ़ती महामारी

From around 200 million in 1990, the number of people with diabetes has quadrupled globally to over 800 million in 2022, while the global diabetes prevalence in adults rose from 7% to 14% between 1990 and 2022, as per data released in *The Lancet* on November 13.

1990 में लगभग 200 मिलियन से, मधुमेह से प्रभावित लोगों की संख्या बढ़कर 2022 में 800 मिलियन हो गई, और वयस्कों में मधुमेह का वैश्विक प्रसार 1990 और 2022 के बीच 7% से 14% तक बढ़ा, जैसा कि द लांसट द्वारा 13 नवंबर को प्रकाशित डेटा में बताया गया।

- At 212 million, India has the highest number of people with diabetes, compared to China's prevalence of 148 million.

212 मिलियन के साथ, भारत में मधुमेह रोगियों की संख्या सबसे अधिक है, जबकि चीन में यह संख्या 148 मिलियन है।

- India also topped the list of countries with 133 million people over the age of 30 years with untreated diabetes, compared to 78 million in China.

भारत ने 30 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के 133 मिलियन लोगों के साथ बिना उपचार वाले मधुमेह रोगियों की सूची में भी पहला स्थान प्राप्त किया, जबकि चीन में यह संख्या 78 मिलियन है।

- One reason for the steep increase in diabetes cases was the methodology used — being on medication, having fasting plasma glucose ≥ 7.0 mmol/L, or HbA1c $\geq 6.5\%$.

मधुमेह मामलों में तेजी से वृद्धि का एक कारण 7.0 mmol/L या अधिक उपवास प्लाज्मा ग्लूकोज या 6.5% या अधिक HbA1c स्तर होने पर उपचार की आवश्यकता को मानक में शामिल करना था।

- Earlier studies relied on fasting plasma glucose, but the latest analysis included glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c), which highlighted many previously undiagnosed cases, especially in South Asia.

पहले के अध्ययनों ने केवल उपवास प्लाज्मा ग्लूकोज पर ध्यान दिया था,





लेकिन नवीनतम विश्लेषण में ग्लाइकेटेड हीमोग्लोबिन (HbA1c) को शामिल किया गया, जिससे विशेष रूप से दक्षिण एशिया में पहले निदान न किए गए मामलों को उजागर किया गया।

- **Unhealthy food consumption and a sedentary lifestyle** are two major controllable risk factors for diabetes.

अस्वस्थ भोजन का सेवन और बैठे रहने की जीवनशैली मधुमेह के दो प्रमुख नियंत्रित जोखिम कारक हैं।

- According to a **November 2023 WHO report**, **cigarette smoking increases the risk of diabetes by 30%-40%**.

नवंबर 2023 की WHO रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, सिगरेट पीने से मधुमेह का जोखिम 30%-40% तक बढ़ जाता है।

- **Nicotine impairs beta cells that produce insulin, affecting both insulin production and glucose regulation.**

निकोटीन इंसुलिन उत्पादक बीटा कोशिकाओं को नुकसान पहुंचाता है, जिससे इंसुलिन उत्पादन और ग्लूकोज नियंत्रण प्रभावित होते हैं।

- **Avoiding tobacco** lowers the risk of diabetes and reduces cardiovascular disease and mortality in diabetes patients.

तंबाकू से बचाव मधुमेह के जोखिम को कम करता है और हृदय रोग और मृत्यु दर को भी कम करता है।

- Managing **gestational diabetes** is key to reducing future diabetes risk for both mother and child.

गर्भावधि मधुमेह का प्रबंधन भविष्य में मां और बच्चे दोनों के मधुमेह के जोखिम को कम करने में महत्वपूर्ण है।

- India has to **scale up diagnosis** to meet the **2030 WHO target**: 80% of people with diabetes diagnosed and 80% of diagnosed cases under **glycaemic control**.

भारत को 2030 WHO लक्ष्य को पूरा करने के लिए मधुमेह के निदान को बढ़ाना होगा: 80% रोगियों का निदान और उनमें से 80% का ग्लाइसेमिक नियंत्रण।



The 'new' Justitia and reimagining justice

GS Paper II: Judiciary

The addition of the open-eyed Justitia in the Supreme Court of India has led to public debate. The 'new' six-foot white statue is a sari-clad ornamented goddess-like figure without a blindfold, holding scales in her right hand and a copy of the Constitution of India in her left hand. It signified, said then Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud, who commissioned the statue in October 2024, that "Law is not blind; it sees everyone equally". This is, historically speaking, puzzling since the Bombay High Court has an open-eyed Justitia statue along with a Statue of Mercy – the open-eyed justice is as much part of colonial iconography as the blindfolded figure of justice.

History and the images

The former CJI does not tell us that allegorical images of Justitia, both with and/or without a blindfold, have existed in ancient Roman, Greek and Egyptian cultures. Martin Jay in 'Must Justice be Blind?' (1999) argues that iconography historians tell us that "allegorical images of justice did not always cover the eyes of goddess Justitia". During the first and second centuries, Roman coins dedicated to justice and impartiality depicted Justitia as clear-sighted considering the merits of the cases before her.

It was at the end of the 15th century, evidenced through a 1494 wood engraving of a Fool tying the eyes of Justice, that a blindfold began to be placed over the goddess's eyes, and led to a plethora of interpretations throughout Europe. Initially, it implied that Justice was "robbed of her ability to get things straight, wield her sword effectively, or see what is balanced on her scales". Away from this negative satirical connotation, the blindfold, by 1530, transformed into a positive emblem of equality before the law and impartiality. Like the scales, the blindfold began to imply neutrality rather than helplessness, and resisting the 'lust of the eyes' became a virtue to achieve the



Shailesh Kumar

a lecturer in law at Royal Holloway, University of London, and a Commonwealth Scholar with research interest in the interdisciplinary study of law and the humanities

It is important to ask whether the interpretation now attributed to an open-eyed justice relates to equality, impartiality and transparency

dispassionate distance necessary to render impartial verdicts.

The mural in the Court

Apart from the complicated history of Justitia, it is important to ask whether the interpretation now attributed to an open-eyed justice, or to use the ableist metaphor of 'seeing' by the lady justice, really relates to equality, impartiality, and transparency. What is the rationale behind the lady being presented as a Hindu goddess and the statue in white colour? The inspiration is perhaps the mural that is placed between the two entrances from the judges' wing while entering the CJI's court. This mural is not open for public viewing. This writer was privy to it during his research on courtroom iconography, in 2015-16. It is made up of porcelain marble tiles in shades of white, yellow and green, depicting Gandhi, the *Dhamma Chakra* and the goddess of justice. In the mural, the goddess is placed on the right side, facing left, wearing a crown, clad in a sari and jewellery, holding scales, and appearing as a *devi* (goddess), very much like this statue. She holds the scales at the level of her face, with her gaze at the balance – the contemplative gaze is somewhat reminiscent of Johannes Vermeer's painting of Justitia.

The mural with an open-eyed Justitia, with a book near her waist, found theological interpretation in the former Supreme Court judge M. Jagannadha Rao's work who interpreted it as "the book of *Dharma Shastra* signifying the offer of total knowledge to one and all", in the edited volume, *Supreme but not Infallible: Essays in Honour of the Supreme Court of India* (2000). In 'Interpreting the Scales of Justice' (2017), this writer interpreted the book besides the sari-clad Justitia as signifying the Indian Constitution, rather than the *Dharma Shastra*, which arguably restricted access to knowledge to certain caste/gender groups (*Dwija* men) and denied it to

'others'. The placement of new statues of B.R. Ambedkar earlier and lady Justitia now, and having a new emblem for the Supreme Court, ought to be contextualised in relation to caste, gender and religion-based inclusions and exclusions in recent times; especially when questions are asked of the higher judiciary on diversity and equality, attempts are being made to improve its public image. It is not surprising then that the open-eyed Justitia statue is interpreted in several ways on social media like "justice will now be given by seeing one's caste, religious identity and political ideology". Such an interpretation of the personification of justice has its roots in the public desire for accessibility to higher courts by all – not only as litigants but also as lawyers and judges, as well as access to justice itself.

Do not cause newer forms of discrimination

Controversies around statues are not new. Even the history of the 'mother and child' statue in the Court suggests so, as this writer has demonstrated in his 2017 work mentioned above. But there needs to be a careful inclusive approach to how we want law and justice to be represented in a visual art form. Should the idea of justice itself be re-envisioned? Should justice be iconographically presented in the form of a protest, resistance, lived experience, and struggle? Should it act as a transformative legal culture signifying feminist, anti-caste, secular, equality, judicial independence – virtues also enshrined in the basic structure doctrine? Should art and aesthetics, including statues, be utilised to creatively challenge the non-independence and hegemonisation of the judiciary by a select few, and to open discussions on improving its public perception? Decolonisation must not become a driver either of a recurrence of older precolonial or newer postcolonial forms of social discriminations and state violences.

The 'new' Justitia and reimagining justice

'नई' जस्टिटिया और न्याय की पुनर्कल्पना

- The addition of the open-eyed **Justitia** in the Supreme Court of India has led to public debate.

भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट में खुली आंखों वाली जस्टिटिया की प्रतिमा जोड़ने से सार्वजनिक बहस शुरू हो गई है।

- The six-foot white statue is a sari-clad, ornamented goddess-like figure without a blindfold, holding **scales** in her right hand and a copy of the **Constitution of India** in her left hand.

छह फीट ऊंची सफेद प्रतिमा एक साड़ी पहने, आभूषणों से सजी देवी जैसी आकृति है, जिसकी



आंखों पर पट्टी नहीं है। वह अपने दाहिने हाथ में तराजू और बाएं हाथ में भारत के संविधान की एक प्रति रखती है।

- Former **Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud**, who commissioned the statue in **October 2024**, said it signified that **"Law is not blind; it sees everyone equally."**
- भारत के पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) डी. वाई. चंद्रचूड़, जिन्होंने इस प्रतिमा का अक्टूबर 2024 में अनावरण किया, ने कहा कि यह संकेत देती है कि "कानून अंधा नहीं है; यह सभी को समान रूप से देखता है।"
- Historically, open-eyed **Justitia** has existed in colonial iconography, like the **Bombay High Court**, which also has an open-eyed statue of **Justitia** along with a Statue of Mercy.

ऐतिहासिक रूप से, खुली आंखों वाली **जस्टिटिया** औपनिवेशिक प्रतीकात्मकता का हिस्सा रही है, जैसे कि **बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट**, जिसमें **जस्टिटिया** की खुली आंखों वाली प्रतिमा और **मर्सी** की प्रतिमा है।

History and the images

इतिहास और छवियां

- Allegorical images of **Justitia**, both with and without a **blindfold**, have existed in **ancient Roman, Greek, and Egyptian cultures**.
जस्टिटिया की प्रतीकात्मक छवियां, पट्टी के साथ और बिना पट्टी के, प्राचीन रोम, ग्रीक और मिस्र की संस्कृतियों में मौजूद रही हैं।
- Martin Jay in **'Must Justice be Blind?' (1999)** argues that historians note that "allegorical images of justice did not always cover the eyes of goddess Justitia."
मार्टिन जे ने अपनी पुस्तक **'मस्ट जस्टिस बी ब्लाइंड?' (1999)** में लिखा है कि इतिहासकार मानते हैं कि "न्याय की प्रतीकात्मक छवियों में हमेशा जस्टिटिया की आंखें ढकी नहीं होती थीं।"
- In the **first and second centuries**, Roman coins depicted **Justitia** as clear-sighted, **considering the merits of the cases before her**.
पहले और दूसरे शताब्दी में, रोमन सिक्कों पर **जस्टिटिया** को स्पष्ट दृष्टि के साथ दर्शाया गया, जो उनके समक्ष प्रस्तुत मामलों के गुणों को देख रही थीं।
- **By the end of the 15th century**, a **blindfold** began to appear over **Justitia's eyes**, **initially symbolizing helplessness but later transforming into a symbol of equality and impartiality**.
15वीं शताब्दी के अंत तक, **जस्टिटिया** की आंखों पर **पट्टी** दिखने लगी, जो शुरू में असहायता का प्रतीक थी लेकिन बाद में समानता और निष्पक्षता का प्रतीक बन गई।

The mural in the Court

कोर्ट में भित्ति चित्र

- The inspiration for the statue might be the mural located near the judges' wing in the **CJI's court**, which depicts **Gandhi, the Dhamma Chakra, and a goddess of justice**.





प्रतिमा के लिए प्रेरणा शायद **CJI के कोर्ट** में जजों के विंग के पास स्थित भित्ति चित्र हो सकती है, जिसमें **गांधी, धम्म चक्र और न्याय की देवी** को दिखाया गया है।

- This mural, created with **porcelain marble tiles in shades of white, yellow, and green**, features the goddess in a sari and jewellery, holding scales at the level of her face. यह भित्ति चित्र सफेद, पीले और हरे रंगों की **पोर्सिलेन संगमरमर टाइल्स** से बनाया गया है और देवी को साड़ी और आभूषणों में दिखाता है, जो चेहरे के स्तर पर तराजू पकड़े हुए हैं।
- The goddess's contemplative gaze is compared to **Johannes Vermeer's painting of Justitia**, suggesting deep reflection and deliberation. देवी की चिंतनशील दृष्टि की तुलना **जोहान्स वर्मीर की पेंटिंग जस्टिटिया** से की जाती है, जो गहन विचार और मंथन का संकेत देती है।

The Mural with an Open-Eyed Justitia

खुली आंखों वाली जस्टिटिया का भित्ति चित्र

- The mural with an **open-eyed Justitia**, with a **book near her waist**, found theological interpretation in the former Supreme Court judge **M. Jagannadha Rao's** work. **खुली आंखों वाली जस्टिटिया**, जिसकी कमर के पास एक **पुस्तक** है, को सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व न्यायाधीश **एम. जगन्नाथ राव** के कार्य में धार्मिक व्याख्या मिली।
- He interpreted it as **"the book of Dharma Shastra signifying the offer of total knowledge to one and all"**, in the edited volume, **Supreme but not Infallible: Essays in Honour of the Supreme Court of India (2000)**. उन्होंने इसे **"धर्म शास्त्र की पुस्तक, जो सभी को संपूर्ण ज्ञान देने का प्रतीक है"** के रूप में व्याख्या की, जो **सुप्रीम बट नॉट इनफालिबल: एस्सेज़ इन ऑनर ऑफ द सुप्रीम कोर्ट ऑफ इंडिया (2000)** में प्रकाशित है।
- In **'Interpreting the Scales of Justice' (2017)**, the book besides the sari-clad Justitia was interpreted as signifying the **Indian Constitution**, rather than the Dharma Shastra. **'इंटरप्रिटिंग द स्केल्स ऑफ जस्टिस' (2017)** में साड़ी पहने जस्टिटिया के पास रखी पुस्तक को **भारतीय संविधान** का प्रतीक माना गया, न कि धर्म शास्त्र का।
- Dharma Shastra arguably **restricted access to knowledge to certain caste/gender groups (Dwija men)** and denied it to others. धर्म शास्त्र ने कथित तौर पर **कुछ जाति/लिंग समूहों (द्विज पुरुषों)** तक ही ज्ञान को सीमित रखा और दूसरों को इससे वंचित कर दिया।

Contextualising New Statues

नई प्रतिमाओं का संदर्भ

- The placement of new statues of **B.R. Ambedkar earlier and Lady Justitia now**, along with a new emblem for the Supreme Court, highlights inclusions and exclusions based on **caste, gender, and religion** in recent times.





बी.आर. अंबेडकर की प्रतिमा पहले और अब लेडी जस्टिटिया की प्रतिमा, सुप्रीम कोर्ट के नए प्रतीक के साथ, जाति, लिंग और धर्म पर आधारित समावेश और बहिष्कार को दर्शाती है।

- Questions raised about the **higher judiciary's diversity and equality** have prompted efforts to improve its **public image**.

उच्च न्यायपालिका की विविधता और समानता पर उठाए गए सवालों ने इसके सार्वजनिक छवि को सुधारने के प्रयासों को प्रेरित किया है।

- On social media, the **open-eyed Justitia** is interpreted as "justice will now be given by seeing one's caste, religious identity, and political ideology."

सोशल मीडिया पर खुली आंखों वाली जस्टिटिया की व्याख्या इस प्रकार की जा रही है कि "अब न्याय जाति, धार्मिक पहचान और राजनीतिक विचारधारा देखकर दिया जाएगा।"

Public Desire for Accessibility

सार्वजनिक पहुंच की इच्छा

- Such an interpretation of Justitia reflects the **public desire for accessibility to higher courts** by all — as **litigants, lawyers, judges**, and for access to justice itself.

जस्टिटिया की इस व्याख्या में सभी के लिए उच्च न्यायालयों तक पहुंच की सार्वजनिक इच्छा झलकती है, चाहे वे वादकर्ता, वकील, न्यायाधीश हों या न्याय तक पहुंच प्राप्त करना चाहते हों।

Do Not Cause Newer Forms of Discrimination

नए प्रकार के भेदभाव न उत्पन्न करें

- Controversies around statues are not new.

प्रतिमाओं के आसपास विवाद नए नहीं हैं।

- The history of the 'mother and child' statue in the Court also suggests so, as demonstrated in the 2017 work mentioned earlier.

कोर्ट में 'मदर एंड चाइल्ड' की प्रतिमा का इतिहास भी यही दर्शाता है, जैसा कि पहले उल्लेखित 2017 के कार्य में बताया गया है।

- A careful, **inclusive approach** is needed for representing **law and justice** in visual art forms.

कानून और न्याय को दृश्य कला रूपों में प्रस्तुत करने के लिए एक सावधानीपूर्ण और समावेशी दृष्टिकोण आवश्यक है।

Re-Envisioning Justice

न्याय की पुनर्कल्पना

- Should the idea of justice itself be re-envisioned?
क्या न्याय की अवधारणा को पुनः कल्पित किया जाना चाहिए?





- **Should justice be presented as a protest, resistance, lived experience, and struggle?**
क्या न्याय को विरोध, प्रतिरोध, जीवित अनुभव, और संघर्ष के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जाना चाहिए?
- **Should justice signify virtues like feminism, anti-caste, secularism, equality, and judicial independence, as enshrined in the basic structure doctrine?**
क्या न्याय को नारीवाद, जाति-विरोध, धर्मनिरपेक्षता, समानता, और न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता जैसे गुणों का प्रतीक होना चाहिए, जैसा कि मूल संरचना सिद्धांत में निहित है?

Art and Aesthetics for Transformation

परिवर्तन के लिए कला और सौंदर्यशास्त्र

- Should art, including statues, challenge the **non-independence and hegemonisation** of the judiciary and open discussions on improving public perception?
क्या कला, जिसमें प्रतिमाएं भी शामिल हैं, न्यायपालिका की गैर-स्वतंत्रता और आधिपत्य को चुनौती देनी चाहिए और सार्वजनिक धारणा को सुधारने पर चर्चा खोलनी चाहिए?
- Decolonisation must not drive **newer postcolonial forms of social discrimination and state violence.**
नव-औपनिवेशिक सामाजिक भेदभाव और राज्य हिंसा को डिकोलोनाइजेशन का कारण नहीं बनना चाहिए।





A devastating blow to global climate efforts

GS Paper III: Environment

With the Republicans firmly in control of the U.S. government, a seismic shift in American climate policy is imminent, threatening to unravel years of slow but hard-earned progress in addressing the climate crisis.

With president-elect Donald Trump referring to climate change as a “hoax”, the most devastating effect will be a diplomatic retreat in global negotiations, along with a possible withdrawal from the Paris Agreement (PA). U.S. climate negotiators will likely explain inaction with references to “domestic political constraints”, which American environmental advocates, frustrated by limited options, may also use as a shield while exhorting other major economies in the global South to take up the slack.

An alarming project proposal Project 2025, developed by The Heritage Foundation, brings together the vision of many conservative interests and is expected to be unleashed from the start of Mr. Trump’s presidency, even though he distanced himself from it during his campaign. It envisions a reduction in federal climate science programmes across several departments. The installation of politically appointed “science advisers” at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signals a concerning shift away from independent scientific oversight. This accompanies the potential dismantling of the EPA’s 2009 endangerment finding, which forms the legal backbone of climate regulation by identifying greenhouse gases (GHGs) as public health threats. This implies that GHG emissions may no longer be included in future environmental legislation. The plan also calls for ending green subsidies and opposing “climate reparations” to developing nations, effectively abandoning any pretence of climate justice.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of the Biden administration, the most ambitious U.S. climate legislation to date, is especially



Sujatha Byravan

Scientist based in Chennai. Views are personal



Sudhir Chella Rajan

Professor at IIT Madras. Views are personal

Donald’s Trump’s re-election casts an ominous shadow over the climate crisis

targeted by Project 2025, but it may oddly survive due to its widespread economic benefits, particularly in Republican districts that have seen substantial clean energy investments and job creation. Fossil fuel companies anticipate expanded operational freedom – a stance not unique to one party, as evidenced by previous bipartisan equivocation on fracking. Scientific institutions that work on climate change could face severe cuts in federal funding. In particular, research into renewable energy and battery storage faces significant reduction, handicapping the ability to compete in the growing global clean energy economy.

These changes come at a time when climate-driven disasters demand a coordinated, robust response. Indeed, it is mystifying how climate disinformation and misinformation can thrive in an era of intensifying climate-induced disasters, as witnessed in South America with hurricanes Helene and Ida. As this false messaging deepens under Mr. Trump, the public will be more disconnected from the scientific realities of climate change. The proposed dismantling of climate science infrastructure is more than just a policy reversal; it is a retreat from reality itself, one that future generations will judge harshly.

Unfortunately, climate change will not pause for political convenience. While policy may shift with elections, the physics of GHG emissions is consistent. Based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Synthesis Report on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), we are significantly off track from meeting both NDC commitments and PA temperature goals. Current NDCs would lead to global emissions of 51.5 Gt of CO₂ equivalent by 2030, a level only 2.6% lower than in 2019. This falls far short of the about 43% reduction needed for the 1.5°C target and 27% for the 2°C target.

Even with full implementation of all NDCs, we are heading towards temperature increases of up to 2.8°C of warming. The

current trajectory would consume 86% of the remaining carbon budget by 2030 for the desirable target of 1.5°C. The report emphasises an urgent need for increased NDC ambition, substantial over-achievement of current NDCs, or both. Without enhanced action, the required post-2030 emission reductions would need to be much steeper to compensate for this slow start.

The 29th global meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) is going on in Azerbaijan. The lame-duck Biden administration will be reluctant to make major commitments on finance. As was the case under previous Republican administrations, one can expect American delegates at COP29 to blame their political leaders for their inaction, while aware that the U.S. is responsible for about a quarter of GHGs generated by humanity.

Rays of hope

Still, there may be reasons for cautious hope. Globally, the clean energy transition has gained considerable momentum, driven by market forces. Even Republican-led States in the U.S. have embraced renewable energy investments, recognising the economic opportunities they bring to their communities. The likely survival of the IRA demonstrates how clean energy’s economic benefits can create durable political constituencies. U.S. negotiators at the climate conference will tell us that States, cities, and businesses increasingly view climate action as essential to their long-term prosperity. While there is room for domestic action within the U.S., we must be clear-eyed. The U.S. will not support global climate finance or take responsibility for being the largest cumulative emitter of GHGs. Climate justice will seriously get stalled at a moment when the world can least afford delay. The challenge lies in building upon existing progress, while finding new paths in an increasingly hostile international political environment.





A devastating blow to global climate efforts

जलवायु प्रयासों को एक बड़ा झटका

- With the **Republicans firmly in control of the U.S. government**, a seismic shift in American climate policy is imminent.
अमेरिकी सरकार पर रिपब्लिकन का पूर्ण नियंत्रण होने के साथ, अमेरिकी जलवायु नीति में एक बड़ा बदलाव आसन्न है।
- President-elect **Donald Trump** has referred to **climate change as a “hoax,”** raising fears of a diplomatic retreat in global negotiations and a potential withdrawal from the **Paris Agreement (PA)**.
नव-निर्वाचित राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने जलवायु परिवर्तन को **"धोखा"** करार दिया है, जिससे वैश्विक वार्ताओं से पीछे हटने और **पेरिस समझौते (PA)** से बाहर निकलने की संभावना बढ़ गई है।
- U.S. climate negotiators may cite **“domestic political constraints”** to justify inaction, shifting responsibility to major economies in the **global South**.
अमेरिकी जलवायु वार्ताकार **"घरेलू राजनीतिक बाधाओं"** का हवाला देकर निष्क्रियता को सही ठहरा सकते हैं, और जिम्मेदारी को **वैश्विक दक्षिण** की प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं पर स्थानांतरित कर सकते हैं।

An alarming project proposal

चिंताजनक परियोजना प्रस्ताव

- **Project 2025**, developed by **The Heritage Foundation**, outlines a reduction in **federal climate science programs** and proposes appointing political “science advisers” at the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**.
प्रोजेक्ट 2025, जिसे **द हेरिटेज फाउंडेशन** ने विकसित किया है, **संघीय जलवायु विज्ञान कार्यक्रमों** को कम करने और **यूएस पर्यावरण संरक्षण एजेंसी (EPA)** में राजनीतिक “विज्ञान सलाहकारों” की नियुक्ति का सुझाव देता है।
- The proposal threatens to dismantle the **EPA’s 2009 endangerment finding**, which identifies **greenhouse gases (GHGs)** as public health threats.
यह प्रस्ताव **EPA की 2009 की खतरनाक खोज** को समाप्त करने की धमकी देता है, जो **ग्रीनहाउस गैसों (GHGs)** को सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य के लिए खतरा मानता है।
- It advocates ending **green subsidies** and opposing **“climate reparations”** to developing nations, undermining the idea of **climate justice**.
यह **हरित सब्सिडी** समाप्त करने और विकासशील देशों के लिए **"जलवायु क्षतिपूर्ति"** का विरोध करने की वकालत करता है, जिससे **जलवायु न्याय** कमजोर होता है।

Targeting the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)





मुद्रास्फीति न्यूनीकरण अधिनियम (IRA) को निशाना बनाना

- **Project 2025 targets the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) but its widespread economic benefits, including job creation in Republican districts,** may ensure its survival.
प्रोजेक्ट 2025 मुद्रास्फीति न्यूनीकरण अधिनियम (IRA) को निशाना बनाता है, लेकिन इसके व्यापक आर्थिक लाभ, जैसे रिपब्लिकन जिलों में रोजगार सृजन, इसके बचने की संभावना बढ़ाते हैं।
- **Fossil fuel companies expect expanded operational freedom, while research into renewable energy and battery storage faces funding cuts.**
जीवाश्म ईंधन कंपनियां विस्तारित परिचालन स्वतंत्रता की अपेक्षा करती हैं, जबकि नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और बैटरी भंडारण में अनुसंधान को वित्तीय कटौती का सामना करना पड़ता है।

Intensifying climate-induced disasters

जलवायु-प्रेरित आपदाओं का तीव्र होना

- Climate-driven disasters like **hurricanes Helene and Ida** highlight the need for robust responses, but climate misinformation is thriving.
हरिकेन हेलेन और इडा जैसी जलवायु-प्रेरित आपदाएं मजबूत प्रतिक्रिया की आवश्यकता को दर्शाती हैं, लेकिन जलवायु गलत सूचना फल-फूल रही है।
- The dismantling of climate science infrastructure would represent a retreat from reality, with severe consequences for future generations.
जलवायु विज्ञान बुनियादी ढांचे को समाप्त करना वास्तविकता से पीछे हटने जैसा होगा, जिससे आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए गंभीर परिणाम होंगे।

Failure to meet global targets

वैश्विक लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने में विफलता

- According to the **IPCC Synthesis Report**, current **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** would reduce emissions by only **2.6%** from 2019 levels by **2030**, far short of the **43% reduction** needed for the **1.5°C target**.
IPCC संश्लेषण रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वर्तमान राष्ट्रीय निर्धारित योगदान (NDCs) 2019 के स्तर से 2030 तक केवल 2.6% उत्सर्जन कम करेंगे, जबकि 1.5°C लक्ष्य के लिए 43% कमी की आवश्यकता है।
- Current policies would consume **86%** of the remaining carbon budget by **2030**, risking a temperature rise of up to **2.8°C**.
मौजूदा नीतियां 2030 तक शेष कार्बन बजट का 86% उपभोग करेंगी, जिससे तापमान में 2.8°C तक वृद्धि का जोखिम है।

Rays of hope





आशा की किरणें

- The global clean energy transition is gaining momentum, with even **Republican-led States** embracing renewable energy investments for economic benefits.
वैश्विक स्वच्छ ऊर्जा संक्रमण गति पकड़ रहा है, जिसमें रिपब्लिकन-नेतृत्व वाले राज्य भी आर्थिक लाभ के लिए नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा निवेश को अपना रहे हैं।
- The survival of the **IRA demonstrates that clean energy's economic benefits can create durable political constituencies.**
IRA का बचना दर्शाता है कि स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के आर्थिक लाभ स्थायी राजनीतिक आधार तैयार कर सकते हैं।
- However, the U.S. remains unlikely to support **global climate finance** or take responsibility as the **largest cumulative emitter of GHGs.**
हालांकि, अमेरिका के वैश्विक जलवायु वित्त का समर्थन करने या **GHGs** के सबसे बड़े संचयी उत्सर्जक के रूप में जिम्मेदारी लेने की संभावना कम है।



Why is Germany headed for snap polls?

How did the 'traffic light' coalition fall? Why did German Chancellor Olaf Scholz fire his Finance Minister? Why did last year's constitutional court ruling affect the federal budget? What are its ratings? How is it expected to perform in the elections?

GS Paper II: Comparison of
Constitution: German
Electoral System
CAT 1A/1B

Ioan Sony Cherian

The story so far:

In November 6, Germany's ruling 'traffic light' coalition, composed of the Social Democrats (SPD), the Greens and the Free Democrats (FDP), collapsed when Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired his Finance Minister, FDP's Christian Lindner. A no-confidence motion against the government will be initiated on December 16, which Mr. Scholz is sure to lose without the support of the FDP. Therefore, Mr. Scholz has agreed to hold snap elections on February 23, 2025 ahead of the scheduled election in September 2025.

What happened?

Germany's current ruling coalition, which came to power in 2021, has been one of the most ineffective coalitions that the country has seen. Constant infighting over key issues such as the budget agreement, war with Ukraine, defence and energy spending has brought about a dysfunctional governance model.

While the Chancellor's SPD and the Greens want heavy state investment by increasing government borrowing, Mr. Lindner's bro-business party has rejected the same by espousing strict adherence to Germany's debt brake rule which prohibits borrowing beyond a set limit. Further, the FDP has asked for tax cuts for the wealthy, and austerity measures both of which have been staunchly opposed by the other two coalition partners.

The looming multi-billion dollar gap in the federal budget is yet another thorn on the side of the government.

What is Germany's debt brake rule?

Germany's debt brake rule limits the EU country's borrowing to 0.35% of its GDP. This limit, written into Basic Law (German Constitution), effectively means that the government has to try to balance



Troubled times: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz walks after his speech in the lower house of parliament, in Berlin, Germany on November 13. REUTERS

its books every fiscal year, that is, it can only spend what it makes via taxes and levies. This rule was written into the law in 2009 after the 2008 economic crisis to bring public finances back under the control of the government. The debt brake limits indiscriminate government borrowing which would later translate to huge interest and fall as a burden on future generations. While it had been opposed then by the Greens and other opposition parties as limiting the government's ability to spend and act, it became legally binding for the federal government and the states in 2016 and 2020, respectively. No other EU country has such strict borrowing rules.

However, there is an exception clause "which allows the Bundestag [German Parliament] to suspend the debt brake by a simple majority in the event of a natural

disaster or other extraordinary emergency situations beyond the control of the state." The Bundestag has already used this exception from 2020-2022 citing the COVID-19 pandemic and the onset of the Ukraine-Russia war which caused the energy crisis in the country – Germany has been one of the strongest defenders of Ukraine in the EU, with funds for Ukraine's security capacity building initiative in 2024 alone amounting to approximately 7.1 billion euro. However, this has led to Germany cutting/weaning off from Russian energy causing an energy crisis in the country, the effects of which are still felt in the economy.

What about the budget?

To work around the debt brake and to finance its fiscal needs, Germany has a list of various off-budget 'special funds' which

it uses for economic spending without breaking the debt limit. Some of these funds include the climate and transformation fund, the economic stabilisation fund, the federal armed forces fund etc. The ruling coalition was depending on these funds to get them through the increased commitments to climate initiatives and defence spending.

However, on November 15, 2023, a constitutional court ruled that transferring unused pandemic era debt of around 60 billion euros to one of the funds, specifically the climate and transformation fund, was unconstitutional. This had blown a hole into the federal budget and further stressed a coalition already frayed by ideological differences.

What next?

The leader of the opposition alliance, composed of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Christian Social Union (CSU), Friedrich Merz is leading in opinion surveys. A poll conducted by Forsa, wherein they asked citizens who they would vote for if there was an election next Sunday, showed the opposition alliance leading at 33% as compared to the SPD's 16%.

However, AfD, the far-right party of Germany, is also gaining influence in the country. The anti-immigrant party recently won the election in the eastern state of Thuringia, its first state election since the Nazi-era. According to Forsa, AfD's approval rates are at 17%, higher than the SPD's. The AfD has been accused of having extensive networks with neo-Nazi groups. A former AfD member of the German parliament is currently in custody for alleged involvement in the planning of a coup. There is even a proposal to file a motion to ban the AfD. Therefore, while the AfD are unlikely to lead government, the party could get a larger seat share in the Bundestag. AfD has opposed all arms shipment to Ukraine and similar to U.S. president-elect Donald Trump has called for strict rules against irregular migration and open borders.

THE GIST

Germany's current ruling coalition, which came to power in 2021, has been one of the most ineffective coalitions that the country has seen.

Germany's debt brake rule limits the EU country's borrowing to 0.35% of its GDP. This limit, written into Basic Law (German Constitution), effectively means that the government has to try to balance its books every fiscal year.

The leader of the opposition alliance, composed of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Christian Social Union (CSU), Friedrich Merz is leading in opinion surveys.

Why is Germany headed for snap polls?

जर्मनी समय से पहले चुनावों की ओर क्यों बढ़ रहा है?

- On **November 6**, Germany's ruling 'traffic light' coalition (Social Democrats - SPD, Greens, and Free Democrats - FDP) collapsed when Chancellor **Olaf Scholz** fired his Finance Minister, FDP's **Christian Lindner**.

6 नवंबर को जर्मनी का 'ट्रैफिक लाइट' गठबंधन (सोशल डेमोक्रेट्स - SPD, ग्रीन्स, और फ्री डेमोक्रेट्स - FDP) तब टूट गया जब चांसलर ओलाफ शोलज़ ने FDP के वित्त मंत्री क्रिश्चियन लिंडनर को बर्खास्त कर दिया।





- A **no-confidence motion** against the government will be initiated on **December 16**, which Chancellor Scholz is sure to lose without FDP's support.
16 दिसंबर को सरकार के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव लाया जाएगा, जिसे FDP के समर्थन के बिना चांसलर शोलज़ हारने वाले हैं।
- Snap elections are scheduled for **February 23, 2025**, ahead of the earlier planned elections in **September 2025**.
23 फरवरी 2025 को समय से पहले चुनाव होंगे, जो पहले सितंबर 2025 में होने वाले थे।

How did the 'traffic light' coalition fall?

'ट्रैफिक लाइट' गठबंधन क्यों टूटा?

- The coalition, which came to power in **2021**, has been one of the most ineffective in Germany's history due to **constant infighting** over budget agreements, the **Ukraine war**, defense, and energy spending.
2021 में सत्ता में आया यह गठबंधन जर्मनी के इतिहास में सबसे अप्रभावी रहा है, जिसमें बजट समझौतों, यूक्रेन युद्ध, रक्षा और ऊर्जा खर्च को लेकर लगातार अंदरूनी विवाद हुए।
- The SPD and Greens favor **heavy state investment** via government borrowing, while FDP, a **pro-business party**, opposes it, citing the **debt brake rule**.
SPD और ग्रीन्स भारी सरकारी निवेश के पक्षधर हैं, जबकि FDP, जो एक प्रो-बिजनेस पार्टी है, ने इसे ऋण ब्रेक नियम का हवाला देकर खारिज कर दिया।
- **FDP has also demanded tax cuts for the wealthy and austerity measures**, both opposed by the other coalition partners.
FDP ने अमीरों के लिए कर कटौती और सख्त बचत उपायों की मांग की है, जिसे अन्य सहयोगी दलों ने खारिज कर दिया।
- A **multi-billion-dollar gap** in the federal budget has further deepened the rift within the coalition.
संघीय बजट में बहु-अरब डॉलर का अंतर गठबंधन के भीतर दरार को और गहरा कर गया है।

What is Germany's debt brake rule?

जर्मनी का ऋण ब्रेक नियम क्या है?

- The **debt brake rule**, introduced in **2009**, limits Germany's borrowing to **0.35% of its GDP**.
2009 में पेश किया गया ऋण ब्रेक नियम जर्मनी के उधारी को GDP के 0.35% तक सीमित करता है।
- It mandates that the government can only spend what it earns through taxes and levies, aiming to balance the books each fiscal year.
यह नियम सरकार को केवल वही खर्च करने की अनुमति देता है जो वह कर और शुल्क के माध्यम से अर्जित करती है, ताकि हर वित्तीय वर्ष में बजट संतुलित रहे।





- This rule became legally binding for the federal government in **2016** and for states in **2020**.
यह नियम संघीय सरकार के लिए **2016** और राज्यों के लिए **2020** में कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी हो गया।
- There is an **exception clause** for extraordinary situations like natural disasters, which was invoked during **2020-2022** for the **COVID-19 pandemic** and the **Ukraine-Russia war**.
प्राकृतिक आपदाओं जैसी असाधारण स्थितियों के लिए एक **अपवाद खंड** है, जिसे **2020-2022** के दौरान **COVID-19 महामारी** और **यूक्रेन-रूस युद्ध** के लिए लागू किया गया था।

Why did last year's constitutional court ruling affect the federal budget?

पिछले साल के संवैधानिक अदालत के फैसले ने संघीय बजट को कैसे प्रभावित किया?

- The constitutional court's decision restricted the government's ability to reallocate funds, leading to a **looming multi-billion-dollar gap** in the federal budget.
संवैधानिक अदालत के फैसले ने सरकार की फंड पुनः आवंटित करने की क्षमता को सीमित कर दिया, जिससे संघीय बजट में **बहु-अरब डॉलर का अंतर** उत्पन्न हो गया।
- It further limited the government's ability to finance emergency measures, adding pressure to adhere to the **debt brake rule**.
इसने आपातकालीन उपायों के वित्तपोषण की सरकार की क्षमता को और सीमित कर दिया, जिससे **ऋण ब्रेक नियम** का पालन करने का दबाव बढ़ गया।

What are its ratings? How is it expected to perform in the elections?

गठबंधन की रेटिंग क्या है? चुनावों में इसका प्रदर्शन कैसा रहेगा?

- Current opinion polls show declining popularity for the **traffic light coalition**, with the **FDP** losing significant voter confidence.
वर्तमान जनमत सर्वेक्षणों में **ट्रैफिक लाइट गठबंधन** की लोकप्रियता घटती दिख रही है, और **FDP** ने मतदाताओं का महत्वपूर्ण विश्वास खो दिया है।
- The SPD and Greens are expected to face challenges due to economic crises and ineffective governance during their tenure.
अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान आर्थिक संकट और अप्रभावी शासन के कारण **SPD और ग्रीन्स** को चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- The opposition, led by **CDU/CSU**, is likely to benefit in the upcoming elections, potentially securing a strong position.
CDU/CSU के नेतृत्व वाला विपक्ष आगामी चुनावों में लाभ उठा सकता है और संभावित रूप से मजबूत स्थिति हासिल कर सकता है।





What about the budget?

बजट के बारे में क्या?

- To work around the **debt brake** and to finance its fiscal needs, Germany has a list of various **off-budget 'special funds'**, which it uses for economic spending without breaking the debt limit.
- Some of these funds include the **climate and transformation fund**, the **economic stabilisation fund**, and the **federal armed forces fund**, etc.
कर्ज सीमा (debt brake) को पार किए बिना अपने वित्तीय जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए, जर्मनी के पास विभिन्न ऑफ-बजट 'स्पेशल फंड्स' हैं, जिनका उपयोग वह आर्थिक खर्चों के लिए करता है। इनमें क्लाइमेट और ट्रांसफॉर्मेशन फंड, इकोनॉमिक स्टैबिलाइजेशन फंड, और फेडरल आर्म्ड फोर्सिंग फंड शामिल हैं।
- The ruling coalition was depending on these funds to manage its **increased commitments to climate initiatives and defence spending**.
सत्तारूढ़ गठबंधन इन फंड्स पर जलवायु पहल और रक्षा खर्च के लिए बढ़ती प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने के लिए निर्भर था।
- **On November 15, 2023, a constitutional court ruled that transferring unused pandemic-era debt of around 60 billion euros to the climate and transformation fund was unconstitutional.**
15 नवंबर 2023 को एक संवैधानिक अदालत ने यह फैसला दिया कि महामारी-युग के अप्रयुक्त कर्ज (60 अरब यूरो) को क्लाइमेट और ट्रांसफॉर्मेशन फंड में स्थानांतरित करना असंवैधानिक है।
- This decision blew a hole in the federal budget and further stressed **a coalition already frayed by ideological differences**.
इस फैसले ने फेडरल बजट में बड़ा संकट खड़ा कर दिया और पहले से ही वैचारिक मतभेदों से जूझ रहे गठबंधन पर और दबाव डाल दिया।

What next?

आगे क्या?

- The leader of the opposition alliance, composed of the **Christian Democratic Union (CDU)** and the **Christian Social Union (CSU)**, Friedrich Merz, is leading in opinion surveys.
विपक्षी गठबंधन के नेता, जो क्रिश्चियन डेमोक्रेटिक यूनियन (CDU) और क्रिश्चियन सोशल यूनियन (CSU) से मिलकर बना है, फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़, जनमत सर्वेक्षणों में आगे चल रहे हैं।
- A **poll conducted by Forsa** showed the opposition alliance **leading at 33%**, compared to the **SPD's 16%**.
Forsa द्वारा किए गए एक सर्वेक्षण में विपक्षी गठबंधन को 33% पर दिखाया गया, जबकि SPD को केवल 16% मिला।
- **The far-right party AfD** is also gaining influence, with **approval rates at 17%**, higher than the **SPD's**.





फार-राइट पार्टी AfD का प्रभाव भी बढ़ रहा है, और इसके स्वीकृति दर 17% हैं, जो SPD से अधिक है।

- AfD recently won the election in the eastern state of **Thuringia**, its first state election victory since the **Nazi-era**.

AfD ने हाल ही में पूर्वी राज्य थुरिंगिया में चुनाव जीता, जो नाजी-युग के बाद उनकी पहली राज्य चुनाव जीत है।

- The AfD has been accused of having **extensive networks with neo-Nazi groups**, and a former AfD member of parliament is in custody for allegedly planning a **coup**.

AfD पर **नियो-नाजी समूहों के साथ व्यापक नेटवर्क** होने का आरोप है, और उनके एक पूर्व सांसद को **तख्तापलट** की योजना बनाने के आरोप में हिरासत में लिया गया है।

- There is even a **proposal to file a motion to ban the AfD**.

AfD पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए प्रस्ताव लाने की योजना भी बनाई जा रही है।

- While the AfD is unlikely to lead the government, the party could get a **larger seat share in the Bundestag**.

भले ही AfD के सरकार का नेतृत्व करने की संभावना न हो, लेकिन पार्टी को **बुंडेस्टाग में अधिक सीटें** मिल सकती हैं।

- The party has opposed **all arms shipments to Ukraine** and has called for **strict rules against irregular migration and open borders**, similar to **Donald Trump's policies**.

इस पार्टी ने यूक्रेन को हथियार भेजने का **विरोध** किया है और **अनियमित प्रवास और खुले बॉर्डर्स** के खिलाफ सख्त नियमों की मांग की है, जो **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की नीतियों** के समान हैं।

Why were the Kerala IAS officers suspended?

What do the conduct rules specify? Does it adequately cover the usage of social media? Do civil service rules need to be reviewed? What does 'unbecoming of an officer' mean?

GS Paper II: Governance

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

Kerala has suspended two IAS officers, N. Prashant and K. Gopalakrishnan, citing violation of service rules.

What are the charges?

The charge against N. Prashant is that he had made 'derogatory statements' on social media against A. Jayathilak IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, that amounted to grave indiscipline and undermining the public image of the administrative machinery of the State. The government order stated that these remarks were 'unbecoming of an officer' borne in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Mr. Prashant alleged that Jayathilak had orchestrated baseless news reports against him. He refuted these allegations. K. Gopalakrishnan has been suspended

for allegedly creating a religion-based WhatsApp group – 'Mallu Hindu Officers' – that sowed disunity and created communal formations within the IAS cadre. He had claimed that this group was created after his mobile phone was hacked. However, the suspension order stated that the police inquiry found no evidence of such hacking and that the officer had done a 'factory reset' of the phone before handing it over to police.

What do the rules state?

The All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 (AIS rules) governs the conduct of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service officers. The AIS rules provide a code of conduct for the officers. Some of the rules relevant for the current issue are briefly summarised here. Officers should maintain high standards of ethics, integrity, honesty, political neutrality, accountability and transparency. They

should uphold the supremacy of constitutional values. They can participate or contribute in public media in the bonafide discharge of their duties. They shall not in any communication over any public media adversely criticise the policies of the government. They shall not have recourse to any court or press for the vindication of official act, that has been subject matter of criticism, without the previous sanction of the government. It also contains an omnibus rule that the officers shall do nothing which is 'unbecoming of a member of the service.'

What are the issues?

There are certain overall issues that need to be addressed. First, the rules don't have explicit guidelines with respect to communication through social media. Second, the rules have been amended from time to time by including various new conduct guidelines that regulate both

the private and official life of officers. The term 'unbecoming of a member of the service' however continues as an omnibus rider that can be misused/misinterpreted. It must also be borne in mind that invariably in all cases, it is the senior officers and government who enforce these rules against junior officers and hence the latter need to be protected from any such misuse.

What can be reviewed?

Firstly, specific rules may be added with respect to the use of social media. This may include guidelines for the nature of official content that can be posted as well the right to defend against any defamatory campaign concerning official work. Secondly, an illustrative list may be provided for the term 'unbecoming of a member of the service,' based on past instances where action had been taken on this basis. Officers, especially youngsters, should remember that anonymity is an important trait of civil servants. In the present day and age, social media is a powerful medium for providing publicity to various governmental initiatives. It educates citizens when used judiciously. However, officers should exercise responsible anonymity while discharging their functions and disseminating information about the same.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.





Kerala IAS Officers Suspended (GS Paper IV: Ethics) केरल आईएएस अधिकारियों को निलंबित किया गया

Kerala has suspended two IAS officers, N. Prashant and K. Gopalakrishnan, citing violation of service rules.

केरल ने दो आईएएस अधिकारियों, एन. प्रशांत और के. गोपालकृष्णन को सेवा नियमों का उल्लंघन करने के आरोप में निलंबित किया।

What are the charges?

आरोप क्या हैं?

- The charge against **N. Prashant** is that he had made '**derogatory statements**' on social media against **A. Jayathilak IAS, Additional Chief Secretary**, which amounted to grave indiscipline and undermining the public image of the administrative machinery of the State.
- एन. प्रशांत के खिलाफ आरोप है कि उन्होंने सोशल मीडिया पर ए. जयथिलक आईएएस, अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव के खिलाफ 'निंदा करने वाले बयान' दिए, जो गंभीर अनुशासनहीनता और राज्य प्रशासनिक तंत्र की सार्वजनिक छवि को कमजोर करने के बराबर थे।
- **K. Gopalakrishnan** has been suspended for allegedly creating a religion-based WhatsApp group — '**Mallu Hindu Officers**' — that sowed disunity and created communal formations within the IAS cadre.
- के. गोपालकृष्णन को 'मल्लू हिंदू अधिकारी' नामक एक धर्म-आधारित व्हाट्सएप समूह बनाने के आरोप में निलंबित किया गया, जिससे असहमति और आईएएस कैडर में साम्प्रदायिक विभाजन हुआ।

What do the rules state?

नियमों में क्या कहा गया है?

- The **All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 (AIS rules)** governs the conduct of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service officers.
- अखिल भारतीय सेवा (आचरण) नियम, 1968 (AIS नियम) आईएएस, आईपीएस और भारतीय वन सेवा अधिकारियों के आचरण को नियंत्रित करते हैं।
- The AIS rules provide a code of conduct for the officers. **Officers should maintain high standards of ethics, integrity, honesty, political neutrality, accountability and transparency.**
- AIS नियम अधिकारियों के लिए आचार संहिता प्रदान करते हैं। अधिकारियों को नैतिकता, ईमानदारी, राजनीतिक तटस्थता, जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता के उच्च मानकों को बनाए रखना चाहिए।





- Officers should uphold the **supremacy of constitutional values** and can participate or contribute in public media in the bona fide discharge of their duties.
- अधिकारियों को **संविधानिक मूल्यों की सर्वोच्चता** बनाए रखनी चाहिए और वे अपनी जिम्मेदारियों के निष्पक्ष निर्वहन में सार्वजनिक मीडिया में भाग ले सकते हैं या योगदान कर सकते हैं।
- **They shall not in any communication over any public media adversely criticise the policies of the government.**
- वे किसी भी सार्वजनिक मीडिया में सरकार की नीतियों की आलोचना नहीं कर सकते।
- **They shall not have recourse to any court or press for the vindication of official acts that have been subject matter of criticism, without the previous sanction of the government.**
- वे किसी भी सरकारी कृत्य के बचाव के लिए बिना सरकार की **पूर्व स्वीकृति** के अदालत या प्रेस का सहारा नहीं ले सकते।
- Officers should do nothing which is **'unbecoming of a member of the service.'**
- अधिकारियों को ऐसा कुछ भी नहीं करना चाहिए जो सेवा के सदस्य के रूप में **'अयोग्य'** हो।

What are the issues?

क्या मुद्दे हैं?

- The **rules don't have explicit guidelines with respect to communication through social media.**
- नियमों में सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से संचार के संबंध में **स्पष्ट दिशा-निर्देश** नहीं हैं।
- The rules have been amended from time to time by including various new conduct guidelines that regulate both the private and official life of officers.
- नियमों में समय-समय पर संशोधन किए गए हैं, जिसमें अधिकारियों के **निजी और आधिकारिक जीवन** को नियंत्रित करने वाले नए आचरण दिशा-निर्देश शामिल किए गए हैं।
- The term **'unbecoming of a member of the service'** continues as an omnibus rider that can be misused/misinterpreted.
- **'सेवा के सदस्य के रूप में अयोग्य'** शब्द एक व्यापक शर्त के रूप में जारी रहता है, जिसे दुरुपयोग/गलत तरीके से व्याख्यायित किया जा सकता है।
- It must also be borne in mind that invariably, it is the **senior officers** and **government** who enforce these rules against junior officers, and hence the latter need to be protected from any such misuse.
- यह ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि हमेशा **वरिष्ठ अधिकारी** और **सरकार** ही इन नियमों को जूनियर अधिकारियों पर लागू करते हैं, इसलिए जूनियर अधिकारियों को इस तरह के दुरुपयोग से सुरक्षा मिलनी चाहिए।

What can be reviewed?

क्या समीक्षा की जा सकती है?

- **Specific rules may be added with respect to the use of social media, including guidelines for the nature of official content that can be posted.**





- सोशल मीडिया के उपयोग के संबंध में विशिष्ट नियम जोड़े जा सकते हैं, जिसमें आधिकारिक सामग्री के प्रकार के लिए दिशा-निर्देश शामिल हों जो पोस्ट की जा सकती है।
- **An illustrative list may be provided for the term 'unbecoming of a member of the service,' based on past instances where action had been taken on this basis.**
- 'सेवा के सदस्य के रूप में अयोग्य' शब्द के लिए एक उदाहरण सूची प्रदान की जा सकती है, जो अतीत में इस आधार पर की गई कार्रवाई पर आधारित हो।
- Officers, especially youngsters, should remember that **anonymity** is an important trait of civil servants.
- अधिकारियों, विशेष रूप से युवा अधिकारियों को यह याद रखना चाहिए कि **गुमनामी** एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता है नागरिक सेवकों की।
- Social media is a powerful medium for providing publicity to various governmental initiatives. It educates citizens when used judiciously.
- सोशल मीडिया विभिन्न सरकारी पहलों को प्रचारित करने का एक **शक्तिशाली माध्यम** है। जब इसका **विवेकपूर्ण** तरीके से उपयोग किया जाता है, तो यह नागरिकों को शिक्षित करता है।
- Officers should exercise responsible **anonymity** while discharging their functions and disseminating information about the same.
- अधिकारियों को अपनी जिम्मेदारियों का निर्वहन करते समय और संबंधित जानकारी प्रसारित करते समय जिम्मेदार **गुमनामी** का पालन करना चाहिए।





REUTERS

Why is a U.K. consumer protection group going after Apple's iCloud?

The U.K. group called 'Which?' alleged that Apple customers were charged excessive fees to use the iCloud storage service, and that the iPhone-maker violated competition law. By contrast, the Android market has more options for cloud services that are easy to install

GS Paper III: S&T

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

A U.K. consumer protection group called 'Which?' has filed a £3 billion claim against Apple as it represents U.K. customers who paid for the company's iCloud services since October 1, 2015. The consumer group claims that Apple's customers were locked into using iCloud and forced to pay unfair prices for it, as the iPhone-maker violated competition law in the process.

How does Apple iCloud work?

Apple's iCloud is a storage service that allows Apple customers to back up their device-based data such as photos, videos, emails, files, and more. They can then access the stored media from other devices or through the web.

For example, if a user who dropped their iPhone into the sea had opted for automatic backup to iCloud, they would not have to worry about losing precious videos of a deceased pet, voice memos from their loved ones, the poem they were composing on their phone, the health metrics they were planning to show their doctor, their saved passwords, important to-do lists, downloaded books, device-based text messages, and more, since these would be preserved through iCloud.

Naturally, storing so much data from

different apps and features – and constantly updating it – takes up space. With the free version of Apple's iCloud, users get 5 GB of storage. However, they can subscribe to various iCloud+ plans, which offer up to 12 TB of storage, if they need more space. The premium plans also come with additional privacy and security features.

Why is the U.K. consumer group taking legal action against Apple?

'Which?' believes that Apple forced its iPhone and iPad customers to use iCloud and did not give them fair ways to explore rival cloud services. By the group's calculation, Apple owes customers around £3 billion.

According to the group, Apple gave greater preference to its own cloud storage service on devices such as iPhones and iPads, and tied iCloud to these iOS devices. As a result, 'Which?' claimed that Apple customers were locked into using iCloud, finding it harder to switch to other services, and were caught in an environment that let Apple overcharge users. The group also claimed an iOS monopoly across Apple systems helped it get an "unfair advantage" in the cloud storage market as well. "A key tactic to achieve this has been encouraging users to sign up to iCloud for storage of photos, videos and other data while simultaneously making it difficult to use alternative providers, because Apple does

not allow customers to store or back-up all of their phone's data with a third-party provider. iOS users then have to pay for the service once photos, notes, messages and other data go over the free 5GB limit," said the 'Which?' press team in a statement on November 14. If legal action is successful, the group estimated that the average damages per consumer would be around £70 (approximately ₹,458.92).

This action by 'Which?' has been filed with the Competition Appeal Tribunal. The group said it wants Apple to address the grievances by giving customers back their money and opening up the iOS ecosystem, thus avoiding litigation.

Eligible customers in the U.K. will be part of the legal proceedings by default, but they can opt out if they want to. Meanwhile, eligible users overseas can request to be part of the proceedings. Now, 'Which?' must get permission from the Competition Appeal Tribunal to act as a class representative.

However, Apple has rejected the allegations about iCloud's anticompetitive practices, pointing out that using its cloud storage service was not compulsory and that there were alternatives.

The iPhone-maker said it would defend itself against legal claims, according to a Reuters report.

Will Google's Cloud offerings also come under legal review?

The U.K. consumer group is specifically

targeting Apple in its legal case, alleging anti-competitive action such as restricting alternative options and locking in customers. 'Which?' has pointed to how the dominance of iOS on Apple devices boosted iCloud's dominance in the cloud market.

By contrast, the Android market has more options for cloud services that are easy to install and use across diverse devices, with less of a "walled garden" structure.

Google itself offers both Drive and Cloud services. While Drive enables file sharing by using cloud features and AI, Google Cloud lets enterprises and developers run more complex operations with its tools. A user with a basic Google Account also gets 15 GB of storage for free, which applies to their Gmail, Google Drive, and Google Photos.

While Google is not mentioned in this particular claim by the U.K. consumer group, the internet giant has been deemed a monopolist in the search engine market, after a high-profile trial in the U.S.

While it is not certain whether the legal claim by U.K.'s 'Which?' will move forward successfully, the case will likely spark both customers and regulators across the world to question whether cloud service providers – be they Apple, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, or others – should be pulled up for their market practices and fee structure.





Why is a U.K. consumer protection group going after Apple's iCloud?

ब्रिटेन का एक उपभोक्ता संरक्षण समूह एप्पल के आईक्लाउड पर क्यों हमला कर रहा है?

The U.K. group called 'Which?' alleged that Apple customers were charged excessive fees to use the iCloud storage service, and that the iPhone-maker violated competition law. By contrast, the Android market has more options for cloud services that are easy to install

यू.के. के 'व्हिच?' नामक समूह ने आरोप लगाया कि एप्पल के ग्राहकों से iCloud स्टोरेज सेवा का उपयोग करने के लिए अत्यधिक शुल्क लिया गया था, और iPhone निर्माता ने प्रतिस्पर्धा कानून का उल्लंघन किया। इसके विपरीत, एंड्रॉइड मार्केट में क्लाउड सेवाओं के लिए अधिक विकल्प हैं जिन्हें इंस्टॉल करना आसान है

U.K. Consumer Group Files £3 Billion Claim Against Apple

यू.के. उपभोक्ता समूह ने Apple के खिलाफ £3 बिलियन का दावा दायर किया

- A U.K. consumer protection group called 'Which?' has filed a **£3 billion** claim against **Apple**, representing U.K. customers who paid for iCloud services since **October 1, 2015**.

यू.के. उपभोक्ता संरक्षण समूह 'Which?' ने Apple के खिलाफ £3 बिलियन का दावा दायर किया है, जो 1 अक्टूबर 2015 से iCloud सेवाओं के लिए भुगतान करने वाले यू.के. ग्राहकों का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।

- The group claims that Apple's customers were **locked into using iCloud** and were forced to pay **unfair prices** for it, as Apple violated **competition law**.

समूह का दावा है कि Apple के ग्राहकों को iCloud का उपयोग करने के लिए बाध्य किया गया और उन्हें इसके लिए अन्यायपूर्ण कीमतें चुकानी पड़ीं, क्योंकि Apple ने प्रतिस्पर्धा कानून का उल्लंघन किया।

How Does Apple iCloud Work?

Apple iCloud कैसे काम करता है?

- Apple's **iCloud** is a storage service allowing customers to back up their device data such as **photos, videos, emails, files**, and more.





Apple का **iCloud** एक स्टोरेज सेवा है जो ग्राहकों को उनके डिवाइस डेटा जैसे **फोटो, वीडियो, ईमेल, फाइलें**, और अन्य को बैकअप करने की अनुमति देती है।

- Customers can access the stored media from other devices or through the web.
ग्राहक संग्रहित मीडिया को अन्य उपकरणों से या वेब के माध्यम से एक्सेस कर सकते हैं।
- For example, if a user dropped their iPhone into the sea, and opted for **automatic backup** to iCloud, they would not lose important data.
उदाहरण के लिए, अगर किसी उपयोगकर्ता ने अपना iPhone समुद्र में गिरा दिया और **स्वचालित बैकअप** iCloud पर चुना, तो वे महत्वपूर्ण डेटा खो नहीं पाएंगे।
- iCloud preserves data such as **photos, voice memos, poems, health metrics, saved passwords, to-do lists**, and more.
iCloud **फोटो, स्वर मेमो, कविताएँ, स्वास्थ्य मीट्रिक, सहेजे गए पासवर्ड, कार्यसूची**, और अन्य डेटा को संरक्षित करता है।
- Storing and constantly updating such data takes up space, with the free version offering **5 GB** of storage.
इस तरह के डेटा को स्टोर करना और लगातार अपडेट करना स्थान लेता है, जिसमें मुफ्त संस्करण में **5 GB** का स्टोरेज प्रदान किया जाता है।
- Users can subscribe to **iCloud+ plans**, offering up to **12 TB** of storage with additional privacy and security features.
उपयोगकर्ता **iCloud+ योजनाओं** की सदस्यता ले सकते हैं, जो **12 TB** तक स्टोरेज प्रदान करती हैं, साथ ही अतिरिक्त गोपनीयता और सुरक्षा सुविधाएँ भी होती हैं।

Why is the U.K. Consumer Group Taking Legal Action Against Apple?

यू.के. उपभोक्ता समूह Apple के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्रवाई क्यों कर रहा है?

- **'Which?'** believes that Apple forced iPhone and iPad users to use iCloud and did not allow them to explore **rival cloud services**.
'Which?' का मानना है कि Apple ने iPhone और iPad उपयोगकर्ताओं को iCloud का उपयोग करने के लिए बाध्य किया और उन्हें **प्रतिद्वंदी क्लाउड सेवाओं** का पता लगाने की अनुमति नहीं दी।
- **According to the group's calculation, Apple owes customers around £3 billion.**
समूह के अनुमान के अनुसार, Apple को ग्राहकों को लगभग **£3 बिलियन** देना है।
- **'Which?' claims Apple gave preference to its own cloud storage on iPhones and iPads, locking users into iCloud and making it difficult to switch to other services.**
'Which?' का दावा है कि Apple ने **iPhones और iPads** पर अपनी खुद की क्लाउड स्टोरेज को प्राथमिकता दी, जिससे उपयोगकर्ता iCloud में **बाध्य** हो गए और अन्य सेवाओं में स्विच करना मुश्किल हो गया।
- The group also claims Apple created an **iOS monopoly**, giving it an unfair advantage in the cloud storage market.
समूह का यह भी दावा है कि Apple ने **iOS मोनोपॉली** बनाई, जिससे उसे क्लाउड स्टोरेज बाजार में एक **अन्यायपूर्ण लाभ** मिला।





- The tactic included encouraging users to sign up for iCloud for storage of **photos, videos**, and other data, while making it difficult to use **alternative providers**.
इस रणनीति में उपयोगकर्ताओं को **फोटो, वीडियो**, और अन्य डेटा के लिए iCloud की सदस्यता लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना शामिल था, जबकि **वैकल्पिक प्रदाताओं** का उपयोग करना कठिन बना दिया गया था।
- Users then had to pay for the service once their data exceeded the free **5 GB** limit.
फिर उपयोगकर्ताओं को सेवा के लिए भुगतान करना पड़ा जब उनका डेटा **5 GB** की मुफ्त सीमा से अधिक हो गया।
- If legal action is successful, the group estimates that the average damages per consumer would be around **£70 (₹7,458.92)**.
अगर कानूनी कार्रवाई सफल होती है, तो समूह का अनुमान है कि प्रत्येक उपभोक्ता को औसतन **£70 (₹7,458.92)** का नुकसान होगा।

Legal Action Filed with Competition Appeal Tribunal

प्रतिस्पर्धा अपील न्यायाधिकरण में कानूनी कार्रवाई दायर की गई

- The legal action by **'Which?'** has been filed with the **Competition Appeal Tribunal**.
'Which?' द्वारा कानूनी कार्रवाई **प्रतिस्पर्धा अपील न्यायाधिकरण** में दायर की गई है।
- The group wants Apple to address grievances by **giving customers back their money** and opening up the **iOS ecosystem**, thus avoiding litigation.
समूह चाहता है कि Apple उपभोक्ताओं को उनका पैसा वापस करे और **iOS पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** को खोलकर शिकायतों का समाधान करे, ताकि मुकदमेबाजी से बचा जा सके।
- Eligible customers in the U.K. will be part of the legal proceedings by default, but they can opt out if they want.
यू.के. में पात्र ग्राहक कानूनी प्रक्रिया का हिस्सा बनेंगे, लेकिन वे चाहें तो बाहर भी जा सकते हैं।
- Eligible users overseas can request to be part of the proceedings.
विदेशी पात्र उपयोगकर्ता प्रक्रिया का हिस्सा बनने का अनुरोध कर सकते हैं।
- **'Which?'** must get permission from the **Competition Appeal Tribunal** to act as a **class representative**.
'Which?' को **प्रतिस्पर्धा अपील न्यायाधिकरण** से **कक्षा प्रतिनिधि** के रूप में कार्य करने की अनुमति प्राप्त करनी होगी।
- Apple has rejected the allegations about iCloud's **anticompetitive practices**, claiming that using its cloud service was not compulsory and alternatives were available.
Apple ने iCloud की **विरोधी-प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक प्रथाओं** के आरोपों को नकारते हुए कहा कि उसके क्लाउड सेवा का उपयोग अनिवार्य नहीं था और विकल्प उपलब्ध थे।
- According to a **Reuters** report, Apple said it would defend itself against legal claims.
Reuters रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, Apple ने कहा कि वह कानूनी दावों के खिलाफ अपनी रक्षा करेगा।

Will Google's Cloud Offerings Also Come Under Legal Review?

क्या Google के क्लाउड ऑफ़र भी कानूनी समीक्षा के तहत आएंगे?





- The U.K. consumer group is specifically targeting **Apple** in its legal case, alleging **anti-competitive actions** such as restricting alternative options and locking in customers.
यू.के. उपभोक्ता समूह अपने कानूनी मामले में विशेष रूप से **Apple** को लक्षित कर रहा है, आरोप लगाते हुए कि उसने **वैकल्पिक विकल्पों** को सीमित किया और ग्राहकों को **बाध्य** किया।
- **'Which?'** pointed out how the dominance of **iOS** on Apple devices boosted iCloud's dominance in the cloud market.
'Which?' ने यह बताया कि **iOS** की **Apple उपकरणों** पर प्रभुत्व ने iCloud की **क्लाउड बाजार** में प्रभुत्व को बढ़ावा दिया।
- By contrast, the **Android market** has more options for cloud services that are easy to install and use across diverse devices, with less of a "walled garden" structure.
इसके विपरीत, **Android बाजार** में क्लाउड सेवाओं के लिए अधिक विकल्प हैं जो विभिन्न उपकरणों पर आसानी से इंस्टॉल और उपयोग किए जा सकते हैं, और इसमें "दीवारों वाला बगीचा" संरचना कम है।
- **Google** offers both **Drive** and **Cloud** services.
Google दोनों **Drive** और **Cloud** सेवाएं प्रदान करता है।
- Google Drive enables **file sharing** by using cloud features and **AI**, while Google Cloud allows enterprises and developers to run more complex operations.
Google Drive **फाइल शेयरिंग** को क्लाउड सुविधाओं और **AI** का उपयोग करके सक्षम करता है, जबकि Google Cloud कंपनियों और डेवलपर्स को अधिक जटिल संचालन करने की अनुमति देता है।
- A user with a basic **Google Account** gets **15 GB** of free storage for Gmail, Google Drive, and Google Photos.
एक उपयोगकर्ता के पास **Google खाता** होने पर उसे **15 GB** का मुफ्त स्टोरेज **Gmail**, **Google Drive**, और **Google Photos** के लिए मिलता है।
- While **Google** is not mentioned in this particular claim, it has been deemed a **monopolist** in the search engine market after a high-profile trial in the U.S.
हालांकि **Google** का इस विशेष दावा में उल्लेख नहीं है, लेकिन इसे **यू.एस.** में एक हाई-प्रोफाइल मुकदमे के बाद **मोनोपॉली** माना गया है।
- It is uncertain whether the legal claim by the U.K.'s **'Which?'** will move forward successfully, but the case may spark **global** questions about market practices of cloud service providers.
यह अनिश्चित है कि यू.के. के **'Which?'** द्वारा दायर कानूनी दावा सफलतापूर्वक आगे बढ़ेगा या नहीं, लेकिन यह मामले **वैश्विक** स्तर पर क्लाउड सेवा प्रदाताओं के बाजार प्रथाओं पर सवाल उठा सकता है।
- The case may prompt customers and regulators worldwide to question whether cloud service providers — **Apple**, **Google**, **Microsoft**, **Amazon**, or others — should be pulled up for their market practices and fee structures.
यह मामला ग्राहकों और नियामकों को **Apple**, **Google**, **Microsoft**, **Amazon**, या अन्य **क्लाउड सेवा प्रदाताओं** से यह सवाल पूछने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकता है कि क्या उन्हें उनकी बाजार प्रथाओं और शुल्क संरचनाओं के लिए उत्तरदायी ठहराया जाना चाहिए।



Ahead of polls, Centre eases norms for soya bean procurement

चुनावों से पहले केंद्र ने सोयाबीन खरीद के नियमों में ढील दी

Ahead of polls, Centre eases norms for soya bean procurement

GS Paper III: Issue associated with direct and indirect subsidies

Ahead of the crucial Maharashtra election, the Centre has relaxed the norms for procuring soya bean. Relaxing the earlier norm that soya bean with a moisture content of less than 12% can be procured under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** during the last kharif season, an official order of the Union Agriculture Ministry on Friday said soya bean with moisture content up to 15% can also be procured by the States.

During the campaign, the Congress had offered to give a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹7,000 for a quintal of soya bean.

Farmers had protested demanding steady procurement of the crops in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The Centre's direction to the Chief Secretaries of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Rajas-

than, and Karnataka also said that the decision was based on the "representations received" and the Union Agriculture Ministry had no objection. It said in the order that it would be a one-time measure subject to the condition that all the expenses or losses incurred on account of procurement of stocks with moisture content up to 15% should be borne by the respective State governments "in the larger interests of farmers".

"The central nodal agencies namely NAFED and NCC are accordingly directed to make the payment to State level procuring agencies at the price after adjusting the value of relaxed percentage of moisture while the payment of MSP in full will be ensured by the State level procuring agencies and State government concerned to the registered farmers for the procured soya bean stocks under PSS," the order said.

Relaxation of Norms for Procuring Soybean Ahead of Maharashtra Election

महाराष्ट्र चुनाव से पहले सोया बीन की खरीद के लिए नियमों में छूट

• The **Centre** has relaxed norms for procuring **soya bean** ahead of the crucial **Maharashtra election**.

केंद्र ने महाराष्ट्र चुनाव से पहले सोया बीन की खरीद के लिए नियमों में छूट दी है।

• The **earlier norm** that soya bean with a **moisture content of less than 12%** could be procured under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** during the last **kharif season** has been relaxed.

पिछले खरीफ सीजन के दौरान प्राइस सपोर्ट स्कीम (PSS) के तहत 12% से कम नमी वाले सोया बीन की खरीद के नियम में छूट दी गई है।

• According to the new official order from the **Union Agriculture Ministry on Friday**, soya bean with moisture content up to **15%** can also be procured by States.

संघ कृषि मंत्रालय के शुक्रवार के आधिकारिक आदेश के अनुसार, 15% तक नमी वाले सोया बीन की भी राज्यों द्वारा खरीद की जा सकती है।

• During the election campaign, the **Congress** had promised a **minimum support price (MSP)** of **₹7,000** per quintal of soya bean.

चुनाव प्रचार के दौरान, कांग्रेस ने सोया बीन के प्रति क्विंटल **₹7,000** के न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) की पेशकश की थी।

• **Farmers** had protested, demanding steady procurement of crops in **Madhya Pradesh** and **Maharashtra**.

किसानों ने मध्य प्रदेश और महाराष्ट्र में फसलों की नियमित

खरीद की मांग करते हुए विरोध किया था।





- The Centre's direction to the **Chief Secretaries of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Karnataka** stated that the decision was based on the "**representations received**" and the **Union Agriculture Ministry** had no objection.
केंद्र के निर्देश में गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र, मध्य प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, राजस्थान, और कर्नाटक के मुख्य सचिवों से कहा गया कि यह निर्णय "प्रस्तावों" के आधार पर लिया गया था और संघ कृषि मंत्रालय को कोई आपत्ति नहीं थी।
- The order specified that this would be a **one-time measure**, with the condition that all expenses or losses incurred on procurement of stocks with moisture content up to **15%** should be borne by the respective **State governments**.
आदेश में कहा गया कि यह एक बार की विशेष व्यवस्था होगी, जिसमें यह शर्त होगी कि 15% तक नमी वाले स्टॉक्स की खरीद पर हुए सभी खर्च या नुकसानों को संबंधित राज्य सरकारों द्वारा वहन किया जाएगा।
- The order further stated that **NAFED** and **NCC**, the central nodal agencies, are directed to make the payment to State-level procuring agencies, adjusting the value of the relaxed moisture percentage.
आदेश में यह भी कहा गया कि केंद्रीय नोडल एजेंसियां **NAFED** और **NCC** को राज्य स्तर की खरीद एजेंसियों को भुगतान करने के लिए निर्देशित किया गया है, जिसमें शिथिल किए गए नमी प्रतिशत का समायोजन किया जाएगा।
- The **State-level procuring agencies** and the concerned **State government** will ensure the full **MSP** payment to the registered farmers for the procured soya bean stocks under the PSS.
राज्य स्तर की खरीद एजेंसियां और संबंधित राज्य सरकार PSS के तहत खरीदी गई सोया बीन के स्टॉक्स के लिए पंजीकृत किसानों को पूरा **MSP** भुगतान सुनिश्चित करेंगी।



Centre aims to make Andaman and Nicobar Islands a tuna export hub

GS Paper III: Food security

A.M. Igeesh

NEW DELHI

As export of tuna fish from India increased by 31.83% in 2023-24, the Centre is exploring new areas to source one of the most commercially valuable fish. According to the Union Fisheries Department, a recent meeting of investors held on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was a step towards making the Union Territory a hub of tuna export.

The global tuna market is worth \$41.94 billion and the Indian Ocean is considered the second largest tuna region, producing 21% of world's tuna. A concept note prepared by the department, a copy of which is available with *The Hindu*, says that the Exclusive Economic Zone around the islands is home to a range of tuna species, with substantial untapped



Tuna haven: The Indian Ocean is considered the second largest tuna region, producing 21% of the world's tuna. C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

fishery resources.

The department's estimates suggest a total potential yield of 64,500 tonnes of tuna annually. Out of this, the Centre expects a stock of 24,000 tonnes of yellow fin tuna, which has a steady market across the world annually from the islands. Similarly, 22,000 tonnes of skipjack tuna, 500 tonnes of bigeye tuna, and 18,000 tonnes of

neritic tuna may also be available for exports from the islands annually.

India exported 51,626 tonnes of tuna in 2023-24 worth \$87.96 million, according to the Marine Products Export Development Authority. The concept note added that the islands primarily harvest neritic tuna, which is caught closer to the shore, while small quantities of oceanic spe-

cies, including skipjack, big-eye, and yellowfin tuna, are also landed. "Despite the high demand for these species, the region's tuna fishery is still underdeveloped and remains underutilised due to a combination of challenges, including lack of infrastructure, limited access to modern fishing technologies, and inadequate fish processing and storage facilities," the note said.

By holding an investors' meet, the Centre expects increased networking among the business communities and relevant stakeholders involved in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Union Territory, other parts of India, and the Southeast Asian region. The Centre sees that technological limitations such as a lack of modern fishing technologies hamper the ability to optimise tuna catch rates.

Centre aims to make Andaman and Nicobar Islands a tuna export hub

केंद्र का लक्ष्य अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह को टूना निर्यात केंद्र बनाना है

India's Tuna Export and Efforts to Develop Tuna Hub in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

भारत का ट्यूना निर्यात और अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में ट्यूना हब बनाने के प्रयास





- **India's export of tuna fish increased by 31.83% in 2023-24**, prompting the Centre to explore new areas for sourcing this commercially valuable fish.
भारत का 2023-24 में ट्यूना मछली का निर्यात 31.83% बढ़ा है, जिससे केंद्र इस वाणिज्यिक रूप से मूल्यवान मछली के स्रोत के लिए नए क्षेत्र तलाश रहा है।
- A recent meeting of investors held on the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** was a step towards making the **Union Territory** a hub for **tuna export**.
अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में हाल ही में आयोजित एक निवेशकों की बैठक संघ शासित प्रदेश को ट्यूना निर्यात का हब बनाने की दिशा में एक कदम थी।
- The global tuna market is valued at **\$41.94 billion**, and the **Indian Ocean** is the second-largest tuna-producing region, accounting for **21%** of the world's tuna.
वैश्विक ट्यूना बाजार की कीमत **\$41.94 बिलियन** है, और **भारतीय महासागर** दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा ट्यूना उत्पादन क्षेत्र है, जो **21%** ट्यूना का उत्पादन करता है।
- According to a concept note prepared by the **Union Fisheries Department**, the **Exclusive Economic Zone** around the islands is home to various tuna species, with substantial untapped fishery resources.
संघ मत्स्य विभाग द्वारा तैयार किए गए एक विचार नोट के अनुसार, द्वीपों के चारों ओर का विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र विभिन्न प्रकार की ट्यूना प्रजातियों का घर है, जिसमें पर्याप्त अप्रयुक्त मत्स्य संसाधन हैं।
- The department estimates a potential yield of **64,500 tonnes of tuna** annually, including **24,000 tonnes of yellowfin tuna** and other varieties like skipjack, bigeye, and neritic tuna.
विभाग का अनुमान है कि सालाना **64,500 टन ट्यूना** का संभावित उत्पादन होगा, जिसमें **24,000 टन येलोफिन ट्यूना** और अन्य किस्मों जैसे स्किपजैक, बिगआई और नेरिटिक ट्यूना शामिल हैं।
- **India exported 51,626 tonnes of tuna** in 2023-24, worth **\$87.96 million**, according to the **Marine Products Export Development Authority**.
भारत ने 2023-24 में **51,626 टन ट्यूना** का निर्यात किया, जिसकी कीमत **\$87.96 मिलियन** थी, **मरीन प्रोडक्ट्स एक्सपोर्ट डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी** के अनुसार।
- The islands primarily harvest **neritic tuna**, caught closer to the shore, while small quantities of oceanic species like **skipjack, big-eye, and yellowfin tuna** are also landed.
द्वीप समूह मुख्य रूप से **नेरिटिक ट्यूना** की मछली पकड़ते हैं, जो तट के पास पकड़ी जाती है, जबकि छोटे पैमाने पर **स्किपजैक, बिग-आई और येलोफिन ट्यूना** जैसे महासागरीय प्रजातियां भी उतारी जाती हैं।
- Despite high demand for these species, the region's tuna fishery is still underdeveloped and underutilized due to challenges like lack of infrastructure, limited access to modern fishing technologies, and inadequate fish processing and storage facilities.
इन प्रजातियों की उच्च मांग के बावजूद, क्षेत्र की ट्यूना मछली पकड़ने की गतिविधियां **अविकसित** और **अंडरयूज** हैं, क्योंकि यहां **इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर की कमी, आधुनिक मछली पकड़ने की तकनीकों तक सीमित पहुंच, और मछली प्रसंस्करण और भंडारण सुविधाओं की कमी** जैसी समस्याएं हैं।
- By holding an investors' meet, the Centre expects increased networking among business communities and stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Union Territory, other parts of India, and Southeast Asia.





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur.

Contact Number: 9971932488

निवेशकों की बैठक आयोजित करके, केंद्र का अनुमान है कि संघ शासित प्रदेश, भारत के अन्य हिस्सों, और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में मछली पालन और जलजीव पालन क्षेत्र के व्यापार समुदायों और हितधारकों के बीच नेटवर्किंग बढ़ेगी।

- The Centre recognizes that technological limitations, such as the lack of modern fishing technologies, hinder the ability to optimize tuna catch rates.

केंद्र यह पहचानता है कि आधुनिक मछली पकड़ने की तकनीकों की कमी जैसी तकनीकी सीमाएं ट्यूना पकड़ने की दरों को अनुकूलित करने की क्षमता में बाधा डालती हैं।

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Website: patrioticias.in

Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

