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### 13\_12\_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Gukesh is youngest world chess champ / गुकेश बने सबसे युवा विश्व शतरंज चैंपियन (PCS)
2. Union Cabinet approves Bills on simultaneous polls / संघ मंत्रिमंडल ने एकसाथ चुनावों पर बिलों को मंजूरी दी (GS Paper-II: Election in Parliamentary System)
3. Apex court freezes suits on claims over places of worship / सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पूजा स्थलों पर दावों के मुकदमों को फ्रीज किया (GS Paper-I: Communalism / GS Paper-II: Rights of Minorities)
4. Runaway tigress from Odisha puts officials on alert across W.B., Jharkhand / ओडिशा से भागी बाघिन ने पश्चिम बंगाल और झारखंड में अधिकारियों को सतर्क किया (GS Paper-III: Environment)
5. 8 migrant workers stripped, paraded for 'misbehaving' with woman in Odisha / ओडिशा में महिला के साथ 'दुर्व्यवहार' करने के आरोप में 8 प्रवासी मजदूरों को नंगा कर परेड कराई गई (GS Paper-IV: Ethics / Essay)
6. CAG Report Flags Violations, Lapses in Enforcement of T.N. CRZ Notification / तमिलनाडु CRZ अधिसूचना के प्रवर्तन में उल्लंघन और खामियों पर CAG रिपोर्ट ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया (GS Paper-III: Disaster Management)





7. **The Knotty Promise of Section 69 / SECTION 69 की पेचीदा वादे (GS Paper-I: Society)**
8. **Pakistan at the UNSC, the points of its compass / पाकिस्तान संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में, इसके दृष्टिकोण के बिंदु (GS Paper-II: International Organization)**
9. **The missing spotlight on urban local government polls / शहरी स्थानीय सरकार चुनावों पर लापता ध्यान (GS Paper-II: Urban Local Selg-Governance)**
10. **A legend, made / एक किंवदंती, बनी (PCS)**
11. **Should the executive have the power to pardon? / क्या कार्यपालिका के पास माफी देने की शक्ति होनी चाहिए? (GS Paper-II: Pardoning Power)**
12. **Beijing's war against air pollution / बीजिंग का वायु प्रदूषण के खिलाफ युद्ध (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
13. **Lok Sabha passes Bill to amend the Disaster Management Act of 2005 / लोकसभा ने 2005 के आपदा प्रबंधन अधिनियम में संशोधन करने वाला विधेयक पास किया (GS Paper-III: DM)**
14. **Bangladesh team likely to attend Vijay Divas event / बांग्लादेश की टीम विजय दिवस कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने की संभावना (PCS)**
15. **India confers honorary rank on Nepal Army chief / भारत ने नेपाल सेना प्रमुख को मानद रैंक प्रदान किया (PCS / GS Paper-II: India-Nepal) किया**
16. **PM to lay foundation stone of Ken-Betwa river linking work / प्रधानमंत्री केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ने के कार्य की आधारशिला रखेंगे (GS Paper-III)**





17. Trump named Time magazine's 'Person of the Year' for second time / ट्रम्प को दूसरी बार टाइम पत्रिका ने 'पर्सन ऑफ द ईयर' चुना (PCS)
18. Somali federal forces retreat from Jubaland positions after clashes / सोमाली संघीय सेना संघर्ष के बाद जुबालैंड की स्थिति से पीछे हटी (PCS)
19. EU states agree to full Schengen accession for Bulgaria, Romania / यूरोपीय संघ के देश बुल्गारिया, रोमानिया के लिए पूर्ण शेंगेन प्रवेश पर सहमत (GS Paper-II: EU)
20. S. Korea President Yoon defends martial law, vows to 'fight to end' / दक्षिण कोरिया के राष्ट्रपति यून ने मार्शल लॉ का बचाव किया, इसे समाप्त करने की कसम खाई (PCS)
21. What is Disease X and why the world should prepare for it / रोग एक्स क्या है और दुनिया को इसके लिए क्यों तैयार रहना चाहिए (GS Paper-III: S&T)
22. Sweetened drinks 'increase risk of cardiovascular diseases' / मीठे पेय पदार्थों से हृदय संबंधी बीमारियों का खतरा बढ़ता है (GS Paper-III: S&T)



# Gukesh is youngest world chess champ

The 18-year-old from Chennai beats Ding Liren of China in the final game; breaks the record held by Russian Garry Kasparov for nearly 4 decades

PCS

P.K. Ajith Kumar  
SINGAPORE

History was made in the small island of Sentosa here on Thursday, as D. Gukesh became the youngest world chess champion after defeating Ding Liren of China in the final game of their match. The 18-year-old from Chennai broke the record held by the Russian Garry Kasparov for nearly four decades.

With his victory against the defending champion, which came after 58 moves, Gukesh took his points tally to 7.5. That was the requirement for a player to win the World title. The game was heading towards a draw in fact, until Ding made a fatal error on the 55th move with his rook. There was no coming



On top of the world: D. Gukesh reacts after beating China's Ding Liren at the FIDE World Chess Championship in Singapore. PTI

back for the Chinese Grandmaster after that.

This was the first-ever World championship match contested by two Asian players.

Gukesh is only the third Asian to win the World championship. Viswanathan Anand, who is now a

mentor for Gukesh, was the first, and Ding the second.

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## Gukesh is youngest world chess champ

### गुकेश बने सबसे युवा विश्व शतरंज चैंपियन

The 18-year-old from Chennai defeated Ding Liren of China in the final game, breaking the record held by Russian Garry Kasparov for nearly four decades.

चेन्नई के 18 वर्षीय गुकेश ने चीन के डिंग लिरेन को फाइनल मैच में हराया और चार दशक तक रूसी गैरी कास्परोव द्वारा बनाए गए रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया।

• History was made in Sentosa, a small island, as D. Gukesh became the youngest world chess champion. सेंटोसा द्वीप पर इतिहास रचा गया, जब डी.

गुकेश सबसे युवा विश्व शतरंज चैंपियन बने।

- The victory against the **defending champion**, Ding Liren, came after **58 moves**. डिफेंडिंग चैंपियन डिंग लिरेन के खिलाफ यह जीत 58 चालों के बाद मिली।
- Gukesh's points tally reached **7.5**, the requirement for winning the **World title**. गुकेश का अंक 7.5 तक पहुंच गया, जो विश्व खिताब जीतने के लिए आवश्यक था।
- The game was heading towards a **draw** until Ding made a **fatal error on the 55th move** with his rook. यह खेल ड्रॉ की ओर बढ़ रहा था, जब डिंग ने अपनी 55वीं चाल में घातक गलती की।
- This was the **first-ever World championship match** contested by two **Asian players**. यह पहली बार था जब विश्व चैंपियनशिप के लिए दो एशियाई खिलाड़ियों ने मुकाबला किया।
- Gukesh became the **third Asian** to win the **World championship**. गुकेश विश्व चैंपियनशिप जीतने वाले तीसरे एशियाई खिलाड़ी बने।
- **Viswanathan Anand**, now a mentor for Gukesh, was the **first Asian** to win the title, followed by Ding Liren.

विश्वनाथन आनंद, जो अब गुकेश के मार्गदर्शक हैं, इस खिताब को जीतने वाले पहले एशियाई खिलाड़ी थे, और उनके बाद डिंग लिरेन ने यह खिताब जीता।



# Union Cabinet approves Bills on simultaneous polls

GS Paper II: Election in Parliamentary System

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved two Bills related to the implementation of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, paving the way to introduce the draft legislation in Parliament in the ongoing Winter Session.

One of the Bills is to amend the Constitution to implement simultaneous elections, while the other is to amend provisions in laws dealing with Union Territories that have Legislative Assemblies to align their terms with other Legislative Assemblies.

The development evoked sharp responses from the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, who called the draft Bills "an attack on democracy and federalism".

No official announcement has been made so far, but sources said the Bills would be referred to a joint

**Move paves way to introduce draft legislation in the House. No official announcement has been made so far**

committee of Parliament, once they are introduced in the House.

For now, the Cabinet has given its approval to the draft legislation for simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. The Constitution amendment Bill to hold simultaneous polls will not require to be ratified by at least 50% of the States, the sources added. A high-level committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, had also recommended holding simultaneous polls to municipalities and panchayats, but the Cabinet has decided not to get into the issue of synchronising local body polls. This would have not only required a Constitution

amendment, to insert a new Article 324A, but also ratification by half the Assemblies.

Taking to the social media platform X, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said, "This impractical and anti-democratic move will erase regional voices, erode federalism, and disrupt governance. Rise up #INDIA! Let us resist this attack on Indian democracy with all our strength!"

In a separate X post, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called it "an authoritarian imposition designed to undermine India's democracy and federal structure".

"Our MPs will oppose this draconian legislation tooth and nail in Parliament. Bengal will NEVER bow to Delhi's dictatorial whims. This fight is about saving India's democracy from the clutches of autocracy!" she added.

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## Union Cabinet approves Bills on simultaneous polls

संघ मंत्रिमंडल ने एकसाथ चुनावों पर बिलों को मंजूरी दी

On Thursday, the Union Cabinet approved two Bills related to the implementation of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, paving the way to introduce the draft legislation in Parliament during the ongoing Winter Session.

गुरुवार को संघ मंत्रिमंडल ने लोकसभा और विधानसभाओं में

एकसाथ चुनाव लागू करने से संबंधित

दो बिलों को मंजूरी दी, जिससे उन्हें संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र में पेश करने का रास्ता साफ हो गया।

- One of the Bills seeks to **amend the Constitution** to implement simultaneous elections, while the other aims to amend provisions in **laws dealing with Union Territories** that have Legislative Assemblies, aligning their terms with other Assemblies. इनमें से एक बिल संविधान में संशोधन कर एकसाथ चुनावों को लागू करने का प्रावधान करता है, जबकि दूसरा बिल उन संघ क्षेत्रों की विधानसभाओं की अवधि को अन्य विधानसभाओं के साथ संरेखित करने के लिए कानूनों में संशोधन का प्रावधान करता है।
- The development drew sharp responses from the Chief Ministers of **Tamil Nadu** and **West Bengal**, who termed the draft Bills as "**an attack on democracy and federalism**". इस घटनाक्रम पर तमिलनाडु और पश्चिम बंगाल के मुख्यमंत्रियों ने तीखी प्रतिक्रिया दी, जिन्होंने इन बिलों को "लोकतंत्र और संघवाद पर हमला" करार दिया।
- No official announcement has been made yet, but sources said the Bills would be referred to a **joint committee of Parliament** once introduced in the House.





अभी तक कोई आधिकारिक घोषणा नहीं की गई है, लेकिन सूत्रों का कहना है कि इन बिलों को सदन में पेश करने के बाद संसद की संयुक्त समिति को भेजा जाएगा।

- The Cabinet has given approval to the draft legislation for **simultaneous polls** to the **Lok Sabha** and Legislative Assemblies.

मंत्रिमंडल ने लोकसभा और विधानसभाओं के एकसाथ चुनाव के लिए मसौदा विधेयक को मंजूरी दे दी है।

- The **Constitution amendment Bill** for simultaneous polls will not require ratification by at least **50% of the States**, according to sources.

सूत्रों के अनुसार, एकसाथ चुनावों के लिए संविधान संशोधन बिल को 50% राज्यों से मंजूरी की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी।

- **A high-level committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind**, recommended holding simultaneous polls to **municipalities and panchayats**, but the Cabinet has decided not to pursue this issue.

पूर्व राष्ट्रपति राम नाथ कोविंद की अध्यक्षता वाली उच्च स्तरीय समिति ने नगर पालिकाओं और पंचायतों में भी एकसाथ चुनाव कराने की सिफारिश की थी, लेकिन मंत्रिमंडल ने इस मुद्दे को आगे न बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया।

- **Synchronizing local body polls would require a Constitution amendment to insert a new Article 324A and ratification by half the Assemblies.**

स्थानीय निकाय चुनावों को एकसाथ कराने के लिए संविधान में संशोधन कर अनुच्छेद 324A जोड़ने और आधी विधानसभाओं से मंजूरी की आवश्यकता होगी।

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**, on social media platform X, called the move “**impractical and anti-democratic**”, stating it would **erase regional voices, erode federalism, and disrupt governance.**

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने एक्स पर इसे "अव्यवहारिक और लोकतंत्र विरोधी" करार दिया और कहा कि यह क्षेत्रीय आवाजों को खत्म, संघवाद को कमजोर और शासन को बाधित करेगा।

- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee**, also on X, described it as an “**authoritarian imposition**” that undermines **India’s democracy and federal structure.**

पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने भी एक्स पर इसे "तानाशाही थोपने" जैसा बताया, जो भारत के लोकतंत्र और संघीय ढांचे को कमजोर करता है।

- Mamata Banerjee added, “Our MPs will oppose this **draconian legislation** tooth and nail in Parliament. **Bengal will NEVER bow to Delhi’s dictatorial whims.**”

ममता बनर्जी ने कहा, "हमारे सांसद इस कठोर कानून का संसद में पूरी ताकत से विरोध करेंगे। बंगाल कभी भी दिल्ली की तानाशाही इच्छाओं के सामने नहीं झुकेगा।"



# Apex court freezes suits on claims over places of worship

GS Paper I: Communalism

GS Paper II: Rights of Minorities

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday barred civil courts from registering fresh suits or passing orders in pending cases seeking to "reclaim" temples destroyed by Mughal "invaders".

A Special Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna passed the freeze order while agreeing to hear petitions questioning the validity of the Places of Worship Act of 1991, a Central law that preserves the character of religious places as they existed on August 15, 1947.

The Chief Justice said the bar on civil courts would include any orders to survey the shrines. At present, 18 suits concern-



A view of the Shahi Idgah Masjid at Mathura, U.P. FILE PHOTO

ing 10 shrines are pending in various civil courts.

"Civil courts cannot run a race with the Supreme Court. It is as simple as that," said Justice K.V. Viswanathan, a member of the Bench, addressing the Union government and the petitioners who have chal-

lenged the validity of the Act.

The Bench directed that local courts must neither register fresh suits nor undertake any proceedings on them until further orders from the Supreme Court. "Further, we direct that in pending suits, courts will not pass any effective interim or final orders," Chief Justice Khanna said, dictating the order in a crowded courtroom.

The Chief Justice's dictation was repeatedly interrupted by the petitioners who had challenged the 1991 Act. They urged the court not to freeze proceedings in the local courts without first hearing their plea.

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## Apex court freezes suits on claims over places of worship

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पूजा स्थलों पर दावों के मुकदमों को फ्रीज किया

The Supreme Court on Thursday barred civil courts from registering fresh suits or passing orders in pending cases seeking to "reclaim" temples destroyed by Mughal invaders.

गुरुवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने

सिविल अदालतों को नए मुकदमे दर्ज करने या लंबित मामलों में आदेश देने से रोक दिया, जो मुगल आक्रमणकारियों द्वारा नष्ट मंदिरों को "वापस पाने" से संबंधित हैं।

- A **Special Bench**, headed by Chief Justice of India **Sanjiv Khanna**, passed the freeze order while agreeing to hear petitions questioning the validity of the **Places of Worship Act of 1991**, which preserves the character of religious places as they existed on **August 15, 1947**.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना की अध्यक्षता वाली एक विशेष पीठ ने 1991 के पूजा स्थलों के अधिनियम की वैधता पर सवाल उठाने वाली याचिकाओं को सुनने पर सहमति जताते हुए यह फ्रीज आदेश पारित किया, जो 15 अगस्त 1947 को धार्मिक स्थलों के चरित्र को बनाए रखने का प्रावधान करता है।

- The Chief Justice stated that the bar on civil courts includes any orders to **survey the shrines**. Currently, **18 suits concerning 10 shrines** are pending in various civil courts. मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि सिविल अदालतों पर रोक में मंदिरों के सर्वेक्षण के आदेश भी शामिल हैं। वर्तमान में 10 मंदिरों से संबंधित 18 मुकदमे विभिन्न सिविल अदालतों में लंबित हैं।





- Justice **K.V. Viswanathan**, a member of the Bench, remarked that “civil courts cannot run a race with the Supreme Court,” addressing the **Union government** and petitioners challenging the Act’s validity.  
पीठ के सदस्य न्यायमूर्ति के.वी. विश्वनाथन ने कहा, "सिविल अदालतें सुप्रीम कोर्ट के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा नहीं कर सकती," यह टिप्पणी केंद्र सरकार और अधिनियम की वैधता को चुनौती देने वाले याचिकाकर्ताओं को संबोधित करते हुए की।
- The Bench directed local courts to **neither register fresh suits nor undertake proceedings** on them until further orders from the Supreme Court.  
पीठ ने स्थानीय अदालतों को निर्देश दिया कि वे सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अगले आदेश तक नए मुकदमे दर्ज न करें और न ही उनकी सुनवाई करें।
- In pending suits, courts were instructed not to pass any effective **interim or final orders**, as dictated by Chief Justice Khanna in a **crowded courtroom**.  
लंबित मामलों में, अदालतों को निर्देश दिया गया कि वे कोई प्रभावी अंतरिम या अंतिम आदेश पारित न करें, जैसा कि मुख्य न्यायाधीश खन्ना ने एक भीड़भाड़ वाले कोर्टरूम में आदेश दिया।
- Petitioners challenging the **1991 Act** repeatedly interrupted the Chief Justice, urging the court not to freeze proceedings in local courts without first hearing their plea.  
**1991 के अधिनियम** को चुनौती देने वाले याचिकाकर्ताओं ने बार-बार मुख्य न्यायाधीश को बाधित किया और अदालत से अपील की कि उनकी याचिका सुने बिना स्थानीय अदालतों में कार्यवाही को फ्रीज न करें।

## Runaway tigress from Odisha puts officials on alert across W.B., Jharkhand

Three-year-old Zeenat first wandered into neighbouring Jharkhand; she was last spotted at a location 20 km from both Odisha and West Bengal

### GS Paper III: Environment

**Satyasundar Barik**  
BHUBANESWAR

A three-year-old tigress translocated from Maharashtra to Odisha’s **Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)** last month is keeping the forest officials of three States on their toes. Defying State boundaries and conservation plans, the tigress, Zeenat, first wandered into neighbouring Jharkhand and is now likely headed to West Bengal – last spotted at a location 20 km from both Odisha and West Bengal.

The Odisha government has initiated an inter-State



Zeenat is in the process of establishing her territory, officials said.  
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

coordination with Jharkhand to bring back Zeenat, who was brought from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra on November 14 to boost the genetic diversity of the big cat population in Similipal. However, officials may soon

have to extend their efforts to collaborate with West Bengal, where forest officers have been put on high alert, with Zeenat already near the Bengal border, close to Jhargram. Jhargram Divisional Forest Officer Umar Imam said

that he is in constant touch with his counterparts in Jharkhand.

“There is no reason to panic as we have taken all precautionary measures to handle any emergency situation. Our tracking team has been put on alert,” Mr. Imam said, adding that there is no additional alert for tourists in the area though he asked no one to “venture out into the forest after sunset”.

Zeenat was released into the wild in Odisha after 10 days of acclimatisation in the core area of Similipal North on November 24. The wandering tigress was in the process of establishing her territory,

officials said.

“She was traced 35 km from Similipal and 20 km from the State border. It was tracked in the Chakulia range under the Jamshedpur forest division of Jharkhand. Efforts are under way to ensure the tigress does not move further deep and instead returns to STR. We are closely coordinating with our counterparts in Jharkhand to achieve this,” Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF), Baripada, and Field Director of STR, Prakash Chand Gogineni informed.

Forest Department officials in Odisha kept track of Zeenat’s

movements, as the tigress was fitted with a radio collar capable of transmitting satellite signals to pinpoint her location, along with emitting VHF signals. A dedicated tracking team from Odisha, supported by field staff from the Jharkhand forest department, is monitoring her closely.

When asked if the department would resort to tranquillisation in the event of its failure to bring the tigress back naturally, Mr. Gogineni said the decision would be taken at a higher level.

(With inputs from Shrabana Chatterjee in West Bengal)

## Runaway tigress from Odisha puts officials on alert across W.B., Jharkhand





## ओडिशा से भागी बाघिन ने पश्चिम बंगाल और झारखंड में अधिकारियों को सतर्क किया

A three-year-old tigress, named Zeenat, translocated from Maharashtra to Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), is creating challenges for officials in three states.

महाराष्ट्र से ओडिशा के सिमिलिपाल टाइगर रिजर्व (STR) में स्थानांतरित की गई तीन साल की बाघिन ज़ीनत तीन राज्यों के अधिकारियों के लिए चुनौती बनी हुई है।

- Zeenat first wandered into Jharkhand and is now likely headed to West Bengal, last spotted 20 km from both Odisha and West Bengal.

ज़ीनत पहले झारखंड में भटक गई और अब पश्चिम बंगाल की ओर बढ़ रही है; इसे आखिरी बार ओडिशा और पश्चिम बंगाल से 20 किमी दूर देखा गया था।

- The Odisha government has initiated inter-state coordination with Jharkhand to bring back Zeenat.  
ज़ीनत को वापस लाने के लिए ओडिशा सरकार ने झारखंड के साथ अंतर-राज्यीय समन्वय शुरू किया है।
- Zeenat was brought from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra on November 14 to improve genetic diversity in Similipal.  
ज़ीनत को 14 नवंबर को महाराष्ट्र के ताडोबा-अंधारी टाइगर रिजर्व से सिमिलिपाल में आनुवंशिक विविधता बढ़ाने के लिए लाया गया था।
- West Bengal forest officials have been alerted as Zeenat was spotted near the Bengal border, close to Jhargram.  
ज़ीनत को बंगाल सीमा के पास, झारग्राम के निकट देखा गया है; इस पर पश्चिम बंगाल के वन अधिकारियों को सतर्क किया गया है।
- Jhargram Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Umar Imam stated that precautionary measures have been taken, and tourists are advised not to venture into forests after sunset.



### झारखण्ड डिवीजनल फॉरेस्ट ऑफिसर (DFO)

उमर इमाम ने कहा कि एहतियाती कदम उठाए गए हैं और पर्यटकों को सूर्यास्त के बाद जंगल में जाने से मना किया गया है।

- Zeenat was released into the wild on **November 24** after **10 days of acclimatisation** in Similipal's core area. ज़ीनत को **24 नवंबर** को सिमिलिपाल के कोर क्षेत्र में **10 दिनों के अनुकूलन** के बाद जंगल में छोड़ा गया।
- The tigress, while establishing her territory, was tracked **35 km from Similipal** and **20 km from the State border**. अपनी क्षेत्रीय सीमा स्थापित करते हुए बाघिन को सिमिलिपाल से **35 किमी** और राज्य सीमा से **20 किमी** दूर ट्रैक किया गया।
- Efforts are underway to prevent Zeenat from moving deeper and ensure her return to STR.

ज़ीनत को गहराई में जाने से रोकने और उसे STR में वापस लाने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

- Zeenat's movements are being tracked using a **radio collar** that transmits **satellite signals** and emits **VHF signals**. ज़ीनत की गतिविधियों को रेडियो कॉलर के माध्यम से ट्रैक किया जा रहा है, जो सैटेलाइट सिग्नल और VHF सिग्नल प्रसारित करता है।
- A **dedicated tracking team** from Odisha, supported by Jharkhand forest staff, is closely monitoring her movements. ओडिशा की **समर्पित ट्रैकिंग टीम**, झारखंड के वन विभाग के कर्मचारियों के साथ, उसकी गतिविधियों पर करीबी निगरानी रख रही है।
- On the possibility of tranquilisation, the **Field Director of STR, Prakash Chand Gogineni**, mentioned that any such decision would be made at a higher level. यदि बेहोश करने की आवश्यकता हुई तो **सिमिलिपाल टाइगर रिजर्व के फील्ड डायरेक्टर प्रकाश चंद गोगिनेनी** ने कहा कि ऐसा निर्णय उच्च स्तर पर लिया जाएगा।

### 55 TIGER RESERVES OF INDIA





# 8 migrant workers stripped, paraded for 'misbehaving' with woman in Odisha

## Ethics, Essay

### Press Trust of India

ROURKELA

Eight Bengali-speaking migrant workers were on Thursday reportedly stripped and paraded on a road with their hands tied for allegedly attempting to outrage the modesty of a local woman in Odisha's Sundergarh town, police said.

The police said local residents thrashed and paraded the workers between 8.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. The victims hail from West Bengal's Murshidabad district and were working as masons in the town.

"We have registered two cases: one against 10 persons for stripping, thrashing, and parading the workers, and another

based on the woman's complaint against one of the workers," DIG Rourkela Brijesh Rai said.

In her complaint, the woman claimed that one of the workers attempted to outrage her modesty on Wednesday. When news of the incident spread, local residents attacked the house where the workers were staying, police said.

## 8 Migrant Workers Stripped, Paraded for 'Misbehaving' with Woman in Odisha

ओडिशा में महिला के साथ 'दुर्व्यवहार' के लिए 8 प्रवासी श्रमिकों को नग्न कर परेड कराई गई

Eight Bengali-speaking migrant workers were stripped and paraded on a road for allegedly attempting to outrage the modesty of a local woman in Odisha's Sundergarh town, police said.

आठ बंगाली-भाषी प्रवासी श्रमिकों को नग्न कर सड़क पर परेड कराई गई क्योंकि उन्होंने कथित तौर पर ओडिशा के सुंदरगढ़ शहर में एक स्थानीय महिला की शील भंग करने की कोशिश की थी, पुलिस ने कहा।

- The police stated that local residents thrashed and paraded the workers between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m.  
पुलिस ने कहा कि स्थानीय निवासियों ने सुबह 8:30 बजे से 9 बजे के बीच श्रमिकों को पीटा और परेड कराई।
- The victims were from Murshidabad district in West Bengal and were working as masons in the town.





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

**Contact Number: 9971932488**

पीड़ित पश्चिम बंगाल के मुर्शिदाबाद जिले से थे और शहर में राजमिस्त्री के रूप में काम कर रहे थे।

- Police registered **two cases**: one against **10 persons** for stripping, thrashing, and parading the workers, and another based on the woman's complaint against one of the workers.

पुलिस ने दो मामले दर्ज किए: एक **10 व्यक्तियों** के खिलाफ श्रमिकों को नग्न करने, पीटने और परेड कराने का और दूसरा महिला की शिकायत पर एक श्रमिक के खिलाफ।

- In her complaint, the woman claimed that **one of the workers attempted to outrage her modesty on Wednesday**.

अपनी शिकायत में, महिला ने दावा किया कि बुधवार को एक श्रमिक ने उसकी शील भंग करने की कोशिश की।

- After news of the incident spread, **local residents attacked the house** where the workers were staying, police said.

घटना की खबर फैलने के बाद, स्थानीय निवासियों ने उस घर पर हमला किया जहां श्रमिक रह रहे थे, पुलिस ने कहा।





# CAG report flags violations, lapses in enforcement of T.N. CRZ notification

In a report tabled in the State Assembly recently, it has flagged issues ranging from delays in preparing crucial maps to unauthorised constructions. The CAG also highlighted irregularities in granting Coastal Regulation Zone clearances

**GS Paper III: Disaster Management**

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

**T**he Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has highlighted significant delays, violations, and lapses in the enforcement of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011, in Tamil Nadu.

In a report tabled in the Assembly recently, the CAG flagged issues ranging from delays in preparing crucial maps to unauthorised constructions and improper delegations of authority. It criticised the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA) for delegating its responsibilities to local planning authorities and District Coastal Zone Management Authorities, in violation of the 2011 notification.

From 2015 to 2022, the TNSCZMA directly approved 114 out of 175 projects without recommending them to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change or the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, among others, compromising the scrutiny process.



The CAG criticised the T.N. State Coastal Zone Management Authority for delegating its responsibilities to local authorities and District Coastal Zone Management Authorities. FILE PHOTO

According to the 2011 CRZ Notification, local-level Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) were essential in monitoring and enforcing coastal regulations. However, despite the State government approving the preparation of local-level maps in 2017, the project faced a 30-month delay, and was completed only in mid-2022. This delay left the local authorities unable to enforce regulations, resulting in instances of unauthorised construction on CRZ areas.

The report also flagged irregularities in granting CRZ clearances. As many

as 23 projects involving effluent discharge were approved without obtaining mandatory No-Objection Certificates from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. There were also several violations in CRZ areas, including the unauthorised construction of a bridge at Nemmeli in Chengalpattu, a beach resort at Koovathur in Chengalpattu, and two cold storage units in Kanniyakumari.

The audit revealed inadequate surveillance of CRZ areas by the TNSCZMA, as required under the 2011 notification.

Despite requests, the TNSCZMA did not provide CZMP shape files, prompting the CAG to use Google Earth imagery. Through this, 90 unauthorised constructions were identified in the No Development Zone across Chennai, Chengalpattu, and Thoothukudi.

### 'Lacked resources'

The TNSCZMA, relying on the Department of Environment's workforce, lacked dedicated resources for effective monitoring, the CAG noted. Several violations, including construction of beach houses on the

East Coast Road, had escaped detection. The report also flagged the lack of local community representatives in District-level Coastal Authority, despite being mandated under the notification.

In response, the government said that it had issued instructions to address these issues, and began re-constituting the DCZMAs. However, the audit deemed the government's explanations unsatisfactory, and called for stricter adherence to the CRZ provisions and better use of technology to identify and penalise violations.

### 'Issues addressed'

Rahul Nadh, the member secretary of TNSCZMA and Director of the Department of Environment, told *The Hindu* that many issues highlighted in the CAG report had been addressed over the past six months. While surveillance remained a challenge, efforts were under way to improve monitoring through satellite images. The local CZMP maps are nearly complete, he said, adding that the draft CZMP maps would be released within a month.

## CAG Report Flags Violations, Lapses in Enforcement of T.N. CRZ Notification

तमिलनाडु CRZ अधिसूचना के प्रवर्तन में उल्लंघन और खामियों पर CAG रिपोर्ट ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया





The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India highlighted significant delays, violations, and lapses in the enforcement of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011, in Tamil Nadu.

भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) ने तमिलनाडु में तटीय विनियमन क्षेत्र (CRZ) अधिसूचना, 2011 के प्रवर्तन में महत्वपूर्ण देरी, उल्लंघन, और खामियों को उजागर किया।

- In its report tabled in the Assembly recently, the CAG flagged issues such as **delays in preparing crucial maps, unauthorised constructions, and improper delegation of authority.**

हाल ही में विधानसभा में प्रस्तुत अपनी रिपोर्ट में, CAG ने महत्वपूर्ण नक्शे तैयार करने में देरी, अनधिकृत निर्माण, और प्राधिकरण के अनुचित हस्तांतरण जैसे मुद्दों को उजागर किया।

- The **Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA)** was criticised for delegating its responsibilities to **local planning authorities** and **District Coastal Zone Management Authorities**, violating the **2011 notification.**

तमिलनाडु राज्य तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (TNSCZMA) को अपनी जिम्मेदारियों को स्थानीय योजना प्राधिकरणों और जिला तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन प्राधिकरणों को सौंपने के लिए आलोचना की गई, जो 2011 की अधिसूचना का उल्लंघन था।

- Between **2015 and 2022**, the TNSCZMA directly approved **114 out of 175 projects** without recommending them to the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** or the **State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority.**

2015 से 2022 के बीच, TNSCZMA ने 175 परियोजनाओं में से 114 को सीधे मंजूरी दी, बिना उन्हें पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय या राज्य पर्यावरण प्रभाव मूल्यांकन प्राधिकरण को भेजे।

- The **2011 CRZ Notification** mandated **local-level Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP)** for monitoring regulations. Despite State government approval in **2017**, the maps were delayed by **30 months** and completed only in **mid-2022.**

2011 की CRZ अधिसूचना ने नियमों की निगरानी के लिए स्थानीय स्तर के तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन योजना (CZMP) की आवश्यकता रखी। 2017 में राज्य सरकार द्वारा स्वीकृति के बावजूद, नक्शे 30 महीने देरी से 2022 के मध्य में पूरे हुए।

- The delays hindered local authorities, resulting in **unauthorised constructions** in CRZ areas.

इस देरी के कारण स्थानीय अधिकारियों को बाधा उत्पन्न हुई, जिससे CRZ क्षेत्रों में अनधिकृत निर्माण हुआ।

- **23 projects** involving **effluent discharge** were approved without obtaining mandatory **No-Objection Certificates (NOCs)** from the **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.**

23 परियोजनाओं को प्रवाह निर्वहन के लिए मंजूरी दी गई, बिना तमिलनाडु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड से आवश्यक अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र (NOC) प्राप्त किए।

- Violations included the **unauthorised construction** of a bridge at **Nemmeli**, a beach resort at **Koovathur**, and two cold storage units in **Kanniyakumari.**





उल्लंघनों में नेमेली में एक पुल, कूवाथुर में एक बीच रिसॉर्ट, और कन्याकुमारी में दो कोल्ड स्टोरेज इकाइयों का अनधिकृत निर्माण शामिल है।

- The TNSCZMA's surveillance of CRZ areas was found inadequate. The CAG used **Google Earth imagery**, identifying **90 unauthorised constructions** in the **No Development Zone** across **Chennai, Chengalpattu, and Thoothukudi**.  
TNSCZMA की CRZ क्षेत्रों की निगरानी अपर्याप्त पाई गई। CAG ने गूगल अर्थ इमेजरी का उपयोग किया और चेन्नई, चेंगलपट्टू, और थूथुकुडी में नो डेवलपमेंट जोन में 90 अनधिकृत निर्माण की पहचान की।
- The TNSCZMA lacked dedicated resources for monitoring and relied on the **Department of Environment's workforce**.  
TNSCZMA के पास निगरानी के लिए समर्पित संसाधन नहीं थे और यह पर्यावरण विभाग के कार्यबल पर निर्भर था।
- Local community representatives, mandated under the notification, were missing in **District-level Coastal Authority**.  
अधिसूचना के तहत आवश्यक स्थानीय समुदाय प्रतिनिधि जिला स्तर के तटीय प्राधिकरण में अनुपस्थित थे।
- The government responded by issuing instructions and reconstituting the **DCZMAs**. However, the CAG deemed these measures unsatisfactory.  
सरकार ने निर्देश जारी कर **DCZMA** के पुनर्गठन का उत्तर दिया। हालांकि, CAG ने इन उपायों को असंतोषजनक माना।
- Member Secretary **Rahul Nadh** stated that many issues have been addressed in the past **six months**, with efforts underway to improve monitoring using **satellite images**. सदस्य सचिव **राहुल नाथ** ने कहा कि पिछले छह महीनों में कई मुद्दों का समाधान किया गया है, और उपग्रह इमेजरी का उपयोग करके निगरानी सुधारने के प्रयास चल रहे हैं।
- Draft CZMP maps are nearly complete and will be released within a month.  
ड्राफ्ट CZMP नक्शे लगभग पूरे हो चुके हैं और एक महीने के भीतर जारी किए जाएंगे।

## Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)

- **The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification was first issued in February 1991** by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) under **Section 3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986**.  
पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 के तहत फरवरी 1991 में पहली बार पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय (MoEF) द्वारा तटीय विनियमन क्षेत्र अधिसूचना जारी की गई थी।
- This notification was issued to regulate activities in coastal areas to protect the fragile ecosystem.  
यह अधिसूचना तटीय क्षेत्रों में गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने और नाजुक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की सुरक्षा के लिए जारी की गई थी।

### Definition of Coastal Regulation Zone





- The **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)** includes:
  - Coastal land up to **500 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL)**.
  - A stage of **100 meters along banks of creeks, lagoons, estuaries, backwater, and rivers** subject to tidal fluctuations.

तटीय विनियमन क्षेत्र (CRZ) में शामिल हैं:

  - उच्च ज्वार रेखा (HTL) से 500 मीटर तक का तटीय भू-भाग।
  - ज्वार के प्रभाव वाले क्षेत्रों में खाड़ियों, लैगून, मुहानों, बैकवॉटर और नदियों के किनारे 100 मीटर तक का क्षेत्र।

### Categories of CRZ (1991 Notification)

- The coastal areas were divided into four categories under the 1991 notification:  
1991 की अधिसूचना के तहत तटीय क्षेत्रों को चार श्रेणियों में विभाजित किया गया:
- **CRZ-1:**
  - Ecologically sensitive areas essential for maintaining the ecosystem.
  - Includes land between low and high tide lines.
  - Permitted activities: Exploration of natural gas and extraction of salt.
  - पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्र, जो पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनाए रखने के लिए आवश्यक हैं।
  - निम्न और उच्च ज्वार रेखाओं के बीच का क्षेत्र शामिल है।
  - स्वीकृत गतिविधियाँ: प्राकृतिक गैस का अन्वेषण और नमक का निष्कर्षण।
- **CRZ-2:**
  - Urban areas located in the coastal zones.
  - Under the **CRZ Notification 2018**, floor space index norms were unfrozen to allow development.
  - शहरी क्षेत्र जो तटीय क्षेत्रों में स्थित हैं।
  - 2018 की CRZ अधिसूचना के तहत, फ्लोर स्पेस इंडेक्स मानदंडों को विकास की अनुमति के लिए हटाया गया।
- **CRZ-3:**
  - Rural and urban areas outside CRZ-1 and CRZ-2.
  - Activities related to agriculture and public facilities are allowed.
  - ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्र जो CRZ-1 और CRZ-2 के बाहर हैं।
  - कृषि और सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं से संबंधित गतिविधियाँ अनुमत हैं।
- **CRZ-4:**
  - Covers aquatic areas up to territorial waters (12 nautical miles).
  - Fishing and allied activities permitted.
  - Solid waste disposal is prohibited.
  - क्षेत्रीय जल (12 समुद्री मील) तक का जलक्षेत्र शामिल करता है।
  - मछली पकड़ने और संबंधित गतिविधियों की अनुमति है।
  - ठोस अपशिष्ट का निपटान निषिद्ध है।





## Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2019

- The **CRZ Notification 2019** replaced the 2011 notification to promote sustainable development in coastal regions while addressing climate change and rising sea levels. 2019 की CRZ अधिसूचना ने 2011 की अधिसूचना को प्रतिस्थापित किया और जलवायु परिवर्तन और समुद्र के स्तर में वृद्धि को ध्यान में रखते हुए तटीय क्षेत्रों में सतत विकास को बढ़ावा दिया।

### Key Features:

#### मुख्य विशेषताएँ:

- **Changes in CRZ-III (Rural Areas):**
  - CRZ-III was divided into:
    - **CRZ-IIIA:** Areas with population density above **2,161 persons per sq. km** (NDZ reduced to 50 meters from HTL).
    - **CRZ-IIIB:** Areas with population density below **2,161 persons per sq. km** (NDZ remains 200 meters from HTL).
  - CRZ-III को दो भागों में विभाजित किया गया:
    - CRZ-IIIA: जिन क्षेत्रों में जनसंख्या घनत्व 2,161 व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ग किलोमीटर से अधिक है (HTL से NDZ 50 मीटर कर दिया गया)।
    - CRZ-IIIB: जिन क्षेत्रों में जनसंख्या घनत्व 2,161 व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ग किलोमीटर से कम है (HTL से NDZ 200 मीटर)।
- **Tourism Development:**
  - Encourages the development of tourism infrastructure in coastal areas.
  - तटीय क्षेत्रों में पर्यटन अवसंरचना के विकास को प्रोत्साहित करता है।
- **Streamlined Approval Process:**
  - CRZ clearance for CRZ-I and CRZ-IV remains with the central government.
  - CRZ-II and CRZ-III approvals are delegated to the state level.
  - CRZ-I और CRZ-IV के लिए अनुमोदन प्रक्रिया केंद्र सरकार के पास बनी रहती है।
  - CRZ-II और CRZ-III अनुमोदन राज्य स्तर पर सौंपा गया है।
- **Special Provisions for Islands:**
  - No development zone (NDZ) of **20 meters** for all islands.
  - सभी द्वीपों के लिए 20 मीटर का नो डेवलपमेंट ज़ोन।
- **Pollution Abatement:**
  - Proposed development of treatment facilities in CRZ-IB areas.
  - CRZ-IB क्षेत्रों में उपचार सुविधाओं के विकास का प्रस्ताव।



# The knotty promise of SECTION 69

As India enforces the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the new set of criminal laws that replace the Indian Penal Code, Section 69 faces questioning from legal eyes for its gender bias, potential misuse, and implications on modern relationships, finds **Soibam Rocky Singh**

GS Paper I: Society

**I**n July 31, a 25-year-old woman from Ramgarh, Jharkhand, filed an FIR accusing a man of engaging in a sexual relationship with her under the pretence of marriage. The woman claimed in her FIR that the man, 26, who she had known from college, had come home on multiple occasions and expressed the wish to marry her. In one instance, he allegedly told her mother explicitly not to consider any marriage proposals for her, as he intended to marry her himself.

The woman stated in her first information report (FIR) that she was introduced to his mother, who allegedly supported their union. She claimed that the man and his mother "backtracked on their commitments". She was therefore filing a case under Section 69 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the new set of criminal laws that replaces the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC). While the trial is still pending, the man was granted bail by a local court in October.

Section 69 of the BNS, criminalises "sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means" and cites the "promise to marry...a woman without any intention of fulfilling the same", as grounds for imprisonment up to 10 years and the possibility of a fine. While it is not treated as rape, it is considered "inducement" and also applies to "false promise of employment or promotion, or marrying by suppressing identity".

There are several cases in court that use Section 69 in their FIRs, opening the doors to public and legal discourse around it. Before the BNS came into being, up to 40% of all rape case allegations pertained to 'friend', 'live in partners on pretext of marriage', and 'separated husband', going by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data between 2016 and 2022.

On December 5, the Gauhati High Court granted bail to a man after he was arrested when a woman claimed that she and the man had been in a relationship for nine years, during which period, they engaged in physical relationship regularly. The man also allegedly promised her to marry. However, she found out that he had become engaged to another woman. When she asked for an explanation, the man allegedly cited parental pressure to marry the woman.

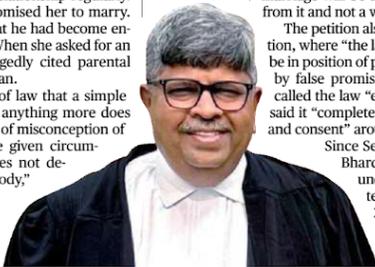
"It is a settled position of law that a simple promise to marry without anything more does not give rise to the concept of misconception of fact. Therefore, under the given circumstances, the petitioner does not deserve to be detained in custody," the High Court said.

**Based on the past**  
Prior to the enactment of the BNS, such cases were



This is a new offence because they have used words such as 'deceitful means', 'inducement', 'false promise'. This is not rape

**RAVI KANT**  
Advocate and country head, Access to Justice Project



registered under Section 376(2)(n) (commits rape repeatedly on the same woman) along with Section 90 (consent known to be given under fear or misconception), says Advocate K.S. Nanda, who represented the accused man in Jharkhand. Effectively, the two IPC Sections now form the base of Section 69.

Ravi Kant, advocate and country head of the Access to Justice Project, an international non-profit offering pro bono services, explains the difference between the previous law under IPC and the new provision in the BNS. "This is a new offence because they have used words such as 'deceitful means', 'inducement', 'false promise'. This is not rape," he clarifies.

Section 69 comes within Chapter 5 of the BNS: 'Of Offences Against Woman and Child', under "sexual offences". The need for this Section, says Kant, was "because such cases were reported a lot in the courts during the IPC time".

Another difference is that earlier, if a relationship lasted several years, and the woman claimed she was cheated on the pretext of marriage, the court typically dismissed such cases, he says. "It was reasoned that a long-term relationship implied mutual consent and understanding, making fraud difficult to substantiate." Now, even if the relationship is consensual, it is treated as an offence because it is taken as a false promise or a deception.

#### Gender biased

Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj, a journalist, filmmaker, and activist, calls the new law "inherently gender biased and discriminative" with the law suggesting that women do not have agency in decisions around sexual matters. On January 10 this year, she had started an online petition on Change.org to repeal Section 69 of the BNS, which has since garnered over 60,000 signatures.

Her contention in the petition is that "a consensual sexual relationship made on promise of marriage will be a crime only if a man reneges from it and not a woman".

The petition also talks about the power equation, where "the law presumes a woman cannot be in position of power to induce a man into sex by false promise of job or promotion". She called the law "extremely regressive" and also said it "completely discards the concept of will and consent" around sexual matters.

Since Section 69 is a recent addition, Bhardwaj uses past data recorded under Section 376 (rape) for context and comparison. Until 2015, the NCRB that compiles a yearly compendium of crimes across India in 'Offenders Relation to Victims

of Rape' category under the 'Crime Against Women' chapter, the relationship between the accused and the survivor in rape cases was broadly categorised as a 'family member', 'neighbour', or 'stranger'. However, the growing number of cases involving 'false promises of marriage' led the NCRB to refine its classifications.

In 2016, specific subcategories were introduced under the 'Offenders Relation to Victims of Rape', including 'friend', 'live in partners on pretext of marriage', and 'separated husband'.

NCRB data further reveals that the average conviction rate for all rape cases between 2016 and 2022 stood at 29.7%. However, the data does not include a sub-classification of conviction rates under the 'Offenders Relation to Victims of Rape' category. This makes it challenging to determine conviction trends specific to cases involving false promises of marriage or similar allegations.

#### Parliamentary report

The report no. 246 of the Rajya Sabha on the BNS, released by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on November 12 last year, six months before the BNS came into force, had cautioned against reinforcing gender stereotypes.



According to the report, it was difficult to prove whether a promise to marry had actually been made. It also said "intentions can change over time", alluding to the very nature of relationships.

The report stated that "criminalising a promise to marry" can intrude into an individual's right to privacy and autonomy. It said that "defining what constitutes a legally binding promise to marry can be vague and open to interpretation", which could lead to "inconsistencies in enforcement and judgments". Also, a verbal intention to marry could be a challenge when it came to evidence collection.

The law presumes a woman cannot be in position of power to induce a man into sex by false promise of job or promotion

#### Differing court views

On November 26, the Supreme Court flagged a "worrying trend" of criminalising long-term consensual relationships after they turn sour. "If criminality is to be attached to such prolonged physical relationship at a very belated stage, it can lead to serious consequences," the Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and N. Kotiswar Singh said, while quashing an FIR against a man accused of rape by a woman who was in a relationship with him for over nine years, by her own account.

In another judgment, the Gujarat High Court on September 19 commented: "In every case where a man fails to marry a woman despite a promise made to her, [he] cannot be held guilty for committing the offence of rape."

The High Court's ruling came while quashing a February 2019 FIR for rape filed against a man, who had entered into a physical relationship with

a woman on the promise of marriage. Cases registered before the BNS came into force are being tried on the old IPC. The woman in her FIR complaint alleged that she got pregnant and when she informed the man, he reneged on his promise.

During the pendency of the trial, a baby boy was born. However, when the DNA samples of the accused and the child were tested, it was proven that the accused was not the biological father. Meanwhile, the woman got married to another person and didn't show up for the court proceeding again.

"He can only be held guilty if it is proved that the promise to marry was given with no intention to honour it and also that was the only reason due to which the woman agreed to have a sexual relationship," the High Court said, adding that "cases of consensual sexual relationship being later converted into allegations of rape are rapidly increasing".

On the other hand, in a separate case, the Kerala High Court in October declined to quash the criminal proceedings against a priest accused of raping a woman after promising to marry her. Dismissing the plea of the priest, the High Court observed that prima facie, the allegations warranted a trial, and that there was no reason to close the proceedings earlier.

Supporting the new law, advocate Gaurav Dudgeja, Partner at law firm Phoenix Legal, in Delhi, says, "Section 69 of the BNS addresses the gaps and ambiguities in the previous law concerning sexual intercourse obtained under false pretences such as promises of marriage or other deceitful means."

"The definition of rape revolves around the 'consent' of the woman, and courts have consistently held that sexual intercourse based on a false promise of marriage, where there was no genuine intent from the outset, falls within the scope of rape. By introducing Section 69, the BNS explicitly criminalises such acts and provides clear punishment for them," he explains.

The law is protective to women who operate in a male-dominated, patriarchal society, where marriage for women is often seen as a way of attaining personhood. Many women are consistently told in their childhood years that they belong in another home - that of their husband's and in-laws.

Dudgeja says the law broadens the legal framework by introducing the concept of sexual intercourse through deceitful means. "Moreover, it acknowledges that coercion is not limited to physical force, but can also be psychological or emotional - an aspect not explicitly addressed under the earlier law," he says.

#### PIL in Kerala HC

In September, a public interest litigation (PIL) was filed before the Kerala High Court challenging the constitutional validity of Section 69 of the BNS. The plea by a lawyer practising in the courts of Kerala contended that "the Section is derogatory and misogynistic to the extent that it views women as naive, gullible and incapable of making decisions pertaining to their life". The plea also contends that the Section would lead to "serious issues for people who are in live-in relationships and people in relationships in the nature of marriage".

"By omitting to include the LGBTQ community, it is violative of the equal protection clause. Further, it penalises a very basic human emotion, the right to have sexual union, a facet protected Under Article 21 of the Constitution," the plea stated. The High Court sought a response from the Central government on the issue.

## The Knotty Promise of Section 69

### SECTION 69 की पेचीदा वादे

On July 31, a 25-year-old woman from Ramgarh, Jharkhand, filed an FIR accusing a man of engaging in a sexual relationship with her under the pretence of marriage.

31 जुलाई को झारखंड के रामगढ़ की 25 वर्षीय महिला ने एक एफआईआर दर्ज





## कराई, जिसमें एक पुरुष पर शादी का झांसा देकर यौन संबंध बनाने का आरोप लगाया गया।

- The woman claimed the man expressed the wish to marry her and even told her mother not to consider marriage proposals for her.  
महिला ने दावा किया कि उस व्यक्ति ने शादी की इच्छा जताई और यहां तक कि उसकी मां से कहा कि उसके लिए अन्य शादी के प्रस्ताव न देखें।
- She stated she was introduced to his mother, who allegedly supported their union, but later **backtracked on commitments**.  
उसने बताया कि उसकी मुलाकात उस व्यक्ति की मां से कराई गई थी, जिन्होंने कथित तौर पर उनके विवाह का समर्थन किया, लेकिन बाद में **अपने वादों से मुकर गईं**।
- She filed a case under **Section 69 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**.  
उसने **भारतीय न्याय संहिता (BNS)** के धारा 69 के तहत मामला दर्ज कराया, जो **भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC)** का स्थान लेती है।
- **Section 69 criminalises** “sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means,” including a “promise to marry... a woman without any intention of fulfilling the same.”  
**धारा 69** “धोखाधड़ी से यौन संबंध बनाने” को अपराध मानती है, जिसमें “शादी का झूठा वादा” शामिल है।
- The punishment includes imprisonment up to **10 years** and a **fine**.  
सजा में **10 साल की कैद** और **जुर्माना** शामिल है।
- The section also applies to **false promises of employment or promotion, or marrying by suppressing identity**.  
यह धारा **नौकरी या प्रमोशन के झूठे वादों और पहचान छुपाकर शादी** करने पर भी लागू होती है।
- Prior to the BNS, such cases were registered under **Section 376(2)(n)** (commits rape repeatedly on the same woman) along with **Section 90** (consent under misconception).  
BNS से पहले, ऐसे मामलों को **धारा 376(2)(n)** (एक ही महिला के साथ बार-बार बलात्कार) और **धारा 90** (भ्रमित सहमति) के तहत दर्ज किया जाता था।
- Advocate **Ravi Kant** explains that **Section 69** uses terms like ‘deceitful means’ and ‘false promise,’ distinguishing it from rape.  
वकील **रवि कान्त** बताते हैं कि **धारा 69** में ‘धोखाधड़ी’ और ‘झूठे वादे’ जैसे शब्दों का उपयोग किया गया है, जो इसे बलात्कार से अलग करता है।
- **Gauhati High Court** recently granted bail to a man accused under Section 69, reasoning that a long-term relationship implied **mutual consent** and made **fraud difficult to substantiate**.  
**गौहाटी हाई कोर्ट** ने हाल ही में धारा 69 के तहत आरोपी को जमानत दी, यह कहते हुए कि लंबे संबंध **आपसी सहमति** का संकेत देते हैं और **धोखाधड़ी साबित करना कठिन** होता है।
- Under the BNS, even consensual relationships can be treated as offenses if found to be based on **false promises or deception**.  
BNS के तहत, यदि किसी सहमति संबंध को **झूठे वादे या धोखाधड़ी** पर आधारित पाया जाता है, तो इसे अपराध माना जा सकता है।





## Gender Biased

### लैंगिक पक्षपात

- **Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj**, a journalist, filmmaker, and activist, calls the new law "inherently gender biased and discriminative" with the law suggesting that women do not have agency in decisions around sexual matters.

दीपिका नारायण भारद्वाज, एक पत्रकार, फिल्म निर्माता और कार्यकर्ता, ने नए कानून को "मूल रूप से लैंगिक पक्षपाती और भेदभावपूर्ण" बताया, जिसमें यह सुझाव दिया गया है कि महिलाएं यौन मामलों में निर्णय लेने की एजेंसी नहीं रखती हैं।

- On **January 10**, she started an online petition on **Change.org** to repeal **Section 69 of the BNS**, which has garnered over **60,000 signatures**.

10 जनवरी को उन्होंने **Change.org** पर **बीएनएस की धारा 69** को रद्द करने के लिए एक ऑनलाइन याचिका शुरू की, जिसे **60,000 से अधिक हस्ताक्षर** प्राप्त हुए हैं।

- Her contention is that "a consensual sexual relationship made on a promise of marriage will be a crime only if a man reneges from it and not a woman."  
उनका तर्क है कि "शादी के वादे पर सहमति से बनाए गए यौन संबंध अपराध होंगे केवल तब, जब पुरुष अपने वादे से पीछे हटे और महिला नहीं।"
- The **petition also highlights that the law assumes women cannot hold power to induce men into sex under false promises of jobs or promotions.**





याचिका यह भी बताती है कि कानून यह मानता है कि महिलाएं नौकरी या पदोन्नति के झूठे वादों के तहत पुरुषों को यौन संबंध बनाने के लिए मजबूर नहीं कर सकतीं।

- She calls the law “extremely regressive” and argues that it “completely discards the concept of will and consent” around sexual matters.

उन्होंने कानून को "बेहद प्रतिगामी" बताया और कहा कि यह यौन मामलों में "इच्छा और सहमति की अवधारणा को पूरी तरह खारिज करता है।"

## Data from NCRB

### एनसीआरबी का डेटा

- Since **Section 69** is new, Bhardwaj refers to data recorded under **Section 376 (rape)** for comparison.  
चूंकि धारा 69 नई है, भारद्वाज ने तुलना के लिए धारा 376 (बलात्कार) के तहत दर्ज डेटा का उल्लेख किया।
- Until **2015**, NCRB broadly categorized the accused's relationship with the survivor as 'family member,' 'neighbor,' or 'stranger.'  
**2015 तक**, एनसीआरबी ने आरोपी और पीड़िता के संबंधों को व्यापक रूप से 'परिवार के सदस्य,' 'पड़ोसी,' या 'अजनबी' के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया।
- In **2016**, new subcategories like 'live-in partners on pretext of marriage' were introduced.  
**2016 में**, नए उप-वर्ग जैसे 'शादी के बहाने लिव-इन पार्टनर' को जोड़ा गया।
- Between **2016-2022**, the average conviction rate for all rape cases was **29.71%**, but sub-classifications for conviction rates in cases involving false promises of marriage are missing.  
**2016-2022** के बीच, सभी बलात्कार मामलों के लिए औसत सजा दर **29.71%** थी, लेकिन शादी के झूठे वादों से संबंधित मामलों के लिए उप-वर्गीकरण नहीं है।

## Parliamentary Report on BNS

### बीएनएस पर संसदीय रिपोर्ट

- **Report no. 246** of the Rajya Sabha cautioned against reinforcing **gender stereotypes** before BNS came into force.  
बीएनएस लागू होने से पहले, राज्यसभा की रिपोर्ट नंबर 246 ने लैंगिक रूढ़ियों को बढ़ावा देने के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी थी।
- It mentioned that proving a promise to marry is difficult and that “**intentions can change over time.**”  
इसमें कहा गया कि शादी के वादे को साबित करना मुश्किल है और "इरादे समय के साथ बदल सकते हैं।"
- It warned that criminalizing promises to marry could violate **privacy** and **autonomy** rights under Article 21 of the Constitution.





इसने चेताया कि शादी के वादों को अपराध मानना संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत गोपनीयता और स्वायत्तता के अधिकारों का उल्लंघन कर सकता है।

## Differing Court Views

### अलग-अलग अदालतों के दृष्टिकोण

- **November 26**, the Supreme Court highlighted a trend of criminalizing **long-term consensual relationships** when they turn sour.  
26 नवंबर को, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने लंबे समय तक सहमति से बने संबंधों के बिगड़ने पर उन्हें अपराध मानने की प्रवृत्ति पर चिंता जताई।
- The **Gujarat High Court** (September 19) noted that not all broken promises of marriage can constitute rape unless it's proven the promise was made without intention to honor it.  
गुजरात हाईकोर्ट (19 सितंबर) ने कहा कि शादी के सभी टूटे वादों को बलात्कार नहीं माना जा सकता जब तक यह साबित न हो कि वादा बिना इरादे से किया गया था।
- The **Kerala High Court**, in contrast, declined to quash proceedings against a priest accused of rape on a promise of marriage.  
इसके विपरीत, केरल हाईकोर्ट ने शादी के वादे पर बलात्कार के आरोपी पादरी के खिलाफ कार्यवाही को रद्द करने से इनकार कर दिया।

## Support for Section 69

### धारा 69 का समर्थन

- Advocate **Gaurav Dudeja** says **Section 69** addresses gaps in earlier laws by defining sexual intercourse obtained under **false pretenses** as rape.  
वकील गौरव दुडेजा ने कहा कि धारा 69 झूठे बहाने से बनाए गए यौन संबंधों को बलात्कार के रूप में परिभाषित करके पुराने कानूनों में खामियों को दूर करता है।
- He adds that the law considers **psychological or emotional coercion** beyond physical force.  
उन्होंने कहा कि यह कानून शारीरिक बल से परे मनोवैज्ञानिक या भावनात्मक दबाव को मान्यता देता है।

## PIL in Kerala HC

### केरल हाईकोर्ट में जनहित याचिका

- A PIL was filed in **September** challenging the constitutional validity of Section 69, calling it **derogatory** and **misogynistic**.  
सितंबर में धारा 69 की संवैधानिक वैधता को चुनौती देते हुए एक जनहित याचिका दायर की गई, जिसमें इसे अपमानजनक और महिला-विरोधी कहा गया।
- The plea argued the law excludes the **LGBTQ community** and penalizes basic human emotions, violating **Article 21**.





याचिका में तर्क दिया गया कि कानून एलजीबीटीक्यू समुदाय को बाहर रखता है और बुनियादी मानवीय भावनाओं को अपराध मानता है, जिससे अनुच्छेद 21 का उल्लंघन होता है।

## *Pakistan at the UNSC, the points of its compass*

**GS Paper II: International Organization**

**O**n January 1, 2025, Pakistan enters the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as an elected non-permanent member for a two-year term – its eighth.

Pakistan's entry is significant in that, effectively, half of the 10 elected members of UNSC will be from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Those elected for 2025-26 were Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia. They will replace Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland as their terms end on December 31. The new members will join Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia, who are existing non-permanent members.

Afghanistan will be a natural focus with Pakistan sure to use its Council stint to repair its frosty relations with the Taliban. In this, it has Russia and China to readily assist it in the diplomatic rehabilitation of the Taliban. With the OIC countries, one hopes that the Council gets all the support it needs for a ceasefire in Gaza to salvage from the rubble whatever is left of the Palestinian cause and stabilise the region. Peacekeeping is another of Pakistan's stated priorities given its role as a major troop contributing country for UN peacekeeping. However, Pakistan's default mode will be to focus on India.

### **What India should expect**

India-Pakistan relations are still strained. Even if one assumes that some backchannels are busy working the lines, it is a given that enhanced bilateral cooperation does not necessarily result in enhanced multilateral cooperation, especially in the UN. This is true not just of Pakistan but also of countries India considers as "close friends", even in the Global South. For example, some OIC countries with which India has very close bilateral relations, line up behind Pakistani drafts in the UN which have anti-India language. They even argue – ingeniously – that the offensive language is not aimed at India. Fortunately, there is help usually from unexpected friends in such groups, enabling India to tide over the issues successfully.

To state the obvious, India should be prepared for Pakistan's anti-India initiatives in the UNSC. There was a brief period in 2012 when there was some synergy between the Missions of both countries in the UN when both nations were in the Council, but that was an aberration. Pakistan is back to its multilateral default mode of being anti-India. And in this, it now has a more assertive "iron brother" in China offering it an "all-weather friendship". Pakistan's first stated priority is to "combat terrorism", which it hopes will absolve it of the tag of "terrorist state". It will also try – as it



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always does – to slip that tag onto India. The list of Pakistan-based and Pakistani terrorist organisations associated with the ISIL (Daesh) and al-Qaeda under UNSC Resolution 1267 mandated sanctions, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed, is long and instructive. In retaliation, Pakistan has presented several "dossiers" to the UN Secretary General, that have fancy claims of Indian terrorist attacks on Pakistan – anything to keep the anti-India pot boiling.

After its stint in the UNSC in 2021-22, India's proposal (with the United States as co-signatory) to list Pakistani terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki, deputy leader of the LeT, under the 1267 sanctions regime was approved by the UNSC – including of course by China – making this the first listing (with India as a proposer) for terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir. It was a blow to Pakistan, which it must be waiting to avenge.

However, even proposals under 1267 sanctions are given a religious colour by Pakistan. It made desperate attempts, with trumped up charges, to list four Indian Hindus as terrorists, with the intention of getting at least one Hindu listed. The Council rejected every one of Pakistan's requests – not once but twice – thanks to the U.S. and other western countries. Member-states have seen through Pakistan's game.

### **On Kashmir**

Its next, and most obvious, stated priority will be Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Pakistan pushed for discussions on J&K in the Council through its "friends" when India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution. Two closed "consultations" were held in the UNSC, with China acting as the cat's-paw. But nothing happened. At least four of the five permanent members (P-5) have little appetite for this issue. When a Pakistani journalist in New York asked this writer – when India entered the UNSC in January 2021 – about the "unfinished" business of Article 370, the reply he got was this: that the only "unfinished" business was the return of Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) to India.

With elections having been conducted and a popular government in place in J&K, Pakistan would find it hard to make an issue. China, which, incidentally, occupies a part of PoK after Pakistan ceded it to them, will only be too happy to keep the pot boiling. The Pakistani Ambassador to the UN made a case in the media on how the recent decision by the International Court of Justice decision on Palestine applies to J&K. One cannot stop Pakistan from trying to do what it wants as its presence in the UNSC will give it the lever to call for discussions on J&K. India is aware that the P-5 usually does not like to prevent

discussions, but decides whether it should be open or closed and whether there should be an outcome.

### **The use of Islamophobia**

Pakistan has used Islamophobia as a weapon to dilute the fight against terrorism and, going by its recent attempts, to target India. When the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GTS) was discussed in the Council, and again in 2023, Pakistan, supported by the OIC, sought to introduce Islamophobia as a 'justification' for terrorism. India stood alone and had the reference removed. But when India left the Council at the end of 2022, the United Arab Emirates and others inserted, *inter alia*, Islamophobia into the UNSC Presidential statement for the first time in February 2023. In March 2024, the U.S., China and Russia voted in the UN General Assembly in support of an OIC resolution to appoint a UN Special Envoy for Combatting Islamophobia. With the right wing on the rise in the West, one has not heard the last on this subject in the Council with the OIC countries.

Early this year, Pakistan raised the issue of the bilateral India-Pakistan Indus Waters Treaty in the Council, which is a purely bilateral agreement with its mechanism to resolve disputes. This is a misuse of the UNSC with the only benefit of catering to a domestic audience.

During its stint between 2021-22, India played a robust and positive role in strengthening international peace and security. While many UNSC members misuse "Arria formula" meetings (a dispensation where any UNSC member can circumvent the Council and hold informal meetings on any issue), India avoided doing this and stuck to its priorities in the Council. Pakistan will have no such compunctions.

It is unfortunate that Pakistan ignores the many multilateral synergies between India and Pakistan to work together on UN issues. Both countries have similar interests: in UN peacekeeping, as they are large troop-contributing countries; in combating climate change, as they face severe climate change-induced floods and natural disasters; in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030; in focusing on the debt burden of the Global South; or in reforming multilateral financial institutions. Sometimes even functional contacts with Indian diplomats are frowned upon by its Mission.

Pakistan's internal political churning, economic collapse and misplaced priorities have prevented it from strengthening multilateralism and the UN in a world wrecked by conflicts. While its term will be high on rhetoric against India, it is difficult to see how UN member-states will be persuaded to play its game.

India should be prepared for Pakistan's anti-India initiatives in the United Nations Security Council





## Pakistan at the UNSC, the points of its compass पाकिस्तान संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में, इसके दृष्टिकोण के बिंदु

On January 1, 2025, Pakistan will enter the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as an elected non-permanent member for a two-year term, marking its eighth term.

1 जनवरी 2025 को, पाकिस्तान संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में एक निर्वाचित अस्थायी सदस्य के रूप में शामिल होगा, जो उसका आठवां कार्यकाल होगा।

- Half of the 10 elected members of UNSC will be from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).  
UNSC के निर्वाचित 10 सदस्यों में से आधे सदस्य इस्लामिक सहयोग संगठन (OIC) से होंगे।
- Newly elected members for 2025-26 include Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia, replacing Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland.  
2025-26 के लिए नवनिर्वाचित सदस्य डेनमार्क, ग्रीस, पाकिस्तान, पनामा, और सोमालिया हैं, जो इक्वाडोर, जापान, माल्टा, मोज़ाम्बिक, और स्विट्ज़रलैंड की जगह लेंगे।
- Existing non-permanent members are Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, and Slovenia.  
मौजूदा अस्थायी सदस्य अल्जीरिया, गुयाना, कोरिया गणराज्य, सिएरा लियोन, और स्लोवेनिया हैं।
- Afghanistan is expected to be a focus area for Pakistan during its UNSC term, aiming to repair relations with the Taliban with support from Russia and China.  
पाकिस्तान के UNSC कार्यकाल के दौरान अफगानिस्तान एक मुख्य क्षेत्र होगा, जहां वह तालिबान के साथ अपने संबंध सुधारने का प्रयास करेगा और इसमें उसे रूस और चीन का समर्थन मिलेगा।
- Pakistan is likely to focus on peacekeeping, emphasizing its role as a major troop-contributing country for UN peacekeeping missions.  
पाकिस्तान शांति स्थापना पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेगा, जिसमें उसका संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति मिशन के लिए प्रमुख सैनिक योगदानकर्ता देश का योगदान होगा।

### What India should expect

#### भारत को क्या उम्मीद करनी चाहिए

- India-Pakistan relations remain **strained**, and Pakistan is expected to pursue **anti-India initiatives** in the UNSC.  
भारत-पाकिस्तान के संबंध तनावपूर्ण बने हुए हैं, और UNSC में पाकिस्तान से भारत-विरोधी पहल की उम्मीद है।





- In **2012**, there was brief **synergy** between the Missions of both countries when both were in the Council, but this was an **aberration**.  
2012 में, जब दोनों देश परिषद में थे, उनके मिशनों के बीच थोड़ी सहयोगात्मकता दिखी थी, लेकिन यह एक अपवाद था।
- Pakistan now has a **more assertive “iron brother”** in **China**, offering **all-weather friendship**.  
पाकिस्तान के पास अब चीन के रूप में एक अधिक मुखर "लोहे का भाई" है, जो हर मौसम की मित्रता प्रदान करता है।
- Pakistan's first stated priority is to **combat terrorism**, aiming to shed the **“terrorist state” tag** and shift it onto **India**.  
पाकिस्तान की पहली प्राथमिकता आतंकवाद से मुकाबला करना है, जिससे वह "आतंकवादी राज्य" का टैग हटाकर इसे भारत पर डाल सके।
- India successfully listed **Pakistani terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki** under the **1267 sanctions regime** with the **U.S. as co-signatory** during its UNSC term (2021-22).  
भारत ने अपने UNSC कार्यकाल (2021-22) में अमेरिका के साथ सह-प्रस्तावक के रूप में, पाकिस्तानी आतंकवादी अब्दुल रहमान मक्की को 1267 प्रतिबंध प्रणाली के तहत सूचीबद्ध किया।
- **Pakistan attempted to list four Indian Hindus as terrorists, which was rejected twice by the Council due to U.S. and western support.**  
पाकिस्तान ने चार भारतीय हिंदुओं को आतंकवादी के रूप में सूचीबद्ध करने का प्रयास किया, जिसे अमेरिका और पश्चिमी देशों के समर्थन के कारण परिषद ने दो बार अस्वीकार कर दिया।

## On Kashmir

### कश्मीर पर

- **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** is Pakistan's next, most obvious, stated priority.  
जम्मू और कश्मीर (J&K) पाकिस्तान की अगली और सबसे स्पष्ट घोषित प्राथमिकता है।
- Pakistan pushed for discussions on **J&K** in the UNSC through its “friends” when India abrogated **Article 370**.  
भारत द्वारा अनुच्छेद 370 हटाने के बाद, पाकिस्तान ने अपने "मित्रों" के माध्यम से UNSC में जम्मू और कश्मीर पर चर्चा का प्रयास किया।
- Two closed consultations were held in the UNSC with **China acting as the cat's-paw**, but nothing significant happened.  
UNSC में चीन के माध्यम से परोक्ष रूप से दो बंद चर्चा की गईं, लेकिन कोई महत्वपूर्ण परिणाम नहीं निकला।
- **Four of the five permanent members (P-5) have little appetite for this issue.**  
पाँच स्थायी सदस्यों (P-5) में से चार इस मुद्दे पर रुचि नहीं रखते।
- Elections have been conducted, and a **popular government** is in place in **J&K**, making it hard for Pakistan to make an issue.  
चुनाव हो चुके हैं और जम्मू और कश्मीर में एक लोकप्रिय सरकार स्थापित हो गई है, जिससे पाकिस्तान के लिए मुद्दा उठाना मुश्किल हो गया है।





- **China** occupies a part of PoK after **Pakistan ceded it** to them and will be happy to keep the situation tense.  
चीन ने PoK का एक हिस्सा कब्जे में ले लिया है जिसे पाकिस्तान ने सौंपा था, और वह स्थिति को तनावपूर्ण बनाए रखना पसंद करेगा।
- The Pakistani Ambassador to the UN has drawn a parallel between the **ICJ's decision on Palestine** and J&K, but it has limited traction.  
पाकिस्तानी राजदूत ने UN में **फिलिस्तीन पर ICJ के निर्णय** और J&K के बीच तुलना की है, लेकिन इसका प्रभाव सीमित है।

## The use of Islamophobia

### इस्लामोफोबिया का उपयोग

- **Pakistan uses Islamophobia to dilute the fight against terrorism and target India.**  
पाकिस्तान **इस्लामोफोबिया** का उपयोग आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई को कमजोर करने और भारत को निशाना बनाने के लिए करता है।
- In **2021 and 2023**, Pakistan, supported by the **OIC**, tried to introduce Islamophobia as a '**justification**' for terrorism in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.  
**2021 और 2023** में, पाकिस्तान ने **OIC** के समर्थन से **संयुक्त राष्ट्र वैश्विक आतंकवाद-रोधी रणनीति** में इस्लामोफोबिया को आतंकवाद के '**औचित्य**' के रूप में पेश करने की कोशिश की।
- India stood alone and removed the reference, but by **February 2023**, the UAE and others inserted it into a UNSC Presidential statement.  
भारत ने अकेले खड़े होकर इस संदर्भ को हटाया, लेकिन **फरवरी 2023** तक UAE और अन्य ने इसे UNSC के राष्ट्रपति वक्तव्य में जोड़ दिया।
- In **March 2024**, the **U.S., China, and Russia** supported an **OIC resolution to appoint a UN Special Envoy for Combatting Islamophobia.**  
**मार्च 2024** में, **अमेरिका, चीन और रूस** ने इस्लामोफोबिया से लड़ने के लिए UN विशेष दूत नियुक्त करने के **OIC प्रस्ताव** का समर्थन किया।

## Other tactics by Pakistan

### पाकिस्तान की अन्य रणनीतियाँ

- Pakistan raised the **India-Pakistan Indus Waters Treaty** in the UNSC, a purely bilateral agreement with its own dispute resolution mechanism.  
पाकिस्तान ने UNSC में **भारत-पाकिस्तान सिंधु जल संधि** का मुद्दा उठाया, जो एक पूर्णतः द्विपक्षीय समझौता है और इसमें विवाद समाधान का अपना तंत्र है।
- It misused the UNSC to cater to a **domestic audience**, gaining little international traction.  
इसने **घरेलू दर्शकों** को संतुष्ट करने के लिए UNSC का दुरुपयोग किया, लेकिन अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कम समर्थन प्राप्त किया।
- **Pakistan is likely to misuse the Arria formula meetings to push its agenda, unlike India, which avoided such tactics.**





भारत ने ऐसी रणनीतियों से बचते हुए, **Arria फार्मूला** बैठकों का दुरुपयोग नहीं किया, लेकिन पाकिस्तान ऐसा कर सकता है।

## Missed opportunities for synergy

### सहयोग के अवसरों को नज़रअंदाज करना

- Both India and Pakistan share common interests in **peacekeeping**, combating **climate change**, achieving **SDGs 2030**, and reforming **multilateral financial institutions**. भारत और पाकिस्तान दोनों का शांति स्थापना, जलवायु परिवर्तन से लड़ने, **SDGs 2030** प्राप्त करने और **बहुपक्षीय वित्तीय संस्थानों** में सुधार में समान हित हैं।
- However, **Pakistan's internal issues** — political churning, economic collapse, and misplaced priorities — have hindered collaboration. हालाँकि, **पाकिस्तान की आंतरिक समस्याएँ** — राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल, आर्थिक पतन, और गलत प्राथमिकताएँ — सहयोग में बाधा बनी हैं।
- Pakistan's term in the UNSC is expected to be **high on rhetoric against India** but unlikely to persuade UN member-states. UNSC में पाकिस्तान का कार्यकाल **भारत के खिलाफ बयानबाजी** से भरा रहेगा, लेकिन UN सदस्य देशों को मनाने में असफल रहेगा।

## The missing spotlight on urban local government polls

### GS Paper II: Urban Local Self-Governance

Urban local governments (ULGs) function as units of decentralised local self-governance, and are responsible for delivering civic services at the first mile, ensuring quality of life for citizens. The **74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA)** was introduced in 1992 to codify this role of ULGs. Over 30 years later, the objectives of this landmark amendment are yet to be realised. The ongoing discourse on simultaneous elections, popularly known as **One Nation One Election (ONOE)**, is a unique opportunity to spotlight a basic requirement of local democracy, i.e., elections to ULGs — a consideration that has generally been absent in deliberations on the ONOE.

#### 'State subjects' as reasoning

The 79th report of the Parliament Standing Committee on Law and Justice on the 'Feasibility of Simultaneous Elections,' submitted in 2015, while advocating simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, was silent on elections to ULGs. A discussion paper (2017) by the NITI Aayog, on 'Analysis of Simultaneous Elections', kept ULGs out of its purview, arguing that the third-tier institutions are State subjects and that the sheer number of such institutions across the country makes it "impractical, and possibly impossible, to synchronise elections". Similar reasoning is put forward in the 2018 draft report of the Law Commission of India on simultaneous elections. But in a refreshing departure, the High Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Government of India to provide a road map for implementation of simultaneous elections, deliberated on local body elections and recommended synchronising them within 100 days of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

India has over 4,800 ULGs that oversee nearly 40% of the population, a figure which is estimated to cross 50% by 2050. Cities are the backbone of the country's economy, contributing over 60% to India's GDP. Well-governed cities



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The ongoing discourse on simultaneous elections, or ONOE, is the right opportunity for change

accelerate economic growth, and promote social and cultural well being. Thus, ensuring regular elections to install democratically-elected governments in our cities every five years ought to be a matter of mainstream political discourse and policy formulation. The HLC report, which was accepted by the Union government in September 2024, touched upon the procedure of elections to local governments and is a good start in this direction. However, deeper analysis is necessary to understand and address the current state of affairs of elections to ULGs.

#### Uncertainty and delays in elections

It may come as a surprise to many that despite the constitutional mandate of holding elections to municipalities every five years, elections are routinely delayed across thousands of ULGs — sometimes by several years. According to the Compendium of Performance Audits on the Implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 (published by the Comptroller and Auditor General, or CAG of India in November 2024), elections were delayed in over 60% of ULGs across India. Such ULGs are directly governed by State governments, violating the principle of decentralisation as envisaged in the Constitution. This also adversely impacts accountability as citizens lack representation and have limited avenues for airing their grievances and development needs. Elections that are held on time are the *sine qua non* for democracy — not just for Parliament and the State legislatures but also for every municipality in the country.

Holding elections to ULGs is not enough. After the results are announced, the elected councils have to be operationalised with State governments calling for their first meeting to enable elections to the offices of mayors/chairpersons and standing committees. A study undertaken by Janaagraha found that there was a delay by 11 months on average in the formation of councils after the declaration of election results of the municipal corporations in

Karnataka. In effect, ULGs continue to function under the administrative control of State governments. This defeats the electoral mandate given by the people, making elected city councillors powerless to attend to the development needs of their electorate.

#### Disempowered State Election Commissions

Another important issue is the disempowerment of the State Election Commissions (SECs), which are constitutional bodies responsible for supervising and conducting ULG elections. The CAG report notes that only four out of the 15 States assessed have empowered their SECs to carry out ward delimitation. The report further notes that elections to ULGs were delayed due to a delay in ward delimitation by State governments or because of court cases regarding reservations. Given the high political ramifications of ward delimitation and reservation exercises, it is necessary that these functions are carried out by independent authorities such as the SECs.

A holistic analysis of the challenges in conducting elections to ULGs promptly is important in the ongoing national discourse on the synchronisation of elections. There is an urgent need to build on the beginning made by the HLC to effect the reforms necessary in ULG elections.

The Government of India has proposed setting up an implementation group to prepare a plan of action that would execute the HLC's recommendations. The government has also expressed its intent to have consultations across the country on this topic. It is hoped and expected that the agenda for reforms to ensure regular and scheduled elections to ULGs will feature in these dialogues and that the Union and State governments will come together to make local democracy in our cities operational and vibrant.

*The views expressed are personal*





## The missing spotlight on urban local government polls

### शहरी स्थानीय सरकार चुनावों पर लापता ध्यान

Urban local governments (ULGs) function as units of decentralised local self-governance, responsible for delivering civic services at the first mile, ensuring quality of life for citizens.

शहरी स्थानीय सरकारें (ULGs) विकेंद्रीकृत स्थानीय स्व-शासन के इकाइयाँ के रूप में कार्य करती हैं, जो पहले मील पर नागरिक सेवाओं की आपूर्ति के लिए जिम्मेदार होती हैं, नागरिकों के जीवन स्तर को सुनिश्चित करती हैं।

- The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) was introduced in 1992 to codify this role of ULGs.

74वीं संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम (CAA) 1992 में ULGs की भूमिका को संहिताबद्ध करने के लिए पेश किया गया था।

- Over 30 years later, the objectives of this landmark amendment are yet to be realised.

30 साल बाद भी, इस ऐतिहासिक संशोधन के उद्देश्य अभी तक पूरे नहीं हुए हैं।

- The ongoing discourse on simultaneous elections, popularly known as One Nation One Election (ONOE), is a unique opportunity to spotlight a basic requirement of local democracy, i.e., elections to ULGs.

समान चुनावों पर चल रही चर्चा, जिसे लोकप्रिय रूप से 'एक राष्ट्र एक चुनाव' (ONOE) के नाम से जाना जाता है, स्थानीय लोकतंत्र की एक बुनियादी आवश्यकता, अर्थात्, ULGs के चुनावों को रेखांकित करने का एक अनूठा अवसर है।

- The 79th report of the Parliament Standing Committee on Law and Justice on the 'Feasibility of Simultaneous Elections,' submitted in 2015, while advocating simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, was silent on elections to ULGs.

लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभा के लिए समान चुनावों की वकालत करते हुए, 2015 में संसद के स्थायी समिति के 'समान चुनावों की व्यवहार्यता' पर प्रस्तुत 79वीं रिपोर्ट, ULGs के चुनावों पर चुप रही।

- A discussion paper (2017) by the NITI Aayog, on 'Analysis of Simultaneous Elections', kept ULGs out of its purview, arguing that the third-tier institutions are State subjects and that the sheer number of such institutions across the country makes it "impractical, and possibly impossible, to synchronise elections".

NITI Aayog द्वारा 2017 में प्रस्तुत एक चर्चा पत्र 'समान चुनावों का विश्लेषण' में ULGs को अपने दायरे से बाहर रखा गया, यह तर्क करते हुए कि तीसरी श्रेणी की संस्थाएँ राज्य विषय हैं और देशभर में ऐसी संस्थाओं की भारी संख्या के कारण चुनावों का समन्वय "अव्यावहारिक, और शायद असंभव" है।

- Similar reasoning is put forward in the 2018 draft report of the Law Commission of India on simultaneous elections.





समान तर्क भारत के कानून आयोग की 2018 की ड्राफ्ट रिपोर्ट में भी प्रस्तुत किया गया है जो समान चुनावों पर है।

- The High Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Government of India to provide a road map for implementation of simultaneous elections deliberated on local body elections and recommended synchronising them within 100 days of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

भारत सरकार द्वारा समान चुनावों के कार्यान्वयन के लिए रोडमैप प्रदान करने के लिए गठित उच्च स्तरीय समिति (HLC) ने स्थानीय निकाय चुनावों पर विचार किया और लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभा के समान चुनावों के 100 दिनों के भीतर इनका समन्वय करने की सिफारिश की।

- India has over 4,800 ULGs that oversee nearly 40% of the population, a figure which is estimated to cross 50% by 2050.

भारत में 4,800 से अधिक ULGs हैं जो लगभग 40% जनसंख्या का प्रबंधन करते हैं, जो 2050 तक 50% को पार करने का अनुमान है।

- Cities are the backbone of the country's economy, contributing over 60% to India's GDP. शहर देश की अर्थव्यवस्था की रीढ़ हैं, जो भारत के GDP में 60% से अधिक योगदान करते हैं।
- Well-governed cities accelerate economic growth, and promote social and cultural well-being.

अच्छी तरह से शासित शहर आर्थिक विकास को गति देते हैं, और सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक कल्याण को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

- Ensuring regular elections to install democratically-elected governments in our cities every five years ought to be a matter of mainstream political discourse and policy formulation.

हमारे शहरों में हर पांच साल में लोकतांत्रिक रूप से चुनी गई सरकारों की स्थापना के लिए नियमित चुनावों को सुनिश्चित करना मुख्यधारा की राजनीतिक चर्चा और नीति निर्माण का विषय होना चाहिए।

- The HLC report, which was accepted by the Union government in September 2024, touched upon the procedure of elections to local governments and is a good start in this direction.

HLC रिपोर्ट, जिसे सितंबर 2024 में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा स्वीकार किया गया, ने स्थानीय सरकारों के चुनाव की प्रक्रिया पर चर्चा की और इस दिशा में एक अच्छा प्रारंभ है।

- However, deeper analysis is necessary to understand and address the current state of affairs of elections to ULGs.

हालाँकि, ULGs के चुनावों की वर्तमान स्थिति को समझने और संबोधित करने के लिए गहरी विश्लेषण की आवश्यकता है।

- It may come as a surprise to many that despite the constitutional mandate of holding elections to municipalities every five years, elections are routinely delayed across thousands of ULGs — sometimes by several years.

यह कई लोगों के लिए आश्चर्यजनक हो सकता है कि संविधानिक आदेश के बावजूद कि हर पांच साल में नगरपालिका चुनाव कराए जाएं, हजारों ULGs में चुनाव नियमित रूप से विलंबित होते हैं - कभी-कभी तो कई वर्षों तक।





- According to the Compendium of Performance Audits on the Implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 (published by the Comptroller and Auditor General, or CAG of India in November 2024), elections were delayed in over 60% of ULGs across India.

74वीं संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम, 1992 (जो नवंबर 2024 में भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया) पर प्रदर्शन लेखापरीक्षण के संकलन के अनुसार, भारत भर में 60% से अधिक ULGs में चुनावों में देरी हुई।

- Such ULGs are directly governed by State governments, violating the principle of decentralisation as envisaged in the Constitution.

इस प्रकार के ULGs सीधे राज्य सरकारों द्वारा शासित होते हैं, जो संविधान में वर्णित विकेंद्रीकरण के सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन करते हैं।

- Elections that are held on time are the sine qua non for democracy — not just for Parliament and the State legislatures but also for every municipality in the country.

समय पर आयोजित होने वाले चुनाव लोकतंत्र के लिए आवश्यक शर्त हैं - न केवल संसद और राज्य विधानसभाओं के लिए, बल्कि देश के हर नगरपालिका के लिए भी।

- Holding elections to ULGs is not enough. After the results are announced, the elected councils have to be operationalised with State governments calling for their first meeting to enable elections to the offices of mayors/chairpersons and standing committees.

ULGs के चुनावों का आयोजन पर्याप्त नहीं है। परिणाम घोषित होने के बाद, चुने हुए परिषदों को कार्यात्मक बनाना आवश्यक है, राज्य सरकारों द्वारा उनके पहले बैठक के लिए बुलाया जाता है ताकि मेयर/अध्यक्ष और स्थायी समितियों के पदों के चुनाव को सक्षम किया जा सके।

- A study undertaken by Janaagraha found that there was a delay by 11 months on average in the formation of councils after the declaration of election results of the municipal corporations in Karnataka.

जनाagraha द्वारा किए गए एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि कर्नाटका में नगरपालिका निगमों के चुनाव परिणामों की घोषणा के बाद परिषदों के गठन में औसतन 11 महीने की देरी हुई।

- In effect, ULGs continue to function under the administrative control of State governments.

वास्तव में, ULGs राज्य सरकारों के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण में कार्य करती रहती हैं।

- This defeats the electoral mandate given by the people, making elected city councillors powerless to attend to the development needs of their electorate.

यह लोगों द्वारा दिया गया चुनावी जनादेश पराजित करता है, जिससे चुने हुए नगर निगम पार्षदों को अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र की विकासात्मक आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने में अक्षम बना देता है।

- Another important issue is the disempowerment of the State Election Commissions (SECs), which are constitutional bodies responsible for supervising and conducting ULG elections.

एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा राज्य चुनाव आयोगों (SECs) का शक्तिहीन होना है, जो संविधानिक निकाय होते हैं और ULG चुनावों की निगरानी और संचालन के लिए जिम्मेदार होते हैं।

- The CAG report notes that only four out of the 15 States assessed have empowered their SECs to carry out ward delimitation.





CAG रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 15 राज्यों में से केवल चार राज्यों ने अपने SECs को वाई सीमा निर्धारण करने के लिए सक्षम किया है।

- The report further notes that elections to ULGs were delayed due to a delay in ward delimitation by State governments or because of court cases regarding reservations.

PCS

## A legend, made

Gukesh is first among a cohort of young Indian chess geniuses to reach pinnacle

**E**ighteen-year-old D. Gukesh has made history by becoming the 18th world chess champion, which will make him the youngest to do so and emulating the doyen of Indian chess, Viswanathan Anand, the only other Indian to achieve the honour. Gukesh managed his feat after a blunder made by the reigning world champion, Ding Liren of China, on the 55th move, Rf2, in the 14th and final classical game of the match. The game was headed towards a draw, but with Gukesh pressing for any advantage in a rook-bishop-pawn endgame and having an extra pawn, it took just one misstep for Ding to lose his crown. Ding was in poor form prior to the match but the Chinese GM proved his mettle by winning the first game, setting up a strong contest. Gukesh won Game 4 to tie the match and after a series of draws, Gukesh played an enterprising Game 11 to take the lead; Ding fought back brilliantly to tie the match again with a strong win in Game 12. The strategies of both players were evident. Gukesh played strong openings and exhibited tenacity in trying to gain advantages in near equal positions as the games progressed. Ding's plan seemed to be to secure a stalemate in the classical games and to drag the match into the shorter rapid and if need be, blitz formats, and to use his strength in terms of experience. Sticking to his strategy of pushing through equal positions, Gukesh had the last laugh.

The Chennai-born Grandmaster's mental toughness and wisdom beyond his age have been his calling card. His steady rise was due to his dedication and his accelerated path to glory was helped by the work done by his seconds – Gukesh revealed their names only after the match – besides the mentoring by GM Anand's West-Bridge Anand Chess Academy. His versatile game, built on an innate ability to calculate moves deeply on the board, kept him in good stead against his more experienced opponent. The surge of young Indian talent to the top echelons of world chess in recent years – compatriot GMs Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa are in the top 15 along with Gukesh – raised expectations of another Indian world champion in chess. The youngsters have pushed each other to do their best. Gukesh won a strong Candidates tournament to emerge as Ding's challenger and his prowess was evident following his individual gold winning performances in the Chennai and Budapest Chess Olympiads, the latter being India's first gold in the team event. His next frontier would be to reach the heights scaled by the world's strongest chess player, Magnus Carlsen. Gukesh becoming the world champion would also motivate his Indian compatriots and will add a fillip to the growth of modern chess as a sport and vocation in the country of its birth.

## A legend, made एक किंवदंती, बनी

- **Eighteen-year-old D. Gukesh** has made history by becoming the **18th world chess champion**, making him the **youngest** to achieve this feat and emulating **Viswanathan Anand**, the only other Indian to achieve this honor.

18 साल के डी. गुकेश ने इतिहास रचते हुए 18वां विश्व शतरंज चैंपियन बनने का कीर्तिमान स्थापित किया, जिससे वह सबसे कम उम्र में यह खिताब जीतने वाले खिलाड़ी बने और उन्होंने विश्वनाथन आनंद की तरह इस सम्मान को हासिल किया, जो इस सम्मान को प्राप्त करने वाले एकमात्र अन्य भारतीय हैं।

- Gukesh managed his feat after a **blunder made by the reigning world champion, Ding Liren of China**, on the 55th move, Rf2, in the **14th and final classical game of the match**.

गुकेश ने यह उपलब्धि विश्व चैंपियन, डिंग लिरेन (चीन) द्वारा मैच के \*\*14वें और अंतिम शास्त्रीय खेल में 55वें कदम पर किए गए गलती, Rf2, के बाद हासिल की।

- The game was headed towards a draw, but with **Gukesh pressing for any advantage** in a **rook-bishop-pawn endgame** and having an extra pawn, it took just one misstep for Ding to lose his crown.

खेल ड्रॉ की ओर बढ़ रहा था, लेकिन गुकेश ने किसी भी लाभ के लिए दबाव बनाया शह और प्यादा खत्म करने वाले खेल में और उनके पास एक अतिरिक्त प्यादा था, और एक गलती से डिंग अपनी ताज खो बैठे।

- Ding was in poor form prior to the match but proved his mettle by winning the **first game**, setting up a strong contest.

डिंग मैच से पहले खराब फॉर्म में थे लेकिन उन्होंने पहला खेल जीतकर अपनी ताकत का प्रदर्शन किया और एक मजबूत मुकाबला स्थापित किया।

- Gukesh won **Game 4** to tie the match and after a series of draws, Gukesh played an enterprising **Game 11** to take the lead.

गुकेश ने गेम 4 जीतकर मैच को बराबरी पर लाया और ड्रॉ के बाद की एक श्रृंखला में, गुकेश ने एक साहसी गेम 11 खेलकर बढ़त बना ली।

- Ding fought back brilliantly to tie the match again with a strong win in **Game 12**.

डिंग ने शानदार तरीके से मुकाबला किया और गेम 12 में मजबूत जीत के साथ मैच को फिर से बराबरी पर किया।





- The strategies of both players were evident. Gukesh played **strong openings** and exhibited **tenacity** in trying to gain advantages in near equal positions.  
दोनों खिलाड़ियों की रणनीतियाँ स्पष्ट थीं। गुकेश ने **मजबूत उद्घाटन** खेले और लगभग समान स्थितियों में लाभ प्राप्त करने की **दृढ़ता** दिखाई।
- Ding's plan seemed to be to secure a **stalemate** in the classical games and to drag the match into the shorter **rapid** and, if needed, **blitz formats**.  
डिंग की योजना शास्त्रीय खेलों में **स्थिरता** हासिल करने और मैच को **रैपिड** और अगर जरूरत पड़ी तो **ब्लिट्ज फॉर्मेट्स** में ले जाने की लग रही थी।
- Gukesh's mental toughness and wisdom beyond his age have been his calling card.  
गुकेश की मानसिक दृढ़ता और अपनी उम्र से परे उनकी समझ उनके पहचान चिह्न रही है।
- His steady rise was due to his dedication and his accelerated path to glory was helped by the work done by his **seconds**, besides the mentoring by **GM Anand's WestBridge Anand Chess Academy**.  
उनकी लगातार सफलता उनके समर्पण के कारण रही और उनके तेजी से महानता की ओर बढ़ने में उनके **सेकंड** द्वारा किया गया काम और **GM आनंद की वेस्टब्रिज आनंद चैस एकेडमी** द्वारा मार्गदर्शन ने मदद की।
- His **versatile game**, built on an innate ability to **calculate moves deeply on the board**, kept him in good stead against his more experienced opponent.  
उनका **विविध खेल**, जो **बोर्ड पर गहरे तरीके से चालों का हिसाब करने की जन्मजात क्षमता** पर आधारित था, ने उन्हें अपने अधिक अनुभवी प्रतिद्वंदी के खिलाफ सफलता दिलाई।
- The surge of young Indian talent to the top echelons of world chess has raised expectations of another Indian world champion in chess.  
विश्व शतरंज में युवा भारतीय प्रतिभाओं का उभार शतरंज में एक और भारतीय विश्व चैंपियन की उम्मीदों को बढ़ा रहा है।
- Gukesh won a strong **Candidates tournament** to emerge as **Ding's challenger** and his prowess was evident following his individual gold-winning performances in the **Chennai** and **Budapest Chess Olympiads**, the latter being India's **first gold in the team event**.  
गुकेश ने **कैंडिडेट्स टूर्नामेंट** जीतकर **डिंग के चुनौतीकर्ता** के रूप में उभरे और उनकी प्रवीणता **चेन्नई** और **बुडापेस्ट चैस ओलंपियाड्स** में व्यक्तिगत स्वर्ण जीतने के बाद स्पष्ट हुई, जिसमें बाद वाला **टीम इवेंट में भारत का पहला स्वर्ण** था।
- His next frontier would be to reach the heights scaled by the world's strongest chess player, **Magnus Carlsen**.  
उनका अगला मोर्चा दुनिया के सबसे मजबूत शतरंज खिलाड़ी, **मैग्नस कार्लसन**, द्वारा मापी गई ऊंचाइयों को छूने का होगा।
- Gukesh becoming the world champion would also motivate his Indian compatriots and will add a flip to the growth of modern chess as a sport and vocation in the country of its birth.  
गुकेश का विश्व चैंपियन बनना उनके भारतीय साथी खिलाड़ियों को प्रेरित करेगा और यह शतरंज के खेल और व्यवसाय के रूप में भारत में इसके विकास को एक नया आयाम देगा।



# Should the executive have the power to pardon?

GS Paper II: Pardonning Power

PARLEY

**U**nited States President Joe Biden's recent decision to pardon his son Hunter Biden for any federal crimes he committed or may have committed between January 1, 2014, and December 1, 2024 has brought renewed focus on the expansive clemency powers granted to the President by the U.S. Constitution. The President's volte-face has provoked strong condemnation from both Republicans and Democrats. Should the executive possess clemency powers? Sanjay Hedge and Alok Prasanna Kumar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Aaratrika Bhaumik. Edited excerpts:

**Should the executive power of clemency rest with the legislature to avert misuse?**

**Sanjay Hedge:** Vesting clemency powers in the legislature could prove equally susceptible to corruption and majority rule. Historically, the power to pardon originated from the British monarchy as an attribute of sovereignty, enabling the king to absolve any wrongdoing. Even today, the Constitution acknowledges scenarios where it is imperative to trust a high officeholder to judiciously exercise such discretionary authority when required.

**Alok Prasanna Kumar:** I agree. During the debates on the U.S. Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, acknowledged that the exercise of clemency is inherently political and cannot be reduced to a purely legal process. He argued that this power should be vested in a single constitutional officeholder, instead of being subjected to the whims of collective discretion. He also pointed out that the power of pardon introduced an element of mercy, which he believed was necessary to temper the rigours of the criminal justice system. He saw it as a means for true justice to prevail in cases where the law could not account for circumstances or moral factors beyond the scope of judicial proceedings.

**Should an independent clemency commission replace the existing system to ensure more objective and informed decision-making?**

**APK:** Even if an independent clemency commission were established, its advice would not be binding on the President. While the President may seek a range of information to make a reasoned decision, as former President Harry Truman famously stated, "the buck stops here." Transparency is important, and in today's age of social media and a free press, the public



U.S. President Joe Biden with his son Hunter Biden at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. REUTERS

will likely be aware of the reasons behind a presidential decision. However, that does not guarantee that every decision will be immediately acceptable to the public at large.

**SH:** The public doesn't always agree with clemency decisions. One of the most notable examples is when U.S. President Gerald Ford pardoned his predecessor, Richard Nixon. He believed that the country had endured enough during the Watergate scandal and that the matter should be put to rest, as Nixon had already been punished by losing the presidency. He felt that a criminal trial would only prolong the nation's agony. At the time, special prosecutor Leon Jaworski chose not to challenge this decision.

In contrast, the clemency system in India has not been widely abused. Former Presidents such as A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Pratibha Patil have only sat on files, exercising a pocket veto whenever they disagreed with government advice. The pardon jurisdiction for non-capital offences has rarely been exercised.

**Would expanding the scope of judicial review over executive clemency decisions prevent potential overreach or misuse?**

**SH:** I don't think the U.S. will ever adopt such a system. President-elect Donald Trump has expressed an inclination to pardon rioters involved in the January 6, 2021, Capitol attack. There are also speculations that President Biden may pre-emptively pardon several individuals before he demits office. I doubt the judiciary will step in to second-guess the President's authority in these matters.

In India, both the President and the Governor



When it comes to clemency, defining what constitutes abuse or misuse is challenging, especially when the power itself is not clearly defined. For example, in 20 years, one might argue that granting clemency to Hunter Biden was one of Joe Biden's best decisions. We lack the foresight to deem such decisions egregiously wrong at this moment.

ALOK KUMAR PRASANNA

act on the aid and advice of the Cabinet. In fact, the Supreme Court in *Epiru Sudhakar v. State of Andhra Pradesh* (2006) affirmed that a Governor's grant of pardon could be challenged in court if it was found to be mala fide or based on irrelevant considerations.

**APK:** I don't believe that clemency decisions can be judicially reviewable. The concept of mercy is inherently subjective, and there cannot be one inalienable understanding of it. We also have to understand that constitutional functionaries inevitably bring their personal biases to bear on these decisions. While courts, as seen in India, may intervene in instances of procedural violations, there are no definitive legal benchmarks to determine what constitutes an appropriate exercise of clemency. Ultimately, it is unreasonable to assert that mercy should have one fixed meaning under the Constitution, or that clemency should be confined to a specific category of political cases.

**Should U.S. Congress play a greater role in the process? For instance, the Protecting Our Democracy Act, reintroduced in Congress last year, mandates the White House disclose all materials the President relies on when exercising clemency powers.**

**SH:** Even if Congress were to pass a law, it could only serve to guide the process. Clemency powers are unique – they speak to the inherent humanity shared by both the one who grants mercy and the one who receives it. There may be cases where a penalty has been imposed and the legal process is complete, yet new evidence emerges that calls for reconsideration. It is impossible to legislate strict standards, especially since they would never be binding. We have seen this discretionary authority play out when President Andrew Johnson pardoned Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd, the physician who treated John Wilkes Booth's broken leg after he assassinated Abraham Lincoln.

**APK:** No law can entirely prevent its misuse. If

someone in a position of authority is determined to break the law, there is little the law itself can do to stop them. While mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that such actions have stringent repercussions, total prevention is impossible to attain. For instance, we see police officers routinely abuse their powers of arrest.

When it comes to clemency, defining what constitutes abuse or misuse is challenging, especially when the power itself is not clearly defined. For example, in 20 years, one might argue that granting clemency to Hunter Biden was one of the best decisions made by Joe Biden. We lack the foresight to deem such decisions egregiously wrong at this moment.

**What reforms are necessary in India's clemency process, and what lessons can be drawn from the Hunter Biden case?**

**SH:** Given the nature of the power, one can at best have guidelines. However, ultimately executive discretion has to be trusted. We have seen our former Presidents exhibit varied views regarding the death penalty. One can also see how gubernatorial discretion played out in the release of A.G. Perarivalan, one of the convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The Governor obstructed his release despite the Tamil Nadu government's recommendation. Ultimately, the Supreme Court had to intervene and order his release. The use of clemency powers in the case also signified the closing of a long and painful chapter. While public curiosity may lead to second-guessing these decisions, it is often not in the greater public interest to do so.

**APK:** I believe comprehensive reforms are needed in the system of release of convicts. The Supreme Court is already cognisant of a batch of petitions on this issue. We need to prioritise reformative justice. Reformation is only achievable when individuals are given the assurance that, through good behaviour and genuine repentance, they may earn an early release – serving, for instance, seven years instead of 14. While these convicts have been incarcerated for legitimate reasons, the state must focus on their rehabilitation, as some of them have the potential to become valuable members of society. We should expedite processes like parole and remission, ensuring mercy extends beyond just death penalty cases.



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## Should the executive have the power to pardon?

## क्या कार्यपालिका के पास माफी देने की शक्ति होनी चाहिए?

United States President Joe Biden's recent decision to pardon his son Hunter Biden for any federal crimes committed between January 1, 2014, and December 1, 2024 has brought focus on the clemency powers granted to the President by the U.S. Constitution.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन के द्वारा उनके बेटे हंटर बाइडन





को जनवरी 1, 2014 से दिसंबर 1, 2024 तक किए गए किसी भी संघीय अपराध के लिए माफी देने के निर्णय ने राष्ट्रपति को प्रदान की गई माफी की शक्तियों पर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।

- This decision has provoked strong condemnation from both **Republicans and Democrats**. Should the executive possess clemency powers?  
इस निर्णय ने गणराज्यवादी और डेमोक्रेट्स दोनों से कड़ी निंदा प्राप्त की है। क्या कार्यपालिका के पास माफी देने की शक्ति होनी चाहिए?
- **Sanjay Hegde**: Vesting clemency powers in the **legislature** could prove equally susceptible to **corruption** and **majority rule**. Historically, the power to pardon originated from the **British monarchy** as an attribute of **sovereignty**.  
**संजय हेगड़े**: माफी की शक्तियों को विधायिका में देना उतना ही भ्रष्टाचार और बहुमत शासन के प्रति संवेदनशील हो सकता है। ऐतिहासिक रूप से, माफी देने की शक्ति ब्रिटिश राजशाही से उत्पन्न हुई थी, जिसे सार्वभौमत्व का प्रतीक माना जाता था।
- **Alok Prasanna Kumar**: I agree. During the debates on the **U.S. Constitution**, **Alexander Hamilton**, the first **Secretary of the Treasury**, acknowledged that the exercise of clemency is inherently **political** and cannot be reduced to a purely **legal process**.  
**आलोक प्रसन्न कुमार**: मैं सहमत हूँ। संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका संविधान पर बहस के दौरान, एलेक्जेंडर हैमिल्टन, जो पहले कोषागार सचिव थे, ने स्वीकार किया कि माफी देने की प्रक्रिया स्वभाव से राजनीतिक होती है और इसे केवल एक कानूनी प्रक्रिया में नहीं बदला जा सकता।
- Hamilton argued that this power should be vested in a **single constitutional officeholder**, instead of being subjected to the whims of **collective discretion**.  
हैमिल्टन ने तर्क किया कि यह शक्ति एकल संवैधानिक कार्यालयधारी को दी जानी चाहिए, बजाय इसके कि यह सामूहिक विवेक के प्रभाव में हो।
- Hamilton saw clemency as a means for **true justice** to prevail when the law could not account for **circumstances** or **moral factors** beyond the scope of judicial proceedings.  
हैमिल्टन ने माफी को सच्चे न्याय के रूप में देखा, जब कानून न्यायिक कार्यवाही की सीमा से परे परिस्थितियों या नैतिक कारकों का हिसाब नहीं कर सकता था।
- **Alok Prasanna Kumar**: Even if an independent clemency commission were established, its advice would not be **binding** on the President.  
**आलोक प्रसन्न कुमार**: यहां तक कि अगर एक स्वतंत्र माफी आयोग स्थापित किया जाए, तो इसका सलाह राष्ट्रपति पर बाध्यकारी नहीं होगी।
- The President may seek a range of information to make a reasoned decision, as former President **Harry Truman** stated, "**the buck stops here**."  
राष्ट्रपति एक विचारशील निर्णय लेने के लिए विभिन्न प्रकार की जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं, जैसा कि पूर्व राष्ट्रपति हैरी ट्रूमैन ने कहा था, "यहां पर निर्णय आता है।"
- In the current age of **social media** and a **free press**, the public will likely be aware of the reasons behind a presidential decision, but it does not guarantee universal acceptance.  
**सोशल मीडिया और स्वतंत्र प्रेस** के इस वर्तमान युग में, सार्वजनिक रूप से राष्ट्रपति के निर्णय के





पीछे के कारणों को जानने की संभावना है, लेकिन इसका मतलब यह नहीं कि हर निर्णय को सार्वभौमिक रूप से स्वीकार किया जाएगा।

- **Sanjay Hegde:** The public doesn't always agree with clemency decisions. One notable example is when **U.S. President Gerald Ford** pardoned his predecessor **Richard Nixon** after the **Watergate scandal**.

**संजय हेगड़े:** सार्वजनिक रूप से माफी देने के निर्णयों से हमेशा सहमति नहीं होती। एक प्रमुख उदाहरण है जब **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति जेराल्ड फोर्ड** ने **वाटरगेट कांड** के बाद अपने पूर्ववर्ती **रिचर्ड निक्सन** को माफ किया।

- Ford believed that the country had endured enough during the scandal and that the matter should be put to rest as Nixon had already been punished by **losing the presidency**.

फोर्ड का मानना था कि देश ने कांड के दौरान काफी कष्ट झेले हैं और इस मामले को समाप्त कर देना चाहिए क्योंकि निक्सन को पहले ही **राष्ट्रपति पद खोकर** सजा मिल चुकी थी।

- In contrast, the clemency system in **India** has not been widely abused. Former Presidents such as **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** and **Pratibha Patil** have rarely exercised their power of pardon for **non-capital offenses**.

इसके विपरीत, **भारत** में माफी देने की प्रणाली का व्यापक रूप से दुरुपयोग नहीं किया गया है।

पूर्व राष्ट्रपति जैसे **ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम** और **प्रतीभा पाटिल** ने **गैर-मौत के अपराधों** के लिए शायद ही कभी अपनी माफी की शक्ति का उपयोग किया है।

## Expanding the Scope of Judicial Review Over Executive Clemency Decisions

### कार्यकारी क्षमादान निर्णयों पर न्यायिक समीक्षा के दायरे का विस्तार करना

- **SH:** I don't think the U.S. will ever adopt such a system. President-elect **Donald Trump** has expressed an inclination to pardon rioters involved in the **January 6, 2021, Capitol attack**. There are also speculations that **President Biden** may pre-emptively pardon several individuals before he demits office. I doubt the judiciary will step in to second-guess the President's authority in these matters.

**SH:** मुझे नहीं लगता कि यू.एस. कभी ऐसा प्रणाली अपनाएगा। **राष्ट्रपति-निर्वाचित डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प** ने **6 जनवरी 2021** को हुए **कैपिटल हमले** में शामिल दंगाइयों को क्षमा करने की इच्छा व्यक्त की है। इसके अलावा, ऐसी अटकलें हैं कि **राष्ट्रपति बाइडन** अपने कार्यालय छोड़ने से पहले कई व्यक्तियों को पहले से क्षमा कर सकते हैं। मुझे संदेह है कि न्यायपालिका इन मामलों में राष्ट्रपति की अधिकारिता को लेकर हस्तक्षेप करेगी।

- In **India**, both the **President** and the **Governor** act on the aid and advice of the **Cabinet**. In fact, the **Supreme Court** in **Eperu Sudhakar v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2006)** affirmed that a Governor's grant of pardon could be challenged in court if it was found to be **mala fide** or based on irrelevant considerations.

**भारत** में, **राष्ट्रपति** और **राज्यपाल** दोनों **कैबिनेट** की सलाह और सहायता पर कार्य करते हैं। वास्तव में, **एपुरु सुधाकर बनाम राज्य आंध्र प्रदेश (2006)** मामले में, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने यह पुष्टि की कि





यदि राज्यपाल का क्षमादान **मलाफाइड** या अप्रासंगिक विचारों पर आधारित पाया जाए तो इसे न्यायालय में चुनौती दी जा सकती है।

- **APK:** I don't believe that clemency decisions can be judicially reviewable. The concept of mercy is inherently subjective, and there cannot be one inalienable understanding of it. We also have to understand that constitutional functionaries inevitably bring their personal biases to bear on these decisions.

**APK:** मुझे नहीं लगता कि क्षमादान निर्णयों की न्यायिक समीक्षा की जा सकती है। **दया** का सिद्धांत स्वाभाविक रूप से व्यक्तिपरक है, और इसका कोई **अवधारणीय** समझ नहीं हो सकती। हमें यह भी समझना होगा कि संवैधानिक अधिकारी इन निर्णयों में अनिवार्य रूप से अपनी व्यक्तिगत पक्षपाती सोच को प्रभावित करते हैं।

- While courts, as seen in **India**, may intervene in instances of **procedural violations**, there are no definitive legal benchmarks to determine what constitutes an appropriate exercise of clemency. Ultimately, it is unreasonable to assert that mercy should have one fixed meaning under the **Constitution**, or that clemency should be confined to a specific category of political cases.

जबकि **भारत** में अदालतें **प्रक्रियात्मक उल्लंघनों** के मामलों में हस्तक्षेप कर सकती हैं, लेकिन यह निर्धारित करने के लिए कोई स्पष्ट कानूनी मानदंड नहीं हैं कि क्या एक उचित क्षमादान का अभ्यास है। अंततः यह असंगत है कि दया का संविधान के तहत एक **निश्चित** अर्थ होना चाहिए, या कि क्षमादान को केवल एक विशिष्ट **राजनीतिक मामले** के श्रेणी तक सीमित किया जाना चाहिए।

- **Should U.S. Congress play a greater role in the process? For instance, the Protecting Our Democracy Act**, reintroduced in **Congress** last year, mandates the White House disclose all materials the President relies on when exercising clemency powers.

**क्या अमेरिकी कांग्रेस को इस प्रक्रिया में बड़ा भूमिका निभानी चाहिए? उदाहरण के लिए, Protecting Our Democracy Act**, जो पिछले साल कांग्रेस में फिर से पेश किया गया था, **व्हाइट हाउस** को यह अनिवार्य करता है कि वह राष्ट्रपति द्वारा क्षमादान शक्ति का प्रयोग करते समय **जिन सामग्री पर निर्भर रहता है, उसे सार्वजनिक करे।**

- **SH:** Even if Congress were to pass a law, it could only serve to guide the process. Clemency powers are unique — they speak to the inherent humanity shared by both the one who grants mercy and the one who receives it. There may be cases where a penalty has been imposed and the legal process is complete, yet new evidence emerges that calls for reconsideration.

**SH:** भले ही कांग्रेस एक कानून पारित करे, यह केवल प्रक्रिया को मार्गदर्शन देने के रूप में कार्य कर सकता है। क्षमादान शक्तियाँ अद्वितीय हैं – वे उस **स्वाभाविक मानवता** को व्यक्त करती हैं जो दया देने वाले और उसे प्राप्त करने वाले दोनों में साझा होती है। ऐसे मामले हो सकते हैं जहां एक दंड लगाया गया हो और कानूनी प्रक्रिया पूरी हो, फिर भी **नया प्रमाण सामने आता है जो पुनः विचारण की आवश्यकता करता है।**

- It is impossible to legislate strict standards, especially since they would never be binding. We have seen this discretionary authority play out when **President Andrew Johnson** pardoned **Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd**, the physician who treated **John Wilkes Booth's** broken leg after he assassinated **Abraham Lincoln**.





कठोर मानकों को कानूनी रूप से लागू करना असंभव है, खासकर क्योंकि वे कभी बाध्यकारी नहीं होंगे। हमने देखा है कि यह **विवेकाधीन अधिकार** तब काम आता है जब **राष्ट्रपति एंड्रयू जॉनसन** ने **डॉ. सैम्युअल अलेक्जेंडर मड्ड** को क्षमा किया, जो उस चिकित्सक थे जिन्होंने **जॉन विल्क्स बुथ** के **एब्रहाम लिंकन** की हत्या के बाद उसके टूटे पैर का इलाज किया था।

- **APK:** No law can entirely prevent its misuse. If someone in a position of authority is determined to break the law, there is little the law itself can do to stop them. While mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that such actions have stringent repercussions, total prevention is impossible to attain.

**APK:** कोई भी कानून इसके दुरुपयोग को पूरी तरह से रोक नहीं सकता। यदि कोई अधिकार प्राप्त व्यक्ति **कानून** को तोड़ने का दृढ़ संकल्प करता है, तो **कानून** उसे रोकने के लिए बहुत कुछ नहीं कर सकता। जबकि ऐसे कार्रवाइयों के लिए सख्त परिणाम सुनिश्चित करने के लिए तंत्र स्थापित किया जा सकता है, कुल रोकथाम असंभव है।

- For instance, we see police officers routinely abuse their powers of arrest. When it comes to clemency, defining what constitutes abuse or misuse is challenging, especially when the power itself is not clearly defined.

उदाहरण के लिए, हम पुलिस अधिकारियों को नियमित रूप से अपनी गिरफ्तारी शक्तियों का दुरुपयोग करते हुए देखते हैं। जब बात क्षमादान की आती है, तो यह परिभाषित करना कि दुरुपयोग या गलत उपयोग क्या है, चुनौतीपूर्ण है, खासकर जब शक्ति खुद स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित न हो।

- For example, in 20 years, one might argue that granting clemency to **Hunter Biden** was one of the best decisions made by **Joe Biden**. We lack the foresight to deem such decisions egregiously wrong at this moment.

उदाहरण के लिए, **20 साल** बाद, कोई यह तर्क कर सकता है कि **हंटर बाइडन** को क्षमा देना जो **बाइडन** द्वारा लिया गया सबसे अच्छा निर्णय था। हमारे पास इस समय ऐसे निर्णयों को **गंभीर** रूप से गलत मानने की दूरदृष्टि नहीं है।

- **What reforms are necessary in India's clemency process, and what lessons can be drawn from the Hunter Biden case?**

**भारत के क्षमादान प्रक्रिया में कौन-सी सुधारों की आवश्यकता है, और हंटर बाइडन मामले से कौन-सी सीख ली जा सकती है?**

- **SH:** Given the nature of the power, one can at best have guidelines. However, ultimately executive discretion has to be trusted. We have seen our former Presidents exhibit varied views regarding the **death penalty**. One can also see how gubernatorial discretion played out in the release of **A.G. Perarivalan**, one of the convicts in the **Rajiv Gandhi assassination case**.

**SH:** शक्ति के स्वभाव को देखते हुए, सबसे अच्छा जो किया जा सकता है वह है दिशानिर्देश।

हालांकि, अंततः कार्यकारी विवेक पर विश्वास करना चाहिए। हमने देखा है कि हमारे पूर्व राष्ट्रपतियों ने **मृत्युदंड** के बारे में विभिन्न दृष्टिकोण दिखाए। आप यह भी देख सकते हैं कि **राजीव गांधी हत्या मामले** में एक दोषी **ए.जी. पेरारिवालन** की रिहाई में राज्यपाल के विवेक का कैसे कार्यान्वयन हुआ।

- **APK:** I believe comprehensive reforms are needed in the system of release of convicts. The **Supreme Court** is already cognisant of a batch of petitions on this issue. We need



to prioritize **reformative justice**.

**APK:** मुझे विश्वास है कि दोषियों की रिहाई की प्रक्रिया में व्यापक सुधार की आवश्यकता है।  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहले ही इस मुद्दे पर कई याचिकाओं से अवगत है। हमें \*\*स

# Beijing's war against air pollution

Beijing in 2015 had pollution levels similar to those in Delhi today. However, through coordinated effort over several years, Beijing reduced its pollution by one-third between 2013 and 2017. By learning from Beijing's approach, Delhi can implement effective strategies to tackle its air pollution problem

GS Paper III: Environment

**EXPLAINER**

**Rohit Azad**  
**Shouvik Chakraborty**

**B**eijing, with a yearly average air quality index (AQI) of 144, was as polluted in 2015 as Delhi is today (Delhi's average is 155 for 2024). But in the interim, Beijing has managed to cut its pollution level by one-third with the most significant fall spanning between 2013 and 2017 (Chart 1). To be sure, Beijing's pollution control programme dates back to 1998 which laid the foundation for this aggressive last phase of the programme, which was termed a "war against air pollution".

**Why discuss Beijing in the context of Delhi?**

Beijing is the capital of an emerging economy, as is Delhi. So, if Beijing could manage what it did at its stage of development, Delhi could and needs to, as well.

There are many similarities between Beijing in 2013 and Delhi today. Chart 2 compares the sources of pollution for the two cities.

For Delhi, we have used the winter months' data because that is the most updated emission inventory available. Moreover, much like Beijing, the regional contribution to pollutants by neighbouring areas/States of the national capital region (NCR) is also high, especially during the winter months. While local emissions need to be controlled, without a concerted collective effort by the entire NCR region, just as Beijing achieved, it would be difficult to win this battle against air pollution.

**What did Beijing do?**

With rapid economic growth in Beijing, the ambient concentration of pollutants increased rapidly by the late 1990s. By 2017, Beijing's energy consumption had grown by 74% compared to 1998. Unfortunately, a rapid increase in urbanisation and energy consumption meant higher emissions of pollutants. Things were particularly made worse because the heating in Beijing's residential properties was heavily coal-dependent.

Beijing's 20-year anti-pollution programme can be divided into three phases – 1998-2008; 2009-12; 2013-17. One common theme that ran through the entire effort was not shock-and-awe but a careful and slowly built-up plan with people's participation, which was run autonomously by the local government of Beijing.

Sources of pollution in Beijing were broadly identified as energy structures and coal combustion (contributing 22% to PM2.5), transportation structures (31%), and construction and industrial structures (33%).

For the first source, three steps were taken – ultra-low emission renovation and clean energy alternatives in power plants, renovation of coal-fired boilers, and elimination of civil bulk coal consumption used for residential heating.

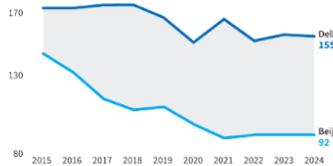
For transportation infrastructure, the government first retrofitted cars and public service vehicles with diesel particulate filters (DPF) and gradually tightened emission standards. Then it went for scrapping, through subsidies instead of decree, of 'yellow-labeled' vehicles (heavy pollutant-emitting vehicles). Subway and bus infrastructure was overhauled and expanded at a rapid rate, along with optimising the urban layout.

As for the industrial and construction activities, tightening environmental requirements, intensifying end-of-pipe

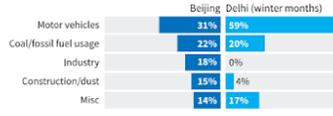
## Turning the tide on pollution

Beijing's battle against air pollution provides a useful framework for Delhi. With improved transportation, stricter regulations, and regional collaboration, Delhi can follow a similar path to cleaner air

**Chart 1: AQI in Beijing vs Delhi 2014-24**  
(Yearly average)



**Chart 2: PM2.5 source apportionment for Beijing and Delhi**  
(Beijing in 2013 and Delhi in 2023)



**Chart 3: Fall in emissions of major pollutants in Beijing 2013-17**  
(in %)



Source: Data on Beijing has been taken from 'UN Environment 2019 - A Review of 20 Years' Air Pollution Control in Beijing,' United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, and, for Delhi, from a report titled 'Real-Time Source Apportionment and Forecasting for Advance Air Pollution Management in Delhi' submitted to the Delhi pollution control committee

(EOP) treatment, eliminating obsolete industrial capacity, creating a green construction management model, efficient washing facilities, and implementing video monitoring with penal action against violators of construction sites were some of the steps taken.

The last leg of the plan (2013-17) especially focused on the need for regional cooperation, with five adjoining provinces around Beijing coming together to chalk out a collective plan for reducing ambient pollution in the region. This cooperation had a remarkable effect in reducing the level of pollution.

**What did Beijing achieve? And how?**

As a result of this meticulously planned strategy at multiple levels, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and PM2.5, the four major pollutants targeted under the policy, fell by 83%, 43%, 42% and 59% respectively between 2013-17 (Chart 3). Since most activities produce multiple pollutants, albeit to differing degrees, targeting a source meant reducing all the associated pollutants.

Chart 4 shows how by targeting each source, multiple pollutants were controlled.

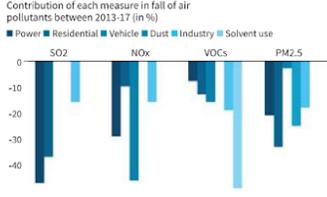
The single most important factor in Beijing achieving its goal, apart from planning to the last detail, was the financial investment that the government committed to.

Chart 5 shows a whopping six-time jump in investment within just four years. All the steps enumerated above required heavy investment and the government did not shy away from making and fulfilling those commitments.

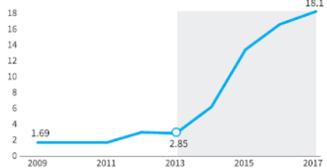


Pedestrians walk along the Kartavya Path engulfed in thick smog, near India Gate, in New Delhi, on November 18. AFP

**Chart 4: Measure-specific fall in pollutants in Beijing**  
Contribution of each measure in fall of air pollutants between 2013-17 (in %)



**Chart 5: Financial investment to control air pollution in Beijing**  
(in billion yuan)



**What can Delhi learn from the Beijing experience?**

There are ideas galore on controlling pollution, and Beijing is a perfect example to learn from. We list some here, there are more.

Firstly, since private transport is the biggest contributor to local pollution, an efficient and comfortable bus-metro integrated transport system needs to be in place. Delhi's DTC bus fleet is not only old but also grossly inadequate for a population of this city's size. The metro is an excellent means of transport but is quite expensive, with almost zero last-mile connectivity provided by the State. Old vehicles need to be scrapped at the earliest through a well-thought-out subsidy-for-scrap programme, instead of banning them. Exclusive cycling and walking lanes should be built throughout the city. Other ideas, such as cross-subsidisation through affordable public transport and expensive private transport (cars and motorcycles) using congestion or high parking charges, as well as separate fuel costs for the two modes of transport, could be experimented with. An urban layout is needed where places of work and residence are brought closer, alleviating the need for long-distance travel.

Secondly, Delhi's electricity is still supplied primarily through coal-fired plants. The energy system needs a serious overhaul both from the sides of supply and demand. Subsidising solar roof tops and connecting it to the grid with electricity bill discounts could be one such step in this regard.

Thirdly, much like the Beijing plan, Delhi needs to coordinate with neighbouring regions, instead of being at

loggerheads, to control other sources which originate in these regions. Such a step may work in their collective interests.

Last but not least, the people of Delhi need to fight for the right to clean air and hold the government accountable instead of normalising poor AQIs as being better than severe ones. Prolonged exposure to pollutants, even in the poor AQI zone (for a larger part of the year), may be as dangerous as a short period of severe AQI in October and November every year. This change in attitude itself may go a long way in building pressure on the governments.

Unfortunately, it is not the lack of ideas but political will which is stopping Delhi from acting. It is the same reel playing out every year. Air in the very harmful zone for weeks with schools closing down, the young and the elderly gasping for breath through the day is the new normal in the winter months in Delhi. And what does the government do? The Centre blames the State and vice versa while they have both been in office for a decade. Neither of them is serious or even vaguely interested in solving the problem.

Schools, offices, and individuals look for solutions in the form of air purifiers, but private protection for a public bad is by definition exclusivist, with especially the disadvantaged, who contribute the least to the problem, getting a raw deal. Delhi deserves a better response. It is high time that the government, both at the Centre and the State, listened and acted.

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**THE GIST**

Beijing's approach to air pollution involved a long-term, coordinated effort with a focus on regional cooperation and comprehensive policies across multiple sectors.

Key measures included improving transportation infrastructure, retrofitting infrastructure, scrapping old vehicles, and enhancing industrial regulations.

Delhi can adopt similar strategies, focusing on integrated transport systems, regional collaboration, and stricter emission controls to combat its pollution crisis.





## Beijing's war against air pollution बीजिंग का वायु प्रदूषण के खिलाफ युद्ध

In 2015, Beijing's pollution levels were similar to Delhi's today (with Delhi's average AQI at 155 in 2024).

2015 में, बीजिंग के प्रदूषण स्तर दिल्ली के आज के स्तर के समान थे (2024 में दिल्ली का औसत ए.क्यू.आई. 155 है)।

- **Beijing reduced its pollution by one-third between 2013 and 2017.**  
बीजिंग ने 2013 से 2017 के बीच अपने प्रदूषण को एक-तिहाई कम किया।
- **Beijing's air quality program started in 1998**, laying the foundation for the aggressive phase of the "war against air pollution".  
बीजिंग का वायु गुणवत्ता कार्यक्रम 1998 में शुरू हुआ था, जिसने प्रदूषण के खिलाफ युद्ध के आक्रामक चरण की नींव रखी।
- **Delhi and Beijing share many similarities**, such as being capitals of emerging economies.  
दिल्ली और बीजिंग में कई समानताएँ हैं, जैसे दोनों उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की राजधानी होना।
- **Beijing's pollution sources in 2013** were broadly identified as:
  - **Energy structures & coal combustion** (22% of PM2.5)
  - **Transportation structures** (31%)
  - **Industrial & construction activities** (33%)\*\*बीजिंग के प्रदूषण स्रोतों की पहचान 2013 में इस प्रकार की गई थी:
  - ऊर्जा संरचनाएं और कोयला जलन (PM2.5 का 22%)
  - परिवहन संरचनाएं (31%)
  - औद्योगिक और निर्माण गतिविधियाँ (33%)\*\*
- **Between 1998-2008, 2009-2012, and 2013-2017**, Beijing focused on:
  - Ultra-low emission renovations & clean energy alternatives for power plants
  - Coal-fired boiler renovation and elimination of bulk coal consumption for residential heating
  - Diesel particulate filters for cars and public service vehicles
  - Overhauled subway and bus infrastructure, with regional cooperation for pollution control\*\*1998-2008, 2009-2012 और 2013-2017 के बीच, बीजिंग ने निम्नलिखित पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया:
  - पावर प्लांट्स के लिए अल्ट्रा-लो एमिशन नवीकरण और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा विकल्प
  - कोयला-ईंधन वाले बॉयलरों का नवीकरण और आवासीय हीटिंग के लिए bulk कोयला खपत की समाप्ति
  - कारों और सार्वजनिक सेवा वाहनों के लिए डीजल पार्टिकुलेट फिल्टर
  - सबवे और बस इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर का सुधार और प्रदूषण नियंत्रण के लिए क्षेत्रीय सहयोग\*\*
- **2013-17: Targeted pollutants in Beijing decreased by:**





- Sulphur dioxide: 83%
- Nitrogen oxides: 43%
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs): 42%
- PM2.5: 59%
- \*\*2013-17 के दौरान बीजिंग में लक्षित प्रदूषकों में कमी आई:
  - सल्फर डाइऑक्साइड: 83%
  - नाइट्रोजन ऑक्साइड्स: 43%
  - वाष्पशील जैविक यौगिक (VOCs): 42%
  - PM2.5: 59%\*\*
- Financial investment in the program increased **sixfold in four years**.  
कार्यक्रम में वित्तीय निवेश चार वर्षों में छह गुना बढ़ा।

## What can Delhi learn from the Beijing experience?

### दिल्ली बीजिंग के अनुभव से क्या सीख सकती है?

- Private transport is Delhi's biggest contributor to pollution. Focus on **efficient, comfortable public transport** systems like **bus-metro integration** and **scrap old vehicles** through subsidies.  
निजी परिवहन दिल्ली के प्रदूषण का सबसे बड़ा कारण है। सार्वजनिक परिवहन प्रणालियों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करें जैसे बस-मेट्रो एकीकरण और पुराने वाहनों को सब्सिडी के माध्यम से स्कैप करें।
- Delhi's electricity is still **coal-fired**. Overhaul the energy system with **solar rooftops** and **grid connection** with electricity bill discounts.  
दिल्ली की बिजली अभी भी कोयला से बनती है। ऊर्जा प्रणाली का सुधार करें, जैसे सौर छतों और ग्रिड कनेक्शन के साथ बिजली बिल में छूट।
- **Regional cooperation** with neighboring regions is essential to control external sources of pollution.  
प्रदूषण के बाहरी स्रोतों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए पड़ोसी क्षेत्रों के साथ क्षेत्रीय सहयोग आवश्यक है।
- People must **fight for clean air** and hold the government accountable for high AQI.  
लोगों को साफ हवा के लिए संघर्ष करना चाहिए और सरकार को उच्च AQI के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराना चाहिए।
- **Political will** is a major challenge for Delhi in tackling pollution.  
वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने में दिल्ली के लिए राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति एक बड़ा चुनौती है।



# Lok Sabha passes Bill to amend the Disaster Management Act of 2005

GS Paper III: DM

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to strengthen the working of national and State disaster management authorities, with the Centre stressing that the legislation will help State governments deal with disasters better.

The House cleared the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by a voice vote. Several amendments moved by the Opposition members were negated.

Pointing out that State governments had flagged several difficulties in implementing the Disaster Management Act of 2005, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said the new Bill would



The new Bill seeks to bring clarity and convergence among stakeholders in the field of disaster management. THULASI KAKKAT

not only overcome them but also strengthen the disaster management system. The Bill seeks to bring clarity and convergence among stakeholders working in the field of disaster management.

“When a disaster hits, it hits the country as a

whole; this Bill will prepare the country to handle disasters better,” he said.

Many Opposition members, however, said that the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 only talks about creation of a plethora of organisations. Saugata Roy of the

Trinamool Congress alleged that the Modi government was not able to manage the pandemic properly and a large number of people died. He said, “This Bill creates a plethora of organisations and has added a number of English terms”.

Captain Viriato Fernandes of the Congress said that while the members were talking about following a holistic approach to deal with disasters, the Bill seemed to have gone against that approach.

Another Congress member, G.K. Padavi, pointed out that climate change had not been included in the Bill and the word “compensation” had been replaced with “relief”. “It (promotes) over centralisation,” Mr. Padavi said.

## Lok Sabha passes Bill to amend the Disaster Management Act of 2005

लोकसभा ने 2005 के आपदा प्रबंधन अधिनियम में संशोधन करने वाला विधेयक पास किया

- The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to strengthen the working of national and State disaster management authorities, with the Centre stressing that the legislation will help State governments deal with disasters better.

लोकसभा ने गुरुवार को राष्ट्रीय और राज्य आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरणों के कार्यों को मजबूत करने के लिए एक विधेयक पारित किया, जिसमें केंद्र ने यह जोर दिया कि यह कानून राज्य सरकारों को आपदाओं से बेहतर तरीके से निपटने में मदद करेगा।





- The House cleared the **Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024** by a **voice vote**.  
संसद ने आपदा प्रबंधन (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024 को ध्वनि मत से मंजूरी दी।
- Several amendments moved by the **Opposition members** were negated.  
विपक्ष के कई सदस्य द्वारा लाए गए संशोधनों को अस्वीकृत कर दिया गया।
- Pointing out that **State governments** had flagged several difficulties in implementing the **Disaster Management Act of 2005**, **Union Minister Nityanand Rai** said the new Bill would not only overcome them but also strengthen the disaster management system.  
केंद्र सरकार के मंत्री नित्यानंद राय ने यह बताते हुए कि राज्य सरकारों ने 2005 के आपदा प्रबंधन अधिनियम को लागू करने में कई कठिनाइयों का सामना किया है, कहा कि नया विधेयक इन समस्याओं को न केवल हल करेगा बल्कि आपदा प्रबंधन प्रणाली को भी मजबूत करेगा।
- The Bill seeks to bring clarity and convergence among stakeholders working in the field of **disaster management**.  
विधेयक आपदा प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में कार्यरत हितधारकों के बीच स्पष्टता और एकजुटता लाने का प्रयास करता है।
- "When a **disaster** hits, it hits the country as a whole; this Bill will prepare the country to handle disasters better," he said.  
"जब कोई आपदा आती है, तो यह पूरे देश को प्रभावित करती है; यह विधेयक देश को आपदाओं से बेहतर तरीके से निपटने के लिए तैयार करेगा," उन्होंने कहा।
- Many **Opposition members**, however, said that the **Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024** only talks about creation of a plethora of organisations.  
हालांकि, कई विपक्षी सदस्य ने कहा कि आपदा प्रबंधन (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024 केवल विभिन्न संस्थाओं के निर्माण की बात करता है।
- **Saugata Roy** of the **Trinamool Congress** alleged that the **Modi government** was not able to manage the **pandemic** properly and a large number of people died.  
टीएमसी के साँगात राय ने आरोप लगाया कि मोदी सरकार महामारी को ठीक से प्रबंधित नहीं कर पाई और एक बड़ी संख्या में लोग मारे गए।
- He said, "This Bill creates a **plethora of organisations** and has added a number of **English terms**."  
उन्होंने कहा, "यह विधेयक विभिन्न संस्थाओं का निर्माण करता है और कई अंग्रेजी शब्दों को जोड़ा गया है।"
- **Captain Viriato Fernandes** of the **Congress** said that while the members were talking about following a holistic approach to deal with disasters, the Bill seemed to have gone against that approach.  
कांग्रेस के कैप्टन विरियातो फर्नांडीस ने कहा कि जबकि सदस्य आपदाओं से निपटने के लिए समय दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की बात कर रहे थे, यह विधेयक उस दृष्टिकोण के खिलाफ प्रतीत होता है।
- Another **Congress member**, **G.K. Padavi**, pointed out that **climate change** had not been included in the Bill and the word "compensation" had been replaced with "relief".  
कांग्रेस के एक और सदस्य जी.के. पादवी ने बताया कि विधेयक में जलवायु परिवर्तन को शामिल नहीं किया गया है और शब्द "मुआवजा" को बदलकर "राहत" कर दिया गया है।





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

**Contact Number: 9971932488**

- "It (promotes) **over-centralisation**," Mr. Padavi said.  
"यह (प्रेरित करता है) अत्यधिक केंद्रीकरण," श्री पादवी ने कहा।

PATRIOTIC IAS

**Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**

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





## Bangladesh team likely to attend Vijay Divas event

PCS

**Moyurie Som**  
KOLKATA

Indian Army sources said on Thursday that a delegation from Bangladesh was likely to attend the Vijay Divas celebrations at the Eastern Command headquarters here on December 16.

The day marks India's historic victory over Pakistani forces in the 1971 Liberation War and the consequent formation of Bangladesh from erstwhile East Pakistan.

### Veterans to participate

Defence sources said the Bangladeshi delegation might include *muktijoddhas* (Bangladeshi freedom fighters) who were part of East Pakistan's freedom struggle in 1971.

This news follows high-level talks between Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chief Adviser of Bangladesh Muhammad Yunus, Bangladeshi Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossein, and Foreign Secretary Mohammad Jashim Uddin in Dhaka on Monday.

Mr. Misri's visit came two weeks after the Dhaka Metropolitan Police had arrested Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in a sedition case, which led to a sociopolitical turmoil on both sides of the Bengal border.

## Bangladesh team likely to attend Vijay Divas event

### बांग्लादेश की टीम विजय दिवस कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने की संभावना

• **December 16: Bangladesh delegation likely to attend Vijay Divas celebrations at the Eastern Command headquarters.**

16 दिसंबर: बांग्लादेश का प्रतिनिधिमंडल पूर्वी कमांड मुख्यालय में विजय दिवस समारोह में भाग लेने की संभावना है।

• **Vijay Divas marks India's victory over Pakistani forces in the 1971 Liberation War and the formation of Bangladesh from East Pakistan.**

विजय दिवस भारत की विजय को चिन्हित करता है पाकिस्तानी सेनाओं पर 1971 मुक्ति युद्ध में और पूर्वी पाकिस्तान से बांग्लादेश के गठन को।

• **Veterans may participate, including muktijoddhas (freedom fighters) from 1971 East Pakistan freedom struggle.**

सैन्य सदस्य भाग ले सकते हैं, जिनमें मुक्तिजोद्धा (स्वतंत्रता सेनानी) शामिल हो सकते हैं जो 1971 के पूर्वी पाकिस्तान स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष का हिस्सा थे।

• **Vikram Misri, Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, Touhid Hossein, and Mohammad Jashim Uddin held high-level talks in Dhaka on Monday.**

विक्रम मिश्री, बांग्लादेश के मुख्य सलाहकार मुहम्मद युनुस, तौहिद होसैन, और मुहम्मद जशीम उद्दीन ने सोमवार को ढाका में उच्च-स्तरीय वार्ता की।

• **Two weeks after the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das by Dhaka Metropolitan Police in a sedition case, leading to sociopolitical turmoil.**

दो सप्ताह बाद ढाका मेट्रोपोलिटन पुलिस द्वारा चिन्मय कृष्ण दास की राजद्रोह मामले में गिरफ्तारी, जिससे सामाजिक-राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल हुई।





General Ashok Raj Sigdel

## India confers honorary rank on Nepal Army chief

### भारत ने नेपाल सेना प्रमुख को मानद रैंक प्रदान किया

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on Nepal's Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel at a ceremony on Thursday.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने नेपाल के सेना प्रमुख जनरल अशोक राज सिग्देल को 'भारतीय सेना के जनरल' का मानद रैंक गुरुवार को एक समारोह में प्रदान किया।

- The honour was given for commendable military prowess and contribution to fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India.

यह सम्मान शानदार सैन्य कौशल और नेपाल के भारत के साथ लंबी और मित्रवत संबंधों को बढ़ावा देने में योगदान के लिए दिया गया।

- The tradition of conferring the title of Honorary General has been followed by Nepal and India since 1950.

नेपाल और भारत के बीच 1950 से मानद जनरल की उपाधी प्रदान करने की परंपरा रही है।

- Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel conferred the honorary rank on Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi last month at a ceremony in Kathmandu (Sheetal Niwas).

नेपाल के राष्ट्रपति रामचंद्र पौडेल ने भारतीय सेना प्रमुख जनरल उपेन्द्र द्विवेदी को पिछले महीने काठमांडू (शीताल निवास) में एक समारोह में मानद रैंक प्रदान किया।

## India confers honorary rank on Nepal Army chief

PCS

GS Paper II: India-Nepal  
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on Nepal's Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel at a ceremony here on Thursday.

The honour was given to him for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to further fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India, according to a statement issued by the President's office.

There has been a tradition set by Nepal and India since 1950 of conferring the title of Honorary General on the Army chief of each other.

Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel last month conferred the honorary rank on Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi at a special ceremony – also known as Sheetal Niwas – in Kathmandu.





GS Paper III

## PM to lay foundation stone of Ken-Betwa river linking work

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa river linking project in Madhya Pradesh on December 25, the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday. Mr. Yadav was speaking to reporters on the completion of one year of his government in the State. The project to link the Ken and Betwa rivers will benefit Chhatarpur, Panna, Tikamgarh, Niwadi, Damoh, Shivpuri, Datia, Raisen, Vidisha and Sagar districts of the State, he said. It will provide water for irrigation in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and in Uttar Pradesh. PTI

यह परियोजना मध्य प्रदेश के छतरपुर, पन्ना, टीकमगढ़, निवाड़ी, दमोह, शिवपुरी, दतिया, रायसेन, विदिशा, और सागर जिलों को लाभ पहुंचाएगी।

- It will provide water for irrigation in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and in Uttar Pradesh.

यह परियोजना मध्य प्रदेश के बंडेलखंड क्षेत्र और उत्तर प्रदेश में सिंचाई के लिए पानी प्रदान करेगी।

## PM to lay foundation stone of Ken-Betwa river linking work

### प्रधानमंत्री केन-बेतवा नदी

### जोड़ने के कार्य की आधारशिला रखेंगे

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa river linking project in Madhya Pradesh on December 25, the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, according to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ने के परियोजना की आधारशिला मध्य प्रदेश में 25 दिसंबर को पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की जन्म जयंती के अवसर पर रखेंगे, मुख्यमंत्री मोहन यादव के अनुसार।

- Mohan Yadav spoke to reporters about the completion of one year of his government in the state.

मुख्यमंत्री मोहन यादव ने राज्य में अपनी सरकार के एक साल पूरे होने पर पत्रकारों से बातचीत की।

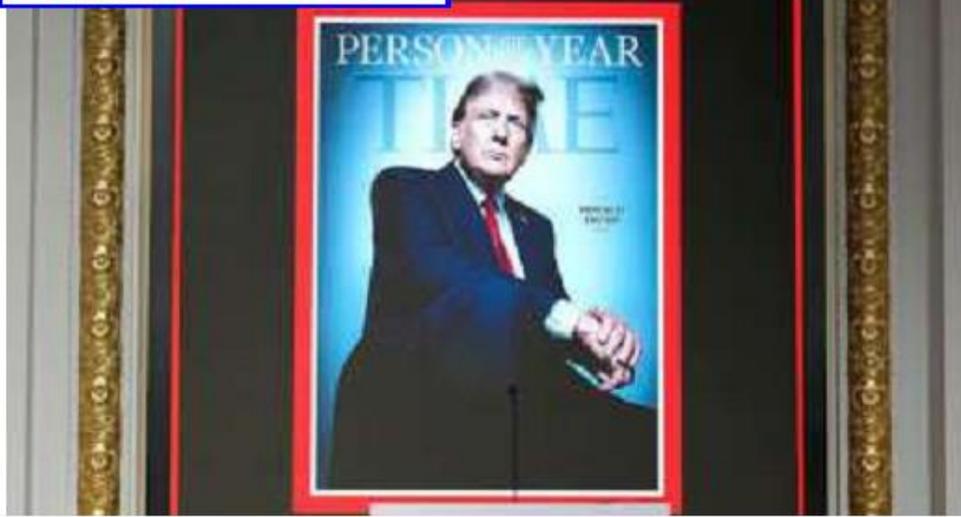
- The project will benefit the districts of Chhatarpur, Panna, Tikamgarh, Niwadi, Damoh, Shivpuri, Datia, Raisen, Vidisha, and Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.



## NEW YORK

# Trump named Time magazine's 'Person of the Year' for second time

PCS



AP

Time magazine named Donald Trump its "Person of the Year" for the second time, recognising his historic political comeback and influence. The magazine highlighted his role in reshaping the American presidency and driving a significant political realignment, marking a notable moment in contemporary politics. AP

और प्रभाव को मान्यता देते हुए।

- The magazine highlighted his role in reshaping the **American presidency** and driving a **significant political realignment**, marking a notable moment in **contemporary politics**.

मैगज़ीन ने उनके अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति पद को फिर से आकार देने और महत्वपूर्ण राजनीतिक पुनर्संरक्षण को प्रेरित करने में उनके योगदान को उजागर किया, जो समकालीन राजनीति में एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण को चिह्नित करता है।

Trump named Time magazine's 'Person of the Year' for second time

ट्रम्प को दूसरी बार टाइम पत्रिका ने 'पर्सन ऑफ द ईयर' चुना

Time Names Donald Trump "Person of the Year"  
टाइम ने डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प को "पर्सन ऑफ द ईयर" नामित किया

- Time magazine named Donald Trump its "Person of the Year" for the second time, recognising his **historic political comeback** and **influence**.

टाइम मैगज़ीन ने डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प को "पर्सन ऑफ द ईयर" दूसरी बार नामित किया, उनके ऐतिहासिक राजनीतिक वापसी



## MOGADISHU

### Somali federal forces retreat from Jubaland positions after clashes

PCS



AP

Somali federal troops have retreated from the southern Jubaland region following clashes with regional forces led by Ahmed Madobe. The fighting, which occurred in Ras Kamboni, escalated tensions over a disputed election, with Jubaland officials claiming they regained control of the town. AFP

## Somali federal forces retreat from Jubaland positions after clashes

### सोमाली संघीय सेना संघर्ष के बाद जुबालैंड की स्थिति से पीछे हटी

#### Somali Federal Troops Retreat from Jubaland

सोमाली संघीय सैनिकों ने जुबालैंड से पीछे हटने की घोषणा की

- Somali federal troops have retreated from the southern Jubaland region following clashes with regional forces led by Ahmed Madobe.

सोमाली संघीय सैनिकों ने दक्षिणी जुबालैंड क्षेत्र से पीछे हटने की घोषणा

की, जो अहमद मदोबे द्वारा नेतृत्व किए गए क्षेत्रीय बलों के साथ झड़पों के बाद हुआ।

- The fighting, which occurred in Ras Kamboni, escalated tensions over a disputed election, with Jubaland officials claiming they regained control of the town. रास कंबोनी में हुई लड़ाई ने विवादित चुनाव को लेकर तनाव को बढ़ा दिया, जिसमें जुबालैंड अधिकारियों ने दावा किया कि उन्होंने शहर पर पुनः नियंत्रण प्राप्त कर लिया।

## SOFIA

### EU states agree to full Schengen accession for Bulgaria, Romania

GS Paper II: EU



REUTERS

EU states on Thursday cleared Bulgaria and Romania to become full members of the borderless Schengen zone from the start of next year, officials said, following a 13-year wait for the two eastern European nations. Created in 1985, the Schengen zone currently comprises 29 members. AFP

## EU states agree to full Schengen accession for Bulgaria, Romania

### यूरोपीय संघ के देश बुल्गारिया, रोमानिया के लिए पूर्ण शेंगेन प्रवेश पर सहमत

#### EU Clears Bulgaria and Romania for Schengen Membership

ईयू ने बुल्गारिया और रोमानिया को शेंगेन सदस्यता के लिए मंजूरी दी

- EU states on Thursday cleared Bulgaria and Romania to become full members of the borderless Schengen zone from the start of next year, officials

said, following a 13-year wait for the two eastern European nations.

ईयू राज्यों ने गुरुवार को बुल्गारिया और रोमानिया को सीमाहीन शेंगेन क्षेत्र का पूर्ण सदस्य बनने के





लिए मंजूरी दी, यह निर्णय अगले साल के शुरुआत से लागू होगा, और इसके बाद दो पूर्वी यूरोपीय देशों के लिए 13 साल का इंतजार खत्म हुआ।

- Created in 1985, the Schengen zone currently comprises 29 members. 1985 में स्थापित, शेंगेन क्षेत्र में वर्तमान में 29 सदस्य हैं।

# S. Korea President Yoon defends martial law, vows to 'fight to end'

Main Opposition Democratic Party criticised the President's televised speech as 'extreme delusion' and submitted a new impeachment motion against him; authorities are investigating if Yoon and others committed rebellion or abuse of power

PCS  
Associated Press  
SEOUL

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol defended his martial law decree as an act of governance and denied rebellion charges, vowing on Thursday to "fight to the end" in response to attempts to impeach him and intensifying investigations into last week's dramatic move.

The main Opposition Democratic Party quickly slammed Mr. Yoon's speech as "an expression of extreme delusion" and "false propaganda". Later on Thursday, it and other Opposition parties submitted a new impeachment



**Civic uproar:** Demonstrators take part in a protest calling for the ouster of Yoon Suk Yeol outside City Hall in Seoul on Thursday. AFP

motion against Mr. Yoon for a floor vote this weekend.

The Opposition-controlled Parliament also passed motions on Thursday to impeach and sus-

pend Mr. Yoon's police chief and Justice Minister over the imposition of martial law, escalating the pressure on Mr. Yoon's embattled government.

Mr. Yoon's short-lived

December 3 martial law declaration has generated political chaos and large protests calling for his ouster.

The decree brought hundreds of armed troops who attempted to encircle Parliament and raid the election commission, though no major violence or injuries occurred. Martial law lasted only six hours as Mr. Yoon was forced to lift it after the National Assembly unanimously voted it down.

In a televised speech on Thursday, Mr. Yoon, a conservative, said he enacted martial law as a warning to the liberal Democratic Party. He called the party "a monster" and "anti-state

forces" that he said tried to use its legislative muscle to impeach top officials, undermined the government's Budget Bill for next year and sympathised with North Korea.

Kim Min-seok, head of a Democratic Party task force, dismissed Mr. Yoon's statement as "an expression of extreme delusion" and "a declaration of war against the people".

The country's law enforcement authorities are investigating whether Mr. Yoon and others involved in imposing martial law committed rebellion, abuse of power and other crimes. A conviction for rebellion carries a maximum penalty of death.

## S. Korea President Yoon defends martial law, vows to 'fight to end'

दक्षिण कोरिया के राष्ट्रपति यून ने मार्शल लॉ का बचाव किया, इसे समाप्त करने की कसम खाई

Main Opposition Democratic Party criticised the President's televised speech as 'extreme delusion' and submitted a new impeachment motion against him; authorities are investigating if Yoon and others committed rebellion or abuse of power





मुख्य विपक्षी डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी ने राष्ट्रपति के टेलीविज़न भाषण की आलोचना करते हुए इसे 'अत्यधिक भ्रम' बताया और उनके खिलाफ एक नया महाभियोग प्रस्ताव पेश किया; अधिकारी इस बात की जांच कर रहे हैं कि क्या यूं और अन्य लोगों ने विद्रोह किया या सत्ता का दुरुपयोग किया

South Korean President Defends Martial Law Decree  
दक्षिण कोरियाई राष्ट्रपति ने मार्शल लॉ आदेश का बचाव किया

- South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol defended his **martial law decree** as an act of **governance** and **denied rebellion charges**, vowing on **Thursday** to "fight to the end" in response to attempts to **impeach him** and **intensifying investigations** into last week's dramatic move.

दक्षिण कोरियाई राष्ट्रपति यून सुक योल ने अपने मार्शल लॉ आदेश का शासन कार्य के रूप में बचाव किया और बगावत के आरोपों को नकारते हुए गुरुवार को कहा कि वह "अंत तक लड़ेंगे", ताकि उनके खिलाफ की जा रही महाभियोग की कोशिशों और पिछले हफ्ते के नाटकीय कदम की जांच का मुकाबला कर सकें।

- The main **Opposition Democratic Party** quickly slammed Mr. Yoon's speech as "an expression of extreme delusion" and "false propoganda".  
मुख्य विपक्षी डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी ने श्री यून के भाषण को "अत्यधिक भ्रम की अभिव्यक्ति" और "झूठी प्रचार" के रूप में तीखा आलोचना किया।

- Later on **Thursday**, the Opposition and other parties submitted a new **impeachment motion** against Mr. Yoon for a **floor vote this weekend**.

गुरुवार को विपक्ष और अन्य पार्टियों ने श्री यून के खिलाफ एक नया महाभियोग प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया, जिसे इस सप्ताहांत में सदन के वोट में रखा जाएगा।

- The **Opposition-controlled Parliament** also passed motions on Thursday to **impeach and suspend** Mr. Yoon's **police chief** and **Justice Minister** over the imposition of martial law, escalating the pressure on Mr. Yoon's embattled government.

विपक्षी-नियंत्रित संसद ने भी गुरुवार को प्रस्ताव पास किए थे, जिनके तहत श्री यून के पुलिस प्रमुख और न्याय मंत्री को मार्शल लॉ के लागू होने के कारण महाभियोग और निलंबन किया जाएगा, जिससे श्री यून की संकटग्रस्त सरकार पर दबाव बढ़ गया।

- Mr. Yoon's short-lived **December 3 martial law declaration** has generated political chaos and large protests calling for his ouster.

श्री यून की 3 दिसंबर की संक्षिप्त मार्शल लॉ घोषणा ने राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल और बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध प्रदर्शन उत्पन्न किए, जिनमें उनकी बर्खास्तगी की मांग की जा रही थी।

- The decree brought hundreds of **armed troops** who attempted to **encircle Parliament** and **raid the election commission**, though no major violence or injuries occurred.

इस आदेश के तहत सैकड़ों सशस्त्र सैनिक भेजे गए, जिन्होंने संसद को घेरने और चुनाव आयोग पर छापा मारने की कोशिश की, हालांकि कोई बड़ी हिंसा या चोटें नहीं आईं।

- Martial law lasted only **six hours** as Mr. Yoon was forced to lift it after the **National Assembly unanimously voted it down**.





मार्शल लॉ केवल छह घंटे तक लागू रहा क्योंकि श्री यून को इसे हटाने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा, जब नेशनल असेंबली ने एकमत से इसे खारिज कर दिया।

- In a televised speech on Thursday, Mr. Yoon, a **conservative**, said he enacted martial law as a **warning to the liberal Democratic Party**.

गुरुवार को एक टेलीविजन भाषण में, श्री यून, जो एक **संवेदनशील** नेता हैं, ने कहा कि उन्होंने मार्शल लॉ को **उदारवादी डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी** को एक चेतावनी के रूप में लागू किया।

- He called the party “a **monster**” and “**anti-state forces**” that he said tried to use its legislative muscle to **impeach top officials**, undermined the **government’s Budget Bill** for next year and **sympathised with North Korea**.

उन्होंने उस पार्टी को “**दैत्य**” और “**राज्यविरोधी ताकतें**” कहा, जो उनके अनुसार, अपने विधायी प्रभाव का उपयोग करके **शीर्ष अधिकारियों का महाभियोग** करना चाहती थीं, अगले साल के लिए **सरकार के बजट बिल** को कमजोर किया और **उत्तर कोरिया के प्रति सहानुभूति** जताई।

- **Kim Min-seok**, head of a Democratic Party task force, dismissed Mr. Yoon’s statement as “an expression of extreme delusion” and “a declaration of war against the people”.

**किम मिन-सोक**, डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी के एक कार्यबल के प्रमुख, ने श्री यून के बयान को “अत्यधिक भ्रम की अभिव्यक्ति” और “**लोगों के खिलाफ युद्ध की घोषणा**” करार दिया।

- The country’s **law enforcement authorities** are investigating whether Mr. Yoon and others involved in imposing martial law committed **rebellion, abuse of power**, and other crimes.

देश की **कानून प्रवर्तन प्राधिकरण** जांच कर रही है कि क्या श्री यून और अन्य जिन्होंने मार्शल लॉ लागू किया, उन्होंने **बगावत, शक्ति का दुरुपयोग** और अन्य अपराध किए।

- A **conviction for rebellion** carries a maximum penalty of **death**.

**बगावत के लिए दोषसिद्धि पर अधिकतम मौत** की सजा हो सकती है।



# What is **Disease X** and why the world should prepare for it

COVID-19 is regarded as the first instance of a real Disease X. When SARS-CoV-2 emerged as an unknown pathogen causing a global pandemic, it exemplified the scenario that Disease X was meant to represent – an unpredictable, novel threat requiring rapid global response and adaptation

**GS Paper III: S&T**

C. Aravinda

## The story so far

**T**he recent outbreak reported in the first week of December 2024 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has claimed over 400 lives and remains unclassified, has raised concerns that it could be an instance of Disease X. This unsettling event has reignited discussions about Disease X. Disease X is not an actual but a hypothetical disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) coined the term in 2018 to describe an unknown pathogen that could potentially unleash a devastating epidemic or pandemic. It was conceptualised by the WHO to prepare for future outbreaks that are difficult to predict or identify. While investigations continue to determine the cause in Congo, the outbreak underscores the importance of Disease X.

## WHO's priority list of pathogens?

COVID-19 is widely regarded as the first instance of a real Disease X after the WHO introduced the concept in 2018. When SARS-CoV-2 emerged as an unknown pathogen causing a global pandemic, it exemplified the scenario that Disease X was meant to represent – an unpredictable, novel threat requiring rapid global response and adaptation. The concept of Disease X traces its origins in the aftermath of the West African Ebola epidemic of 2014-2016, which resulted in over 11,000 deaths and revealed significant gaps in global epidemic preparedness. After the outbreak, the WHO brought together scientists and public health experts to address how future outbreaks of similar scale could be prevented.

The WHO's priority list of pathogens is a strategic tool published in 2018 that is designed to focus global attention and resources on the most serious infectious disease threats. This list identifies diseases that have epidemic or pandemic potential for which there are insufficient or no medical countermeasures such as vaccines or treatments. The need for such a list arises from the urgency to guide research and development, allocate funding, and enhance preparedness. It helps policymakers, researchers, and health organisations prioritise efforts toward controlling the diseases. The current list (not exhaustive) includes Ebola virus disease, Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, Nipah virus, Rift Valley fever, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, Zika virus, and Disease X. Each of these pathogens has been flagged due to factors like high mortality rates, potential for rapid spread, and the lack of adequate preventive or therapeutic options.

## What is Disease X?

Disease X is not a specific illness but a placeholder for an unpredictable and



Swab samples being taken for a COVID-19 test. File THE HINDU

as-yet-undiscovered pathogen capable of sparking a global health crisis. The WHO included it in the Blueprint for Priority Diseases in 2018 to focus on the risks of emerging diseases that science has yet to encounter. The term sits at the intersection of two categories (among four) popularised by Donald Rumsfeld's matrix: "known unknowns" (threats we are aware of but cannot fully understand) and "unknown unknowns" (threats we are not aware of and understand). Disease X embodies both, as it acknowledges the likelihood of a future pandemic without specifying when, where, or how it might arise.

The potential culprits behind Disease X are varied. It originates from Pathogen X, which could be a virus, a bacterium, a parasite, fungi, helminths, or even a prion – a misfolded protein capable of causing severe neurological diseases. Historical data supports this uncertainty. Since 1940 (from where authentic records are available), researchers have identified more than 300 emerging infectious diseases, about 70% of which have zoonotic origins, meaning they are transmitted from animals to humans. This process, known as zoonotic spillover, is often linked to human encroachment on wildlife habitats, deforestation, and the intensification of agriculture. Meanwhile, the growing risks of antimicrobial resistance, bioterrorism, and accidental lab leaks add further layers of unpredictability.

## Patterns in emerging diseases

While the exact nature of Disease X remains unknown, epidemiological patterns provide critical insights into how new diseases emerge and spread. The emergence of viruses such as HIV, SARS, MERS, and Ebola was closely linked to ecological disruptions caused by human activity. Deforestation, urbanisation, and climate change have pushed humans and wildlife into closer contact, increasing the

## The interconnectedness of our world makes it easier for localised outbreaks to escalate into pandemics. While epidemiology cannot predict the exact moment or source of Disease X, it can help identify high-risk regions and behaviours

likelihood of pathogen transmission. Epidemiologists estimate that over 1.7 million undiscovered viruses exist in wildlife, with hundreds of thousands potentially capable of infecting humans. The frequency of novel outbreaks has also increased significantly since the mid-20th century, reflecting a combination of environmental, demographic, and global factors.

Regions with high biodiversity and inadequate healthcare systems, like the Congo Basin, are particularly vulnerable. The interconnectedness of our world, with frequent international travel and trade, makes it easier for localised outbreaks to escalate into pandemics, as seen with COVID-19. While epidemiology cannot predict the exact moment or source of Disease X, it can help identify high-risk regions and behaviours that increase the likelihood of its emergence.

## Challenges of predicting Disease X

Forecasting the next Disease X is daunting, as its emergence depends on numerous unpredictable factors. Zoonotic diseases are the most likely source, given their history of driving major epidemics. However, other scenarios, such as pathogens mutating to evade treatment, laboratory mishaps, or deliberate biological attacks, cannot be ruled out. Climate change is also reshaping disease transmission dynamics, expanding the range of vector-borne illnesses like malaria and dengue fever while pushing pathogens to adapt to new

hosts and environments.

The sheer number of potential pathogens adds to the complexity. Scientists estimate that only a fraction of viruses capable of infecting humans have been identified, leaving a vast pool of unknown threats. Genomic sequencing and artificial intelligence are beginning to play an important role in narrowing this vast field of possibilities, but even with these tools, predicting the exact origin, timing, and behaviour of Disease X remains out of reach. What is certain, however, is that the conditions that gave rise to pandemics like COVID-19 and SARS continue to exist, making the emergence of Disease X a question of when, not if.

At the heart of preparation is the need for robust surveillance systems to detect new outbreaks early. Advances in genomic sequencing, artificial intelligence, and real-time data sharing are essential tools for developing diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, is also crucial. Organisations like the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) are now investing in "prototype pathogen" platforms that can be adapted to target unknown diseases within 100 days of their identification.

## Need for global collaboration

Fighting Disease X will require an unprecedented level of international cooperation. The WHO's ongoing efforts, such as its list of priority pathogens and the proposed Pandemic Treaty, aim to foster a unified global response to health emergencies. These initiatives recognise that pandemics do not respect borders and that fragmented efforts will be insufficient to counter a threat as elusive as Disease X. Governments must work together to share data, pool resources, and ensure equitable access to diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines.

The outbreak in the DRC serves as a sobering reminder of the risks the world faces. Disease X is no longer a distant hypothetical but an urgent call to action. By strengthening public health systems, investing in research and innovation, and fostering global solidarity, the world can prepare for the unpredictable and safeguard future generations from the devastating consequences of the next pandemic. Frameworks like the Nagoya Protocol, which ensure equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources, could be expanded to include biological materials like pathogens. It would promote global collaboration, ensuring fair access to research and medical countermeasures during outbreaks. A novel disease anywhere is a threat to everyone.

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## What is Disease X and why the world should prepare for it

### रोग एक्स क्या है और दुनिया को इसके लिए क्यों तैयार रहना चाहिए

COVID-19 is regarded as the first instance of a real Disease X. When SARS-CoV-2 emerged as an unknown pathogen causing a global pandemic, it exemplified the scenario that Disease X was meant to represent — an unpredictable, novel threat requiring rapid global response and adaptation

कोविड-19 को वास्तविक रोग एक्स का पहला उदाहरण माना जाता है। जब SARS-CoV-2 एक अज्ञात रोगजनक के रूप में उभरा, जिसने वैश्विक महामारी पैदा की, तो यह उस परिदृश्य का उदाहरण था जिसे रोग एक्स दर्शाना चाहता था - एक अप्रत्याशित, नया खतरा जिसके लिए तेज़ी से वैश्विक प्रतिक्रिया और अनुकूलन की आवश्यकता थी

#### Outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo Raises Concerns of Disease X

कांगो लोकतांत्रिक गणराज्य में प्रकोप ने रोग X के बारे में चिंताएँ बढ़ाई

- The recent outbreak reported in the **first week of December 2024** in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, which has claimed over **400 lives** and remains **unclassified**, has raised concerns that it could be an instance of **Disease X**.  
दिसंबर 2024 के पहले सप्ताह में कांगो लोकतांत्रिक गणराज्य में रिपोर्ट किया गया हालिया प्रकोप, जिसने 400 से अधिक लोगों की जानें ली हैं और यह अभी भी अवर्गीकृत है, ने यह चिंता बढ़ाई है कि यह रोग X का एक उदाहरण हो सकता है।
- This unsettling event has reignited discussions about **Disease X**. **Disease X** is not an actual but a **hypothetical disease**.  
इस परेशान करने वाली घटना ने रोग X के बारे में चर्चाओं को फिर से जन्म दिया है। रोग X एक वास्तविक नहीं बल्कि एक काल्पनिक रोग है।
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** coined the term in **2018** to describe an unknown pathogen that could potentially unleash a devastating **epidemic or pandemic**.  
विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने 2018 में इस शब्द को गढ़ा था, जिसका उद्देश्य एक अज्ञात रोगजनक का वर्णन करना था जो संभावित रूप से एक विनाशकारी महामारी या महामारी का कारण बन सकता है।





- It was conceptualized by the WHO to prepare for **future outbreaks** that are difficult to predict or identify.  
इसे WHO ने भविष्य के प्रकोपों के लिए तैयार होने के लिए रूपरेखा के रूप में विकसित किया था, जो भविष्यवाणी या पहचानने में कठिन होते हैं।
- While investigations continue to determine the cause in Congo, the outbreak underscores the importance of **Disease X**.  
कांगो में कारण का पता लगाने के लिए जांच जारी है, लेकिन प्रकोप रोग X के महत्व को उजागर करता है।
- WHO's priority list of pathogens? **COVID-19** is widely regarded as the **first instance of a real Disease X** after the WHO introduced the concept in **2018**.  
WHO की प्राथमिकता सूची में रोगजनक? **COVID-19** को व्यापक रूप से वास्तविक रोग X का पहला उदाहरण माना जाता है, जब WHO ने 2018 में इस अवधारणा को पेश किया था।
- When **SARS-CoV-2** emerged as an unknown pathogen causing a **global pandemic**, it exemplified the scenario that **Disease X** was meant to represent — an unpredictable, **novel threat** requiring rapid global response and adaptation.  
जब **SARS-CoV-2** एक अज्ञात रोगजनक के रूप में उभरा और उसने एक वैश्विक महामारी का कारण बना, तो यह उस स्थिति का उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है जिसे रोग X को व्यक्त करने के लिए तैयार किया गया था — एक अनपेक्षित, नया खतरा जो त्वरित वैश्विक प्रतिक्रिया और अनुकूलन की आवश्यकता है।
- The concept of **Disease X** traces its origins in the aftermath of the **West African Ebola epidemic** of **2014–2016**, which resulted in over **11,000 deaths** and revealed significant gaps in global epidemic preparedness.  
रोग X की अवधारणा की शुरुआत पश्चिम अफ्रीकी इबोला महामारी के बाद हुई, जो 2014-2016 में हुई, जिसमें 11,000 से अधिक मौतें हुईं और वैश्विक महामारी तैयारियों में महत्वपूर्ण कमी का खुलासा हुआ।
- After the outbreak, the WHO brought together scientists and public health experts to address how **future outbreaks of similar scale** could be prevented.  
प्रकोप के बाद, WHO ने वैज्ञानिकों और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों को एकत्रित किया ताकि यह पता किया जा सके कि समान पैमाने के भविष्य के प्रकोपों को कैसे रोका जा सकता है।
- The WHO's priority list of pathogens is a strategic tool published in **2018** that is designed to focus global attention and resources on the most serious **infectious disease threats**.  
WHO की रोगजनकों की प्राथमिकता सूची एक रणनीतिक उपकरण है, जिसे 2018 में प्रकाशित किया गया था, जिसका उद्देश्य वैश्विक ध्यान और संसाधनों को सबसे गंभीर संक्रामक रोगों के खतरों पर केंद्रित करना है।
- This list identifies diseases that have epidemic or pandemic potential for which there are insufficient or no medical countermeasures such as vaccines or treatments.  
इस सूची में उन रोगों की पहचान की जाती है जिनके पास महामारी या वैश्विक महामारी का संभावना होती है, जिनके लिए चिकित्सा उपाय जैसे टीके या उपचार अपर्याप्त या अनुपलब्ध होते हैं।
- The need for such a list arises from the urgency to guide **research and development**, allocate **funding**, and enhance **preparedness**.





ऐसी सूची की आवश्यकता अनुसंधान और विकास, फंडिंग आवंटित करने और तैयारी को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता से उत्पन्न होती है।

- It helps **policymakers, researchers, and health organisations** prioritize efforts toward controlling the diseases.

यह नीतिनिर्माताओं, शोधकर्ताओं और स्वास्थ्य संगठनों को रोगों को नियंत्रित करने के प्रयासों को प्राथमिकता देने में मदद करता है।

- The current list (not exhaustive) includes **Ebola virus disease, Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, Nipah virus, Rift Valley fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, Zika virus, and Disease X.**

वर्तमान सूची (पूर्ण नहीं) में इबोला वायरस रोग, मारबर्ग वायरस रोग, लासा बुखार, निपाह वायरस, रिफ्ट वैली बुखार, क्राइमियन-कांगो हेमोरेजिक बुखार, जीका वायरस, और रोग X शामिल हैं।

- Each of these pathogens has been flagged due to factors like **high mortality rates, potential for rapid spread**, and the lack of adequate preventive or therapeutic options. इन प्रत्येक रोगजनकों को उच्च मृत्यु दर, त्वरित प्रसार की संभावना, और पर्याप्त रोकथाम या चिकित्सीय विकल्पों की कमी के कारण चिह्नित किया गया है।

### What is Disease X?

#### रोग X क्या है?

- **Disease X** is not a specific illness but a **placeholder** for an **unpredictable** and **undiscovered pathogen** capable of sparking a **global health crisis**.  
रोग X कोई विशेष बीमारी नहीं है, बल्कि यह एक स्थानीय नाम है, जो एक अनपेक्षित और अज्ञात रोगजनक के लिए है जो एक वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य संकट उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता रखता है।
- The **WHO** included it in the **Blueprint for Priority Diseases in 2018** to focus on the **risks** of emerging diseases that science has yet to encounter.  
**WHO** ने इसे 2018 में प्राथमिक रोगों के ब्लूप्रिंट में शामिल किया था ताकि उन जोखिमों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जा सके जो विज्ञान अभी तक सामने नहीं आया है।
- The term sits at the intersection of two categories (among four) popularized by **Donald Rumsfeld's matrix**: “**known unknowns**” (threats we are aware of but cannot fully understand) and “**unknown unknowns**” (threats we are not aware of and understand). यह शब्द डोनाल्ड रम्सफेल्ड की मैट्रिक्स द्वारा लोकप्रिय बनाई गई दो श्रेणियों (चार में से) के संयोग पर है: “ज्ञात अनजान” (धमकियां जिनके बारे में हम जानते हैं, लेकिन पूरी तरह से समझ नहीं सकते) और “अज्ञात अनजान” (धमकियां जिनके बारे में हम नहीं जानते और समझते नहीं)।
- **Disease X** embodies both, as it acknowledges the likelihood of a **future pandemic** without specifying **when, where, or how** it might arise.  
रोग X दोनों को समाहित करता है, क्योंकि यह भविष्य में महामारी होने की संभावना को स्वीकार करता है, बिना यह बताए कि कब, कहाँ या कैसे यह उत्पन्न हो सकता है।
- The potential culprits behind **Disease X** are varied. It originates from **Pathogen X**, which could be a **virus, a bacterium, a parasite, fungi, helminths**, or even a **prion** — a misfolded protein capable of causing severe **neurological diseases**.  
रोग X के पीछे संभावित कारण विभिन्न हो सकते हैं। यह रोगजनक X से उत्पन्न हो सकता है, जो एक वायरस, एक बैक्टीरिया, एक परजीवी, फंगी, हेलमिन्थ्स, या यहां तक कि एक प्रायन हो सकता





है – एक गलत तरीके से मोड़ा हुआ प्रोटीन जो गंभीर तंत्रिका संबंधी रोग उत्पन्न करने में सक्षम होता है।

- Historical data supports this uncertainty. Since **1940** (from where authentic records are available), researchers have identified more than **300 emerging infectious diseases**, about **70%** of which have **zoonotic origins**, meaning they are transmitted from **animals to humans**.

ऐतिहासिक आंकड़े इस अनिश्चितता का समर्थन करते हैं। **1940** से (जहां से प्रामाणिक रिकॉर्ड उपलब्ध हैं), शोधकर्ताओं ने **300 से अधिक उभरती संक्रामक बीमारियों** की पहचान की है, जिनमें से लगभग **70%** का **जानवरों से मनुष्यों में संचरण** से संबंध है।

- This process, known as **zoonotic spillover**, is often linked to human **encroachment on wildlife habitats, deforestation**, and the **intensification of agriculture**.

इस प्रक्रिया को **जूनोटिक स्पिलओवर** के रूप में जाना जाता है, और यह अक्सर मानव द्वारा **वन्यजीव आवासों में अतिक्रमण, वृक्षों की अंधाधुंध कटाई, और कृषि के उन्नतिकरण** से जुड़ा होता है।

- Meanwhile, the growing risks of **antimicrobial resistance, bioterrorism**, and **accidental lab leaks** add further layers of unpredictability.

इस बीच, **एंटीमाइक्रोबियल प्रतिरोध, जैव-आतंकवाद, और प्रयोगशाला से दुर्घटनावश लीक** के बढ़ते जोखिम और अधिक **अनिश्चितता** उत्पन्न करते हैं।

- **Patterns in emerging diseases**

**उभरती बीमारियों में पैटर्न**

- While the exact nature of **Disease X** remains unknown, **epidemiological patterns** provide critical insights into how new diseases emerge and spread.

जबकि **रोग X** की सही प्रकृति अभी तक ज्ञात नहीं है, **महामारी विज्ञान के पैटर्न** नए रोगों के उभरने और फैलने के तरीकों पर महत्वपूर्ण अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान करते हैं।

- The emergence of **viruses** such as **HIV, SARS, MERS**, and **Ebola** was closely linked to **ecological disruptions** caused by human activity.

**एचआईवी, SARS, MERS, और इबोला** जैसे **वायरसों** का उभरना मानव गतिविधियों द्वारा उत्पन्न **पर्यावरणीय विघटन** से निकटता से जुड़ा था।

- **Deforestation, urbanization**, and **climate change** have pushed humans and wildlife into closer contact, increasing the likelihood of **pathogen transmission**.

**वृक्षों की अंधाधुंध कटाई, शहरीकरण, और जलवायु परिवर्तन** ने **मनुष्यों और वन्यजीवों** को आपस में अधिक संपर्क में ला दिया है, जिससे **रोगजनक संचरण** की संभावना बढ़ गई है।

### Emerging Threat of Disease X

#### रोग X के उभरते खतरे

- **Epidemiologists** estimate that over **1.7 million undiscovered viruses** exist in wildlife, with **hundreds of thousands** potentially capable of infecting humans.

**महामारी विज्ञानियों** का अनुमान है कि **1.7 मिलियन** से अधिक **अज्ञात वायरस** वन्यजीवों में मौजूद हैं, जिनमें से **सैकड़ों हजारों** संभावित रूप से **मनुष्यों** को संक्रमित करने में सक्षम हो सकते हैं।

- The frequency of novel outbreaks has also increased significantly since the **mid-20th century**, reflecting a combination of environmental, demographic, and global factors.





**20वीं सदी के मध्य** से नए प्रकोपों की आवृत्ति में भी महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि हुई है, जो पर्यावरणीय, जनसांख्यिकी, और वैश्विक कारकों के संयोजन को दर्शाता है।

- Regions with high **biodiversity** and inadequate **healthcare systems**, like the **Congo Basin**, are particularly vulnerable.

उच्च जैव विविधता और अपर्याप्त स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणालियाँ वाले क्षेत्र, जैसे कि कोंगो बेसिन, विशेष रूप से संवेदनशील होते हैं।

- The **interconnectedness** of our world, with frequent **international travel and trade**, makes it easier for **localized outbreaks** to escalate into **pandemics**, as seen with **COVID-19**.

हमारे दुनिया का आपसी जुड़ाव, जिसमें बार-बार अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रा और व्यापार शामिल हैं, स्थानीय प्रकोपों को महामारियों में बदलने को आसान बनाता है, जैसा कि **COVID-19** के साथ देखा गया।

- While **epidemiology** cannot predict the **exact moment or source of Disease X**, it can help identify **high-risk regions** and behaviors that increase the likelihood of its emergence.

जबकि महामारी विज्ञान रोग X के सटीक समय या स्रोत की भविष्यवाणी नहीं कर सकता, यह उच्च-जोखिम क्षेत्रों और उन व्यवहारों की पहचान करने में मदद कर सकता है जो इसके उभरने की संभावना को बढ़ाते हैं।

### Challenges of predicting Disease X

#### रोग X की भविष्यवाणी करने की चुनौतियाँ

- Forecasting the next **Disease X** is daunting, as its emergence depends on numerous **unpredictable factors**.

अगला रोग X अनुमानित करना कठिन है, क्योंकि इसका उभरना कई अनपेक्षित कारकों पर निर्भर करता है।

- **Zoonotic diseases** are the most likely source, given their history of driving major epidemics.

जूनोटिक बीमारियाँ सबसे संभावित स्रोत हैं, क्योंकि इनका इतिहास प्रमुख महामारियों को बढ़ावा देने में रहा है।

- However, other scenarios, such as pathogens mutating to evade treatment, **laboratory mishaps**, or **deliberate biological attacks**, cannot be ruled out.

हालांकि, अन्य परिदृश्य जैसे कि रोगजनकों का उपचार से बचने के लिए उत्परिवर्तित होना, प्रयोगशाला दुर्घटनाएँ, या जानबूझकर जैविक हमले को खारिज नहीं किया जा सकता।

- **Climate change** is also reshaping **disease transmission dynamics**, expanding the range of **vector-borne illnesses** like **malaria** and **dengue fever** while pushing pathogens to adapt to **new hosts** and **environments**.

जलवायु परिवर्तन भी रोग संचरण की गतिशीलता को फिर से आकार दे रहा है, जैसे कि मलेरिया और डेंगू बुखार जैसी संवहन-जनित बीमारियों की सीमा का विस्तार कर रहा है, जबकि रोगजनकों को नए मेज़बानों और पर्यावरणों के अनुकूल बनाने के लिए मजबूर कर रहा है।

- The sheer number of potential **pathogens** adds to the complexity.

संभावित रोगजनकों की बड़ी संख्या इस जटिलता को बढ़ाती है।





- Scientists estimate that only a fraction of **viruses** capable of infecting humans have been identified, leaving a vast pool of **unknown threats**.  
वैज्ञानिक अनुमान लगाते हैं कि मनुष्यों को संक्रमित करने में सक्षम केवल एक हिस्से **वायरसों** की पहचान की गई है, जिससे **अज्ञात खतरों** का एक विशाल पूल बचा हुआ है।
- **Genomic sequencing** and **artificial intelligence** are beginning to play an important role in narrowing this vast field of possibilities, but even with these tools, predicting the **exact origin, timing, and behavior** of **Disease X** remains out of reach.  
**जीनोमिक अनुक्रमण** और **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता** इस विशाल संभावनाओं के क्षेत्र को संकुचित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहे हैं, लेकिन इन उपकरणों के साथ भी, **रोग X** के **सटीक उत्पत्ति, समय और व्यवहार** की भविष्यवाणी करना असंभव है।
- What is certain, however, is that the **conditions** that gave rise to **pandemics** like **COVID-19** and **SARS** continue to exist, making the emergence of **Disease X** a question of **when**, not **if**.  
हालांकि, यह निश्चित है कि **COVID-19** और **SARS** जैसी **महामारियों** के उदय के कारण **स्थितियाँ** अब भी मौजूद हैं, जिससे **रोग X** का उभरना **कब** का सवाल है, **क्या** नहीं।

### Preparation for Disease X

#### रोग X के लिए तैयारी

- At the heart of preparation is the need for **robust surveillance systems** to detect new outbreaks early.  
तैयारी के केंद्र में **मजबूत निगरानी प्रणालियों** की आवश्यकता है ताकि नए प्रकोपों का जल्द पता चल सके।
- Advances in **genomic sequencing, artificial intelligence, and real-time data sharing** are essential tools for developing **diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines**.  
**जीनोमिक अनुक्रमण, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता, और रियल-टाइम डेटा साझेदारी** में प्रगति **नैदानिक परीक्षण, उपचार और टीकों** के विकास के लिए आवश्यक उपकरण हैं।
- **Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, is also crucial.**  
**स्वास्थ्य देखभाल अवसंरचना** को मजबूत करना, विशेष रूप से **निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों** में, भी महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Organisations like the **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** are now investing in "**prototype pathogen**" platforms that can be adapted to target unknown diseases within **100 days** of their identification.  
**महामारी तैयारी नवाचारों के लिए गठबंधन (CEPI)** जैसी संगठन अब "**प्रोटोटाइप रोगजनक**" प्लेटफार्मों में निवेश कर रहे हैं, जिन्हें **100 दिन** के भीतर पहचानने के बाद अज्ञात बीमारियों को लक्षित करने के लिए अनुकूलित किया जा सकता है।

### Need for global collaboration

#### वैश्विक सहयोग की आवश्यकता





- Fighting **Disease X** will require an **unprecedented level of international cooperation**.  
रोग X से लड़ने के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग के अविस्मरणीय स्तर की आवश्यकता होगी।
- The WHO's ongoing efforts, such as its list of **priority pathogens** and the proposed **Pandemic Treaty**, aim to foster a unified global response to **health emergencies**.  
WHO के प्राथमिक रोगजनकों की सूची और प्रस्तावित महामारी संधि जैसे चल रहे प्रयासों का उद्देश्य स्वास्थ्य आपात स्थितियों के लिए एकजुट वैश्विक प्रतिक्रिया को बढ़ावा देना है।
- These initiatives recognise that **pandemics** do not respect **borders** and that fragmented efforts will be insufficient to counter a threat as elusive as **Disease X**.  
ये पहले मानती हैं कि महामारियाँ सीमाओं का सम्मान नहीं करतीं और बिखरी हुई प्रयास रोग X जैसे चतुर खतरे से निपटने के लिए अपर्याप्त होंगे।
- Governments must work together to share **data**, pool resources, and ensure **equitable access** to **diagnostics**, **treatments**, and **vaccines**.  
सरकारों को डेटा साझा करने, संसाधनों को एकत्र करने और नैदानिक परीक्षण, उपचार, और टीकों तक समान पहुंच सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक साथ काम करना होगा।
- The outbreak in the **DRC** serves as a sobering reminder of the risks the world faces.  
**DRC** में प्रकोप दुनिया के सामने आने वाले जोखिमों का एक गंभीर अनुस्मारक है।
- **Disease X** is no longer a **distant hypothetical** but an **urgent call to action**.  
रोग X अब एक दूरस्थ काल्पनिक नहीं है बल्कि तत्काल क्रियावली का आह्वान है।
- By strengthening **public health systems**, investing in **research** and **innovation**, and fostering **global solidarity**, the world can prepare for the unpredictable and safeguard future generations from the devastating consequences of the next **pandemic**.  
सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों को मजबूत करके, अनुसंधान और नवाचार में निवेश करके, और वैश्विक एकजुटता को बढ़ावा देकर, दुनिया अप्रत्याशित से निपटने के लिए तैयार हो सकती है और आने वाली महामारी के विनाशकारी परिणामों से भविष्य पीढ़ियों की रक्षा कर सकती है।
- Frameworks like the **Nagoya Protocol**, which ensure equitable sharing of benefits from **genetic resources**, could be expanded to include **biological materials** like **pathogens**.  
नागोया प्रोटोकॉल जैसे ढांचे, जो आनुवंशिक संसाधनों से लाभ के समान वितरण को सुनिश्चित करते हैं, उन्हें जैविक सामग्री जैसे रोगजनकों को शामिल करने के लिए विस्तारित किया जा सकता है।
- It would promote global collaboration, ensuring fair access to **research** and **medical countermeasures** during outbreaks.  
यह वैश्विक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देगा, प्रकोपों के दौरान अनुसंधान और चिकित्सा काउंटरमेजर्स तक न्यायसंगत पहुंच सुनिश्चित करेगा।
- A novel disease anywhere is a threat to everyone.  
कहीं भी एक नया रोग सभी के लिए खतरा है।



## Sweetened drinks 'increase risk of cardiovascular diseases'

R. Sujatha **GS Paper III: S&T**

**A** large-scale study in Sweden has suggested that consuming sweetened drinks significantly increases the risk of serious cardiovascular disease. An occasional treat is acceptable, though, the study has added.

Researchers studying the effects of the consumption of different types of sugar on health risks have found that generally higher sugar intake raises the risk of certain cardiovascular diseases. Sugary drinks in particular carry higher risks. Extremely low sugar consumption is also associated with poorer cardiovascular health. The study indicated that the lowest risks of cardiovascular diseases were found among people who ate occasional treats. The scientists advocate avoiding fizzy drinks, since such beverages have excessive added sugar that can increase the risk of stroke or aneurysm, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation.

### Source of the sugar

"The most striking finding from our study is the divergent relationship between different sources of added sugar and cardiovascular disease risk," said Suzanne Janzi, PhD candidate at Lund University and corresponding author of the article in *Frontiers in Public Health*. "This surprising contrast highlights the importance of considering not just the amount of sugar consumed, but its source and context," Ms. Janzi said.



The lowest risks of cardiovascular diseases were found among people who ate occasional treats. GETTY IMAGES

The scientists collected data from two other studies: the Swedish Mammography Cohort and the Cohort of Swedish Men, which included diet questionnaires administered in 1997 and 2009, allowing for monitoring participants' diets over time.

They looked at three classes of sugar consumption — toppings such as honey, a pastry as a treat, or sweetened beverages such as fizzy drinks — and seven cardiovascular diseases: two different types of stroke, heart attacks, heart failure, aortic aneurysms, atrial fibrillation, and aortic stenosis.

The participants were monitored until they died, were diagnosed with one of the cardiovascular diseases, or reached the end of the follow-up period in 2019. The

research found that during the study period, 25,739 participants were diagnosed with a cardiovascular disease.

### Sweet drinks increase risk

The data helped to break down how the different types of sugar intake affect the risk of different cardiovascular diseases. The analysis showed that consuming more sweetened drinks significantly increased the risk of ischaemic stroke, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, and abdominal aortic aneurysm.

"Liquid sugars found in sweetened beverages make you feel less full, potentially leading to overconsumption," Ms. Janzi said.

Different cardiovascular diseases were affected differently by increased sugar intake, possibly because consuming additional sugar affected participants' individual risk profiles differently. Increased sugar in general raised the risk of ischaemic stroke and abdominal aortic aneurysm, as well as increasing the risk of heart failure in participants with a normal BMI. However, the highest risks of a negative health outcome arose in the lowest intake category for treats. Occasional treats were associated with better outcomes than no treats at all.

### Low intake not beneficial

"While our observational study cannot establish causation, these findings suggest that extremely low sugar intake may not be necessary or beneficial for cardiovascular health," she added.

In India, the study resonates with our food habits, which include a large consumption of sweets and carbohydrates. "Carbohydrates are not inherently harmful. One should pay attention to the type and the amount consumed, which can increase the risk of heart disease," said G. Sengottuvelu, clinical lead, Structural Heart Disease Programme at Apollo Hospitals.

"Excess carbohydrates in the form of sugars and refined carbs may be more harmful than dietary fats. Added sugars, sugary beverages, or processed foods can contribute to obesity and metabolic syndrome, which is linked with insulin resistance, high triglycerides, and low HDL (good cholesterol)," he added.

They are associated with increased visceral fat deposition and accelerated atherosclerosis. Insulin resistance causes systemic inflammation with progression of plaque formation, the specialist explained.

Government Omandurar Multi Super Speciality Hospital dietician Meenakshi Bajaj said though the Indian dietary guidelines limit added sugars to 10% of the daily energy requirement, some dieticians recommend stricter restrictions given Indians' disposition to metabolic diseases. "Traditional Indian sweets contain not just sugars but also nuts, milk, seeds, trans fats, and saturated fats that prevent overconsumption, but this is not so with sugar-sweetened beverages. They could be replaced with herb infused water, tender coconuts, and fresh unsweetened home-made juices," she added.

## Sweetened drinks 'increase risk of cardiovascular diseases'

## मीठे पेय पदार्थों से हृदय संबंधी बीमारियों का खतरा बढ़ता है

### Study on the Consumption of Sugar and Cardiovascular Diseases

#### चीनी के सेवन और हृदय रोगों पर अध्ययन

- The scientists collected data from two other studies: the **Swedish Mammography Cohort** and the **Cohort of Swedish Men**, which included **diet questionnaires** administered in **1997** and **2009**, allowing for monitoring participants' diets over time.

वैज्ञानिकों ने दो अन्य अध्ययनों से डेटा एकत्र किया: **स्वीडिश मैमोग्राफी कोहोर्ट** और **स्वीडिश**

**पुरुषों का कोहोर्ट**, जिनमें **1997** और **2009** में दिए गए **आहार प्रश्नावली** शामिल थीं, जिससे समय के साथ प्रतिभागियों के आहार की निगरानी की जा सकी।

- They looked at three classes of sugar consumption — toppings such as **honey**, a **pastry** as a treat, or **sweetened beverages** such as fizzy drinks — and seven cardiovascular diseases: two different types of **stroke**, **heart attacks**, **heart failure**, **aortic aneurysms**, **atrial fibrillation**, and **aortic stenosis**.

उन्होंने चीनी सेवन की तीन श्रेणियों पर ध्यान दिया - **शहद** जैसे टॉपिंग, **पेस्ट्री** के रूप में एक मिठाई, या **मीठे पेय पदार्थ** जैसे फिज़ी ड्रिंक - और सात हृदय रोगों पर: दो विभिन्न प्रकार के





**स्ट्रोक, हृदयाघात, हृदय विफलता, एओर्टिक एनीविज़म, एट्रियल फिब्रिलेशन, और एओर्टिक स्टेनोसिस।**

- The participants were monitored until they died, were diagnosed with one of the cardiovascular diseases, or reached the end of the **follow-up period** in **2019**.  
प्रतिभागियों की निगरानी तब तक की गई जब तक वे नहीं मर गए, हृदय रोगों में से एक से निदानित नहीं हो गए, या **2019** में अनुसरण अवधि के अंत तक नहीं पहुँच गए।
- A large-scale study in **Sweden** has suggested that consuming **sweetened drinks** significantly increases the risk of serious cardiovascular disease.  
**स्वीडन** में एक बड़े पैमाने पर अध्ययन ने सुझाव दिया है कि **मीठे पेय पदार्थों** का सेवन गंभीर हृदय रोगों के जोखिम को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाता है।
- An occasional treat is acceptable, though, the study has added.  
हालांकि, अध्ययन में यह भी जोड़ा गया है कि कभी-कभार मिठाई लेना स्वीकार्य है।
- Researchers studying the effects of the consumption of different types of **sugar** on health risks have found that generally higher sugar intake raises the risk of certain **cardiovascular diseases**.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि विभिन्न प्रकार की **चीनी** के सेवन के स्वास्थ्य जोखिमों पर अध्ययन करते हुए यह निष्कर्ष निकाला कि सामान्यतः अधिक चीनी का सेवन कुछ **हृदय रोगों** के जोखिम को बढ़ाता है।
- **Sugary drinks** in particular carry higher risks.  
विशेष रूप से **मीठे पेय पदार्थों** में उच्च जोखिम होते हैं।
- Extremely low sugar consumption is also associated with poorer **cardiovascular health**.  
अत्यधिक कम चीनी का सेवन भी खराब **हृदय स्वास्थ्य** से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- The study indicated that the lowest risks of **cardiovascular diseases** were found among people who ate occasional treats.  
अध्ययन में यह संकेत दिया गया कि **हृदय रोगों** का सबसे कम जोखिम उन लोगों में पाया गया जिन्होंने कभी-कभार मिठाई खाई।
- The scientists advocate avoiding **fizzy drinks**, since such beverages have excessive added sugar that can increase the risk of **stroke** or **aneurysm**, **heart failure**, and **atrial fibrillation**.  
वैज्ञानिक **फिज़ी ड्रिंक** से बचने की सलाह देते हैं, क्योंकि ऐसे पेय पदार्थों में अत्यधिक **जोड़ी गई चीनी** होती है जो **स्ट्रोक** या **एनीविज़म**, **हृदय विफलता**, और **एट्रियल फिब्रिलेशन** के जोखिम को बढ़ा सकती है।

### Source of the sugar

#### चीनी का स्रोत

- “The most striking finding from our study is the **divergent relationship** between different sources of added sugar and **cardiovascular disease risk**,” said **Suzanne Janzi**, PhD candidate at **Lund University** and corresponding author of the article in **Frontiers in Public Health**.  
“हमारे अध्ययन से सबसे चौंकाने वाला निष्कर्ष यह है कि **जोड़ी गई चीनी** के विभिन्न स्रोतों और





हृदय रोगों के जोखिम के बीच विपरीत संबंध है," कहा सुज़ैन जानजी ने, जो लुंड विश्वविद्यालय में पीएचडी उम्मीदवार हैं और फ्रंटियर्स इन पब्लिक हेल्थ पत्रिका में लेख के सहलेखक हैं।

- "This surprising contrast highlights the importance of considering not just the **amount of sugar consumed**, but its **source and context**," Ms. Janzi said.  
"यह चौंकाने वाला अंतर यह रेखांकित करता है कि केवल चीनी की मात्रा को ही नहीं, बल्कि इसके स्रोत और संदर्भ को भी ध्यान में रखना कितना महत्वपूर्ण है," श्रीमती जानजी ने कहा।
- Research found that during the study period, **25,739 participants** were diagnosed with a **cardiovascular disease**.  
शोध में पाया गया कि अध्ययन अवधि के दौरान, **25,739 प्रतिभागियों** को हृदय रोग का निदान हुआ।

### **Sweet Drinks Increase Risk**

**मीठे पेय पदार्थों से जोखिम बढ़ता है**

- The data helped to break down how the different types of **sugar intake** affect the risk of different **cardiovascular diseases**.  
डेटा ने यह विश्लेषण करने में मदद की कि विभिन्न प्रकार के चीनी सेवन कैसे विभिन्न हृदय रोगों के जोखिम को प्रभावित करते हैं।
- The analysis showed that consuming more **sweetened drinks** significantly increased the risk of **ischemic stroke**, **heart failure**, **atrial fibrillation**, and **abdominal aortic aneurysm**.  
विश्लेषण से यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि अधिक मीठे पेय पदार्थों का सेवन इसकेमिक स्ट्रोक, हृदय विफलता, एट्रियल फिब्रिलेशन, और एब्डोमिनल एओर्टिक एनीविज़म के जोखिम को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाता है।
- "Liquid sugars found in **sweetened beverages** make you feel less full, potentially leading to **overconsumption**," Ms. Janzi said.  
"मीठे पेय पदार्थों में पाए जाने वाले तरल शर्करा आपको कम संतुष्ट महसूस कराते हैं, जिससे अधिक सेवन हो सकता है," श्रीमती जानजी ने कहा।
- Different cardiovascular diseases were affected differently by increased sugar intake, possibly because consuming additional sugar affected participants' individual risk profiles differently.  
चीनी सेवन में वृद्धि से विभिन्न हृदय रोगों पर अलग-अलग प्रभाव पड़े, संभवतः क्योंकि अतिरिक्त चीनी का सेवन प्रतिभागियों की व्यक्तिगत जोखिम प्रोफाइल को अलग-अलग तरीके से प्रभावित करता था।
- Increased sugar in general raised the risk of **ischemic stroke** and **abdominal aortic aneurysm**, as well as increasing the risk of **heart failure** in participants with a normal **BMI**.  
सामान्य रूप से बढ़ी हुई चीनी इसकेमिक स्ट्रोक और एब्डोमिनल एओर्टिक एनीविज़म के जोखिम को बढ़ाती है, साथ ही सामान्य बीएमआई वाले प्रतिभागियों में हृदय विफलता के जोखिम को भी बढ़ाती है।
- However, the highest risks of a negative health outcome arose in the **lowest intake category for treats**.





हालांकि, मिठाईयों के लिए सबसे कम सेवन श्रेणी में नकारात्मक स्वास्थ्य परिणामों के सबसे उच्च जोखिम सामने आए।

- **Occasional treats** were associated with better outcomes than no treats at all.  
कभी-कभार मिठाई का सेवन बिना मिठाई के सेवन की तुलना में बेहतर परिणामों से जुड़ा हुआ था।

### Low Intake Not Beneficial

#### कम सेवन लाभकारी नहीं है

- “While our observational study cannot establish **causation**, these findings suggest that extremely low sugar intake may not be necessary or beneficial for **cardiovascular health**,” she added.  
“हालांकि हमारा अवलोकनात्मक अध्ययन **कारण-संबंध** स्थापित नहीं कर सकता, ये निष्कर्ष यह सुझाव देते हैं कि अत्यधिक कम चीनी का सेवन **हृदय स्वास्थ्य** के लिए आवश्यक या लाभकारी नहीं हो सकता,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- In **India**, the study resonates with our food habits, which include a large consumption of **sweets and carbohydrates**.  
भारत में, यह अध्ययन हमारे खाद्य आदतों से मेल खाता है, जिसमें **मिठाईयों** और **कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स** का बड़ा सेवन शामिल है।
- “**Carbohydrates** are not inherently harmful. One should pay attention to the **type** and the **amount consumed**, which can increase the risk of **heart disease**,” said **G. Sengottuvelu**, clinical lead, **Structural Heart Disease Programme** at **Apollo Hospitals**.  
“कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स स्वाभाविक रूप से हानिकारक नहीं होते। व्यक्ति को **प्रकार** और **मात्रा** पर ध्यान देना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह **हृदय रोग** के जोखिम को बढ़ा सकता है,” कहा **जी. सेंगोतुवेलु** ने, जो **एपोलो अस्पताल** में **संरचनात्मक हृदय रोग कार्यक्रम** के क्लिनिकल लीड हैं।
- “Excess **carbohydrates** in the form of sugars and **refined carbs** may be more harmful than dietary fats. **Added sugars**, sugary beverages, or processed foods can contribute to **obesity** and **metabolic syndrome**, which is linked with **insulin resistance**, **high triglycerides**, and **low HDL (good cholesterol)**,” he added.  
“चीनी और परिष्कृत कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स के रूप में अत्यधिक कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स आहार वसा की तुलना में अधिक हानिकारक हो सकते हैं। **जोड़ी गई चीनी**, मीठे पेय पदार्थ, या प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थ **मोटापा** और **चयापचय सिंड्रोम** में योगदान कर सकते हैं, जो **इंसुलिन प्रतिरोध**, **उच्च ट्राइग्लिसराइड्स**, और **निम्न एचडीएल (अच्छा कोलेस्ट्रॉल)** से जुड़ा है,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- They are associated with increased **visceral fat deposition** and accelerated **atherosclerosis**.  
ये आंतरिक वसा जमा और एथेरोस्क्लेरोसिस के तीव्र होने से जुड़े हुए हैं।
- **Insulin resistance** causes systemic **inflammation** with progression of plaque formation, the specialist explained.  
**इंसुलिन प्रतिरोध** प्रणालीगत **सूजन** का कारण बनता है, जिसके साथ पट्टिका निर्माण की प्रगति होती है, विशेषज्ञ ने समझाया।





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- Government **Omandurar Multi Super Speciality Hospital** dietician **Meenakshi Bajaj** said though the **Indian dietary guidelines** limit added sugars to **10%** of the daily energy requirement, some dieticians recommend stricter restrictions given Indians' disposition to **metabolic diseases**.

सरकारी ओमंदुर मल्टी सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल की आहार विशेषज्ञ मीनाक्षी बजाज ने कहा कि हालांकि भारतीय आहार दिशानिर्देश जोड़ी गई चीनी को **10%** तक सीमित करते हैं, कुछ आहार विशेषज्ञ भारतीयों के चयापचय रोगों के प्रति प्रवृत्ति को देखते हुए कड़े प्रतिबंध की सलाह देते हैं।

- “Traditional **Indian sweets** contain not just **sugars** but also **nuts, milk, seeds, trans fats,** and **saturated fats** that prevent overconsumption, but this is not so with **sugar-sweetened beverages**.

“पारंपरिक भारतीय मिठाईयों में केवल चीनी नहीं, बल्कि बादाम, दूध, बीज, ट्रांस वसा, और संतृप्त वसा भी होती हैं, जो अधिक सेवन को रोकती हैं, लेकिन यह चीनी-मीठे पेय पदार्थों में ऐसा नहीं है।

- They could be replaced with **herb-infused water, tender coconuts,** and fresh **unsweetened homemade juices,** she added.

इन्हें हर्ब-इंफ्यूज्ड पानी, नरम नारियल, और ताजे बिना मीठे घर के बने जूस से बदला जा सकता है, उन्होंने जोड़ा।

