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15_12_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

- 1. Impeachment of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol / दक्षिण कोरिया के राष्ट्रपति यून सुक योल का महाभियोग (GS Paper-II: IR)**
- 2. President's Gambit Declined / राष्ट्रपति की चाल अस्वीकार (GS Paper-II: East Asia)**
- 3. Patnaik urges BJD leaders to fight for Odisha's tribals, oppose Polavaram project / पटनायक ने बीजेडी नेताओं से ओडिशा के आदिवासियों के लिए संघर्ष करने और पोलावरम परियोजना का विरोध करने का आग्रह किया (GS Paper-II: Inter-State Relations)**
- 4. How the famed campus of Meghalaya's oldest university slid down the slippery slope / कैसे मेघालय के सबसे पुराने विश्वविद्यालय का प्रसिद्ध परिसर गिरावट की ओर बढ़ गया (GS Paper-I: Society)**
- 5. Caught in the vortex of Golden Triangle / गोल्डन ट्रायंगल के चक्रव्यूह में फंसे लोग (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)**
- 6. 'Conclude EU-India FTA to counter forces of protectionism' / 'संरक्षणवाद की ताकतों का मुकाबला करने के लिए EU-India FTA को शीघ्र पूरा करें' (GS Paper-II: India-EU)**





7. **MFN clause freeze won't hit investments in India: Switzerland / एमएफएन क्लॉज निलंबन से भारत में निवेश प्रभावित नहीं होगा: स्विट्जरलैंड (GS Paper-II: India-EU)**
8. **M&M severs business ties with Lokesh Machines over U.S. sanctions / महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा ने अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण लोकेश मशीन से व्यापारिक संबंध तोड़े (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)**
9. **ASSOCHAM secretary general Deepak Sood steps down / ASSOCHAM के सचिव जनरल दीपक सूद ने इस्तीफा दिया (PCS)**
10. **'Drones transforming farming, market to touch \$631 mn by 2030' / 'ड्रोन खेती में परिवर्तन ला रहे हैं, 2030 तक बाजार \$631 मिलियन तक पहुंचेगा' (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
11. **Solid phase alloying can turn metal scrap into high-value alloys / सॉलिड फेज अलॉयिंग धातु के स्क्रेप को उच्च-मूल्य वाले मिश्र धातु में बदल सकता है (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
12. **Bovine H5N1 Displays Pronounced Neurotropism in Many Mammals / बोवाइन H5N1 कई स्तनधारियों में प्रमुख न्यूरोट्रॉपिज्म प्रदर्शित करता है (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
13. **Why deep sleep is helpful for long-term memory / दीर्घकालिक स्मृति के लिए गहरी नींद क्यों सहायक होती है (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
14. **Detecting premalignant pancreatic lesions with MRI / एमआरआई के माध्यम से पूर्व-अधिजात अग्न्याशय घावों का पता लगाना (GS Paper-III: S&T)**





15. **Writing by hand is better for learning, memory / हाथ से लिखना सीखने और याददाश्त के लिए बेहतर है (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
16. **Limiting factor / सीमित कारक (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
17. **What lies ahead for Syria after Assad's exit? / असद के जाने के बाद सीरिया के लिए आगे क्या है? (GS Paper-II: West Asia)**
18. **Gene Therapy to Cure Haemophilia A / जीन थेरेपी द्वारा हीमोफीलिया ए का इलाज (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
19. **Can the Vice President be impeached? / क्या उपराष्ट्रपति पर महाभियोग लगाया जा सकता है? (GS Paper-II: Union Executive)**
20. **Georgia chooses far-right loyalist as its new President / जॉर्जिया ने अपने नए राष्ट्रपति के रूप में दूर-दराज़ के वफादार को चुना (GS Paper-II: East Europe)**
21. **Commission links Hasina to enforced disappearances / आयोग ने हसीना को जबरन गायब होने की घटनाओं से जोड़ा (GS Paper-II: South Asia)**
22. **OpenAI whistleblower found dead in San Francisco / सैन फ्रांसिस्को में OpenAI व्हिसलब्लोअर मृत पाए गए (GS Paper-IV: Ethics / GS Paper-II: Governance / PCS)**
23. **'Popular' Suspect / 'लोकप्रिय' संदिग्ध (GS Paper-IV: Ethics)**
24. **As busy as a bee / मधुमक्खी की तरह व्यस्त (GS Paper-III)**



S. Korea lawmakers impeach President for martial law bid

GS Paper II: IR
Agence France-Press
SEOUL

South Korean lawmakers on Saturday impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol over his failed martial law bid, with the opposition declaring a “victory of the people”.

The vote capped more than a week of intense political drama in the democratic South following Mr. Yoon’s failed attempt to impose martial law on December 3. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of the capital Seoul in rival rallies for and against Mr. Yoon on Saturday.

In a televised address following the parliamentary vote, the impeached Mr. Yoon said he would “step aside” but did not apologise for his botched bid to impose martial law.

Out of 300 lawmakers, 204 voted to impeach the President on allegations of insurrection while 85 vot-



Protesters celebrate the impeachment of President Yoon on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

ed against it. Three abstained whereas eight votes were nullified.

With the impeachment, Mr. Yoon has been suspended from office while South Korea’s Constitutional Court deliberates on the vote. The court has 180 days to rule on Mr. Yoon’s future.

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- Out of 300 lawmakers, 204 voted to impeach the President on allegations of insurrection, 85 voted against, 3 abstained, and 8 votes were nullified. 300 सांसदों में से, 204 ने राष्ट्रपति के खिलाफ विद्रोह के आरोपों पर महाभियोग के पक्ष में मतदान किया, 85 ने विरोध में मतदान किया, 3 ने मतदान से परहेज किया, और 8 वोट अमान्य रहे।

Impeachment of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol

दक्षिण कोरिया के राष्ट्रपति यून सुक योल का महाभियोग

- South Korean lawmakers impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol over his failed martial law bid, with the opposition declaring it a “victory of the people.”

दक्षिण कोरिया के सांसदों ने राष्ट्रपति यून सुक योल का महाभियोग उनके मार्शल लॉ के असफल प्रयास पर लगाया, जिसे विपक्ष ने "जनता की जीत" घोषित किया।

- The vote marked over a week of intense political drama following Mr. Yoon's failed attempt to impose martial law on December 3.

यह मतदान 3 दिसंबर को मार्शल लॉ लागू करने के श्री यून के असफल प्रयास के बाद एक सप्ताह के तीव्र राजनीतिक नाटक का परिणाम था।

- Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of Seoul in rival rallies for and against Mr. Yoon on Saturday.

शनिवार को सियोल की सड़कों पर लाखों लोगों ने श्री यून के समर्थन और विरोध में रैलियां निकालीं।

- In a televised address, the impeached Mr. Yoon stated that he would “step aside” but did not apologise for the botched bid to impose martial law.

एक टेलीविज़न संबोधन में, महाभियोग झेल रहे श्री यून ने कहा कि वह "पद छोड़ देंगे", लेकिन मार्शल लॉ लागू करने के असफल प्रयास के लिए माफी नहीं मांगी।





- Following the impeachment, Mr. Yoon has been **suspended from office** while South Korea's **Constitutional Court** deliberates on the vote.
महाभियोग के बाद, श्री यून को पद से निलंबित कर दिया गया है, जबकि दक्षिण कोरिया की **संवैधानिक अदालत** इस मतदान पर विचार कर रही है।
- The court has **180 days** to rule on Mr. Yoon's future.
अदालत के पास श्री यून के भविष्य पर निर्णय लेने के लिए **180 दिन** हैं।

President's gambit declined

Yoon Suk Yeol

The impeached leader of **South Korea** was able to manage a successful transition from state prosecutor to national politician, but could not learn the give-and-take of democratic politics, nor give up thinking like a prosecutor

GS Paper II: East Asia

G. Sampath

Around half past ten on the night of December 3, Yoon Suk Yeol, South Korea's President and leader of the conservative People Power Party (PPP), appeared on national television to declare "emergency martial law". The decree meant that all political meetings, rallies, and strikes would be banned and media would come under military censorship. Local media reported that law enforcement and intelligence agencies got instructions to round up Opposition lawmakers and seal the National Assembly. Mr. Yoon, 63, justified the move by claiming that the Opposition, the liberal Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) was engaged in "anti-state activities" and collaborating with "North Korean communists".

But the news was received by ordinary Koreans with shock, for they believed they had put the days of military rule firmly behind them. It is a testament to how deeply the democratic ethos had taken root in the country that the martial law lasted barely six hours. During this dramatic interlude, Lee Jae-myung, the leader of the DPK, rallied his party members, asking them to rush to the National Assembly building. He also began a live stream from his mobile, getting the general public directly involved as his party scrambled to save the country from a looming dictatorship.

The live stream helped. Soldiers despatched to secure the National Assembly were held up by thousands of protesters blocking their way and demanding immediate restoration of democratic government. The delay and the consequent confusion enabled 190 of the 300 members the National Assembly to sneak into the premises, with some even climbing in through the windows. In a special session, all the 190, including members of Mr. Yoon's PPP, voted against the martial law. As per the Korean constitution, if the legislative majority strikes down martial law, the President must comply. Left with no alternative, Mr. Yoon withdrew his proclamation by 4.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The Opposition brought an

impeachment motion against him on December 7, but it was thwarted by a mass boycott by all the PPP lawmakers. The PPP has 108 members in the 300-member National Assembly, and a two-thirds majority vote (200) is required for an impeachment. The Opposition put the impeachment to vote again on December 14, and this time, 204 voted in favour. As a result, Mr. Yoon's presidential duties have been suspended, and Prime Minister Han Duck-soo will serve as acting President.

Review by court

Korea's Constitutional court will now review the Assembly's impeachment decision and has 180 days to deliver its verdict. If it strikes down the impeachment, Mr. Yoon will return to office. If it upholds it, Mr. Yoon will be permanently removed from office and elections must be held within 60 days. Simultaneously, Mr. Yoon also faces an investigation into whether his martial law decree amounts to insurrection, a crime that carries a death penalty.

As per the Constitution, martial law can only be invoked in extreme circumstances, "to cope with a military necessity or to maintain the public safety and order by mobilisation of the military forces in time of war, armed conflict or similar national emergency." These conditions were not in evidence when Mr. Yoon made his move. Given that members of his own party spoke out against his decree, Mr. Yoon seemed to have misread the fiercely democratic culture of his people, for whom the very idea of 'martial law' evokes traumatic events from the past, such as the 1980 Gwangju Uprising and the massacre of pro-democracy activists.

In fact, the public mood became evident almost instantly on social media, which was replete with "trending" posts that questioned Mr. Yoon's mental fitness, with users suggesting he might require psychiatric evaluation for "delusional disorder" and "paranoia". So, what explains Mr. Yoon's extraordinary act of overreach, one that has not only derailed his political career but has the potential to land him in jail or worse? Korean politics in recent times has



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

been marked by extreme polarisation, with political incumbents often using their tenures to seek vengeance on their rivals. For Mr. Yoon, frustration with his prime rival, Mr. Lee, had been building up for a long time.

Unlike Mr. Lee, Mr. Yoon never held elected office until he became President. Again, unlike Mr. Lee, whose parents were sanitation workers, Mr. Yoon comes from a privileged background. He studied law at an elite university before embarking on a stellar career as a prosecutor, sending two former Presidents to jail for abuse of power. In March 2021, Mr. Yoon resigned as the prosecutor general. In June, he announced his candidacy for the 2022 Presidential

race. And by March 2022, he defeated Mr. Lee by the closest margin in Korean history (48.56% to 47.83% of the vote) to become President. His campaign, and political posturing, especially on issues related to gender parity, have prompted comparisons with Donald Trump.

In stark contrast to Mr. Yoon's political trajectory of privilege to conservative politician, Mr. Lee began as a factory worker, and worked as a labour lawyer, following the path of rights-based politics to the centre-left of the DPK. Not surprisingly, the personality clash and political rivalry between Mr. Yoon, a conservative, and Mr. Lee, a liberal, also had an ideological edge.

Under Mr. Yoon's presidency, the political cleavage between the two sides found expression in state prosecutors vigorously pursuing bribery and breach of trust investigations against Mr. Lee, who has denied these charges, terming them politically motivated. Mr. Yoon also rebuffed Mr. Lee's attempts for a direct meeting to figure out a working relationship.

Mr. Lee, having lost the Presidential race to Mr. Yoon, bounced back with a seat in the National Assembly where he has emerged as the dominant figure in the Opposition. He has used the DPK's Parliamentary majority to repeatedly block Mr. Yoon's Budgets and impeach several of his key administrative officials – a tactic Mr. Yoon has described as "legislative dictatorship".

Lame duck President

Mr. Yoon did not enjoy a Parliamentary majority when he became President in 2022. He had a chance to get it in the general elections in April this year but failed, as the DPK won a landslide. South Korean Presidents are limited to one five-year term, and Mr. Yoon was facing the dubious prospect of serving out his entire term as a lame duck President – without a majority, or even a working relationship, in the National Assembly. For most of this year, Mr. Yoon has complained bitterly about a non-cooperative National Assembly controlled by the Opposition, whom he has called "monsters" and a "den of criminals". It would appear that mounting frustration over "legislative dictatorship" was weighing heavily on Mr. Yoon's mind, and perhaps triggered the impulse for a tit-for-tat – executive dictatorship, in the form of martial law.

In South Korean history, prosecutors have generally served as useful weapons for authoritarian leaders – they are typically not viewed as friendly to democracy. Mr. Yoon has demonstrated why. He was able to manage a successful transition from state prosecutor to national politician, but could not learn the give-and-take of democratic politics, nor give up thinking like a prosecutor.

THE GIST

South Korean politics in recent times has been marked by extreme polarisation, with political incumbents often using their tenures to seek vengeance on their rivals. For Mr. Yoon, frustration with his prime rival, Mr. Lee, had been building up for a long time.

Under Mr. Yoon's presidency, state prosecutors vigorously pursued bribery and breach of trust investigations against Mr. Lee, who has denied these charges, terming them politically motivated. Mr. Yoon also rebuffed Mr. Lee's attempts for a direct meeting to figure out a working relationship.

Mr. Lee has used South Korea's parliamentary majority to repeatedly block Mr. Yoon's Budgets and impeach several of his key administrative officials – a tactic Mr. Yoon has described as 'legislative dictatorship'.

President's Gambit Declined

राष्ट्रपति की चाल अस्वीकार





The **impeached leader of South Korea, Yoon Suk Yeol**, transitioned from a state prosecutor to a national politician but failed to adapt to democratic politics or abandon his prosecutor mindset.

दक्षिण कोरिया के महाभियोग झेल रहे नेता यून सुक योल ने एक राज्य अभियोजक से राष्ट्रीय राजनेता तक का सफर तय किया, लेकिन लोकतांत्रिक राजनीति को अपनाने या अभियोजक मानसिकता को छोड़ने में असफल रहे।

- On **December 3**, at around **10:30 PM**, Yoon Suk Yeol appeared on national television to declare **emergency martial law**, banning political meetings, rallies, and strikes while placing media under military censorship.

3 दिसंबर, रात लगभग **10:30 बजे**, यून सुक योल ने राष्ट्रीय टेलीविजन पर **आपातकालीन मार्शल लॉ** घोषित किया, जिसमें राजनीतिक बैठकें, रैलियां और हड़तालें प्रतिबंधित कर दी गईं और मीडिया को सैन्य सेंसरशिप के तहत रखा गया।

- Law enforcement and intelligence agencies were reportedly instructed to arrest opposition lawmakers and seal the National Assembly.**

कानून प्रवर्तन और खुफिया एजेंसियों को विपक्षी विधायकों को गिरफ्तार करने और नेशनल असेंबली को सील करने का निर्देश दिया गया।

- Yoon justified martial law by accusing the Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) of "anti-state activities" and collaborating with "North Korean communists."**

यून ने मार्शल लॉ को सही ठहराते हुए **डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी ऑफ कोरिया (DPK)** पर "राज्य-विरोधी गतिविधियों" और "उत्तर कोरियाई कम्युनिस्टों" के साथ सहयोग करने का आरोप लगाया।

- The announcement shocked Koreans, who believed the era of military rule was over, and martial law lasted only **six hours**.

इस घोषणा से कोरियाई नागरिक स्तब्ध रह गए, जो मानते थे कि सैन्य शासन का युग समाप्त हो चुका है, और मार्शल लॉ केवल **छह घंटे** तक चला।

- Lee Jae-myung**, DPK leader, rallied his party members to the National Assembly and started a live stream, engaging the public in opposing the martial law.

ली जे-म्युंग, डीपीके नेता, ने अपने पार्टी सदस्यों को नेशनल असेंबली में बुलाया और लाइव स्ट्रीम शुरू कर जनता को मार्शल लॉ के विरोध में शामिल किया।

- Protesters blocked soldiers from securing the National Assembly, allowing 190 of 300 lawmakers to enter and vote against martial law.**

प्रदर्शनकारियों ने सैनिकों को नेशनल असेंबली पर कब्जा करने से रोका, जिससे **300 में से 190 विधायक** अंदर प्रवेश कर मार्शल लॉ के खिलाफ मतदान कर सके।

- As per the Korean constitution, a legislative majority striking down martial law forces the President to comply, leading Yoon to withdraw the proclamation by 4:30 AM on December 4.**

कोरियाई संविधान के अनुसार, यदि विधायिका का बहुमत मार्शल लॉ को अस्वीकार करता है, तो राष्ट्रपति को इसे मानना पड़ता है, जिसके कारण यून ने **4 दिसंबर सुबह 4:30 बजे** घोषणा वापस ले ली।





Impeachment Motion and Court Review

महाभियोग प्रस्ताव और न्यायालय की समीक्षा

- The opposition proposed an impeachment motion on **December 7**, but a mass boycott by the **People Power Party (PPP)** thwarted it.
विपक्ष ने 7 दिसंबर को महाभियोग प्रस्ताव पेश किया, लेकिन पीपल पावर पार्टी (PPP) के सामूहिक बहिष्कार ने इसे विफल कर दिया।
- On **December 14**, the impeachment was voted again, and **204 lawmakers** supported it, suspending Yoon's duties while **Prime Minister Han Duck-soo** took over as acting President.
14 दिसंबर को महाभियोग पर फिर से मतदान हुआ, और **204 विधायकों** ने इसका समर्थन किया, जिससे यून की जिम्मेदारियां निलंबित हो गईं, और **प्रधानमंत्री हान डक-सू** कार्यवाहक राष्ट्रपति बने।
- The **Constitutional Court** will review the impeachment decision within **180 days**. If upheld, Yoon will be permanently removed, and elections will be held within **60 days**.
संवैधानिक न्यायालय महाभियोग निर्णय की समीक्षा **180 दिनों** के भीतर करेगा। यदि इसे बरकरार रखा गया, तो यून को स्थायी रूप से हटा दिया जाएगा और **60 दिनों** के भीतर चुनाव होंगे।
- Yoon also faces investigation for insurrection under the martial law decree, which carries a potential **death penalty**.
यून को मार्शल लॉ के तहत विद्रोह के लिए जांच का भी सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जिसमें संभावित मृत्यु दंड का प्रावधान है।

Misjudgment of Democratic Culture

लोकतांत्रिक संस्कृति का गलत आकलन

- Martial law in Korea can only be invoked in extreme circumstances like war or national emergencies, which were not evident during Yoon's decree.
कोरिया में मार्शल लॉ केवल युद्ध या राष्ट्रीय आपातकाल जैसे चरम परिस्थितियों में ही लागू किया जा सकता है, जो यून की घोषणा के समय मौजूद नहीं थीं।
- The public's immediate reaction against martial law reflected the **traumatic history** of events like the **1980 Gwangju Uprising** and pro-democracy massacres.
मार्शल लॉ के खिलाफ जनता की तत्काल प्रतिक्रिया ने **1980 के ग्वांगजू विद्रोह** और लोकतंत्र समर्थक नरसंहार जैसी **दर्दनाक घटनाओं** को दर्शाया।
- **Social media posts** questioned Yoon's mental fitness, labeling him as having "delusional disorder" and "paranoia."
सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट ने यून की मानसिक फिटनेस पर सवाल उठाते हुए उन्हें "भ्रम विकार" और "पैरानॉयआ" से पीड़ित बताया।
- Political polarization in Korean politics and Yoon's frustration with rival **Lee Jae-myung** are seen as factors leading to his extreme actions.
कोरियाई राजनीति में राजनीतिक ध्रुवीकरण और प्रतिद्वंद्वी **ली जे-म्युंग** के प्रति यून की हताशा को उनके अतिवादी कदमों के कारणों के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।





Mr. Yoon and Mr. Lee: Contrasting Political Trajectories

मिस्टर यून और मिस्टर ली: विपरीत राजनीतिक यात्रा

- **Unlike Mr. Lee**, Mr. Yoon never held elected office until he became President. मिस्टर ली के विपरीत, मिस्टर यून ने राष्ट्रपति बनने से पहले कभी कोई निर्वाचित पद नहीं संभाला।
- **Mr. Lee's parents** were sanitation workers, whereas Mr. Yoon comes from a **privileged background**. मिस्टर ली के माता-पिता सफाईकर्मी थे, जबकि मिस्टर यून एक संपन्न परिवार से आते हैं।
- **Mr. Yoon studied law at an elite university** before pursuing a career as a prosecutor, where he sent **two former Presidents to jail** for abuse of power. मिस्टर यून ने एक प्रतिष्ठित विश्वविद्यालय से कानून की पढ़ाई की और बाद में अभियोजक के रूप में अपने करियर में दो पूर्व राष्ट्रपतियों को सत्ता के दुरुपयोग के लिए जेल भेजा।
- In **March 2021**, Mr. Yoon resigned as the prosecutor general and announced his candidacy for the **2022 Presidential race** in June. मार्च 2021 में, मिस्टर यून ने अभियोजक जनरल के पद से इस्तीफा दिया और 2022 के राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए जून में अपनी उम्मीदवारी की घोषणा की।
- **By March 2022**, he defeated Mr. Lee by the **closest margin in Korean history** (48.56% to 47.83%). मार्च 2022 तक, उन्होंने कोरियाई इतिहास के सबसे करीबी अंतर (48.56% बनाम 47.83%) से मिस्टर ली को हरा दिया।
- Mr. Yoon's campaign and political posturing, especially on **gender parity**, drew comparisons with **Donald Trump**. मिस्टर यून के प्रचार और राजनीतिक रुख, विशेष रूप से लैंगिक समानता पर, की तुलना डोनाल्ड ट्रंप से की गई।

Political Rivalry Between Mr. Yoon and Mr. Lee

मिस्टर यून और मिस्टर ली के बीच राजनीतिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता

- Mr. Lee, unlike Mr. Yoon, began as a **factory worker** and later became a **labour lawyer**, aligning himself with **rights-based politics** and the **centre-left DPK**. मिस्टर ली, मिस्टर यून के विपरीत, एक कारखाने के मजदूर के रूप में शुरुआत की और बाद में श्रम कानून वकील बने, और अधिकार-आधारित राजनीति और मध्य-वामपंथी डीपीके से जुड़े।
- **Their rivalry has an ideological edge**, with Mr. Yoon as a conservative and Mr. Lee as a liberal. उनकी प्रतिद्वंद्विता में वैचारिक झुकाव है, जहां मिस्टर यून एक रूढ़िवादी और मिस्टर ली एक उदारवादी हैं।
- Under Mr. Yoon's presidency, state prosecutors vigorously pursued **bribery and breach of trust charges** against Mr. Lee, who denied them as politically motivated. मिस्टर यून की अध्यक्षता में, सरकारी अभियोजकों ने मिस्टर ली के खिलाफ घूसखोरी और विश्वासघात के आरोप मजबूती से लगाए, जिसे मिस्टर ली ने राजनीतिक प्रेरित बताया।





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

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- Mr. Lee, after losing the Presidential race, became a **dominant figure in the Opposition** by securing a **National Assembly seat**.
राष्ट्रपति चुनाव हारने के बाद, मिस्टर ली ने राष्ट्रीय विधानसभा की सीट हासिल करके विपक्ष में प्रमुख भूमिका निभाई।

Challenges Faced by Mr. Yoon as President

राष्ट्रपति के रूप में मिस्टर यून की चुनौतियां

- Mr. Yoon did not have a **Parliamentary majority** and failed to secure one in the **April 2024 general elections**, where the DPK won a **landslide victory**.
मिस्टर यून के पास संसदीय बहुमत नहीं था और वे इसे अप्रैल 2024 के आम चुनावों में भी हासिल नहीं कर पाए, जहां डीपीके ने भारी जीत हासिल की।
- South Korean Presidents are limited to **one five-year term**, and Mr. Yoon faced the prospect of being a **lame duck President** throughout his term.
दक्षिण कोरियाई राष्ट्रपति पांच साल के एक कार्यकाल तक सीमित होते हैं, और मिस्टर यून को अपने कार्यकाल में प्रभावहीन राष्ट्रपति बनने की संभावना का सामना करना पड़ा।
- **For most of this year, Mr. Yoon accused the National Assembly, controlled by the Opposition, of being a "den of criminals" and practicing "legislative dictatorship"**.
इस वर्ष के अधिकांश समय तक, मिस्टर यून ने विपक्ष-नियंत्रित राष्ट्रीय सभा को "अपराधियों का अड्डा" और "विधायी तानाशाही" का अभ्यास करने का आरोप लगाया।

Historical Context of Prosecutors in South Korea

दक्षिण कोरिया में अभियोजकों का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

- Historically, prosecutors have been seen as tools for **authoritarian leaders** rather than democracy.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, अभियोजकों को सत्तावादी नेताओं के लिए एक उपकरण के रूप में देखा गया है, न कि लोकतंत्र के लिए।
- Mr. Yoon exemplifies this as he transitioned from a **state prosecutor to a national politician**, but struggled to adopt the **give-and-take of democratic politics**.
मिस्टर यून इसका उदाहरण हैं, क्योंकि उन्होंने एक राज्य अभियोजक से राष्ट्रीय राजनेता बनने का परिवर्तन किया, लेकिन लोकतांत्रिक राजनीति की बातचीत की प्रक्रिया अपनाने में असफल रहे।

Website: patrioticias.in

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Patnaik urges BJD leaders to fight for Odisha's tribals, oppose Polavaram project

GS Paper II: Inter-State Relations

BHUBANESWAR

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik on Saturday urged party members to intensify their fight for justice on behalf of Odisha's tribal communities, who are likely to be severely impacted because of the Polavaram dam project in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Patnaik's call came after a delegation of party leaders met him to brief him on their recent visit to Delhi, where they raised concerns with the Centre regarding the project's potential impacts.

In a post on X, Mr. Patnaik said, "The Polavaram project will submerge many areas of Malkangiri and will greatly affect the tribal brothers and sisters. I met and discussed with the delegation of @bjd_odisha



There could be environmental damage, as a large area of flora and fauna will be submerged by the river's backwaters. FILE PHOTO

who submitted the demand letter to the Central Government. I advised them to continue fighting for the rights of the people. #BJDWithOdisha."

Delegation leader Debi Prasad Mishra said they apprised Mr. Patnaik regarding their interaction with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and senior officials from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as

well as the chairpersons of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and the Central Water Commission.

Former MP and prominent tribal leader Pradeep Majhi said, "The party will launch an agitation from January." He also highlighted the potential environmental damage, noting that a large area of flora and fauna in Malkangiri will be submerged by Godavari river's backwaters.

Pradesh.

बीजू जनता दल (बीजेडी) के अध्यक्ष नवीन पटनायक ने शनिवार को पार्टी के सदस्यों से ओडिशा के आदिवासी समुदायों के लिए न्याय के लिए संघर्ष तेज करने का आग्रह किया, जो आंध्र प्रदेश की पोलावरम डैम परियोजना से गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।

- Mr. Patnaik's call came after a **delegation of party leaders met him** to brief him on their recent visit to Delhi, where they raised concerns with the **Centre regarding the project's potential impacts**.

श्री पटनायक का यह आह्वान तब आया जब पार्टी नेताओं के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने उनसे मुलाकात की और उन्हें दिल्ली की अपनी हालिया यात्रा की जानकारी दी, जहां उन्होंने परियोजना के संभावित प्रभावों को लेकर केंद्र से चिंता जताई।

- In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Mr. Patnaik said, "The **Polavaram project will submerge many areas of Malkangiri** and will greatly affect the **tribal brothers and sisters**."

Patnaik urges BJD leaders to fight for Odisha's tribals, oppose Polavaram project

पटनायक ने बीजेडी नेताओं से ओडिशा के आदिवासियों के लिए संघर्ष करने और

पोलावरम परियोजना का विरोध करने का आग्रह किया

- **Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik** urged party members on Saturday to intensify their fight for justice on behalf of **Odisha's tribal communities**, who are likely to be severely impacted by the Polavaram dam project in Andhra





X (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पर एक पोस्ट में, श्री पटनायक ने कहा, "पोलावरम परियोजना से मलकानगिरी के कई क्षेत्रों में जलमग्न होने की संभावना है और यह आदिवासी भाई-बहनों को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित करेगी।"

- He added, "I met and discussed with the delegation of @bjd_odisha who submitted the demand letter to the **Central Government**. I advised them to continue fighting for the rights of the people."

उन्होंने आगे कहा, "मैंने @bjd_odisha के प्रतिनिधिमंडल से मुलाकात की और चर्चा की, जिन्होंने केंद्र सरकार को मांग पत्र सौंपा। मैंने उन्हें लोगों के अधिकारों के लिए संघर्ष जारी रखने की सलाह दी।"

- Delegation leader **Debi Prasad Mishra** said they apprised Mr. Patnaik of their interaction with **Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil**, officials from the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, and the **chairpersons of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and the Central Water Commission**.

प्रतिनिधिमंडल के नेता देबी प्रसाद मिश्रा ने बताया कि उन्होंने श्री पटनायक को अपनी केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री सी.आर. पाटिल, जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, और राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग और केंद्रीय जल आयोग के अध्यक्षों के साथ हुई बातचीत के बारे में जानकारी दी।

- Former MP and prominent tribal leader **Pradeep Majhi** said, "The party will launch an **agitation from January**." He also highlighted the **potential environmental damage**, noting that a large area of flora and fauna in **Malkangiri** will be submerged by **Godavari river's backwaters**.

पूर्व सांसद और प्रमुख आदिवासी नेता प्रदीप माजhi ने कहा, "पार्टी जनवरी से आंदोलन शुरू करेगी।" उन्होंने संभावित पर्यावरणीय नुकसान पर भी प्रकाश डाला और कहा कि मलकानगिरी के एक बड़े क्षेत्र का वनस्पति और जीव-जंतु गोदावरी नदी के बैकवाटर में जलमग्न हो जाएगा।



How the famed campus of Meghalaya's oldest university slid down the slippery slope

GS Paper I: Society

SPOTLIGHT

Rahul Karmakar

Lum Sohpetbneng, lording over the man-made Umiam lake about 20 kilometres short of Meghalaya's capital Shillong, is one of the most revered peaks for the matrilineal Khasi tribe. Sohpetbneng, meaning 'navel of heaven', is believed to have had a mythical umbilical cord connecting heaven and earth before human pride and sin severed the link. Every second Sunday of February, the Khasi community, adhering to the indigenous faith, trek 7 km to the peak, pledging to keep their unique traditions alive.

Everything else that bears the peak's name in Meghalaya is expected to be sacred. Occupying an uneven glade surrounded by pine trees, the Sohpetbneng Hostel is no longer ethereal. It used to be a coveted accommodation for some 500 postgraduate students of the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) at Umshing-Mawkynroh on the outskirts of Shillong. Today, the hostel blocks stand like haunted houses, the walls and roofs covered with moss and an outgrowth of plants. Chhinlung, the adjoining hostel named after a mythological place believed to be the an-

cestral origin of the Mizo and Chin people, looks similar.

"The boarders of these two blocks were evacuated more than three years ago, after the buildings were marked unsafe. This sums up what's wrong with our university," says Ram Toi, adviser of the NEHU Students' Union (NEHUSU).

Students say the hostels fell into disrepair around the time Prabha Shankar Shukla took over from S.K. Srivastava as NEHU's Vice Chancellor, in July 2021. In the early 1990s, the university – the first Central institution in the Northeast and the oldest in Meghalaya – shifted to its present address from two prime locations in Shillong.

On November 5, 2024, the students temporarily locked the gates of the university to protest Shukla's alleged mismanagement. The crumbling infrastructure was not the only reason. The irregularities, they say, made NEHU slide from the list of India's top 100 universities, from 59th spot on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2021 to 66 in 2022 and 80 in 2023, before dropping off the list in 2024.

"In the past, we produced brilliant students who are occupying top positions in government and corporate jobs. A decade ago, we had our best NIRF



College daze: Students on a hunger strike that was called off after 16 days in November, at the North Eastern Hill University in Shillong, Meghalaya. RITU RAJ KONWAR

ranking of 15," says Nirmalendu Saha, the Dean of Life Sciences. He has been asked to fill in for Shukla until a two-member inquiry committee constituted by the Education Ministry submits its report by December 13. Shortly after the hunger strike that was called off on the 16th day, Shukla and other officials in the line of fire were asked to go on leave during the probe by the panel headed by former University Grants Commission Chairperson D.P. Singh.

The students were not the first to revolt against Shukla, who, they alleged, hand-picked incompetent officials, including the Registrar, Colonel (retired) Omkar Singh; and Deputy Registrar (Academics) Amit Gupta. Weeks before the

students went on strike demanding the removal of the trio, the NEHU Teachers' Association (NEHUTA) wrote to the Prime Minister's Office underscoring the need to save the academic atmosphere in the university.

The NEHUTA also petitioned Nirupam Chakma, a member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, saying in the letter: "He [Shukla] has attempted to completely change the harmonious tribal, ethnic, and other Indian character of NEHU into a monolith of a Hindu Brahmanical university."

Acting arbitrarily

The NEHUTA says the Vice Chancellor appointed Col. Singh about a year ago as the Controller of Examina-

private institution and made the Deputy Registrar (Academics) without any qualification to handle the responsibility. Both students and teachers claim that Shukla denied qualified tribal teachers their right to be appointed as Deans. They allege he appointed 87 teachers in 2023, mostly non-tribal and from outside Meghalaya. This led to court cases for procedural lapses and bias towards candidates from northern India.

He allegedly also did not fill up vacancies in some departments and vetoed NEHU's research collaborations with foreign universities such as Heidelberg, Kyoto, Bologna, and Indiana, and scotched a move to set up an offshore campus in Thailand's Chiang Mai. They say the V-C stayed away from the university often, resulting in denying promotions to 18 senior professors who retired without getting their dues, a NEHUTA dossier on the V-C stated.

The non-teaching staff, too, have been unhappy with the V-C's style of functioning. The confrontation began with the appointment of Rohit Prasad as a technical officer from outside the State in 2022, without any advertisement, constitution of a screening committee, interview, or terms and conditions of employment. The appoint-

ment was cancelled in 2023 after a Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the students, teachers, and non-teaching staff protested the violation of the model cadre recruitment rules for non-teaching posts of Central universities.

A day before the students started their indefinite hunger strike on November 5, the NEHU Non-Teaching Staff Association went on an indefinite pen-down strike. "There has been an inordinate delay in the recruitment and promotion of the non-teaching staff. According to the UGC norms, the employment ratio of the teaching to non-teaching staff should be 1:1.1. Our strength is now 250, much less than the sanctioned posts that need to be filled up for academic excellence," the association's president W.R. Synrem says. The NEHU website claims the teaching faculty strength is more than 300.

Right and left

Congress MLA Ronnie V. Lyngdoh says the graph of NEHU, as with a few other higher education institutions in the Northeast, began nosediving after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power at the Centre. "There has been an attempt to place unqualified people in posts only because of their RSS [Rashtri-

ya Swayamsevak Sangh] and BJP backgrounds," he says.

The Meghalaya unit of the State's coalition government, threw its weight behind the agitating stakeholders of the university but dismissed allegations that the RSS and BJP were behind the ongoing turmoil. "A conclusion cannot be drawn when the matter is under probe," senior BJP leader and the State's Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Minister, Alexander Laloo Hek says.

The JAC did not delve into Shukla's ideological background, but said NEHU needs a V-C with empathy and a track record of leadership. In a letter to the Principal Secretary of Higher Education in New Delhi on November 27, Shukla denied flouting guidelines to appoint administrative officials. He also accused a coterie of NEHUTA members of hatching a plan in September to "create chaos on the campus". The NEHUTA trashed Shukla's letter as a web of lies.

Amid the ongoing churn, the students, teachers, and non-teaching staff of NEHU feel reviving the university is tougher than the climb up the steep Sohpetbneng.

LINK TO FULL STORY
» <https://bit.ly/4fzscdr>

How the famed campus of Meghalaya's oldest university slid down the slippery slope

कैसे मेघालय के सबसे पुराने विश्वविद्यालय का प्रसिद्ध परिसर गिरावट की ओर बढ़ गया

- **Lum Sohpetbneng**, located near the man-made Umiam Lake, about **20 kilometres** from Shillong, is revered by the **matrilineal Khasi tribe**.

लुम सोहपेटबनेग, जो मानव निर्मित उमियाम झील के पास है और शिलॉन्ग से लगभग 20 किलोमीटर दूर है, मातृसत्तात्मक खासी जनजाति द्वारा पूजनीय है।

- **Sohpetbneng** means '**navel of heaven**' and is believed to have connected heaven and earth before being severed by human pride and sin.

सोहपेटबनेग का अर्थ है 'स्वर्ग की नाभि', और इसे कभी स्वर्ग और पृथ्वी को जोड़ने वाला माना जाता था, जो मानवीय अभिमान और पाप के कारण टूट गया।

- **Every second Sunday of February**, the Khasi community treks **7 km** to the peak to uphold their unique traditions.





हर फरवरी के दूसरे रविवार, खासी समुदाय अपनी अनूठी परंपराओं को बनाए रखने के लिए 7 किमी की चढ़ाई करता है।

- The **Sohpetbneng Hostel** at North Eastern Hill University (**NEHU**) once housed **500 postgraduate students** but is now in disrepair, resembling haunted buildings.
नॉर्थ ईस्टर्न हिल यूनिवर्सिटी (**NEHU**) के सोहपेटबनेग हॉस्टल में पहले **500 स्नातकोत्तर छात्रों** का निवास था, लेकिन अब यह खंडहर जैसा हो गया है।
- Adjoining hostel **Chhinlung**, named after a mythological origin of the **Mizo and Chin people**, is in a similar condition.
पड़ोसी हॉस्टल छिनलुंग, जो मिज़ो और चिन लोगों के पौराणिक उत्पत्ति स्थल के नाम पर है, भी ऐसी ही स्थिति में है।
- The hostels were evacuated more than **three years ago** after being declared unsafe, reflecting broader issues with the university.
इन हॉस्टलों को **तीन साल से अधिक समय पहले** असुरक्षित घोषित कर खाली कराया गया, जो विश्वविद्यालय की व्यापक समस्याओं को दर्शाता है।
- Students attribute the decline to **Prabha Shankar Shukla's** tenure as Vice-Chancellor starting **July 2021**, replacing **S.K. Srivastava**.
छात्र इस गिरावट के लिए **प्रभा शंकर शुक्ला** के कार्यकाल को जिम्मेदार मानते हैं, जो **जुलाई 2021** में **एस.के. श्रीवास्तव** के स्थान पर कुलपति बने।
- **NEHU slipped in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIFR) from 59th in 2021 to 66 in 2022, 80 in 2023, and dropped out in 2024.**
एनईएचयू ने राष्ट्रीय संस्थागत रैंकिंग फ्रेमवर्क (**NIFR**) में **2021 में 59वां स्थान से 2022 में 66, 2023 में 80, और 2024 में सूची से बाहर** हो गया।
- On **November 5, 2024**, students locked the university gates to protest alleged **mismanagement and crumbling infrastructure**.
5 नवंबर 2024 को छात्रों ने कथित कुप्रबंधन और गिरते बुनियादी ढांचे के विरोध में विश्वविद्यालय के गेट बंद कर दिए।
- **NEHU once ranked 15th in NIFR a decade ago** and produced many successful alumni in government and corporate jobs.
एनईएचयू ने एक दशक पहले **एनआईएफआर में 15वां स्थान** प्राप्त किया था और कई सफल छात्र सरकारी और कॉर्पोरेट नौकरियों में भेजे।
- Following a **16-day hunger strike**, Vice-Chancellor Shukla and key officials were sent on leave during an inquiry headed by **D.P. Singh**.
16 दिनों की भूख हड़ताल के बाद, कुलपति शुक्ला और मुख्य अधिकारियों को **डी.पी. सिंह** के नेतृत्व में जांच के दौरान अवकाश पर भेजा गया।
- **NEHU Teachers' Association (NEHUTA)** accused Shukla of destroying the university's harmonious tribal and ethnic character.
एनईएचयू शिक्षक संघ (NEHUTA) ने शुक्ला पर विश्वविद्यालय के सामंजस्यपूर्ण जनजातीय और जातीय चरित्र को नष्ट करने का आरोप लगाया।
- A petition to the Prime Minister's Office highlighted the need to save NEHU's academic environment.





प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय को एक याचिका में एनईएचयू के शैक्षणिक वातावरण को बचाने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित किया गया।

Allegations of Arbitrary Actions at NEHU

NEHU में मनमाने कार्यों के आरोप

- **The NEHUTA alleged** that the Vice Chancellor **appointed Col. Singh** as the Controller of Examinations, **bypassing qualified candidates of ethnic origins from Meghalaya**. NEHUTA ने आरोप लगाया कि कुलपति ने कोल. सिंह को परीक्षा नियंत्रक नियुक्त किया और मेघालय के जातीय मूल के योग्य उम्मीदवारों को दरकिनार कर दिया।
- **Singh allegedly had no experience in colleges or universities, leading to delays in CUET results.**
सिंह के पास कॉलेजों या विश्वविद्यालयों का कोई अनुभव नहीं था, जिससे CUET परिणामों में देरी हुई।
- **After six months, Singh was made Registrar and appointed himself supervisor of NEHU's CUET centre.**
छह महीने बाद, सिंह को रजिस्ट्रार बनाया गया और उन्होंने खुद को NEHU के CUET केंद्र का पर्यवेक्षक नियुक्त कर लिया।
- **NEHUTA claims he interfered in academic matters without qualifications and delayed promotions for 18 senior professors, who retired without dues.**
NEHUTA का दावा है कि उन्होंने शैक्षणिक मामलों में बिना योग्यता के हस्तक्षेप किया और 18 वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसरों को उनकी सेवा निवृत्ति तक पदोन्नति नहीं दी।

Appointments and Procedural Issues

नियुक्तियाँ और प्रक्रिया से संबंधित समस्याएँ

- Gupta, brought from a **private institution**, was appointed as **Deputy Registrar (Academics)** without necessary qualifications.
गुप्ता, जिन्हें एक निजी संस्थान से लाया गया था, को डिप्टी रजिस्ट्रार (अकादमिक) के रूप में बिना योग्यता के नियुक्त किया गया।
- **Shukla allegedly appointed 87 teachers in 2023, most of whom were non-tribal and from outside Meghalaya, leading to court cases.**
शुक्ला ने कथित तौर पर 2023 में 87 शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति की, जिनमें से अधिकांश गैर-आदिवासी और मेघालय से बाहर के थे, जिससे न्यायालय के मामले उठे।
- **Vacancies in some departments remained unfilled, and research collaborations with foreign universities like Heidelberg and Kyoto were vetoed.**
कुछ विभागों में रिक्त पदों को नहीं भरा गया, और हीडलबर्ग और क्योटो जैसे विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों के साथ अनुसंधान सहयोग पर रोक लगा दी गई।





Staff and Employment Concerns

स्टाफ और रोजगार संबंधी चिंताएँ

- A **technical officer, Rohit Prasad**, was appointed in 2022 **without advertisement or screening** but was later removed in 2023 after protests.
तकनीकी अधिकारी रोहित प्रसाद को 2022 में बिना विज्ञापन और स्क्रीनिंग के नियुक्त किया गया, लेकिन 2023 में विरोध के बाद हटा दिया गया।
- The **NEHU Non-Teaching Staff Association** went on a **pen-down strike** citing delays in **recruitment and promotions**.
NEHU गैर-शिक्षण स्टाफ संघ ने भर्ती और पदोन्नति में देरी को लेकर कलमबंद हड़ताल की।
- **UGC norms mandate a 1:1.1 teaching to non-teaching staff ratio**, but NEHU's non-teaching staff strength is **much below sanctioned posts**.
UGC के मानदंडों के अनुसार शिक्षण और गैर-शिक्षण स्टाफ का अनुपात 1:1.1 होना चाहिए, लेकिन NEHU में गैर-शिक्षण स्टाफ की संख्या स्वीकृत पदों से काफी कम है।

Political and Ideological Allegations

राजनीतिक और वैचारिक आरोप

- Congress MLA **Ronnie Lyngdoh** claimed that NEHU's performance deteriorated after the **BJP came to power**, accusing appointments based on **RSS/BJP backgrounds**.
कांग्रेस विधायक रोनी लिंगदोह ने आरोप लगाया कि NEHU का प्रदर्शन भाजपा के सत्ता में आने के बाद खराब हुआ और नियुक्तियों में RSS/भाजपा के संबंधों को आधार बनाया गया।
- The **Meghalaya BJP unit**, part of the State government, supported the protests but denied any **RSS or BJP role** in the turmoil.
राज्य सरकार का हिस्सा रहे मेघालय भाजपा इकाई ने विरोध का समर्थन किया लेकिन RSS या भाजपा की भूमिका से इनकार किया।

Demands for Leadership and Revival

नेतृत्व और पुनरुद्धार की मांगें

- JAC emphasized that NEHU needs a **Vice Chancellor with empathy and a track record of leadership**.
JAC ने जोर दिया कि NEHU को सहानुभूति रखने वाले और नेतृत्व की पहचान वाले कुलपति की आवश्यकता है।
- Shukla, in a letter dated **November 27**, denied violations in appointments and accused NEHUTA of planning to **create chaos**.
शुक्ला ने 27 नवंबर को एक पत्र में नियुक्तियों में उल्लंघन से इनकार किया और NEHUTA पर अराजकता फैलाने की योजना बनाने का आरोप लगाया।





- NEHUTA rejected Shukla's claims as a **web of lies** and highlighted the university's struggles to recover.

NEHUTA ने शुक्ला के दावों को झूठ का जाल बताया और विश्वविद्यालय के पुनरुद्धार की कठिनाइयों को रेखांकित किया।

Caught in the vortex of Golden Triangle

Several people from **India, Pakistan and Myanmar** have been trapped in Southeast Asia and forced to commit cybercrime; Indian Embassy officials have reported a sharp increase in jobseekers cheated by unregistered agents, who charged between ₹2 lakh and 5 lakh to provide a foreign job

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Samridhi Tewari

NEW DELHI

In February this year, 31-year-old Suresh Singh*, a resident of Telangana who was on the lookout for employment abroad, stumbled upon a sales job in Laos. He found Ali International Services, run by one Kamran Haider, which promised him the job that offered a decent salary, food and accommodation. But a week later, he realised that he was cheated and trafficked to the Golden Triangle's Special Economic Zone in Laos, where he was forced to commit cybercrime against Indians even as his Chinese bosses abused and threatened him.

"They offered me ₹60,000 because I knew Tamil and Telugu. I paid ₹1.60 lakh to the agent, who arranged my ticket," Mr. Singh said. Along with two others from Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, he traveled to Thailand via Kolkata, secured SIM cards, and crossed the border into Laos by bus and boat.

Mr. Singh said he felt like he was living his dream until he was taken to the Golden Triangle, a Special



Free at last: The first batch of 60 Indian nationals, rescued by the Indian Embassy in Cambodia from fraudulent employers, returned home in May 2024. @INDEMBCAM

Economic Zone, which, he said, had "big buildings, fancy cars, massage parlours, jewellery shops, and business areas, and people with iPhones but no signboards." Inside a building, he had to give English grammar, spelling, reading, and typing tests. When he asked why these were necessary for a sales job, he was silenced. Soon, he realised that the dream was nothing but a nightmare.

Several people from India, Pakistan and Myanmar were seated on desks, with multiple mobile phones and desktops, "and committing cybercrime", Mr. Singh recalled. He said the

agent who took him to the Golden Triangle "sold him off" to Chinese agents for ₹2 lakh. They took away his passport and the ₹35,000 cash he had.

On December 7, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Special Cell of Delhi Police arrested Mr. Haider in connection with trafficking of victims like Mr. Singh. Officials said the agent had arranged flight tickets, documents, and illegal border crossings with contacts in the Golden Triangle, forcing victims into scams targeting Europeans and Americans. He also extorted money through cryptocurrency wallets from victims who

wanted to return home.

Mr. Singh, who comes from a family of farmers, returned to India in April with the help of the Indian Embassy. Till date, he has not told his family that he was cheated.

The Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone in Laos's Bokeo province is known for its Chinese-owned casinos and hotels. In August, according to media in Laos, 489 men and 282 women of 15 nationalities were arrested for their involvement in a cyberscam network near Myanmar and Thailand.

Indian Embassy officials reported a sharp increase in jobseekers cheated by

unregistered agents through fake offers. These agents charged between ₹2 lakh and ₹5 lakh to provide jobs.

This growing trend was highlighted by the Interpol in June, when it said that tens of thousands had been trafficked in Southeast Asia, while many more were defrauded in different parts of the world. In August, a UN Human Rights Office report took up the issue and found that the fraud ranged from romance-investment scams and crypto to illegal gambling. The employees in these centres are told to carry out phishing, extortion, credit card fraud, and scams related to jobs, social media, cryptocurrency and investment.

Trafficked and tortured In December last year, the Interpol arrested 281 persons from different countries for human trafficking, the passport forgery, corruption, telecommunications fraud, and sexual exploitation.

The UN report cited above said that victims endured a range of violations and abuse – they were threatened with their safety and security, and many

were subjected to torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary detention, sexual violence, forced labour, and other human rights abuses.

The report said that at least 1.2 lakh people across Myanmar were held in situations where they were forced to carry out online scams, with estimates in Cambodia around 1 lakh. The report identified countries such as Laos, the Philippines and Thailand as destinations where people have been involved in running cybercrime syndicates generating annual revenues amounting to billions of dollars.

Interpol said that over the past year in Myanmar, authorities had reported the rescue of trafficking victims who came from 22 countries. NIA chargesheets, filed in these cases, said that on refusing to commit cybercrime, the trafficked youths were starved, lashed and locked in rooms. "Some youths were even given electric shocks if they failed to meet their target of befriending prospective victims on social media," it added.

(*name changed)

Caught in the vortex of Golden Triangle

गोल्डन ट्रायंगल के चक्रव्यूह में फंसे लोग

- In February this year, 31-year-old **Suresh Singh**, a resident of Telangana, was looking for **employment abroad** and found a sales job in **Laos**.

इस साल फरवरी में, तेलंगाना के रहने वाले 31 वर्षीय सुरेश सिंह विदेश में रोजगार की तलाश में थे और उन्हें लाओस में एक बिक्री का काम मिला।





- He discovered **Ali International Services**, run by **Kamran Haider**, which promised a job with a decent **salary, food, and accommodation**.
उन्होंने अली इंटरनेशनल सर्विसेज को खोजा, जिसे कमरान हैदर चला रहे थे, जिन्होंने उन्हें एक अच्छे वेतन, खाना, और आवास का वादा किया था।
- A week later, he realized he was cheated and trafficked to the **Golden Triangle's Special Economic Zone** in Laos, where he was forced to commit **cybercrime**.
एक सप्ताह बाद, उन्हें एहसास हुआ कि उन्हें धोखा दिया गया और उन्हें लाओस के गोल्डन ट्रायंगल के विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र में तस्करी कर ले जाया गया, जहां उन्हें साइबर अपराध करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया।
- Singh was promised ₹60,000 because he knew **Tamil and Telugu**. He paid ₹1.60 lakh to the agent for the ticket.
सिंह को तमिल और तेलुगु जानने के कारण ₹60,000 का वादा किया गया था। उन्होंने टिकट के लिए एजेंट को ₹1.60 लाख दिए।
- Singh, along with two others from **Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh**, traveled to **Thailand** via **Kolkata**, secured SIM cards, and crossed into Laos by bus and boat.
सिंह, जो मध्य प्रदेश और हिमाचल प्रदेश के दो अन्य लोगों के साथ था, कोलकाता के रास्ते थाईलैंड पहुंचे, सिम कार्ड हासिल किए, और बस और नाव से लाओस सीमा पार की।
- He found the **Golden Triangle** to have "big buildings, fancy cars, massage parlours, jewellery shops, and business areas," but no signboards.
उन्होंने पाया कि गोल्डन ट्रायंगल में "बड़े इमारतें, महंगी गाड़ियाँ, मसाज पार्लर, गहनों की दुकानें और व्यापारिक क्षेत्र" थे, लेकिन कोई भी साइनबोर्ड नहीं थे।
- Inside a building, he had to give **English grammar**, spelling, reading, and typing tests, which he thought were unnecessary for a sales job.
एक इमारत के अंदर, उन्हें अंग्रेजी ग्रामर, स्पेलिंग, पढ़ाई और टाइपिंग के टेस्ट देने पड़े, जिन्हें उन्होंने बिक्री के काम के लिए अनावश्यक समझा।
- Soon, he realized that the dream was a nightmare. Several people from **India, Pakistan, and Myanmar** were forced to commit **cybercrime** in the Golden Triangle.
जल्द ही, उन्हें एहसास हुआ कि यह सपना केवल एक बुरा सपना था। भारत, पाकिस्तान और म्यांमार के कई लोग गोल्डन ट्रायंगल में साइबर अपराध करने के लिए मजबूर थे।
- Singh said the agent who took him to the Golden Triangle "sold him off" to **Chinese agents** for ₹2 lakh. They took away his passport and ₹35,000 in cash.
सिंह ने कहा कि जो एजेंट उन्हें गोल्डन ट्रायंगल ले गया, उसने उन्हें चीनी एजेंट्स को ₹2 लाख में "बेच दिया"। उन्होंने उनका पासपोर्ट और ₹35,000 नकद ले लिया।
- On December 7, **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** and **Delhi Police's Special Cell** arrested Mr. Haider for trafficking victims like Singh.
7 दिसंबर को, राष्ट्रीय अन्वेषण एजेंसी (NIA) और दिल्ली पुलिस की विशेष सेल ने सिंह जैसे पीड़ितों की तस्करी करने के आरोप में श्री हैदर को गिरफ्तार किया।
- Mr. Haider had arranged flight tickets, documents, and illegal border crossings with contacts in the Golden Triangle, forcing victims into scams targeting Europeans and Americans.
श्री हैदर ने गोल्डन ट्रायंगल में अपने संपर्कों के साथ उड़ान टिकट, दस्तावेज़ और अवैध सीमा पार





करने की व्यवस्था की थी, जिससे पीड़ितों को यूरोपीय और अमेरिकी नागरिकों को लक्ष्य बनाकर धोखाधड़ी करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया।

- He also extorted money through **cryptocurrency wallets** from victims wanting to return home.

उन्होंने **क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी वॉलेट्स** के माध्यम से उन पीड़ितों से पैसे भी वसूल किए, जो घर लौटने के लिए इच्छुक थे।

- Mr. Singh, from a family of farmers, returned to India in April with the help of the **Indian Embassy**. He has not told his family that he was cheated.

किसानों के परिवार से आने वाले सिंह, **भारतीय दूतावास** की मदद से अप्रैल में भारत लौटे। उन्होंने अब तक अपने परिवार को नहीं बताया कि उन्हें धोखा दिया गया था।

The Golden Triangle

गोल्डन ट्रायंगल

- The Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone in Laos's **Bokeo province** is known for its **Chinese-owned casinos and hotels**.

**लाओस के बोकेओ प्रांत में गोल्डन ट्रायंगल विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र चीनी स्वामित्व वाले कैसीनो और होटलों के लिए जाना जाता है।

- In **August**, according to media in Laos, **489 men and 282 women of 15 nationalities** were arrested for their involvement in a cyberscam network near **Myanmar and Thailand**.

अगस्त में, लाओस के मीडिया के अनुसार, 489 पुरुष और 282 महिलाएं, 15 राष्ट्रीयताओं से, म्यांमार और थाईलैंड के पास साइबर स्कैम नेटवर्क में उनकी भागीदारी के लिए गिरफ्तार की गईं।

- **Indian Embassy** officials reported a sharp increase in jobseekers cheated by unregistered agents through fake offers. These agents charged between **₹2 lakh and ₹5 lakh** to provide jobs.

भारतीय दूतावास अधिकारियों ने बताया कि बिना पंजीकरण वाले एजेंटों द्वारा ठगे गए नौकरी तलाशने वालों की संख्या में तीव्र वृद्धि हुई है। इन एजेंटों ने ₹2 लाख से ₹5 लाख तक की राशि नौकरी देने के लिए वसूली।

- This growing trend was highlighted by **Interpol in June**, when it said that tens of thousands had been trafficked in **Southeast Asia**, while many more were defrauded in different parts of the world.

इस बढ़ते रुझान को इंटरपोल ने जून में उजागर किया, जब उसने कहा कि दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में दसियों हजारों लोग मानव तस्करी का शिकार हुए हैं, जबकि दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में कई और लोग ठगे गए हैं।

- In **August**, a **UN Human Rights Office report** took up the issue and found that the fraud ranged from romance-investment scams and crypto to illegal gambling.

अगस्त में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार कार्यालय की रिपोर्ट ने इस मुद्दे को उठाया और पाया कि धोखाधड़ी रोमांटिक-निवेश स्कैम, क्रिप्टो और अवैध जुआ से लेकर थी।





- The employees in these centres are told to carry out **phishing, extortion, credit card fraud**, and scams related to jobs, social media, cryptocurrency, and investment.
इन केंद्रों में कर्मचारियों को फिशिंग, अत्याचार, क्रेडिट कार्ड धोखाधड़ी और नौकरियों, सोशल मीडिया, क्रिप्टोकॉर्सेसी और निवेश से संबंधित धोखाधड़ी करने के लिए कहा जाता है।

Trafficked and Tortured

मानव तस्करी और यातना

- In **December** last year, **Interpol arrested 281 persons** from different countries for human trafficking, passport forgery, corruption, telecommunications fraud, and sexual exploitation.
पिछले दिसंबर में, इंटरपोल ने विभिन्न देशों से 281 व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया मानव तस्करी, पासपोर्ट फर्जीवाड़ा, भ्रष्टाचार, दूरसंचार धोखाधड़ी और यौन शोषण के लिए।
- The **UN report** cited above said that victims endured a range of violations and abuse — they were threatened with their safety and security, and many were subjected to torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary detention, sexual violence, forced labor, and other human rights abuses.
उपर उल्लिखित संयुक्त राष्ट्र रिपोर्ट ने कहा कि पीड़ितों ने उल्लंघन और शोषण की एक श्रृंखला सहन की – उन्हें उनकी सुरक्षा और सुरक्षा के साथ धमकी दी गई, और कई को यातना, क्रूर, अमानवीय और degrading उपचार या सजा, मनमानी हिरासत, यौन हिंसा, श्रम बल, और अन्य मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों का शिकार बनाया गया।
- The report said that at least **1.2 lakh people across Myanmar** were held in situations where they were forced to carry out online scams, with estimates in **Cambodia around 1 lakh**.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि कम से कम 1.2 लाख लोग म्यांमार में उन स्थितियों में थे जहां उन्हें ऑनलाइन धोखाधड़ी करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया, और कंबोडिया में अनुमानित 1 लाख लोग थे।
- The report identified countries such as **Laos, the Philippines, and Thailand** as destinations where people have been involved in running cybercrime syndicates generating annual revenues amounting to billions of dollars.
रिपोर्ट में लाओस, फिलीपींस और थाईलैंड जैसे देशों की पहचान की गई जहां लोग साइबर क्राइम सिंडिकेट चलाने में शामिल रहे हैं, जो वार्षिक राजस्व में अरबों डॉलर उत्पन्न करते हैं।**
- **Interpol** said that over the past year in Myanmar, authorities had reported the rescue of trafficking victims who came from **22 countries**.
इंटरपोल ने कहा कि पिछले साल म्यांमार में अधिकारियों ने 22 देशों से आने वाले मानव तस्करी के शिकार लोगों को बचाए जाने की रिपोर्ट की।
- **NIA chargesheets** filed in these cases said that on refusing to commit cybercrime, the trafficked youths were starved, lashed, and locked in rooms.
इन मामलों में दायर NIA आरोप पत्रों ने कहा कि साइबर क्राइम करने से इनकार करने पर तस्करी किए गए युवाओं को भूखा रखा गया, कोड़े मारे गए और कमरे में बंद कर दिया गया।
- “Some youths were even given **electric shocks** if they failed to meet their target of befriending prospective victims on social media,” it added.





“कुछ युवाओं को विद्युत शॉक दिए गए अगर वे सोशल मीडिया पर संभावित पीड़ितों से दोस्ती करने का अपना लक्ष्य पूरा करने में असफल रहे,” इसमें जोड़ा गया।

Golden Triangle

- The Golden Triangle is a region in Southeast Asia that includes parts of **Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar**.
- It is named so because of its **shape, formed by the borders of the three countries**. It is also historically significant due to the high levels of opium production.
- The area has been infamous for the production of opium, which is processed into **heroin**, a significant illegal drug trade in the region.
- The region also has a rich cultural heritage, with diverse ethnic groups like the Akha, Lahu, and Karen living in the area.
- In recent years, efforts have been made to combat the drug trade and promote sustainable development in the region.

गोल्डन ट्रायंगल

- गोल्डन ट्रायंगल दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया का एक क्षेत्र है जिसमें थाईलैंड, लाओस और म्यांमार के कुछ हिस्से शामिल हैं।
- इसे इस क्षेत्र के आकार के कारण गोल्डन ट्रायंगल कहा जाता है, जो तीन देशों की सीमाओं से बनता है। यह ऐतिहासिक रूप से अफीम उत्पादन के उच्च स्तर के लिए प्रसिद्ध है।
- यह क्षेत्र अफीम उत्पादन के लिए बदनाम है, जिसे हेरोइन में परिवर्तित किया जाता है, जो क्षेत्र में अवैध मादक पदार्थों के व्यापार का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।
- इस क्षेत्र में आका, लाहू और करेन जैसे विविध जातीय समूह रहते हैं, जिनकी सांस्कृतिक धरोहर समृद्ध है।
- हाल के वर्षों में, ड्रग व्यापार को समाप्त करने और क्षेत्र में सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रयास किए गए हैं।



Golden Crescent

- The Golden Crescent is a region in Asia that includes parts of **Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan**.
- This region is infamous for being one of the **world's largest opium-producing areas, with Afghanistan being the largest producer globally**.
- The opium produced in the Golden Crescent is a major source of heroin that feeds the global narcotic trade.





- The region has faced significant challenges, including political instability, poverty, and the impact of drug trade, which has fueled conflicts.
- Efforts by governments and international organizations are ongoing to curb the production and trafficking of drugs and promote peace and development.

गोल्डन क्रेसेंट

- गोल्डन क्रेसेंट एशिया का एक क्षेत्र है, जिसमें अफगानिस्तान, ईरान और पाकिस्तान के कुछ हिस्से शामिल हैं।
- यह क्षेत्र भी दुनिया के सबसे बड़े अफीम उत्पादक क्षेत्रों में से एक होने के लिए बदनाम है, जिसमें अफगानिस्तान विश्व का सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है।
- गोल्डन क्रेसेंट में उत्पादित अफीम हेरोइन का प्रमुख स्रोत है, जो वैश्विक मादक पदार्थों के व्यापार में प्रमुख योगदान देता है।
- इस क्षेत्र को राजनीतिक अस्थिरता, गरीबी और ड्रग व्यापार के प्रभावों जैसी महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ा है, जिसने संघर्षों को बढ़ावा दिया है।
- सरकारों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठनों द्वारा ड्रग उत्पादन और तस्करी को रोकने तथा शांति और विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रयास जारी हैं।

Key Facts and Updates

- **Historical Significance:** Both regions have historically been major sources for the global illicit drug trade, particularly opium. The Golden Triangle became notorious in the 20th century due to its production of opium, and the Golden Crescent, particularly Afghanistan, has maintained its position as a leading producer.
- **Recent Updates:** Countries in both regions have made concerted efforts to curb opium production. In the Golden Triangle, initiatives to promote alternative livelihoods for farmers have been implemented, while in the Golden Crescent, military and anti-narcotics operations have intensified.

मुख्य तथ्य और अपडेट

- **ऐतिहासिक महत्व:** दोनों क्षेत्र ऐतिहासिक रूप से वैश्विक अवैध ड्रग व्यापार के प्रमुख स्रोत रहे हैं, विशेष रूप से अफीम। गोल्डन ट्रायंगल 20वीं सदी में अफीम उत्पादन के कारण कुख्यात हो गया था, जबकि गोल्डन क्रेसेंट, विशेष रूप से अफगानिस्तान, एक प्रमुख उत्पादक के रूप में अपनी स्थिति बनाए हुए है।
- **हाल के अपडेट:** दोनों क्षेत्रों में अफीम उत्पादन को नियंत्रित करने के लिए ठोस प्रयास किए गए हैं। गोल्डन ट्रायंगल में किसानों के लिए वैकल्पिक आजीविका को बढ़ावा देने के लिए पहल की गई हैं, जबकि गोल्डन क्रेसेंट में, मादक पदार्थ विरोधी अभियान और सैन्य अभियानों को तेज किया गया है।





'Conclude EU-India FTA to counter forces of protectionism'

GS Paper II: India-EU
Sunasini Haider
NEW DELHI

An early conclusion of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is necessary to "counter" the global trends of protectionism and transactionalism, Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel told *The Hindu* during a four-day visit to India.

The visit, Mr. Rangel's first since the new Social Democratic Party-led government was sworn in after elections in Portugal in April 2024, came a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Brazil.

In talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Delhi on Friday, Mr. Rangel discussed plans to mark 50 years of India-Portugal ties next year, which were marred in the 1950s as India fought Portugal to regain control of Goa and other former Portuguese colonies.

Mr. Rangel visited India during his first trip to Asia, just days after the European Union concluded talks for an FTA with the South American common market, or MERCOSUR, and said the EU-India talks for a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), or FTA, under way since 200 and relaunched in 2022, must be concluded soon as well.

"When you look at a world where protectionism is gaining ground, the capacity to counter this tendency and align on economic terms has geopolitical value," Mr. Rangel told *The Hindu* during an interview in Delhi after a meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. "It is crucial to have an EU-India FTA to the benefit of both sides. China and U.S. are economic engines of the world - but the EU with South America, or EU with India will change the balance in geopolitical terms," Mr. Rangel added.



Paulo Rangel

In response to a question about the incoming Trump administration's impact on global trade, he warned that "transnational diplomacy or multilateral diplomacy is growing more transactional".

Asked about Mr. Goyal's statement in October this year that the EU-India FTA had only made "marginal" progress despite nine rounds of talks due in part to the EU's "irrational standards", Mr. Rangel said that the situation called for "pragmatism" and an agreement to allow concessions on both sides.

India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU was \$137.41 billion in 2023-24, making it the largest trading partner of India for goods. India's trade with Portugal is only about \$1.2 billion, and the Portuguese Foreign Minister said Mr. Goyal and he had discussed the next round of official trade talks to be held in January 2025 in Lisbon.

He said that while India and Portugal had major disparities in terms of size, they shared a common approach towards multilateralism, and strengthening the United Nations.

"Mistakes were made and we must admit that, but it is necessary to see our common heritage, culture and language that enriches us, especially as we see with Goa," he said. "We have done this across the last 50 years, and there's so much room for us to improve our cultural ties between Portugal and India... two cultures that have a history of 500 years," Mr. Rangel said.

'Conclude EU-India FTA to counter forces of protectionism'

'संरक्षणवाद की ताकतों का मुकाबला करने के लिए EU-India FTA को शीघ्र पूरा करें'

An early conclusion of the **India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** is necessary to counter global trends of protectionism and transactionalism, according to **Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel**.

भारतीय-यूरोपीय संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) का शीघ्र समापन वैश्विक संरक्षणवाद और लेन-देनवाद के रुझानों का मुकाबला करने के लिए आवश्यक है, पुर्तगाली विदेश मंत्री पाउलो रैन्जेल के अनुसार।

- The visit was **Mr. Rangel's first** since the new **Social Democratic Party-led government** in Portugal was sworn in after the **April 2024 elections**.

यह यात्रा रैन्जेल जी की पहली यात्रा थी, जब पुर्तगाल में सोशल डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी द्वारा नेतृत्व वाली सरकार अप्रैल 2024 के चुनावों के बाद शपथ ली थी।

- This visit came a month after **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** met with **Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro** on the sidelines of the **G-20 summit in Brazil**.

यह यात्रा एक महीने बाद हुई, जब प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने पुर्तगाली प्रधानमंत्री लुईस मोंटेनेग्रो से ब्राज़ील में G-20 समिट के मौके पर मुलाकात की थी।

- In talks with **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** in **Delhi**, Mr. Rangel discussed plans to mark **50 years of India-Portugal ties** next year.

दिल्ली में विदेश मंत्रालय मंत्री एस. जयशंकर के साथ वार्ता में, रैन्जेल जी ने अगले साल भारत-पुर्तगाल संबंधों के 50 वर्षों का जश्न मनाने की योजना पर चर्चा की।

- **India-Portugal relations** were marred in the **1950s** when India fought Portugal to regain control of **Goa** and other former **Portuguese colonies**.

भारत-पुर्तगाल संबंध 1950 के दशक में बिगड़े, जब भारत ने पुर्तगाल से गोवा

और अन्य पूर्व पुर्तगाली उपनिवेशों पर फिर से नियंत्रण पाने के लिए संघर्ष किया।

- Mr. Rangel visited India during his **first trip to Asia** just days after the **European Union concluded talks for an FTA with the South American common market**





(MERCOSUR).

**रैन्जेल जी ने भारत का दौरा अपने पहले एशियाई यात्रा के दौरान किया, कुछ ही दिन बाद यूरोपीय संघ ने दक्षिण अमेरिकी सामान्य बाजार (MERCOSUR) के साथ FTA पर बातचीत पूरी की थी।

- **EU-India FTA** talks have been ongoing since **2007** and were **relaunched in 2022**.
EU-India FTA वार्ता **2007** से चल रही है और इसे **2022** में फिर से शुरू किया गया था।
- Mr. Rangel emphasized that these talks must be concluded soon, especially in a world where **protectionism** is gaining ground.
रैन्जेल जी ने जोर दिया कि इन वार्ताओं को जल्द ही समाप्त किया जाना चाहिए, खासकर ऐसे दुनिया में जहाँ संरक्षणवाद बढ़ रहा है।
- According to Mr. Rangel, the **EU-India FTA** will benefit both sides and has **geopolitical value**.
रैन्जेल जी के अनुसार, **EU-India FTA** दोनों पक्षों के लिए लाभकारी होगा और इसका भू-राजनीतिक महत्व है।
- **China** and the **U.S.** are the world's major economic engines, but an **EU-India** or **EU-South America** partnership could change the **geopolitical balance**.
चीन और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका दुनिया के प्रमुख आर्थिक इंजन हैं, लेकिन **EU-India** या **EU-South America** साझेदारी भू-राजनीतिक संतुलन को बदल सकती है।
- Mr. Rangel warned that **transnational diplomacy** is growing more **transactional** in nature.
रैन्जेल जी ने चेतावनी दी कि संप्रभुता के पार की कूटनीति अधिक लेन-देन की प्रकृति होती जा रही है।
- Regarding **Mr. Goyal's** statement in **October 2023** that the **EU-India FTA** had made only "**marginal**" progress after **nine rounds of talks**, Mr. Rangel stressed the need for **pragmatism**.
गोयल जी के अक्टूबर 2023 के बयान के बारे में, जिसमें कहा गया कि **EU-India FTA** ने नौ दौर की वार्ताओं के बाद "**न्यूनतम**" प्रगति की है, रैन्जेल जी ने वास्तविकता की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- India's **bilateral trade** in goods with the **EU** was **\$137.41 billion** in **2023-24**, making the **EU** India's largest trading partner for goods.
भारत का **EU** के साथ द्विपक्षीय व्यापार **2023-24** में **137.41** अरब डॉलर था, जिससे **EU** भारत का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक भागीदार बन गया।
- India's trade with **Portugal** is only about **\$1.2 billion**.
भारत का पुर्तगाल के साथ व्यापार लगभग **1.2** अरब डॉलर है।
- Mr. Rangel and **Mr. Goyal** discussed the next round of official trade talks to be held in **January 2025** in **Lisbon**.
रैन्जेल जी और गोयल जी ने अगले दौर की आधिकारिक व्यापार वार्ताओं पर चर्चा की, जो जनवरी **2025** में लिस्बन में आयोजित होंगी।
- Despite major disparities in size, India and Portugal share a common approach towards **multilateralism** and strengthening the **United Nations**.





आकार में बड़े अंतर होने के बावजूद, भारत और पुर्तगाल बहुपक्षीयता और संयुक्त राष्ट्र को मजबूत करने के लिए समान दृष्टिकोण साझा करते हैं।

- **India and Portugal** have a shared **cultural heritage** and **language** that enriches both countries, especially in **Goa**.

भारत और पुर्तगाल की साझा सांस्कृतिक धरोहर और भाषा दोनों देशों को समृद्ध करती है, विशेषकर गोवा में।

- **India and Portugal** have strengthened their ties over the last **50 years** and there is room to improve **cultural ties** between the two countries.

भारत और पुर्तगाल ने पिछले 50 वर्षों में अपने संबंधों को मजबूत किया है और दोनों देशों के बीच सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को बेहतर बनाने की संभावनाएं हैं।

MFN clause freeze won't hit investments in India: Switzerland

Country's suspension of the 'Most Favoured Nation' tag for India won't impact the India-EFTA trade deal: India says tax treaty to be reworked

GS Paper II: India-EU

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Switzerland's decision to suspend the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment for India under the two countries' 30-years old double-taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) from January 1 will neither affect the free trade deal recently reached between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations nor affect Swiss investments into India, the country's officials told *The Hindu*.

While Indian officials said they will go into the details of the Swiss move, they indicated that double taxation treaty with the EFTA-bloc nation is going to be renegotiated in light of the EFTA-India Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) agreed upon this year.

In a statement dated December 11, Swiss authorities had announced that the MFN clause under the DTAA was being suspended, as India's apex court had held that it does not get automatically triggered until it is notified by the government under the Income Tax Act of 1961. Indian companies operating in Switzerland currently benefit from a reduced tax rate of 5% on dividends and other incomes, but will be liable to pay 10% tax



Randhir Jaiswal

from the coming year.

The TEPA signed with the four-nation EFTA bloc is a unique free trade agreement, as it includes a binding commitment of \$100 billion investment and the creation of one million direct jobs in India by companies from those four countries over the next 15 years.

Asked if the MFN clause suspension could dent the TEPA pact hopes, a Swiss embassy official in New Delhi said there is no direct impact on the EFTA-India TEPA. "In particular, this week's decision does not negatively affect investment from Switzerland to India," the official said.

"The question of the interpretation by Switzerland and India of the most-favoured-nation clause concerns the residual tax rate applicable to dividends based on the double taxation agreement paid by a company of one contracting state to a resident of the other contracting state. However, the change

in this residual rate has no impact on the validity of the double taxation agreement as such, or on any other treaties under international law concluded between Switzerland (independently or under the EFTA framework) and India," the official emphasised to *The Hindu*.

India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the double taxation treaty with Switzerland is to be renegotiated because of the TEPA deal with EFTA nations.

The suspension of the MFN clause by Switzerland was triggered by an October 2023 ruling against its validity by the Supreme Court on 11 petitions that were combined with a plea by Swiss major Nestle SA.

"This suspension basically adapts the Swiss interpretation of the most favoured nation clause to the one taken by India and confirmed by its Supreme Court," explained a Swiss trade expert.

While Switzerland had, in 2021, granted the 5% residual tax rate for Indian firms retroactively with effect from July 2018, the Indian competent authority, on the other hand, did not grant reciprocity in applying the MFN clause towards Switzerland, and this decision was upheld by the apex court last year, he pointed out.

MFN clause freeze won't hit investments in India: Switzerland

एमएफएन क्लॉज निलंबन से भारत में निवेश प्रभावित नहीं होगा:

स्विट्जरलैंड

Switzerland's decision to suspend the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment for India under the two countries' 30-year-old double-taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) from January 1 will not affect the free trade deal between India and EFTA or Swiss investments in India.

स्विट्जरलैंड का मोस्ट फेवर्ड नेशन (एमएफएन) उपचार को भारत के लिए निलंबित करने का निर्णय, दोनों देशों के 30 साल पुराने दोहरी कराधान से बचाव समझौते (DTAA) के तहत, 1 जनवरी से लागू होने वाला है और इसका भारत और EFTA के बीच मुक्त व्यापार समझौते या स्विस् निवेशों पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा।





- Indian officials indicated that the **double taxation treaty** with the EFTA nation will be **renegotiated** in light of the **EFTA-India Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** agreed upon this year.
भारतीय अधिकारियों ने संकेत दिया कि इस वर्ष परिनिर्धारित **EFTA-भारत व्यापार और आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौता (TEPA)** के संदर्भ में EFTA देश के साथ **दोहरी कराधान संधि** को फिर से **पुनः बातचीत** किया जाएगा।
- On December 11, **Swiss authorities announced that the MFN clause under the DTAA was being suspended as India's apex court had ruled that it does not get triggered automatically until it is notified by the government under the Income Tax Act of 1961.**
11 दिसंबर को, स्विस् अधिकारियों ने घोषणा की कि DTAA के तहत **MFN क्लॉज** निलंबित किया जा रहा है क्योंकि भारत के **शीर्ष न्यायालय** ने यह निर्णय दिया था कि यह तब तक स्वतः प्रभावी नहीं होगा जब तक कि इसे **आयकर अधिनियम, 1961** के तहत सरकार द्वारा अधिसूचित नहीं किया जाए।
- **Indian companies operating in Switzerland currently benefit from a reduced tax rate of 5% on dividends and other incomes, but will be liable to pay 10% tax from the coming year.**
भारतीय कंपनियाँ जो स्विट्ज़रलैंड में कार्यरत हैं, वर्तमान में डिविडेंड और अन्य आय पर **5% कर दर** से लाभान्वित होती हैं, लेकिन आगामी वर्ष से उन्हें **10% कर** चुकाना होगा।
- The **TEPA** signed with the four-nation **EFTA** bloc includes a binding commitment of **\$100 billion investment** and the creation of **one million direct jobs** in India by companies from those four countries over the next 15 years.
चार-राष्ट्र **EFTA** समूह के साथ हस्ताक्षरित **TEPA** में **\$100 बिलियन निवेश** और अगले 15 वर्षों में उन चार देशों की कंपनियों द्वारा भारत में **10 लाख सीधे रोजगार** बनाने की बाध्यकारी प्रतिबद्धता शामिल है।
- Swiss embassy officials in New Delhi clarified that the **MFN clause suspension** does not directly affect the **EFTA-India TEPA** and does not negatively impact investment from Switzerland to India.
नई दिल्ली में स्विस् दूतावास के अधिकारियों ने स्पष्ट किया कि **MFN क्लॉज निलंबन** का **EFTA-भारत TEPA** पर सीधे प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता और यह स्विट्ज़रलैंड से भारत में निवेश को नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित नहीं करता।
- The suspension of the MFN clause by Switzerland was triggered by an **October 2023 ruling** against its validity by the **Supreme Court** on 11 petitions, which were combined with a plea by Swiss major **Nestlé SA.**
स्विट्ज़रलैंड द्वारा MFN क्लॉज के निलंबन की शुरुआत **अक्टूबर 2023** में **उच्चतम न्यायालय** द्वारा उसकी वैधता के खिलाफ दिए गए फैसले से हुई, जिसमें 11 याचिकाएँ और स्विस् प्रमुख **Nestlé SA** द्वारा की गई याचिका शामिल थीं।
- In 2021, Switzerland granted the **5% residual tax rate** for Indian firms retroactively with effect from July 2018, but the **Indian competent authority** did not grant reciprocity in applying the MFN clause towards Switzerland.
2021 में, स्विट्ज़रलैंड ने भारतीय कंपनियों के लिए **5% अवशिष्ट कर दर** जुलाई 2018 से प्रभावी





कर दी थी, लेकिन भारतीय सक्षम प्राधिकरण ने स्विट्ज़रलैंड के प्रति MFN क्लॉज लागू करने में पारस्परिकता नहीं दी।

M&M severs business ties with Lokesh Machines over U.S. sanctions

GS Paper III: Internal Security

BY ANVI KUMAR
HYDERABAD



In India, Lokesh Machines manufactures and supply small arms to the Armed Forces. ANI

Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) has decided to discontinue sourcing of auto components from Lokesh Machines in the wake of the supplier figuring in the United States Department of the Treasury's OFAC sanctions list.

"We have received communication from one of our customers regarding discontinuance of transactions owing to the fact that while there are ongoing efforts towards delisting from United States Department of the Treasury's OFAC sanctions list, the timeline for this process is not suitable for the customer," machine tools and small arms maker Lokesh Machines said on Saturday.

The move of M&M is expected to impact around 8% of total revenue, compared with the previous financial year. The company is, however, determined to add other customers to compensate for the loss of business resulting from the development and remains optimistic about achieving this goal particularly given its recent defence foray, the Hyderabad-based firm said in a filing.

Machine tools and auto components and defence divisions are two business segments of the company.

As part of the auto components business, it manufactures cylinder blocks, cylinder heads, connecting

rods and forgings. The company operates through five manufacturing units in Hyderabad and 1 in Pune.

Following the October 30 sanctions list, in which its name figured with a clutch of other entities from India, Lokesh Machines said it was in the process of reaching out to the OFAC, after becoming aware through media reports, to gather more information and provide clarifications, including that it has been exporting machines to Russia since 2011.

"Our machines are being sourced by distributors who stock these or further sell. None of our distributors are featured on any sanctions list.

The news articles stated we have been sanctioned for supplying Russia with technology and equipment that could be used for military operations. It must be noted that we are not aware of any machines being used or dealt with any sanctioned entities or individuals," the company had said in a filing.

M&M severs business ties with Lokesh Machines over U.S. sanctions

महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा ने अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण लोकेश मशीन से व्यापारिक संबंध तोड़े

- **Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M)** has decided to discontinue sourcing of auto components from **Lokesh Machines** after the supplier appeared on the **United States Department of the Treasury's OFAC sanctions list**.

महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा (M&M) ने लोकेश मशीन से ऑटो कंपोनेंट्स की सोर्सिंग बंद करने का निर्णय लिया, क्योंकि आपूर्तिकर्ता संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के ट्रेजरी विभाग के OFAC प्रतिबंध सूची में शामिल हो गया।

- **Lokesh Machines** said they received communication from one of their customers about discontinuing transactions due to ongoing efforts to delist from the OFAC sanctions list, but the timeline was unsuitable for the customer.

लोकेश मशीन ने कहा कि उन्हें अपने एक ग्राहक से यह सूचना मिली कि **OFAC प्रतिबंध सूची** से बाहर निकलने के लिए चल रही कोशिशों के बावजूद, प्रक्रिया की समयसीमा ग्राहक के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं थी।

- The **impact of M&M's move is expected to affect 8% of total revenue**, compared to the previous financial year.

M&M के इस कदम का **प्रभाव पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष की तुलना में कुल राजस्व का 8% प्रभावित होने का अनुमान है।**

- However, **Lokesh Machines** remains optimistic about compensating for the lost business by adding new customers, especially with its recent entry into the **defence sector**.

हालांकि, लोकेश मशीन अपने खोए हुए व्यवसाय की भरपाई करने के लिए नए ग्राहकों को जोड़ने के प्रति आशावादी है, विशेष रूप से रक्षा क्षेत्र में हालिया कदम के साथ।

- **Lokesh Machines** operates through **five manufacturing units in Hyderabad** and **one in Pune**.

लोकेश मशीन हैदराबाद में पांच निर्माण इकाइयों और पुणे में एक इकाई के

माध्यम से संचालित होती है।





- Following the **October 30 sanctions list**, Lokesh Machines is in the process of reaching out to **OFAC** to seek clarification, stating they were unaware that their machines might be used for military operations.

30 अक्टूबर के प्रतिबंध सूची के बाद, लोकेश मशीन **OFAC** से संपर्क करने की प्रक्रिया में है ताकि स्पष्टीकरण प्राप्त किया जा सके, और यह कहा कि वे नहीं जानते थे कि उनकी मशीनों का उपयोग सैन्य ऑपरेशनों में किया जा सकता है।

- The company emphasized that none of its distributors are on the sanctions list. कंपनी ने यह जोर देकर कहा कि इसके **किसी भी वितरक** का नाम प्रतिबंध सूची में नहीं है।
- The sanctions were imposed for supplying technology and equipment to Russia, which could be used for military purposes. यह प्रतिबंध रूस को ऐसी **प्रौद्योगिकी और उपकरण** प्रदान करने के लिए लगाए गए थे, जो सैन्य उद्देश्यों के लिए उपयोग किए जा सकते थे।



PCS

ASSOCHAM secretary general Deepak Sood steps down

Deepak Sood, secretary general of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) is moving on to pursue other interests, the industry body said on Saturday. "Mr. Sood made important contributions to rebuilding a healthy balance sheet, delivering quality and a better national footprint for the chamber in recent years. The past presidents and I thank and wish him the best for the next phase," ASSOCHAM president Sanjay Nayar said.

संजय नायर, ASSOCHAM के अध्यक्ष, ने श्री सूद को उनके **स्वस्थ बैलेंस शीट** को फिर से बनाने, **गुणवत्ता और बेहतर राष्ट्रीय पहचान** देने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

- The past presidents and Mr. Nayar wished **Deepak Sood** the best for the next phase of his career.

पूर्व अध्यक्षों और श्री नायर ने **दीपक सूद** को उनके करियर के अगले चरण के लिए शुभकामनाएं दीं।

ASSOCHAM secretary general Deepak Sood steps down

ASSOCHAM के सचिव जनरल

दीपक सूद ने इस्तीफा दिया

- **Deepak Sood, secretary general of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, is stepping down to pursue other interests, as confirmed by the industry body on Saturday.

दीपक सूद, भारत के एसोसिएटेड चेम्बर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री (ASSOCHAM) के सचिव जनरल, शनिवार को यह पुष्टि की गई कि वे अन्य रुचियों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए इस्तीफा दे रहे हैं।

- **Sanjay Nayar, the ASSOCHAM president**, thanked Mr. Sood for his important contributions to rebuilding a **healthy balance sheet** and delivering **quality** and a **better national footprint** for the chamber in recent years.





'Drones transforming farming, market to touch \$631 mn by 2030'

GS Paper III: S&T

Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

After tractors and farm equipment, drones are now transforming the way farming is undertaken in India by offering solutions to several challenges faced by farmers today.

With a fleet of about 7,000 drones deployed in this sector, the Indian agricultural drone market, currently valued at \$145.4 million, is expected to reach \$631.4 million by 2030, growing at CAGR of 28.1%, said Agnishwar Jayaprakash, founder and CEO of Garuda Aerospace, a key player in this segment.



Agnishwar Jayaprakash

He said the factors fueling this growth include labour shortage for spraying pesticides and applying fertilizers, precision and efficiency by drones in such activities at far lower cost, government support

in promoting drone adoption via subsidies, loans, and training programmes and increased awareness.

'Explosive' growth

"The Indian agricultural drone market is poised for explosive growth. Drones are set to become an indispensable tool for Indian farmers, ensuring a more efficient, sustainable, and profitable agriculture in the future," he said.

"With over 10 lakh flight hours, 2,500 drones sold, and six DGCA approvals, Garuda Aerospace leads the nation in drone utilisation, particularly in agriculture. We have captured

a substantial market share of 25-30% in physical drones and 45-50% in drone services with our Drone as a Service (DAAS) model," he said.

"Our focus on indigenisation, affordable drone solutions, securing government subsidies, and partnerships with global giants like Lockheed Martin and Thales has helped. We are positioned as a key player in shaping the future of drone technology in India and beyond," he added.

It is believed that drone adoption in Indian agriculture will reach 80% from about 1% now within the next 5-7 years.

Drones transforming farming, market to touch \$631 mn by 2030

ड्रोन खेती में परिवर्तन ला रहे हैं, 2030 तक बाजार \$631 मिलियन तक पहुंचेगा

- **Drones** are transforming farming in **India**, offering solutions to various challenges faced by farmers.

ड्रोन भारत में खेती के तरीके को बदल रहे हैं, किसानों द्वारा सामना किए गए विभिन्न चुनौतियों के समाधान प्रदान कर रहे हैं।

- The **Indian agricultural drone market** is currently valued at **\$145.4 million**, and is expected to reach **\$631.4 million by 2030**, growing at a **CAGR of 28.1%**, according to **Agnishwar Jayaprakash**, founder and CEO of **Garuda Aerospace**.

भारतीय कृषि ड्रोन बाजार वर्तमान में \$145.4 मिलियन का है, और 2030 तक \$631.4 मिलियन तक पहुंचने की संभावना है, जो CAGR 28.1% के साथ बढ़ेगा, जैसा कि अग्निश्वर जयप्रकाश, गरुड़ा एयरोस्पेस के संस्थापक और सीईओ ने कहा।





- Factors driving this growth include **labour shortage, precision and efficiency of drones, government support** through subsidies, loans, training programs, and **increased awareness**.
इस वृद्धि के पीछे के कारणों में श्रम की कमी, ड्रोन की सटीकता और दक्षता, सरकार द्वारा समर्थन जैसे सब्सिडी, ऋण, प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम और बढ़ती जागरूकता शामिल हैं।
- The **Indian agricultural drone market is expected to experience explosive growth, with drones becoming an indispensable tool for farmers, ensuring efficient, sustainable, and profitable agriculture** in the future.
भारतीय कृषि ड्रोन बाजार में विस्फोटक वृद्धि होने की संभावना है, जहां ड्रोन किसानों के लिए अपरिहार्य उपकरण बनेंगे, जो भविष्य में कुशल, टिकाऊ और लाभकारी कृषि सुनिश्चित करेंगे।
- **Garuda Aerospace** leads the country in drone utilization, with over **10 lakh flight hours, 2,500 drones sold, and six DGCA approvals**. It has a **25-30% market share in physical drones and 45-50% in drone services**.
गरुड़ा एयरोस्पेस देश में ड्रोन उपयोग में अग्रणी है, जिसके पास **10 लाख से अधिक उड़ान घंटे, 2,500 ड्रोन बेचे गए, और छह DGCA अनुमोदन** हैं। इसके पास भौतिक ड्रोन में **25-30% बाजार हिस्सेदारी और ड्रोन सेवाओं में 45-50% बाजार हिस्सेदारी** है।
- Focus on **indigenisation, affordable drone solutions**, securing **government subsidies**, and partnerships with global companies like **Lockheed Martin and Thales** have helped **Garuda Aerospace** become a key player in shaping the future of **drone technology** in India and beyond.
स्वदेशीकरण, सस्ती ड्रोन समाधान, सरकारी सब्सिडी प्राप्त करने और लॉकहीड मार्टिन और थैल्स जैसी वैश्विक कंपनियों के साथ साझेदारी करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने से गरुड़ा एयरोस्पेस को भारत और उसके बाहर ड्रोन प्रौद्योगिकी के भविष्य को आकार देने में एक प्रमुख खिलाड़ी बनने में मदद मिली है।
- It is believed that **drone adoption in Indian agriculture** will reach **80%** from about **1% now within the next 5-7 years**.
ऐसा माना जाता है कि भारतीय कृषि में ड्रोन का उपयोग अगले 5-7 वर्षों में **1% से बढ़कर 80%** तक पहुंच जाएगा।

Solid phase alloying can turn metal scrap into high-value alloys

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

Metal scrap can be directly transformed and upgraded into high-performance, high-value alloys without the need for conventional melting processes, according to a new study published this week in the journal *Nature Communications*. The study demonstrates that scrap aluminum from industrial waste streams can produce high-performance metal alloys.

The upcycled aluminum performs on par with iden-

tical materials produced from primary aluminum, indicating that this approach can provide a low-cost pathway to bringing more high-quality recycled metal products to the marketplace. By converting waste into high-performance aluminum products, the new method, called solid phase alloying, not only enhances material properties but also contributes to environmental sustainability.

The innovative solid-phase alloying process

converts aluminum scrap blended with copper, zinc, and magnesium into a precisely designed high-strength aluminum alloy product in a matter of minutes, compared to the days required to produce the same product utilizing conventional melting, casting, and extrusion. The research team used a PNNL-patented technique called Shear Assisted Processing and Extrusion, or ShAPE, to achieve their results. However, the researchers noted that the

findings should be reproducible with other solid-phase manufacturing processes.

Longer lifespan

Within the ShAPE process, a high-speed rotating die creates friction and heat that disperses the chunky starting ingredients into a uniform alloy with the same characteristics as a newly manufactured aluminum wrought product.

The solid phase approach eliminates the need for energy-intensive bulk

melting, which combined with the low-cost feedstocks originating from scrap, has the potential to sharply reduce the cost of manufacturing these materials. For consumers, this means recycled aluminum products will have a longer lifespan and better performance at a lower cost, whether they are part of a vehicle, a construction material, or a household appliance.

According to the researchers, the solid phase alloying process could be

used to create custom metal wire alloys for various 3D printing technologies. "Solid phase alloying is theoretically applicable to any metal combination that you can imagine, and the fact that manufacturing occurs wholly in the solid state means you can begin to consider totally new alloys that we've not been able to make before," Cindy Powell, a researcher at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, U.S. and a coauthor of the study said in a release.





Solid phase alloying can turn metal scrap into high-value alloys

सॉलिड फेज अलॉयिंग धातु के स्क्रेप को उच्च-मूल्य वाले मिश्र धातु में बदल सकता है

- **Metal scrap** can be directly transformed into high-performance, high-value alloys without the need for conventional melting processes, according to a new study published in the journal **Nature Communications**.

धातु के स्क्रेप को सीधे उच्च-प्रदर्शन, उच्च-मूल्य वाले मिश्र धातुओं में बदला जा सकता है, पारंपरिक पिघलाने की प्रक्रिया की आवश्यकता के बिना, जैसा कि नेचर कम्युनिकेशंस पत्रिका में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन में बताया गया है।

- The study demonstrates that scrap **aluminum from industrial waste streams** can produce high-performance metal alloys.
अध्ययन में यह दिखाया गया है कि औद्योगिक अपशिष्ट धाराओं से एल्युमिनियम स्क्रेप उच्च-प्रदर्शन मिश्र धातु उत्पन्न कर सकता है।
- The **upcycled aluminum performs on par with identical materials produced from primary aluminum**, indicating that this approach can provide a low-cost pathway to bringing more high-quality recycled metal products to the marketplace.
अपसाइकल किया गया एल्युमिनियम प्राथमिक एल्युमिनियम से निर्मित समान सामग्री के समान प्रदर्शन करता है, यह दर्शाता है कि यह दृष्टिकोण बाजार में अधिक उच्च-गुणवत्ता वाले पुनर्नवीनीकरण धातु उत्पाद लाने के लिए एक कम-लागत मार्ग प्रदान कर सकता है।
- The **new method, called solid phase alloying**, enhances material properties and contributes to **environmental sustainability** by converting waste into high-performance aluminum products.
नई विधि, जिसे सॉलिड फेज अलॉयिंग कहा जाता है, अपशिष्ट को उच्च-प्रदर्शन एल्युमिनियम उत्पादों में बदलकर सामग्री गुणों को बढ़ाती है और पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता में योगदान करती है।
- The **solid-phase alloying process converts aluminum scrap blended with copper, zinc, and magnesium into a high-strength aluminum alloy product in minutes, compared to the days required to produce the same product using conventional methods**.
सॉलिड-फेज अलॉयिंग प्रक्रिया में कॉपर, जिंक और मैग्नीशियम के साथ मिश्रित एल्युमिनियम स्क्रेप को कुछ मिनटों में उच्च-शक्ति वाले एल्युमिनियम मिश्र धातु उत्पाद में बदला जाता है, जबकि पारंपरिक विधियों से उसी उत्पाद को बनाने में दिनों का समय लगता है।
- The **research team used a PNNL-patented technique called Shear Assisted Processing and Extrusion (ShAPE)** to achieve these results.
शोध टीम ने इन परिणामों को प्राप्त करने के लिए PNNL-पेटेंटेड तकनीक का उपयोग किया, जिसे शियर असिस्टेड प्रोसेसिंग और एक्सट्रूजन (ShAPE) कहा जाता है।
- Researchers noted that the findings should be reproducible with other **solid-phase manufacturing processes**.





शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि निष्कर्षों को अन्य सॉलिड-फेज निर्माण प्रक्रियाओं के साथ पुनरुत्पादित किया जा सकता है।

- Within the **ShAPE process**, a high-speed rotating die creates **friction and heat** that disperses the chunky starting ingredients into a uniform alloy with the same characteristics as a newly manufactured **aluminum wrought product**.

ShAPE प्रक्रिया के भीतर, एक उच्च-गति घुमाने वाला डाई घर्षण और गर्मी उत्पन्न करता है, जो मोटे प्रारंभिक तत्वों को एक समान मिश्र धातु में फैलाता है, जिसकी विशेषताएँ एक नए निर्मित एल्युमिनियम रॉट उत्पाद जैसी होती हैं।

- The solid-phase approach eliminates the need for **energy-intensive bulk melting**, reducing manufacturing costs by using **low-cost feedstocks** from scrap.

सॉलिड-फेज दृष्टिकोण ऊर्जा-गहन **bulk पिघलने** की आवश्यकता को समाप्त करता है, स्कैप से सस्ते कच्चे माल का उपयोग करके निर्माण लागत को घटाता है।

- This process results in **recycled aluminum products** that have a **longer lifespan** and **better performance** at a lower cost.

यह प्रक्रिया पुनर्नवीनीकरण एल्युमिनियम उत्पादों का परिणाम देती है, जिनकी लंबी उम्र और बेहतर प्रदर्शन कम लागत पर होता है।

- According to researchers, the solid-phase alloying process could be used to create **custom metal wire alloys** for various **3D printing technologies**.

शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार, सॉलिड-फेज अलॉयिंग प्रक्रिया का उपयोग विभिन्न **3D प्रिंटिंग तकनीकों** के लिए कस्टम धातु वायर मिश्र धातु बनाने में किया जा सकता है।

- **Solid phase alloying** is theoretically applicable to any **metal combination** and allows the creation of entirely new alloys not previously possible.

सॉलिड फेज अलॉयिंग सैद्धांतिक रूप से किसी भी धातु संयोजन पर लागू होता है और पूरी तरह से नए मिश्र धातुओं के निर्माण की अनुमति देता है, जिन्हें पहले संभव नहीं था।

- **Cindy Powell**, a researcher at **Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, U.S.**, and co-author of the study, emphasized the potential of this process in creating new alloys.

सिंडी पॉवेल, पैसिफिक नॉर्थवेस्ट नेशनल लैबोरेटरी, यू.एस. की शोधकर्ता और अध्ययन की सह-लेखक, ने इस प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से नए मिश्र धातुओं के निर्माण की संभावनाओं पर जोर दिया।



Bovine H5N1 displays pronounced neurotropism in many mammals

Pronounced neurotropism of the 2024 H5N1 virus belonging to the 2.3.4.4b clade is highlighted by high viral loads in the brain and minimal or no viral presence in the lungs of several species, suggesting a significant shift in virus behaviour

GS Paper III: S&T

R. Prasad

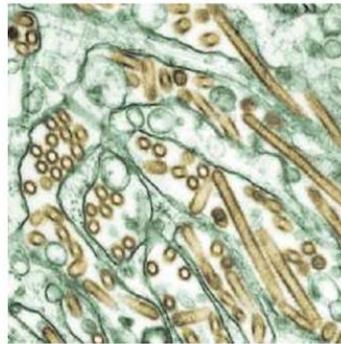
A study investigated and compared the tissue tropism of a 2004 H5N1 strain isolated from a fatal human case and the 2024 bovine strain of H5N1 that is currently circulating in mice and found that the two strains displayed significantly different abilities to infect different tissues. While replication of the 2004 virus was largely in the respiratory tract with “limited” replication in the central nervous system, the 2024 bovine strain successfully replicated in the respiratory tract as well as various regions of the brain. Also, mice challenged with the 2024 bovine H5N1 isolates exhibited clinical signs consistent with central nervous system infection, and infectious viruses were detected in the brain tissue. The 2004 H5N1 virus was used for comparison as the virus strain has been extensively studied in animal models.

The study demonstrated that both the 2004 and the 2024 H5N1 isolates were uniformly fatal in mice when infected through aerosol exposure. But the tissue tropism was vastly different – the 2004 strain was largely restricted to the respiratory tract and predominantly caused respiratory disease, while the 2024 bovine strain showed preference to both the respiratory tract and the brain and caused inflammation in the brain and nasal cavity.

“Our findings reveal that the bovine isolate exhibits enhanced neurotropism, unlike the respiratory-restricted replication ob-

Shift in tissue tropism

Replication of the 2004 H5N1 isolate was largely in the respiratory tract with “limited” replication in the central nervous system



The clade 2.3.4.4b of 2024 H5N1 virus has spread to 832 cattle herds across 16 States in the U.S. CYNTHIA GOLDSMITH

served with the H5N1 isolate from 2004. This difference in tissue tropism, accompanied by distinct cytokine responses in the brain, underscores the potential for altered disease outcomes in other mammalian hosts,” the authors of a study posted in a preprint server BioRxiv write. Preprints are yet to be peer-reviewed.

The H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b has caused widespread infection in over 90 species of wild and domestic birds and more than 21 mammalian species, including several human infections. The virus has caused fatal infections in many different mammals. In March 2024, the 2.3.4.4b clade was first detected in dairy cattle in Texas. The virus has since spread rapidly; as of December 12, the virus has spread to 832 cattle herds across 16 States in the U.S., with 617 herds in California alone.

Mice were exposed to

one of the two H5N1 isolates via aerosols to mimic a more natural route of infection. Upon exposure, mice in both groups displayed reduced activity, rapidly lost weight, and died. While the mice exposed to the 2024 bovine strain showed neurological signs of disease, neurological disease was absent in mice exposed to the 2004 isolate. Therefore, unsurprisingly, the virus titers were high in the brain tissue of mice exposed to the bovine strain compared with mice exposed to the 2004 strain.

‘Heavily linked’

In April this year, 10 cats died in a rural South Dakota residence, showing respiratory and neurological symptoms. Lab testing of two cats confirmed H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b infection. As per a paper accepted for publication in the journal *Emerging Microbes & Infections*, dead cats

- The H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b has caused widespread infection in over 90 species of wild and domestic birds and more than 21 mammalian species, including several human infections
- Unlike the 2004 H5N1 virus, the 2024 bovine strain successfully replicates in the respiratory tract as well as various regions of the brain in mice

■ Mice exposed to the 2024 bovine isolate exhibited clinical signs consistent with central nervous system infection; infectious viruses detected in the brain tissue

- Aerosol exposure to 2004 and 2024 H5N1 strains was uniformly fatal in mice
- The difference in the tissue tropism of the 2024 bovine isolate underscores the potential for altered disease outcomes in other mammalian hosts
- The 2.3.4.4b clade of H5N1 virus is strongly linked to respiratory and neurological signs in cats

■ Dolphins, skunks, minks, red foxes, and sea lions have displayed significant neurological signs and viral presence mainly in the brain

ataxia, with viral presence mainly in the brain. “Though neurotropism and neurological signs were observed during the outbreaks of previous clades of H5N1 viruses, the pronounced neurotropism of the current H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b is highlighted by high viral loads in the brain and minimal or no viral presence in the lungs of several species, suggesting a significant shift in virus behaviour,” they write.

It must be noted that unlike in mice, central nervous system involvement has not yet been reported for dairy cows, either via natural or experimental infection by the bovine H5N1 strain (2.3.4.4b clade). The H5N1 transmission within and between cattle herds is hypothesised to be associated with lesions and viral antigens in multiple organs. “Higher viral RNA and antigen in the brain indicated pronounced neurotropism,” they write.

The authors note that while earlier H5N1 clades in cats caused subclinical infections or clinical disease characterised by pneumonia and encephalitis, the 2.3.4.4b H5N1 virus strain has also been “heavily linked to respiratory and neurological signs in cats in France, Poland, South Korea, and the U.S.”.

The authors note that animals infected with clade 2.3.4.4b H5N1 viruses commonly exhibited pneumonia and meningoencephalitis, with neurological signs predominating in several animal species. Mammals such as dolphins, skunks, minks, red foxes, and sea lions have displayed significant neurological signs such as tremors, convulsions, and

Notable shift

“The growing list of susceptible mammalian hosts highlights the virus’s ability to cross species barriers, raising concerns about its potential impact on wildlife and domestic animal populations,” the authors of the accepted paper write. “There is a notable shift in the neurotropism of H5N1 viruses, particularly with the emergence of clade 2.3.4.4b in cats and wild carnivores like foxes... These cases have documented viral adaptations that facilitate central nervous system involvement, with some infections exhibiting viral mutations indicative of enhanced neurotropism.”





Bovine H5N1 Displays Pronounced Neurotropism in Many Mammals

बोवाइन H5N1 कई स्तनधारियों में प्रमुख न्यूरोट्रोपिज्म प्रदर्शित करता है

- Pronounced neurotropism of the **2024 H5N1 virus (clade 2.3.4.4b)** is highlighted by **high viral loads in the brain** and minimal or no viral presence in the lungs of several species, indicating a significant shift in virus behavior.
2024 H5N1 वायरस (क्लेड 2.3.4.4b) का प्रमुख न्यूरोट्रोपिज्म मस्तिष्क में उच्च वायरल लोड और कई प्रजातियों के फेफड़ों में न्यूनतम या अनुपस्थित वायरल उपस्थिति के द्वारा प्रदर्शित होता है, जो वायरस व्यवहार में एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव का संकेत देता है।
- A study comparing the **2004 H5N1 strain** and the **2024 bovine strain** in mice revealed vastly different tissue tropism. While the **2004 strain** primarily replicated in the respiratory tract, the **2024 strain** replicated in both the respiratory tract and brain.
चूहों में **2004 H5N1 स्ट्रेन** और **2024 बोवाइन स्ट्रेन** की तुलना करने वाले अध्ययन में टिशू ट्रोपिज्म में बड़ा अंतर पाया गया। जहां **2004 स्ट्रेन** मुख्य रूप से श्वसन तंत्र में प्रतिकृति करता था, वहीं **2024 स्ट्रेन** श्वसन तंत्र और मस्तिष्क दोनों में प्रतिकृति करता था।
- Mice challenged with the **2024 bovine strain** exhibited **neurological signs**, and infectious viruses were detected in their brain tissue.
2024 बोवाइन स्ट्रेन से संक्रमित चूहों में तंत्रिका संबंधी लक्षण देखे गए, और उनके मस्तिष्क ऊतक में संक्रामक वायरस पाए गए।
- The **2004 H5N1 virus**, when compared, caused **respiratory disease** and was largely restricted to the respiratory tract.
तुलना में, **2004 H5N1 वायरस** ने मुख्य रूप से श्वसन रोग उत्पन्न किया और यह श्वसन तंत्र तक सीमित रहा।
- Both the 2004 and 2024 H5N1 isolates were **uniformly fatal** in mice when infected through aerosols, but their **tissue tropism** varied significantly.
2004 और 2024 H5N1 दोनों आइसोलेट्स चूहों में एयरोसोल संक्रमण के माध्यम से समान रूप से घातक थे, लेकिन उनके टिशू ट्रोपिज्म में काफी अंतर था।
- The **2024 bovine strain** caused inflammation in the **brain and nasal cavity**, while the 2004 strain predominantly caused respiratory disease.
2024 बोवाइन स्ट्रेन ने मस्तिष्क और नासिका गुहा में सूजन उत्पन्न की, जबकि 2004 स्ट्रेन मुख्य रूप से श्वसन रोग का कारण बना।

Findings and Observations

अध्ययन और अवलोकन

- The study revealed that the **2024 bovine isolate** exhibits **enhanced neurotropism**, unlike the respiratory-restricted replication of the 2004 isolate.





अध्ययन में पाया गया कि **2024 बोवाइन आइसोलेट** में उन्नत न्यूरोट्रोपिज्म है, जो 2004 आइसोलेट की श्वसन-सीमित प्रतिकृति से भिन्न है।

- The **H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b** has caused widespread infections in **over 90 species of wild and domestic birds** and **more than 21 mammalian species**, including human infections.

H5N1 क्लेड 2.3.4.4b ने **90 से अधिक प्रजातियों** के जंगली और घरेलू पक्षियों और **21 से अधिक स्तनधारी प्रजातियों** में व्यापक संक्रमण किया है, जिसमें मानव संक्रमण भी शामिल है।

- In **March 2024**, the 2.3.4.4b clade was first detected in **dairy cattle in Texas**, and as of **December 12**, it has spread to **832 cattle herds** across **16 U.S. states**, including **617 herds in California**.

मार्च 2024 में, 2.3.4.4b क्लेड पहली बार **टेक्सास के डेयरी मवेशियों** में पाया गया, और **12 दिसंबर तक यह 16 अमेरिकी राज्यों में 832 पशु झुंडों में फैल गया**, जिसमें **कैलिफ़ोर्निया के 617 झुंड शामिल हैं**।

Transmission and Symptoms

संक्रमण और लक्षण

- Mice exposed to the **2024 strain** via aerosols showed **neurological signs of disease**, while mice exposed to the 2004 strain did not.
एयरोसोल्स के माध्यम से **2024 स्ट्रेन** के संपर्क में आए चूहों में तंत्रिका संबंधी रोग के लक्षण देखे गए, जबकि 2004 स्ट्रेन के संपर्क में आए चूहों में यह लक्षण नहीं दिखे।
- In **April 2024**, **10 cats** in South Dakota showed **respiratory and neurological symptoms**, and lab tests confirmed H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b infection.
अप्रैल 2024 में, दक्षिण डकोटा में **10 बिल्लियों** में श्वसन और तंत्रिका संबंधी लक्षण दिखे, और प्रयोगशाला परीक्षणों ने H5N1 क्लेड 2.3.4.4b संक्रमण की पुष्टि की।
- Mammals like **dolphins, skunks, minks, red foxes, and sea lions** displayed **neurological signs** such as tremors, convulsions, and ataxia, with viral presence mainly in the brain.
डॉल्फिन, स्कंक, मिंक, रेड फॉक्स और सी लॉयन जैसे स्तनधारियों में कंपकंपी, दौरे और एटेक्सिया जैसे तंत्रिका संबंधी लक्षण दिखे, और वायरस मुख्य रूप से मस्तिष्क में पाया गया।

Significance of the Shift

परिवर्तन का महत्व

- The **pronounced neurotropism** of the current H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b suggests a **significant shift in virus behavior**, with high viral loads in the brain and minimal presence in the lungs.
वर्तमान H5N1 क्लेड 2.3.4.4b का प्रमुख **न्यूरोट्रोपिज्म** वायरस व्यवहार में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव का संकेत देता है, जिसमें मस्तिष्क में उच्च वायरल लोड और फेफड़ों में न्यूनतम उपस्थिति है।
- In dairy cows, H5N1 replication has been **limited to the mammary glands**, and transmission is hypothesized to be linked with **milking practices**.





डेयरी गायों में, H5N1 की प्रतिकृति दुग्ध ग्रंथियों तक सीमित रही है, और संक्रमण को दूध निकालने की प्रथाओं से संबंधित माना गया है।

- The virus's ability to **cross species barriers** raises concerns about its potential impact on **wildlife and domestic animal populations**.

वायरस की प्रजातियों की बाधाओं को पार करने की क्षमता इसके वन्यजीव और घरेलू पशु आबादी पर संभावित प्रभाव को लेकर चिंताएं बढ़ाती है।



GS Paper III: S&T

Why deep sleep is helpful for long-term memory

It has been known for nearly 20 years that slow, synchronous electrical waves in the brain during deep sleep support the formation of memories. Why that is so was previously unknown. While we sleep, our brains replay the events of the day, moving information from the location of short-term memory, the hippocampus, to the long-term memory located in the neocortex. According to a study, the slow waves make the neocortex, the location of long-term memory, especially receptive to information.

(नियोकोर्टेक्स) तक स्थानांतरित होती हैं।

- According to a study, the **slow waves make the neocortex (the location of long-term memory) especially receptive to information**. एक अध्ययन के अनुसार, धीमी तरंगें **नियोकोर्टेक्स** (दीर्घकालिक स्मृति का स्थान) को जानकारी के प्रति विशेष रूप से ग्रहणशील बनाती हैं।

Why deep sleep is helpful for long-term memory दीर्घकालिक स्मृति के लिए गहरी नींद क्यों सहायक होती है

- It has been known for nearly **20 years** that slow, **synchronous electrical waves in the brain during deep sleep** support the formation of memories.

पिछले लगभग **20 वर्षों** से यह ज्ञात है कि **गहरी नींद** के दौरान मस्तिष्क में धीमी, समकालिक विद्युत तरंगें स्मृतियों के निर्माण में सहायता करती हैं।

- Why that is so was previously unknown. यह क्यों होता है, यह पहले अज्ञात था।
- **While we sleep, our brains replay the events of the day, moving information from the short-term memory location (hippocampus) to the long-term memory location (neocortex).**

नींद के दौरान, हमारा मस्तिष्क दिन की घटनाओं को दोहराता है, जिससे जानकारी अल्पकालिक स्मृति (हिप्पोकैम्पस) से दीर्घकालिक स्मृति





GS Paper III: S&T

Detecting premalignant pancreatic lesions with MRI

Precursor lesions of pancreatic cancer are very difficult to characterise with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). But now, in a new study, researchers have shown, for the first time, that a particular form of MRI called Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) is capable of robustly detecting premalignant lesions in the pancreas. Their study could open the way to early clinical diagnosis in people at risk, and to treatment assessment of pancreatic cancer.

clinical diagnosis in people at risk.

उनका अध्ययन जोखिम वाले लोगों में **प्रारंभिक नैदानिक पहचान** का मार्ग खोल सकता है।

- The research may also aid in the **treatment assessment** of pancreatic cancer. यह शोध **अग्न्याशय कैंसर के उपचार मूल्यांकन** में भी सहायक हो सकता है।

+ Detecting premalignant pancreatic lesions with MRI एमआरआई के माध्यम से पूर्व-अधिजात अग्न्याशय घावों का पता लगाना

- **Precursor lesions** of pancreatic cancer are very difficult to characterise with **magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)**.

अग्न्याशय कैंसर के प्रारंभिक घावों को **मैग्नेटिक रेज़ोनेंस इमेजिंग (एमआरआई)** के माध्यम से पहचानना बहुत कठिन है।

- In a new study, researchers have shown, for the **first time**, that a particular form of MRI called **Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI)** is capable of robustly detecting premalignant lesions in the pancreas.

एक नए अध्ययन में, शोधकर्ताओं ने पहली बार दिखाया है कि **डिफ्यूजन टेन्सर इमेजिंग (DTI)** नामक एमआरआई का एक विशेष प्रकार अग्न्याशय में पूर्व-अधिजात घावों का प्रभावी रूप से पता लगाने में सक्षम है।

- Their study could open the way to **early**



Writing by hand is better for learning, memory

GS Paper III: S&T



**SPEAKING OF
SCIENCE**

D. Balasubramanian

Time was when we elders wrote our letters and other correspondence using pen and paper and sent them across through the post office. Today, other than sending greeting cards by post, we have even started using digital devices such as smartphones and digital computers, typing out the alphabet and numbers for sending applications, messages, and responses. Even today, when we are in the e-age, primary and secondary school children while learning to write lessons, do homework, answer tests, and write essays by

hand, and once done, use their smartphones to talk to friends and use WhatsApp.

An article by Charlotte Hu, in the *Scientific American* citing some research publications says that writing by hand activates a wide range of interconnected brain regions responsible for learning and memory. Let me cite the findings of some of these publications. Studies in education research by a group of technologists from Trondheim, Norway, in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* point out that handwriting but not typewriting leads to widespread brain connectivity. In other words, handwriting affects the brain in more positive ways than typing the same material on a keyboard. First, hand-



Gains: Writing by hand facilitates better memory. GETTY IMAGES

writing training not only improves spelling accuracy but also facilitates better memory and recall.

They studied a group of schoolchildren, attached electronic sensors to their heads, and monitored the brain activity while the students were writing by hand, and when they were

using a computer. Such an electroencephalographic study revealed that writing or drawing by hand causes more activity and involves larger areas of the brain, as opposed to typing on a keyboard. Writing was thus seen to 'light up' more brain regions than typing. When the students were al-

so given a challenging word game (e.g., 'scrabble', 'wordle'), their memory levels were found to be higher.

Handwriting also helps in recognising and understanding the shapes and sizes of letters of the alphabet. In a study involving about 30 students, they asked the participants to use a digital pen to write in cursive by hand directly on the touchscreen and a keyboard to typewrite the presented words. Here too, the shape and size of the letters written by hand were better than typing.

Languages where the alphabets differ from those in English (for example those in the Middle East, Far East, and some Indian languages as well) are easier written by hand and are not easily available on

most commercially available computers.

In most schools across India, the medium of instruction in most schools is the local language for students from primary all the way up to the tenth class, and English is taught as an additional language from the secondary school level. However, the children already use mobile phones which have English alphabets in them. Some Indian languages have unique letters and alphabets that the English alphabets do not.

Likewise, some Urdu/Arabic words used in Hindi and Punjabi are not typable on a keyboard. And when we in India use mobile phones or computers to write something, we find it hard since these devices have only English alphabets.

Writing by hand is better for learning, memory

हाथ से लिखना सीखने और याददाश्त के लिए बेहतर है

- **Time was when elders** used pen and paper for writing letters and correspondence, sending them through the **post office**.

वह समय था जब बुजुर्ग पत्र और अन्य संवाद लिखने के लिए कलम और कागज का उपयोग करते थे और उन्हें डाकघर के माध्यम से भेजते थे।

- Today, except for sending **greeting cards by post**, most correspondence is done via **digital devices** like smartphones and computers.

आज, डाक से ग्रीटिंग कार्ड भेजने को छोड़कर, अधिकांश संवाद डिजिटल उपकरणों जैसे स्मार्टफोन और कंप्यूटर के माध्यम से किया जाता है।

- In the **e-age**, primary and secondary school children still write lessons, homework, tests, and essays **by hand**, but use smartphones for chatting and **WhatsApp**.

ई-युग में, प्राथमिक और माध्यमिक विद्यालय के बच्चे अभी भी पाठ, होमवर्क, परीक्षाएं और निबंध हाथ से लिखते हैं, लेकिन दोस्तों से बात करने और व्हाट्सएप के लिए स्मार्टफोन का उपयोग करते हैं।

- An article by **Charlotte Hu** in the **Scientific American** highlights that writing by hand activates a **wide range of brain regions** linked to learning and memory.

साइंटिफिक अमेरिकन में शार्लोट हू द्वारा लिखे गए एक लेख में बताया गया है कि हाथ से लिखना सीखने और याददाश्त से जुड़ी मस्तिष्क की कई हिस्सों को सक्रिय करता है।

- Studies from **Trondheim, Norway**, published in **Frontiers in Psychology**, show that **handwriting** leads to **widespread brain connectivity**, unlike typing.





नॉर्वे के ट्रॉंडहाइम में किए गए अध्ययन, जो फ्रंटियर्स इन साइकोलॉजी में प्रकाशित हुए हैं, बताते हैं कि हाथ से लिखना मस्तिष्क में व्यापक कनेक्टिविटी बनाता है, जो टाइपिंग से संभव नहीं है।

- Handwriting training improves **spelling accuracy** and aids in better memory and recall.

हाथ से लिखने का प्रशिक्षण स्पेलिंग की सटीकता में सुधार करता है और बेहतर स्मरण शक्ति में मदद करता है।

- Electroencephalographic studies revealed that writing or drawing by hand involves **larger brain areas** and causes more activity than typing.

इलेक्ट्रोएन्सेफेलोग्राफिक अध्ययन से पता चला कि हाथ से लिखने या चित्र बनाने में मस्तिष्क के बड़े हिस्से सक्रिय होते हैं और यह टाइपिंग की तुलना में अधिक गतिविधि उत्पन्न करता है।

- Challenging word games like **Scrabble or Wordle enhance memory levels** when done by handwriting.

चुनौतीपूर्ण शब्द खेल जैसे स्क्रैबल या वर्डल हाथ से लिखने के दौरान स्मरण शक्ति को बढ़ाते हैं।

- **Writing by hand helps in recognising shapes and sizes of letters better than typing.**

हाथ से लिखना अक्षरों के आकार और स्वरूप को पहचानने में टाइपिंग की तुलना में बेहतर होता है।

- A study with **30 students** showed that cursive writing with a **digital pen** on a touchscreen was more effective than typing on a keyboard.

30 छात्रों पर किए गए एक अध्ययन ने दिखाया कि टचस्क्रीन पर **डिजिटल पेन** से कर्सिव लिखना कीबोर्ड पर टाइपिंग से अधिक प्रभावी था।

- Languages with **non-English alphabets** (e.g., Middle Eastern, Far Eastern, and Indian languages) are easier to write by hand than to type on computers.

गैर-अंग्रेजी अक्षरों वाली भाषाओं (जैसे मध्य पूर्व, सुदूर पूर्व, और भारतीय भाषाएं) को हाथ से लिखना कंप्यूटर पर टाइप करने की तुलना में आसान है।

- Most Indian schools teach in the **local language** until the tenth class, while **English** is introduced as a second language at the secondary level.

भारत के अधिकांश स्कूलों में **स्थानीय भाषा** में पढ़ाया जाता है, जबकि माध्यमिक स्तर पर **अंग्रेजी** को दूसरी भाषा के रूप में पढ़ाया जाता है।

- Some **Indian alphabets** and Urdu/Arabic words used in Hindi and Punjabi are not available on most keyboards, making handwriting more practical.

कुछ **भारतीय अक्षर** और हिंदी तथा पंजाबी में प्रयुक्त उर्दू/अरबी शब्द अधिकांश कीबोर्ड पर उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, जिससे हाथ से लिखना अधिक व्यावहारिक हो जाता है।





Question Corner

Limiting factor

GS Paper III: S&T

Do giraffes really struggle with slopes?

A new study analysing the movements of 33 GPS-collared giraffes across five reserves in South Africa has found that giraffes avoid steep terrain and are unable to navigate slopes with a gradient of more than 20 degrees, most likely due to the energy required and the risk of falling. Researchers found that giraffes will tolerate terrain of up to 12 degrees, but only if it leads to favourable vegetation. The findings highlight a mismatch between the ideal, flat habitats of giraffes and the areas they're being conserved

in. Using the newly discovered 20-degree gradient threshold, the researchers were able to calculate the proportion of habitats in key African countries where giraffes are currently found that are inaccessible to the animals. They found that of all the countries that were mapped, one in three had more unusable areas in protected areas than outside of protected areas. Giraffes are currently found in 21 African countries but despite their wide distribution, populations have been declining.

Readers may send their questions / answers to
questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Limiting Factor सीमित कारक

• A new study analysing the **movements of 33 GPS-collared giraffes across five reserves in South Africa** has found that giraffes avoid steep terrain and are unable to navigate slopes with a gradient of more than **20 degrees**, likely due to the **energy required and the risk of falling**.

दक्षिण अफ्रीका के पांच अभ्यारण्यों में 33 GPS-कॉलर वाले जिराफों की गतिविधियों का विश्लेषण करने वाले एक नए अध्ययन में पाया गया है कि जिराफ खड़ी भूमि से बचते हैं और 20 डिग्री से अधिक ढलान पर नहीं चल सकते, संभवतः इसकी वजह आवश्यक ऊर्जा और गिरने का जोखिम है।

• Researchers found that giraffes will tolerate terrain of up to **12 degrees**, but only if it leads to **favourable vegetation**. शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि जिराफ 12 डिग्री तक के भूभाग को सहन कर सकते हैं, लेकिन केवल तब जब वह अनुकूल वनस्पति की ओर ले जाए।

• The findings highlight a mismatch between the **ideal, flat habitats** of giraffes and the areas they're being conserved in.

ये निष्कर्ष जिराफों के आदर्श समतल आवास और उन क्षेत्रों के बीच असंगति को उजागर करते हैं जहां उन्हें संरक्षित किया जा रहा है।

- Using the newly discovered **20-degree gradient threshold**, researchers calculated the proportion of habitats in **key African countries** where giraffes are currently found that are inaccessible to the animals.

नए खोजे गए 20 डिग्री ढलान सीमा का उपयोग करके, शोधकर्ताओं ने मुख्य अफ्रीकी देशों में उन आवासों का अनुपात गणना किया जहां वर्तमान में जिराफ पाए जाते हैं लेकिन जो उनके लिए दुर्गम हैं।

- They found that of all the countries that were mapped, **one in three** had more unusable areas in protected areas than outside of protected areas. उन्होंने पाया कि जिन देशों का मानचित्रण किया गया, उनमें से तीन में से एक में संरक्षित क्षेत्रों में संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के बाहर की तुलना में अधिक अनुपयोगी क्षेत्र थे।
- **Giraffes are currently found in 21 African countries, but despite their wide distribution, populations have been declining.**

जिराफ वर्तमान में 21 अफ्रीकी देशों में पाए जाते हैं, लेकिन उनकी विस्तृत वितरण के बावजूद, उनकी आबादी में कमी हो रही है।





Commission links Hasina to enforced disappearances

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

GS Paper II: South Asia

In a new turn of events, the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance set up by the interim government of Bangladesh filed a report on Saturday stating that it found the "involvement of Ex-PM Sheikh Hasina" in enforced disappearances of individuals during her tenure.

The report recommended disbanding the anti-terror outfit Rapid Action Battalion that was instrumental in crackdown against terror suspects and was accused of human rights abuse. The commission said it has recorded 1,676 cases of disappearances and that the total number of such cases during the Hasina-era could cross 3,500.

Earlier in the day, the authorities arrested four persons in connection with attacks on the minority Hindu community on December 3. The arrests came days after the Indian Foreign Secretary visited Dhaka and urged the authorities to "acknowledge" the attacks on minorities in Bangladesh.

On the inquiry, a statement from Chief Adviser's Office said, "The commission chairman said they had found *prima facie* in-

volvement of former PM Sheikh Hasina and some high-ranking officials of security forces and her government, including her Defence Adviser, Major General (retd.) Tarique Ahmed Siddique in the enforced disappearances."

Scrutiny of complaints

Presenting the report at a special event in the residence of the Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus, the commission said that it would bring out another interim report in March and would require another year to complete the scrutiny of all the complaints received so far.

Apart from Ms. Hasina and Mr. Siddique, the commission also found the involvement of former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre and sacked Major General Ziaul Ahsan, senior police officers Monirul Islam and Md. Harun-Or-Rashid with "several incidents of enforced disappearance". Submitting the report, the commission's chairman said it had detected a "systematic design" to avoid detection of the cases of enforced disappearances.

The commission was set up under the leadership of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury on August 27.

Commission links Hasina to enforced disappearances

आयोग ने हसीना को जबरन गायब होने की घटनाओं से जोड़ा

• The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance set up by the interim government of Bangladesh filed a report on Saturday, linking Ex-PM Sheikh Hasina to enforced disappearances during her tenure.

बांग्लादेश की अंतरिम सरकार द्वारा स्थापित जबरन गायब होने की घटनाओं की जांच आयोग ने शनिवार को एक रिपोर्ट दाखिल की, जिसमें पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री शेख हसीना को उनके कार्यकाल के दौरान इन घटनाओं से जोड़ा गया।

• The report recommended **disbanding the anti-terror outfit Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)**, which has been accused of human rights abuse.

इस रिपोर्ट में "रैपिड एक्शन बटालियन" (RAB) को भंग करने की सिफारिश की गई, जिस पर मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन का आरोप है।

• The commission recorded **1,676 cases of disappearances** and stated that the total cases during the Hasina-era could exceed **3,500**. आयोग ने 1,676 जबरन गायब होने की घटनाओं को दर्ज किया और कहा कि हसीना के शासनकाल में कुल घटनाओं की संख्या 3,500 से अधिक हो सकती है।

• Authorities arrested four individuals in connection with **attacks on the minority Hindu community on December 3**.

प्राधिकरणों ने 3 दिसंबर को अल्पसंख्यक हिंदू समुदाय पर हुए हमलों के सिलसिले में चार लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया।

• The arrests occurred days after the **Indian Foreign Secretary visited Dhaka** and urged the authorities to acknowledge the attacks.

ये गिरफ्तारियां भारतीय विदेश सचिव के ढाका दौरे के कुछ दिनों बाद हुईं, जहां उन्होंने अधिकारियों से हमलों को स्वीकार करने का आग्रह किया।

Scrutiny of complaints

शिकायतों की जांच

• The report was presented at a special event at **Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus's residence** and stated another interim report would be released in **March**, with final scrutiny requiring another year.

यह रिपोर्ट मुख्य सलाहकार मोहम्मद यूनुस के आवास पर आयोजित एक विशेष कार्यक्रम में





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Contact Number: 9971932488

प्रस्तुत की गई। इसमें कहा गया कि मार्च में एक और अंतरिम रिपोर्ट जारी की जाएगी और अंतिम जांच के लिए एक और वर्ष की आवश्यकता होगी।

- It named **Ms. Hasina**, her Defence Adviser **Major General (retd.) Tarique Ahmed Siddique**, former Director General of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre, **Major General Ziaul Ahsan**, and senior police officers **Monirul Islam** and **Md. Harun-Or-Rashid**.

इसमें सुश्री हसीना, उनके रक्षा सलाहकार मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) तारिक अहमद सिद्दीकी, नेशनल टेलीकम्युनिकेशन मॉनिटरिंग सेंटर के पूर्व महानिदेशक मेजर जनरल जियाउल अंसार, और वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी मोनीरुल इस्लाम और मोहम्मद हारुन-उर-रशीद के नाम शामिल हैं।

- The commission detected a "systematic design" to avoid detection of enforced disappearances.

आयोग ने जबरन गायब होने के मामलों का पता लगाने से बचने के लिए एक "संगठित योजना" का पता लगाया।

Formation of the commission

आयोग का गठन

- The commission was established on **August 27** under the leadership of **Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury**.

इस आयोग का गठन 27 अगस्त को जस्टिस मोईनुल इस्लाम चौधरी के नेतृत्व में किया गया।

Website: patrioticias.in

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





Suchir Balaji

OpenAI whistleblower found dead in San Francisco

PCS

GS Paper II: Governance
GS Paper IV: Ethics

A 26-year-old Indian-origin former employee of the artificial intelligence giant OpenAI has died by suicide in San Francisco, authorities said.

Suchir Balaji was found dead inside his Buchanan Street apartment in San Francisco on November 26 on Thanksgiving Day.

The medical examiner's office determined the manner of death to be suicide and police officials said there is "currently, no evidence of foul play".

Balaji, known for whistleblowing against OpenAI, died three months after accusing the company of violating U.S. copyright law while developing ChatGPT.

(Those in distress and seeking assistance may call TeleMANAS: 1-800-891-4416 / 14416 for confidential support)

OpenAI whistleblower found dead in San Francisco

सैन फ्रांसिस्को में OpenAI व्हिसलब्लोअर मृत पाए गए

- A 26-year-old Indian-origin former employee of the artificial intelligence giant OpenAI, Suchir Balaji, was found dead in San Francisco.

26 वर्षीय भारतीय मूल के पूर्व कर्मचारी, सुचिर बालाजी, जो आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस की दिग्गज कंपनी OpenAI के लिए काम करते थे, सैन फ्रांसिस्को में मृत पाए गए।

- He was found dead inside his Buchanan Street apartment on November 26, which was Thanksgiving Day.

उन्हें 26 नवंबर, जो थैंक्सगिविंग डे था, को बुकानन स्ट्रीट स्थित उनके अपार्टमेंट में मृत पाया गया।

- The medical examiner's office determined the manner of death to be suicide.

मेडिकल एग्जामिनर के कार्यालय ने मौत का तरीका आत्महत्या बताया।

- Police officials stated that there is "currently, no evidence of foul play." पुलिस अधिकारियों ने कहा कि "फिलहाल, किसी गलत गतिविधि का कोई सबूत नहीं है।"

- Balaji, known for whistleblowing against OpenAI, passed away three months after accusing the company of violating U.S. copyright law during the development of ChatGPT.

बालाजी, जो OpenAI के खिलाफ व्हिसलब्लोइंग के लिए जाने जाते थे, ने ChatGPT के विकास के दौरान कंपनी पर अमेरिकी कॉपीराइट कानून का उल्लंघन करने का आरोप लगाने के तीन महीने बाद निधन हो गया।





As busy as a bee

Itinerant workers from other States flit from one location to another in Assam to plant bee boxes and let the honey flow, in a win-win deal for them and local farmers

GS Paper III:

Sushanta Mandal from Malda, West Bengal, has been in the beekeeping business for over eight years. Since 2016, he has been travelling from his home State to Morigaon district of Assam with 250 bee boxes, drawn to the abundant nectar of the vibrant mustard fields there. He is not alone in this journey. Several groups of beekeepers from Bihar and West Bengal converge in Assam every winter, and their numbers are steadily growing. BARPETA, Bajali, Bilasipara, Nagaon and Morigaon districts in Assam witness this trend every year.

Mustard flowers cannot self-pollinate and need the help of insects to carry pollen between flowers. This is where the bees come in.

Rearing *Apis mellifera*, the most common of the honeybee species around the world, requires a team of at least four or five persons to ensure the smooth operation of the honey production process – scouting, camping, and production. Therefore, a farmer needs to maintain at least 200 bee boxes for the work to be financially viable.

There is a growing industry of migratory beekeeping in Assam where beekeepers move

from one location to another, across the State, in search of blooming flowers for nectar. Assam's extensive mustard cultivation and low competition attracts an increasing number of farmers to the State each year.

Mustard blossoms early in Assam, prompting beekeepers to shift there. The journey is not set to a specific route and can vary based on the availability of flowers. The migration process involves scouting potential sites for suitable flowers and accommodation. Once the promising locations are identified, beekeepers conduct inspections and engage with the local residents to assess flower availability and the feasibility of housing the apian colonies.

Production of crops such as mustard, coconut, areca nut, lychee and mango is increasing in the village due to the presence of bees. The role of honeybees and other insects is not limited to agriculture, food security, and nutrition. Without them, wild plants and the ecosystems that make the planet habitable would collapse.

Even farmers who do not keep bees have benefited as the bees' activities have increased the fertility of the region's crops and fruit trees.

As busy as a bee

मधुमक्खी जितना व्यस्त

• **Itinerant workers** from other States travel to **Assam** to plant bee boxes and harvest honey, benefiting both themselves and local farmers.

अन्य राज्यों से आने वाले प्रवासी श्रमिक असम में मधुमक्खी के बक्से लगाने और शहद की कटाई के लिए यात्रा करते हैं, जिससे उन्हें और स्थानीय किसानों दोनों को लाभ होता है।

• **Sushanta Mandal** from **Malda, West Bengal**, has been in the beekeeping business for over **eight years**. Since **2016**, he has been traveling to **Morigaon district, Assam**, with **250 bee boxes**.

पश्चिम बंगाल के मालदा से सुशांता मंडल आठ

वर्षों से मधुमक्खी पालन व्यवसाय में हैं। 2016 से, वह 250 मधुमक्खी के बक्सों के साथ असम के मोरीगांव जिले की यात्रा कर रहे हैं।

- Several beekeepers from **Bihar** and **West Bengal** migrate to Assam during the **winter season**, and their numbers are steadily increasing.

बिहार और पश्चिम बंगाल के कई मधुमक्खी पालक सर्दियों के मौसम में असम में प्रवास करते हैं, और उनकी संख्या लगातार बढ़ रही है।

- The districts **Barpeta, Bajali, Bilasipara, Nagaon**, and **Morigaon** in Assam see this migration trend every year.

असम के बारपेटा, बाजाली, बिलासिपारा, नागांव, और मोरीगांव जिलों में यह प्रवास प्रवृत्ति हर साल देखी जाती है।

- **Mustard flowers** cannot self-pollinate and rely on insects like bees to transfer pollen between flowers.

सरसों के फूल आत्म-परागण नहीं कर सकते और पराग को फूलों के बीच स्थानांतरित करने के लिए मधुमक्खियों जैसे कीड़ों पर निर्भर रहते हैं।

- **Apis mellifera**, the most common honeybee species, requires a team of **four to five people** to manage scouting, camping, and honey production.

एपिस मेलिफेरा, जो सबसे सामान्य मधुमक्खी प्रजाति है, को स्काउटिंग, कैंपिंग और शहद उत्पादन के लिए चार से पांच लोगों की टीम की आवश्यकता होती है।

- A farmer needs at least **200 bee boxes** to make beekeeping financially viable.





किसान को मधुमक्खी पालन को आर्थिक रूप से लाभकारी बनाने के लिए कम से कम 200 मधुमक्खी के बक्सों की आवश्यकता होती है।

- Assam's **extensive mustard cultivation** and low competition attract more beekeepers each year.

असम की व्यापक सरसों की खेती और कम प्रतिस्पर्धा हर साल अधिक मधुमक्खी पालकों को आकर्षित करती है।

- Mustard blossoms **early in Assam**, prompting beekeepers to migrate there. असम में सरसों जल्दी खिलती है, जिससे मधुमक्खी पालक वहां प्रवास करने के लिए प्रेरित होते हैं।

- The migration involves scouting for **potential sites** with flowers and suitable accommodation.

प्रवास में फूलों वाले संभावित स्थलों और उपयुक्त आवास की खोज शामिल होती है।

- Crops like **mustard, coconut, areca nut, lychee, and mango** have seen increased production due to the presence of bees.

सरसों, नारियल, सुपारी, लीची और आम जैसी फसलों का उत्पादन मधुमक्खियों की उपस्थिति के कारण बढ़ गया है।

- Honeybees and insects play a vital role in **agriculture, food security, and ecosystem sustainability**.

मधुमक्खियां और कीड़े कृषि, खाद्य सुरक्षा, और पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की स्थिरता में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

- Even farmers without bees have benefited as bees enhance the **fertility of crops and fruit trees** in the region. यहां तक कि जिन किसानों के पास मधुमक्खियां नहीं हैं, वे भी लाभान्वित हुए हैं क्योंकि मधुमक्खियां क्षेत्र की फसलों और फलदार पेड़ों की उर्वरता को बढ़ाती हैं।





What lies ahead for Syria after Assad's exit?

How was the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham led by ex-al Qaeda leader, Abu Muhammed al-Jolani, able to defeat the Syrian armed forces? Why did the priorities of Syria's greatest allies, Russia and Iran, change in recent years? What has been the role of Turkey in the fall of the Syrian President?

GS Paper II: West Asia

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

Bashar al-Assad, President of Syria for 24 years, has fallen. He and his family have taken refuge in Russia. Syria now has a transitional government, headed by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), an Islamist militant group that was controlling the northwestern province of Idlib. Many Syrians are celebrating the collapse of Mr. Assad's dictatorial regime, but remain anxious about what is to come. Turkey, as the main backer of the HTS, sees an opportunity to expand its influence in West Asia, while Iran and Russia, the main backers of the Assad regime, have taken a setback. Israel, in the meantime, is exploiting the vacuum in Syria to grab more territories.

Why did the Assad regime fall?

Mr. Assad held on to power for 13 years after the civil war broke out in 2011, only for his regime to collapse in 12 days. By 2017, the Assad regime had taken over most of its lost territories, with help from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah. But he hadn't defeated the militants. The strongest of them was the HTS, which was formerly called Jabhat al-Nusra, the al-Qaeda arm in Syria. Abu Muhammed al-Jolani, today the 'emir' of the HTS, was an al-Qaeda leader. The HTS-controlled Idlib emerged as a rebel stronghold. Jolani established a mini-administration in Idlib – the Syrian Salvation Government. He had been planning a large-scale offensive against the regime forces for months, if not years.

On the other side, a host of domestic, regional and international factors weakened Mr. Assad's position. Syria's economy is in a very bad shape. Its GDP shrank by 87% in the past 13 years, from \$68 billion in 2011 to just \$9 billion in 2023. Western sanctions stifled an already deteriorated economy further. The poorly paid

Syria has immense geopolitical significance. It hosts Russia's Mediterranean naval base, its only naval base outside the former Soviet territory

soldiers of the Assad regime lacked motivation to preserve it. Syrian armed forces were also weakened by repeated Israeli air strikes, which picked up pace over the past year, after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack. Mr. Assad was heavily reliant on his external allies for security. However, their priorities also changed in recent years. Russia's focus is now on the Ukraine war. Iran is involved in a hot and cold war with Israel. Hezbollah lost most of its leaders and thousands of fighters in its year-long war with Israel. The militants knew Mr. Assad was weak. They launched an offensive on November 27 in the western outskirts of Aleppo, probably aimed at cutting the underbelly of his decaying regime. What happened next was a rapid collapse of the regime itself.

Who is in charge now?

Syria today has roughly four militant coalitions. The first one is the HTS, led by Jolani. The HTS says it has broken its ties with al-Qaeda, and promises to respect Syria's ethnic and religious diversity. But its rank and file comprise transnational jihadists, who travelled to Syria from across the world, to fight "jihad" against the Assad regime. The HTS's main ally is the Syrian National Army (SNA), another northern militia. The core of the SNA is the Free Syrian Army, a Turkish proxy that was formed with defected Syrian soldiers and officers. The HTS and the SNA launched the November 27 offensive together.

The second group is the Southern Front, a loose coalition of dozens of militias in Syria's south (Daara and Qneitra). Some of them were backed by Jordan, which shares a border with southern Syria. When the HTS-SNA combine advanced towards regime-held cities from the north, the southern militias started an offensive from the south. And they reached Damascus first, on December 8. The third main group is the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The core of the SDF is the People's Protection Units (YPG), the armed wing of Syrian Kurdistan. The SDF enjoys relative autonomy in the Syrian Kurdish region. The SDF was armed by the U.S. in the past in its fight against the Islamic State. The fourth group is the Alawite militias in the coastal region. Alawites are Mr. Assad's sect, who enjoyed power for over five decades in the country. The HTS, a Sunni Islamist group, had in the past targeted Alawites, who make up roughly 15% of Syria's population. The HTS has asked the Alawite community to cut ties with the fallen regime. Of these four, the HTS is the most powerful force now. The transition government in Damascus is a replica of the HTS Salvation government in Idlib.

Why does geopolitics matter?

Syria has immense geopolitical significance. It hosts Russia's Mediterranean naval base in Tartus, its only naval base outside the former

Soviet territory. Russia also has built an air base in Syria. For Russia to project force, from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean and then to the Atlantic, it is essential to retain access to the Tartus base. It could also be one of the reasons Russia made a military intervention in Syria in 2015, to protect the Assad regime. Now that the regime has collapsed, Russia's focus would be on protecting its bases. For Iran, a sworn enemy of America and Israel, Syria was its only state ally in West Asia. Syria was also a key conduit between Iran and Hezbollah, the Lebanese militia. The fall of the Assad regime could disrupt Iran's supply networks in the region, which could invariably weaken the country's deterrence.

Turkey, on the other side, appears to be stronger. For years, it had tried to pull down the Assad regime. When the Russian intervention made it immediately impossible, Turkey shifted its focus towards playing a long game with its proxies. Now that Mr. Assad is gone and the HTS-SNA coalition is in Damascus, Recep Tayyip Erdogan seems to have outwitted Vladimir Putin, and extended his influence from Ankara to the borders of Iraq, Jordan and Israel.

Will the militants build a new Syria?

Many think the fall of a dictatorial regime would lead to a new dawn. For now, Syria's militants have made the right noises – about respecting the country's diversity and rebuilding its dilapidated institutions and welcoming back refugees. But Syria still remains a complex case – with or without Mr. Assad. Before Hafez al-Assad, Bashar's father, captured power in 1971, Syria had seen multiple coups and counter-coups. It was Hafez and his Ba'ath party that stabilised the country and built its modern institutions. Today, the challenge the militants face is to rebuild the country once again, by demobilising the militias. But the HTS neither has ideological clarity for an inclusive Syria nor the resources to demobilise other militias. The HTS is a Salafi-jihadist outfit, which wants to remake secular Syria and retain its tight grip over state institutions. If the HTS's rule in Idlib is an example, the group is not any less dictatorial than Mr. Assad. The southern militias, backed by Jordan, would want to get their due share of power. And in the east, the SDF, the Kurdish militia, wants to keep their hard-earned autonomy. But Turkey sees the SDF as a terrorist outfit, and Turkish-backed militias have already started attacking the SDF.

In Afghanistan, throughout the 1980s, the U.S. and Pakistan-backed Mujahideen fought together against the communist regime as well as the Soviet troops. But after the Soviet withdrawal and the collapse of the communist rule, Afghanistan fell into deeper chaos. In Libya, NATO made a military intervention in 2011 to "liberate" the country from Mohammed Gaddafi. After Gaddafi's regime, one of the most stable governments in Africa, was toppled and he was killed, the country fell into a bloody civil war – which is still going on. Iraq never recovered from the scars of America's regime change war of 2003. None of these examples are encouraging for Syria.



Sudden ouster: A shoe rests on top of a bust of Hafez al-Assad, as militants inspect the damage at a site in Damascus, Syria, on December 14. REUTERS

What lies ahead for Syria after Assad's exit?

असद के जाने के बाद सीरिया के लिए आगे क्या है?

Bashar al-Assad, President of Syria for 24 years, has fallen. He and his family have taken refuge in Russia.





बशर अल-असद, जो 24 वर्षों तक सीरिया के राष्ट्रपति रहे, गिर गए हैं। वह और उनका परिवार रूस में शरण ले चुका है।

- Syria now has a transitional government, headed by the **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**, an Islamist militant group controlling the **northwestern province of Idlib**.
सीरिया में अब एक संक्रमणकालीन सरकार है, जिसका नेतृत्व हयात तहरीर अल-शाम (HTS) नामक इस्लामिक आतंकवादी समूह कर रहा है, जो उत्तरी-पश्चिमी इदलिब प्रांत पर नियंत्रण करता है।
- Many Syrians are celebrating the collapse of Mr. Assad's **dictatorial regime**, but remain anxious about the future.
कई सीरियाई लोग असद की तानाशाही सरकार के पतन का जश्न मना रहे हैं, लेकिन भविष्य को लेकर चिंतित हैं।
- **Turkey**, as the main backer of the HTS, sees an opportunity to expand its influence in **West Asia**, while **Iran and Russia**, the main backers of the Assad regime, have faced setbacks.
तुर्की, जो HTS का मुख्य समर्थक है, इसे पश्चिम एशिया में अपना प्रभाव बढ़ाने का मौका देखता है, जबकि ईरान और रूस, असद शासन के मुख्य समर्थक, झटके झेल रहे हैं।
- **Israel is exploiting the vacuum in Syria to grab more territories**.
इज़राइल सीरिया में बने शून्य का लाभ उठाकर और अधिक क्षेत्रों पर कब्जा कर रहा है।

Why did the Assad regime fall?

असद शासन क्यों गिरा?

- Mr. Assad held on to power for **13 years after the civil war broke out in 2011**, but his regime collapsed in just **12 days**.
असद ने 2011 में गृहयुद्ध शुरू होने के बाद 13 वर्षों तक सत्ता में बने रहे, लेकिन उनका शासन सिर्फ 12 दिनों में गिर गया।
- By 2017, the Assad regime had reclaimed most lost territories with the help of **Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah**, but he hadn't defeated the militants.
रूस, ईरान, और हिज़बुल्लाह की मदद से 2017 तक असद शासन ने अधिकांश खोए हुए क्षेत्रों पर कब्जा कर लिया था, लेकिन वे आतंकवादियों को हरा नहीं सके।
- The strongest militant group was the **HTS**, formerly called **Jabhat al-Nusra**, the al-Qaeda arm in Syria, led by **Abu Muhammed al-Jolani**.
सबसे मजबूत आतंकवादी समूह HTS था, जिसे पहले जबहत अल-नुसरा कहा जाता था और यह सीरिया में अल-कायदा का हिस्सा था, जिसका नेतृत्व अबू मुहम्मद अल-जोलेनी कर रहे थे।
- **HTS-controlled Idlib** became a rebel stronghold, with **Jolani establishing a mini-administration called the Syrian Salvation Government**.
HTS-नियंत्रित इदलिब विद्रोहियों का गढ़ बन गया, जहां जोलेनी ने सीरियन साल्वेशन गवर्नमेंट नामक एक लघु प्रशासन स्थापित किया।
- **Syria's economy shrank by 87% in the last 13 years, from \$68 billion in 2011 to just \$9 billion in 2023.**





पिछले 13 वर्षों में सीरिया की अर्थव्यवस्था 87% सिकुड़ गई, 2011 में \$68 अरब से घटकर 2023 में \$9 अरब रह गई।

- **Western sanctions further deteriorated the economy.** Poorly paid soldiers of the Assad regime lacked motivation to preserve it.
पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों ने अर्थव्यवस्था को और खराब कर दिया। असद शासन के कम वेतन पाने वाले सैनिकों में इसे बचाने का प्रेरणा नहीं था।
- **Repeated Israeli airstrikes** weakened the Syrian armed forces, especially after **Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack.**
बार-बार इज़राइली हवाई हमलों ने सीरियाई सशस्त्र बलों को कमजोर कर दिया, विशेषकर 7 अक्टूबर 2023 के हमास के हमले के बाद।
- Russia's focus shifted to the **Ukraine war**, and Iran became involved in conflicts with **Israel**, weakening Assad's support base.
रूस का ध्यान यूक्रेन युद्ध पर केंद्रित हो गया, और ईरान इज़राइल के साथ संघर्षों में शामिल हो गया, जिससे असद का समर्थन आधार कमजोर हो गया।
- The **HTS offensive**, launched on **November 27** in western **Aleppo**, rapidly collapsed the regime.
27 नवंबर को पश्चिमी अलेप्पो में शुरू हुए HTS के हमले ने शासन को तेजी से गिरा दिया।

Who is in charge now?

अब कौन प्रभारी है?

- Syria today has roughly **four militant coalitions.**
सीरिया में आज लगभग चार उग्रवादी गठबंधन हैं।
 - **The first one is the HTS, led by Jolani.** The HTS says it has broken its ties with **al-Qaeda** and promises to respect **Syria's ethnic and religious diversity**, but **its rank and file comprise transnational jihadists from across the world.**
पहला गठबंधन HTS है, जिसका नेतृत्व जोलानी कर रहे हैं। HTS का कहना है कि उसने अल-कायदा से संबंध तोड़ लिया है और वह सीरिया की जातीय और धार्मिक विविधता का सम्मान करने का वादा करता है, लेकिन इसके सदस्यों में अंतरराष्ट्रीय जिहादी शामिल हैं।
 - **The HTS's main ally is the Syrian National Army (SNA),** which has its core as the **Free Syrian Army, a Turkish proxy.**
HTS का मुख्य सहयोगी सीरियन नेशनल आर्मी (SNA) है, जिसमें मूल रूप से फ्री सीरियन आर्मी शामिल है, जो एक तुर्की समर्थक बल है।
 - **The second group is the Southern Front,** a coalition of **dozens of militias** in Syria's south (**Daara and Quneitra**), some of which were backed by **Jordan.**
दूसरा समूह सदरन फ्रंट है, जो सीरिया के दक्षिण (डेरा और कुनैतरा) में कई मिलिशिया समूहों का गठबंधन है, जिनमें से कुछ को जॉर्डन का समर्थन प्राप्त था।
 - **The third group is the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF),** whose core is the **People's Protection Units (YPG),** the armed wing of **Syrian Kurdistan,** which enjoys **relative autonomy.**
तीसरा समूह सीरियन डेमोक्रेटिक फोर्स (SDF) है, जिसका मुख्य हिस्सा पीपल्स प्रोटेक्शन





यूनिट्स (YPG) है, जो सीरियाई कुर्दिस्तान का सशस्त्र विंग है और जिसे सापेक्ष स्वायत्तता प्राप्त है।

- **The fourth group is the Alawite militias in the coastal region, who are part of Mr. Assad's sect.**

चौथा समूह तटीय क्षेत्र में अलवाइट मिलिशिया है, जो श्री असद के संप्रदाय का हिस्सा हैं।

- Of these, **HTS is the most powerful force now**, and the transition government in Damascus resembles the **HTS Salvation government** in Idlib.
इन सब में, **HTS अब सबसे शक्तिशाली बल है**, और दमिश्क में संक्रमणकालीन सरकार **HTS सैल्वेशन सरकार** की तरह दिखती है।

Why does geopolitics matter?

भू-राजनीति क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

- Syria hosts **Russia's Mediterranean naval base in Tartus, its only naval base outside the former Soviet territory.**

सीरिया में रूस का भूमध्यसागरीय नौसैनिक अड्डा तारतूस स्थित है, जो पूर्व सोवियत क्षेत्र के बाहर रूस का एकमात्र नौसैनिक अड्डा है।

- Russia's **air base and force projection capabilities** depend on retaining access to Tartus.
रूस के वायु अड्डे और शक्ति प्रक्षेपण क्षमताएं तारतूस तक पहुंच बनाए रखने पर निर्भर करती हैं।
- For **Iran, Syria was its only state ally in West Asia** and a key conduit to **Hezbollah**.
ईरान के लिए, सीरिया पश्चिम एशिया में उसका एकमात्र राज्य सहयोगी था और हिज़बुल्लाह तक पहुंच का एक प्रमुख माध्यम था।
- **Turkey, with its HTS-SNA coalition**, has gained influence over regions near the borders of **Iraq, Jordan, and Israel**.

तुर्की, अपने **HTS-SNA गठबंधन** के साथ, **इराक, जॉर्डन और इज़राइल** की सीमाओं के पास क्षेत्रों पर प्रभाव हासिल कर चुका है।

Will the militants build a new Syria?

क्या उग्रवादी एक नया सीरिया बनाएंगे?

- Despite promises of **rebuilding institutions**, the **HTS lacks the resources and ideological clarity** for an inclusive Syria.

संस्थानों के पुनर्निर्माण के वादों के बावजूद, **HTS के पास संसाधन और वैचारिक स्पष्टता** की कमी है।

- The **southern militias** and the **SDF** are also vying for power, creating challenges for stability.

दक्षिणी मिलिशिया और SDF भी सत्ता के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं, जो स्थिरता के लिए चुनौती उत्पन्न कर रहे हैं।





- Lessons from **Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq** show that the fall of regimes often leads to deeper chaos.

अफगानिस्तान, लीबिया, और इराक से सीखा गया है कि सरकारों के पतन के बाद अक्सर अधिक अराजकता आती है।

How can gene therapy cure haemophilia A?

What is replacement theory and how effective is it as a form of treatment for haemophiliacs?

What is Roctavian? How is using a lentivirus as the vector in gene therapy different from using an adenovirus? Are medicines for treating haemophilia affordable and accessible?

GS Paper III: S&T

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

Medical researchers at the Christian Medical College, Vellore have reported successfully applying gene-therapy to treat severe haemophilia A, a rare, hereditary condition that results from a faulty gene which triggers severe, spontaneous and fatal bleeding episodes.

What is the usual treatment?

The primary approach to treating haemophilia is called replacement therapy. As the disease is a condition resulting from low levels of clotting factor – necessary to prevent bleeding – replacement therapy involves slowly dripping, or injecting into a vein, concentrates of clotting factor VIII (for haemophilia A) or clotting factor IX (for haemophilia B). Clotting-factor concentrates can be derived and manufactured from human blood, which must be properly tested and screened to prevent the spread of diseases, such as hepatitis. It is also possible to

A March 2024 study estimates the per-patient cost of treating a haemophiliac in India to be \$3,00,000 over a 10-year period

use clotting-factor concentrates that aren't made from human blood reducing, the albeit very small risk, of contracting diseases from injecting blood. These are called recombinant clotting factors and can be easily stored, mixed, and used at home. Haemophiliacs can regularly inoculate themselves with replacement therapy to prevent bleeding, and is meant to protect against unexpected bleeding episodes. Among the challenges with clotting factors is that the body's own antibodies can destroy the clotting factor before it has a chance to work and defeats the whole idea of replacement therapy. Other forms of treatment include desmopressin (DDAVP), a man-made hormone used to treat people who have mild haemophilia A. DDAVP isn't used to treat haemophilia B or severe haemophilia A. This hormone increases the level of clotting factor in the blood.

What is gene therapy in haemophilia?

Among the emerging approaches to fix diseases such as haemophilia, which is due to a defective gene on the X chromosome, is gene therapy. Here copies of a 'corrected' gene are introduced into the cells of a patient, the idea being that this would result – in the case of haemophilia – normal expression of the necessary clotting factor. So far there is only one U.S. Food And Drug Administration-approved gene therapy for haemophilia. Called Roctavian, it is an adeno-associated virus vector-based gene therapy and approved only in 2023 for treating adults with severe haemophilia A, and that too only for those without pre-existing antibodies to adeno-associated virus. Roctavian consists of a viral vector carrying the necessary gene for clotting Factor VIII. The gene is expressed in the liver to increase blood levels of FVIII and reduce the risk of uncontrolled bleeding. The effectiveness of the treatment was established based on results from 112 patients followed up for at least three years after Roctavian treatment. Following the infusion, the mean,

annualised bleeding rate decreased from 5.4 bleeds per year at baseline to 2.6 bleeds per year. The majority of patients who received Roctavian also got corticosteroids to suppress the immune system for the gene therapy to be effective and safe. Treatment response to Roctavian may decrease over time.

How was the Vellore trial different?

The main difference in this approach is the use of a lentivirus as the vector, instead of an adenovirus. Because adenovirus infections are fairly common in people, the chances of having antibodies are fairly high and this could actually be counter-productive to those using treatments such as Roctavian. Lentivirus infections being less common, it is expected that fewer people will have antibodies to them, making them more effective in treatment. Further the Indian approach relies on gene transfer into adult stem cells with the lentivirus vector that integrates with the body's cells instead of in vivo transfer to a hepatocyte, or a liver cell, through a non-integrating AAV vector. The advantage of this approach is expected to be a reliable, life-long production of the clotting factor in necessary quantities without side-effects. Though tested in only five patients in Vellore, none of them reported bleeding episodes over an average follow-up period of 14 months.

Is haemophilia treatment affordable?

A March 2024 research study in the journal *Heliyon*, estimates the per-patient cost of treating a haemophiliac in India to be \$3,00,000 over a 10-year period. Based on various estimates, there may be about 1,00,000 haemophiliacs with type A and type B conditions, with the former being more common. This is the reason why treatments can be expensive. Roctavian is also not cheap and costs nearly \$2 million. Whether the gene-therapy product tested in the India will be affordable remains to be seen, though that is the hope. "It is too early to talk about costs but in principle it will need to be something that will make sense in the Indian healthcare system," Dr. Alok Srivastava, Head, Haematology Research Unit, St John's Research Institute, Bangalore, told *The Hindu*. He led the trial at Vellore.



GETTY IMAGES

Gene Therapy to Cure Haemophilia A

जीन थेरेपी द्वारा हीमोफीलिया ए का इलाज

Medical researchers at the Christian Medical College, Vellore have reported successfully applying **gene therapy to treat severe haemophilia A**, a rare hereditary condition that causes severe,

Website: patrioticias.in

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





spontaneous, and fatal bleeding episodes.

क्रिश्चियन मेडिकल कॉलेज, वेल्लोर के मेडिकल शोधकर्ताओं ने गंभीर हीमोफीलिया ए का इलाज करने के लिए जीन थेरेपी का सफलतापूर्वक उपयोग करने की सूचना दी है। यह एक दुर्लभ वंशानुगत स्थिति है जो गंभीर, स्वतःस्फूर्त और घातक रक्तस्राव के कारण होती है।

Usual Treatment

सामान्य उपचार

- The **primary approach** to treating haemophilia is called **replacement therapy**, involving slow injection of clotting factor concentrates into a vein.
हीमोफीलिया के इलाज के लिए **प्रमुख** तरीका रिप्लेसमेंट थेरेपी है, जिसमें नस में क्लॉटिंग फैक्टर सांद्रण को धीरे-धीरे इंजेक्ट किया जाता है।
- For **haemophilia A**, **factor VIII** is used, and for **haemophilia B**, **factor IX** is used.
हीमोफीलिया ए के लिए **फैक्टर VIII** और हीमोफीलिया बी के लिए **फैक्टर IX** का उपयोग किया जाता है।
- **Recombinant clotting factors**, not made from human blood, are safer and can be used at home.
रिकॉम्बिनेंट क्लॉटिंग फैक्टर, जो मानव रक्त से नहीं बनाए जाते, सुरक्षित हैं और घर पर उपयोग किए जा सकते हैं।
- The **challenge** is that **antibodies in the body** may destroy the clotting factor before it works.
चुनौती यह है कि शरीर में मौजूद **एंटीबॉडीज** क्लॉटिंग फैक्टर को काम करने से पहले नष्ट कर सकती हैं।
- **Desmopressin (DDAVP)** is a man-made hormone used to treat mild haemophilia A but not severe cases or haemophilia B.
डेस्मोप्रेसिन (DDAVP) एक कृत्रिम हार्मोन है जिसका उपयोग हल्के हीमोफीलिया ए के इलाज के लिए किया जाता है, लेकिन गंभीर मामलों या हीमोफीलिया बी के लिए नहीं।

Gene Therapy in Haemophilia

हीमोफीलिया में जीन थेरेपी

- **Gene therapy** introduces corrected copies of a faulty gene to enable normal expression of clotting factor, fixing the disease.
जीन थेरेपी दोषपूर्ण जीन की सही प्रतियां पेश करती है ताकि क्लॉटिंग फैक्टर का सामान्य उत्पादन हो सके और बीमारी का इलाज हो सके।
- **Roctavian** is the **only FDA-approved gene therapy for severe haemophilia A** (approved in 2023).





रॉकटेवियन गंभीर हीमोफीलिया ए के लिए एफडीए-स्वीकृत एकमात्र जीन थेरेपी है (2023 में अनुमोदित)।

- It uses an **adeno-associated virus vector** to deliver the gene, expressed in the liver to produce **Factor VIII**.

यह जीन को पहुंचाने के लिए एडेनो-संबंधित वायरस वेक्टर का उपयोग करता है, जो जिगर में व्यक्त होता है और फैक्टर VIII का उत्पादन करता है।

- Treatment reduces bleeding episodes but may **require corticosteroids** to suppress the immune system.

यह उपचार रक्तस्राव की घटनाओं को कम करता है लेकिन प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली को दबाने के लिए कॉर्टिकोस्टेरोइड्स की आवश्यकता हो सकती है।

Vellore Trial's Unique Approach

वेल्लोर परीक्षण का अनूठा दृष्टिकोण

- The **Vellore trial used a lentivirus vector**, which is less likely to cause immune response compared to adenoviruses.

वेल्लोर परीक्षण ने लेंटिवायरस वेक्टर का उपयोग किया, जो एडेनोवायरस की तुलना में प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया उत्पन्न करने की संभावना कम करता है।

- It **integrated the gene into adult stem cells**, promising **life-long production of clotting factor** without side effects.

इसने जीन को वयस्क स्टेम कोशिकाओं में एकीकृत किया, जिससे जीवनभर क्लॉटिंग फैक्टर के उत्पादन की संभावना बनी।

- **Five patients** reported no bleeding episodes over an average of **14 months**. पांच मरीजों ने औसतन 14 महीनों में रक्तस्राव की कोई घटना नहीं बताई।

Affordability of Haemophilia Treatment

हीमोफीलिया उपचार की वहनीयता

- A 2024 **Heliyon study** estimated the **10-year treatment cost** for haemophiliacs in India at **\$3,00,000 per patient**.

2024 के हेलियन अध्ययन ने भारत में हीमोफीलिया रोगियों के लिए 10 साल के उपचार की लागत \$3,00,000 प्रति मरीज आंकी।

- **Roctavian** costs nearly **\$2 million**, raising affordability concerns.

रॉकटेवियन की लागत लगभग \$2 मिलियन है, जो इसे वहनीयता के लिए चुनौतीपूर्ण बनाती है।



- The Indian gene therapy's cost is uncertain but aims to be affordable within the **Indian healthcare system.**

भारतीय जीन थेरेपी की लागत अनिश्चित है, लेकिन इसे भारतीय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली के भीतर वहनीय बनाने का लक्ष्य है।

'Popular' suspect

GS Paper IV: Ethics

Luigi Mangione

The 26-year-old Ivy League graduate, who allegedly **shot the CEO of a medical insurance company in the U.S.**, has found support among many, while it shows the public's eroding trust in institutions

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Adithya Narayan

Not long after an election that polarised the nation, civil society in the U.S. stands divided yet again over a man: 26-year-old Luigi Mangione, who allegedly shot UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson outside a hotel in Manhattan on December 4.

Mangione was picked up from a McDonald's outlet in Pennsylvania, on December 9 when a member of the restaurant staff spotted and identified him.

From ridiculing the employee and McDonalds to lionising Mangione as an "anti-capitalist" hero and describing his act as "vigilante justice", social media was awash with reactions that glorified the killing of the father of two.

So much so that Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro felt compelled to spell out the morality: "He is no hero. The real hero in this story is the person who called 911 at McDonald's." "We do not kill people in cold blood to resolve policy differences," Mr. Shapiro said.

That it took a Governor's statement for people to see through a crime that happened in broad daylight is a telling sign. Regardless, observers and columnists attribute the sympathy pouring in for Mangione to the hatred re-



served by the public for insurance companies.

Recovered from the crime scene were bullet casings that had the words 'Deny', 'Defend' and 'Depose' written on them – a play on the phrase 'Delay, Deny, Defend', tactics used by insurance firms to refuse claims. Also found in his possession was a handwritten manifesto that criticised corporate greed. "Frankly these parasites simply had it coming," the note stated. UnitedHealthcare, however, has said Mangione was not its customer.

As police try and figure out if Mangione, who had a back problem and did correction procedure, acted out of self-interest or handed out "vigilante justice", public support has swelled. His X account grew by 4,00,000 followers since the shooting, \$31,000 was raised on GiveSendGo and "#FreeLuigi" and "hot assassin" tags spread on social media.

In Mangione, people

found a "folk hero" who stood up for them against an industry that has long become a target of public ire. With a market valuation of \$560 billion, UnitedHealth ranks 19th on Forbes' list of the world's biggest companies. However, look past the insurance firm to see that the individuals involved are mired in a strange paradox.

According to a Reuters report, Thompson had a modest working-class upbringing in rural Iowa. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Iowa in 1997. He is a certified public accountant and worked for six years at the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) before joining the United Group in 2004, according to Forbes.

This is in stark contrast to the privileged upbringing of Mangione, someone believed to have carried out an "anti-capitalist" attack. Born into a prominent real-estate family in

Baltimore, Mangione received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania. He also served as head counsellor at a pre-college programme at Stanford. He worked as a software engineer at TrueCar, an online marketplace based in California.

Six months ago, he fell off the public radar with his mother filing a missing complaint in November.

Investigators are scouring his social media accounts for further clues and a concrete motive. Save for a goodreads account where he posted a review commending the "prescient" nature of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski's *Industrial Society and its future*, Mangione's political standing can be described as heterodox at best.

The fact that Mangione's motive and ideology have not been deciphered so far is worrisome for it then leaves only one plausible explanation. Much like the 2021 Capitol attack, it shows the public's eroding trust in institutions. A fallout of that is the common man disregarding civic sense and becoming emboldened to take the law into his own hands. Mangione, who spoke about a "symbolic takedown" in his manifesto, then becomes a hero for those disenchanted with the system.





'Popular' Suspect

'लोकप्रिय' संदिग्ध

The **26-year-old Ivy League graduate, Luigi Mangione**, allegedly shot UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson outside a Manhattan hotel on December 4.

26 वर्षीय आइवी लीग स्नातक लुइगी मंगियोन पर 4 दिसंबर को मैनहट्टन के एक होटल के बाहर यूनाइटेड हेल्थकेयर के सीईओ ब्रायन थॉम्पसन को गोली मारने का आरोप है।

- Mangione was arrested on **December 9** at a McDonald's outlet in Pennsylvania after being identified by a staff member.
मंगियोन को 9 दिसंबर को पेन्सिलवेनिया के एक मैकडॉनल्ड्स आउटलेट से गिरफ्तार किया गया जब एक कर्मचारी ने उनकी पहचान की।
- Social media reactions included support for Mangione as an "anti-capitalist hero" and ridiculing the McDonald's employee who called the police.
सोशल मीडिया प्रतिक्रियाओं में मंगियोन को "विरोधी पूंजीवादी नायक" के रूप में समर्थन और पुलिस को बुलाने वाले मैकडॉनल्ड्स कर्मचारी का उपहास शामिल था।
- Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro** stated, "He is no hero. The real hero is the person who called 911."
पेनसिलवेनिया के गवर्नर जोश शापिरो ने कहा, "वह कोई नायक नहीं है। असली नायक वह व्यक्ति है जिसने 911 को कॉल किया।"
- Bullet casings at the crime scene had words like 'Deny,' 'Defend,' and 'Depose' engraved, criticizing insurance firm tactics.
अपराध स्थल पर मिली गोली की खोलों पर 'डिनाय,' 'डिफेंड,' और 'डिपोज़' जैसे शब्द लिखे हुए थे, जो बीमा कंपनियों की रणनीतियों की आलोचना करते हैं।
- Mangione had a handwritten manifesto criticizing corporate greed, calling it a "symbolic takedown" of the insurance industry.
मंगियोन के पास एक हस्तलिखित घोषणापत्र मिला जिसमें कॉर्पोरेट लालच की आलोचना की गई थी और इसे बीमा उद्योग का "प्रतीकात्मक पतन" कहा गया।
- UnitedHealthcare** clarified that Mangione was not its customer.
यूनाइटेड हेल्थकेयर ने स्पष्ट किया कि मंगियोन उसका ग्राहक नहीं था।
- Public support for Mangione surged with his X account gaining 4,00,000 followers and \$31,000 raised on GiveSendGo under tags like "#FreeLuigi."
मंगियोन के लिए सार्वजनिक समर्थन बढ़ा, उसके X अकाउंट पर 4,00,000 फॉलोअर्स और GiveSendGo पर \$31,000 एकत्रित हुए, जिसमें "#FreeLuigi" जैसे टैग शामिल थे।
- Mangione's privileged upbringing contrasts with Thompson's modest working-class background.
मंगियोन की समृद्ध परवरिश थॉम्पसन की सामान्य कामकाजी वर्ग की पृष्ठभूमि के विपरीत है।





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- Thompson, a **certified public accountant**, graduated from the **University of Iowa** in 1997 and worked at **PwC** before joining United Group in 2004.
थॉम्पसन, जो एक प्रमाणित सार्वजनिक एकाउंटेंट हैं, ने 1997 में यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ आयोवा से स्नातक किया और 2004 में यूनाइटेड ग्रुप में शामिल होने से पहले **PwC** में काम किया।
- Mangione, from a prominent real-estate family, graduated from the **University of Pennsylvania** and worked as a software engineer at **TrueCar**.
मंगियोन, जो एक प्रमुख रियल एस्टेट परिवार से हैं, ने यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ पेनसिलवेनिया से स्नातक किया और **ट्रूकार** में सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर के रूप में काम किया।
- Six months ago, Mangione went missing, and his mother filed a complaint in **November**.
छह महीने पहले मंगियोन लापता हो गया, और उसकी मां ने **नवंबर** में शिकायत दर्ज कराई।
- Mangione admired **Ted Kaczynski's manifesto**, posting a review on Goodreads calling it "prescient."
मंगियोन ने **टेड काज़िन्स्की के घोषणापत्र** की प्रशंसा की और गुडरीड्स पर एक समीक्षा पोस्ट करते हुए इसे "दूरदर्शी" कहा।
- Analysts say this reflects public distrust in institutions, likening it to the **2021 Capitol attack**.
विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि यह संस्थानों में जनता के अविश्वास को दर्शाता है, जो **2021 कैपिटल हमले** से तुलना करता है।
- Mangione's case underscores the danger of individuals disregarding civic norms and embracing vigilante justice.
मंगियोन का मामला नागरिक मानदंडों की उपेक्षा और निजी न्याय को अपनाने के खतरे को रेखांकित करता है।

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Can the Vice President be impeached?

Why did the Opposition submit a notice to move a no-confidence motion against Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar?

GS Paper II: Union Executive

The story so far:

In December 10, the Opposition submitted a notice to move a no-confidence or impeachment resolution against Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. The notice accuses him of engaging in “partisan” conduct and being an “impassioned spokesperson” of the government’s policies at public fora. A similar motion had been considered by the Opposition during the Budget session in August but was ultimately shelved as the session drew to a close.

What is the procedure for impeaching the Vice President?

As the second-highest constitutional authority (after the President), the Vice-President draws his or her powers from Article 63 of the Constitution. Article 64 further confers upon the post the power to serve as the “ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).” Thus, the Vice-President discharges the

‘The resolution can only be considered for discussion once the constitutionally mandated 14-day notice period has elapsed’

duties of both the Vice-President and Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

The process for the removal of both the Vice President and Rajya Sabha chairperson has been laid down under Article 67. The provision stipulates that the Vice-President will hold

office for a term of five years from “the date on which he enters upon his office”. However, he or she may leave mid-term by submitting a resignation letter to the President.

Additionally, Article 67(b) provides for the removal of the Vice-President if a majority of Rajya Sabha members pass a resolution to that effect, which must then be “agreed to” by the House of the People (Lok Sabha).

However, the provision specifies that no such resolution can be moved unless at least a 14-day notice has been given. “The resolution can only be considered for discussion once the constitutionally mandated 14-day notice period has elapsed. It must then be approved by a simple majority in both Houses for passage and implementation,” P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, told *The Hindu*.

Will the no-confidence motion be taken up?

It is unlikely that the no-confidence motion will be taken up for discussion in the House since the Winter Session of Parliament is scheduled to conclude on December 20, which is less than 14 days away.

For instance, in 2020 then Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu dismissed a no-confidence motion against Deputy Chairman Harivansh on the ground that it required a 14-day notice. Even if the motion is taken up in the House, it is unlikely to yield any result since the Opposition lacks the requisite numbers for its passage. Ultimately, this move appears to be more of a symbolic protest against Mr. Dhankhar’s purported partisan conduct.

“Since it is a constitutional resolution, it does not lapse when the session is prorogued. It can be taken up in the next session of Parliament, or even in a special session convened specifically for that purpose,” Mr. Achary clarified.

Can the Vice President preside over the motion in the Upper House?

Notably, even if the motion is taken up in the House and the Opposition’s grievances are discussed, it would be difficult for Mr. Dhankhar to preside over those proceedings in the Rajya Sabha. Mr. Achary pointed out that Article 92 of the Constitution explicitly bars the Chairman or Deputy Chairman from presiding over proceedings while a resolution for their removal is under consideration. However, the provision permits the Chairperson to speak and participate in the proceedings although he or she is barred from voting “on such resolution or any other matter” during it.

These provisions however come into effect only if the motion is accepted by Deputy Chairperson Harivansh Narayan Singh.





Can the Vice President be impeached?

क्या उपराष्ट्रपति पर महाभियोग लगाया जा सकता है?

On December 10, the Opposition submitted a notice to move a no-confidence or impeachment resolution against **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar**, accusing him of engaging in “partisan” conduct and being an “impassioned spokesperson” of the government’s policies at public fora.

10 दिसंबर को, विपक्ष ने उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ के खिलाफ अविश्वास या महाभियोग प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया, उन पर सार्वजनिक मंचों पर “पक्षपाती” व्यवहार और सरकार की नीतियों के “उत्साही प्रवक्ता” होने का आरोप लगाया।

- A similar motion was considered during the Budget session in **August** but was **shelved** as the session concluded.

अगस्त के बजट सत्र के दौरान ऐसा ही एक प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन था, लेकिन सत्र समाप्त होने पर इसे टाल दिया गया।

What is the procedure for impeaching the Vice President?

उपराष्ट्रपति पर महाभियोग लगाने की प्रक्रिया क्या है?

- The **Vice-President derives powers from Article 63 of the Constitution and serves as ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha under Article 64.** उपराष्ट्रपति को संविधान के अनुच्छेद 63 से शक्तियाँ मिलती हैं और वे राज्यसभा के पदेन अध्यक्ष के रूप में अनुच्छेद 64 के तहत कार्य करते हैं।
- **Article 67 specifies the removal process. The Vice-President holds office for five years, but can resign mid-term by submitting a letter to the President or be removed by a resolution passed in the Rajya Sabha and agreed upon by the Lok Sabha.** अनुच्छेद 67 हटाने की प्रक्रिया निर्दिष्ट करता है। उपराष्ट्रपति का कार्यकाल पाँच वर्ष का होता है, लेकिन वे कार्यकाल के बीच राष्ट्रपति को पत्र देकर इस्तीफा दे सकते हैं या राज्यसभा में प्रस्ताव पारित करके और लोकसभा द्वारा सहमति से हटाए जा सकते हैं।
- **A 14-day notice is required before moving such a resolution, which must then be passed by a simple majority in both Houses.**



In session: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar conducts the House proceedings on November 25. ANI





ऐसे प्रस्ताव को लाने से पहले **14 दिनों का नोटिस** आवश्यक है, जिसे बाद में दोनों सदनों में साधारण बहुमत से पारित किया जाना चाहिए।

Will the no-confidence motion be taken up?

क्या अविश्वास प्रस्ताव लिया जाएगा?

- It is unlikely as the **Winter Session** ends on **December 20**, leaving less than the required **14-day notice period**.
यह संभावना नहीं है क्योंकि **सर्दियों का सत्र 20 दिसंबर** को समाप्त हो रहा है, जिससे आवश्यक **14 दिन का नोटिस** अवधि पूरी नहीं होगी।
- In **2020**, a similar motion against Deputy Chairman **Harivansh** was dismissed for the same reason.
2020 में उपसभापति **हरिवंश** के खिलाफ ऐसा ही प्रस्ताव इसी कारण से खारिज कर दिया गया था।
- A constitutional resolution does not lapse when the session is prorogued and can be taken up in the next session or a **special session**.
संवैधानिक प्रस्ताव सत्र स्थगित होने पर समाप्त नहीं होता और इसे अगले सत्र या विशेष सत्र में लिया जा सकता है।

Can the Vice President preside over the motion in the Upper House?

क्या उपराष्ट्रपति उच्च सदन में प्रस्ताव की अध्यक्षता कर सकते हैं?

- As per **Article 92**, the Vice-President cannot preside during the proceedings for their removal. However, they may **participate in discussions but are barred from voting**.
अनुच्छेद 92 के अनुसार, उपराष्ट्रपति हटाने की कार्यवाही के दौरान अध्यक्षता नहीं कर सकते। हालांकि, वे **चर्चा में भाग ले सकते हैं** लेकिन **मतदान करने से वंचित रहेंगे**।
- **These provisions apply only if the motion is accepted by the Deputy Chairperson**.
ये प्रावधान तभी लागू होते हैं जब प्रस्ताव को **उपसभापति द्वारा स्वीकार** किया जाए।

