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16_12_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

1. Simultaneous polls Bill not to come up before LS today / एक साथ चुनाव कराने संबंधी विधेयक आज लोकसभा में नहीं आएगा (GS Paper-II: Parliament)
2. Let's talk about 'one candidate, multiple constituencies' / आइये 'एक उम्मीदवार, कई निर्वाचन क्षेत्र' के बारे में बात करें (GS Paper-II: Elections)
3. India's firmer attempts at mineral diplomacy / खनिज कूटनीति में भारत के पुराने प्रयास (GS Paper-II: Minerals)
4. Permissive no more / अब और अनुमोदक नहीं (GS Paper-I: Communalism)
5. The digital frontier of inequality / असमानता की डिजिटल सीमा (GS Paper-II: Inequality)
6. How would a carbon market function? / कार्बन बाज़ार कैसे काम करेगा? (GS Paper-III: Environment)
7. Why is the BJD opposing the Polavaram project? / बीजेडी पोलावरम परियोजना का विरोध क्यों कर रही है? (GS Paper-II: India-State Relations)
8. Why simultaneous elections are impractical and complicated / एक साथ चुनाव क्यों अव्यावहारिक और जटिल हैं (GS Paper-II: Elections)

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9. **Dissanayake holds 'fruitful' talks with Jaishankar, Doval / डिसनायके ने जयशंकर, डोभाल के साथ की 'सार्थक' बातचीत (GS Paper-II: India-Sri-Lanka)**
10. **AIADMK appeals to Centre to cancel nod for mining tungsten / एआईएडीएमके ने केंद्र से टंगस्टन खनन की मंजूरी रद्द करने की अपील की (GS Paper-III: Minerals)**
11. **Morocco welcomes Indian defence companies to set up production units / मोरक्को ने भारतीय रक्षा कंपनियों का उत्पादन इकाइयाँ स्थापित करने के लिए स्वागत किया (GS Paper-II: India-Morocco)**
12. **Modi refers to past to build a fresh narrative / मोदी ने ताजा आख्यान गढ़ने के लिए अतीत का हवाला दिया (GS Paper-I: Post Independence)**
13. **Ram temple gets award from British Safety Council / राम मंदिर को ब्रिटिश सुरक्षा परिषद से पुरस्कार मिला (PCS)**
14. **Jaishankar thanks Moldova for helping Indians during the Ukraine crisis / जयशंकर ने यूक्रेन संकट के दौरान भारतीयों की मदद करने के लिए मोल्दोवा को धन्यवाद दिया (GS Paper-II: India-Moldova)**
15. **Centre launches Jalvahak scheme for cargo movement via inland waterways / केंद्र ने अंतर्देशीय जलमार्गों के माध्यम से माल की आवाजाही के लिए जलवाहक योजना शुरू की (GS Paper-III)**
16. **Israel to close Dublin embassy citing 'extreme anti-Israel policies' / इजराइल ने 'अत्यधिक इजराइल विरोधी नीतियों' का हवाला देते हुए डबलिन दूतावास बंद करने का फैसला किया (GS Paper-I: World Geography)**





17. **Rwanda, Congo cancel peace talks to end conflict in eastern Congo / रवांडा, कांगो ने पूर्वी कांगो में संघर्ष को समाप्त करने के लिए शांति वार्ता रद्द कर दी (GS Paper-I: World Geography)**
18. **14 killed in French territory of Mayotte as Cyclone Chido strikes / फ्रांस के मायोटे क्षेत्र में चक्रवात चिडो के कारण 14 लोगों की मौत (GS Paper-I: World Geography)**
19. **At least 39 killed in Niger in attacks near Burkina Faso / बुर्किना फासो के निकट नाइजर में हुए हमलों में कम से कम 39 लोग मारे गए (GS Paper-I: World Geography)**
20. **Russian tanker splits in storm, spilling oil into the Kerch Strait / तूफान में रूसी टैंकर टूट गया, जिससे तेल केर्च जलडमरूमध्य में फैल गया (GS Paper-I: World Geography)**
21. **Nidhi stands tall as India retains women's Asia Cup / निधि ने भारत को महिला एशिया कप खिताब बरकरार रखने में मदद की (PCS)**
22. **Deepika, Dhiraj and Ankita top the list at Nationals / दीपिका, धीरज और अंकिता राष्ट्रीय चैंपियनशिप में शीर्ष पर (PCS)**
23. **World Cup kho kho, to be held from Jan 13 to 19, to feature 41 teams / विश्व कप खो-खो, 13 से 19 जनवरी तक आयोजित किया जाएगा, जिसमें 41 टीमों भाग लेंगी (PCS)**
24. **Can we make black holes reveal themselves in echoes of light? / क्या हम ब्लैक होल को प्रकाश की प्रतिध्वनि में स्वयं को प्रकट करने में सक्षम बना सकते हैं? (GS Paper-III: S&T)**



25. Mirror life: a deadly geometry / दर्पण जीवन: एक घातक ज्यामिति (GS Paper-III: S&T)

Simultaneous polls Bill not to come up before LS today

Two Bills on the matter removed from the revised list; government likely to complete financial business first; the Rajya Sabha will begin the day with a discussion on **supplementary grants**

GS Paper II: Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has not included the Constitution amendment Bill on holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies on the revised list of business for Monday, indicating that the Bill could be delayed.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill were earlier listed for Monday in the Lok Sabha.

Indications are that the Centre will bring the Bills once the Rajya Sabha completes the discussion on the Constitution and after the passage of supplementary demands for grants in the Lok Sabha.

Now, if the Centre wants



Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has invited Mallikarjun Kharge for discussions on Monday to end the impasse. ANI

to bring the Bills on Monday, permission from Speaker Om Birla is necessary to introduce a supplementary list of business. The members received both Bills after the Union Cabinet cleared them last week.

In the statement on objects and reasons, Law Mi-

nister Arjun Ram Meghwal has said the general elections to the House of the People and all State Assemblies were held simultaneously in 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967. However, due to premature dissolution of some Assemblies in 1968 and 1969, the cycle of holding polls simultaneously

with the House of the People was disrupted.

He said the Law Commission, in its 170th report, suggested that holding separate elections for Assemblies should be an exception rather than the rule.

“There is an imperative need for holding of simultaneous elections, given that elections have become expensive and time-consuming,” he said, adding that a committee under the chairmanship of former President Ram Nath Kovind too recommended the same.

In the Rajya Sabha, the first item on the agenda is discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants – First Batch for 2024-2025.

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Simultaneous Polls Bill Not to Come Up Before Lok Sabha Today

संसद और विधानसभाओं के एकसाथ चुनाव का विधेयक आज लोकसभा में पेश नहीं होगा





- The **Union government** has not included the **Constitution amendment Bill** on holding **simultaneous elections** to the **Lok Sabha and State Assemblies** in the revised list of business for Monday, indicating that the Bill could be delayed.
केंद्र सरकार ने लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं के एकसाथ चुनाव कराने से संबंधित संविधान संशोधन विधेयक को सोमवार की संशोधित कार्यसूची में शामिल नहीं किया है, जिससे संकेत मिलता है कि विधेयक में देरी हो सकती है।
- The **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill** were earlier listed for Monday in the **Lok Sabha**.
संविधान (129वां संशोधन) विधेयक और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश कानून (संशोधन) विधेयक को पहले सोमवार को लोकसभा में सूचीबद्ध किया गया था।
- Indications are that the **Centre** will bring the Bills after the **Rajya Sabha completes discussions** on the Constitution and after the **passage of supplementary demands for grants in the Lok Sabha**.
संकेत हैं कि केंद्र सरकार ये विधेयक तब पेश करेगी जब राज्यसभा संविधान पर चर्चा पूरी कर लेगी और लोकसभा में अनुदान की अनुपूरक मांगों को पारित कर दिया जाएगा।
- If the **Centre** wants to bring the Bills on Monday, **permission from Speaker Om Birla will be necessary to introduce a supplementary list of business**.
यदि केंद्र सरकार सोमवार को विधेयक लाना चाहती है, तो लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिड़ला से पूरक कार्यसूची पेश करने की अनुमति लेना अनिवार्य होगा।
- Members received both Bills after the **Union Cabinet cleared them** last week.
सांसदों को ये दोनों विधेयक पिछले सप्ताह केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा स्वीकृत किए जाने के बाद प्राप्त हुए।
- In the **statement of objects and reasons**, **Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** mentioned that **general elections** to the **House of the People and State Assemblies** were held **simultaneously** in **1951-52, 1957, 1962, and 1967**.
कानून मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल ने उद्देश्य और कारणों के विवरण में उल्लेख किया कि 1951-52, 1957, 1962 और 1967 में लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं के चुनाव एकसाथ कराए गए थे।
- However, due to the **premature dissolution** of some Assemblies in **1968 and 1969**, the cycle of holding **simultaneous elections** with the **House of the People** was disrupted.
हालांकि, 1968 और 1969 में कुछ विधानसभाओं के समय से पहले भंग हो जाने के कारण लोकसभा के साथ एकसाथ चुनाव कराने का चक्र बाधित हो गया।
- The **Law Commission**, in its **170th report**, suggested that holding separate elections for Assemblies should be an **exception rather than the rule**.
विधि आयोग ने अपनी 170वीं रिपोर्ट में सुझाव दिया कि विधानसभाओं के लिए अलग चुनाव कराना अपवाद होना चाहिए, नियम नहीं।
- **Law Minister Meghwal** emphasized the **need for simultaneous elections**, citing elections as **expensive and time-consuming**.
कानून मंत्री मेघवाल ने चुनावों को महंगा और समय लेने वाला बताते हुए एकसाथ चुनाव कराने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- A **committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind** also recommended **simultaneous elections**.





पूर्व राष्ट्रपति राम नाथ कोविंद की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने भी एकसाथ चुनाव कराने की सिफारिश की।

Discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants in Rajya Sabha राज्यसभा में अनुदान की अनुपूरक मांगों पर चर्चा

- The Rajya Sabha will begin the day with **discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants — First Batch for 2024-2025.**

राज्यसभा का सत्र अनुदान की अनुपूरक मांगों – 2024-2025 की पहली किस्त पर चर्चा और मतदान के साथ शुरू होगा।

Let's talk about 'one candidate, multiple constituencies'

GS Paper II: Elections

Ever since the panel for 'One Nation One Election' led by the former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, recommended simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, much has been written on its positive and negative aspects, the practical considerations and of course the politics around the subject. Amidst all the political accusations and counter-accusations, another important issue has gone missing from attention. The matter is about one candidate contesting from multiple constituencies (OCMC) for the same office.

The background, the challenges

The Constitution of India provides for regular elections every five years to the Legislative Assembly and the lower House of Parliament. However, the Constitution, other than providing for the Election Commission of India (ECI), has empowered Parliament to regulate the manner of conducting the elections. Therefore, 'contesting from multiple constituencies' has been dealt with in the Representation of the People Act 1951. Under the Act, there was no limit on the number of constituencies a candidate could contest – until 1996. This resulted in candidates contesting from multiple constituencies, sometimes more than two, winning them and vacating all but one seat, in accordance with Section 70 of the same Act. This necessitated by-elections frequently.

Due to this, Parliament amended the Act in 1996 to limit the number of constituencies that a candidate can contest from, to two. The amendment intended to discourage one candidate from contesting from multiple constituencies. Despite this, the practice has continued. The numbers are even more frequent in State Legislative Assembly elections, leading to frequent by-elections – there were 44 by-elections for State Assemblies in November 2024 due to the resignation of sitting legislators.

Frequent by-elections due to candidates winning from multiple constituencies pose several challenges. First, they add to taxpayer costs. The administrative cost of the Lok Sabha elections is borne by the central government, and Legislative Assemblies by the State governments; in the 2014 general election, it amounted to ₹3,870 crore. Adjusted for 6% annual inflation, the 2024 general election is put at a cost of ₹6,931 crore, or ₹12.76 crore per seat. If 10 politicians win from two constituencies, the extra cost of holding a by-election would be around ₹130 crore. While this is relatively small when compared to overall election spending, the real issue lies in the massive expenditure by political parties, estimated at ₹1,35,000 crore for the recent general election, or about ₹250 crore per constituency, according to the estimates by the Centre for Media Studies. This burden ultimately



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falls on the public, and much of the funding comes from black money, which undermines financial transparency.

Second, the by-election necessitated by the vacation of a winning candidate within an initial six months tends to favour the ruling party. This is borne out in by-election trends across multiple States. This emanates from the fact the ruling party can mobilise resources and provide patronage to party workers. Such a scenario of a non-level playing field is skewed against the Opposition, which has negative implications for parliamentary democracy.

Third, the financial burden of organising a by-election disproportionately falls on the already defeated candidate and their party, forcing them to spend resources once again.

Fourth, the saying "Democracy is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people" suggests that elections should serve people's needs. However, a candidate contesting from multiple seats serves as a hedging mechanism against uncertainties and often prioritises the leader's interests, not the people's. This undermines democratic principles, placing politics above the public.

Fifth, OCMC is sometimes used to enhance the reach and message delivery of the leader, relying on their popularity for electoral success. This often reflects the leader's dominance within the party, particularly in family- or leader-centric parties. Moreover, OCMC goes against the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression of citizens. A petition filed in 2023 (*Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay vs Union of India*) argued that when people elect a representative, they trust that person to be their voice. Contesting multiple constituencies, winning them, and vacating one for a by-election violates Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. This practice causes voter confusion and discontent, as seen in Wayanad, Kerala, when Rahul Gandhi vacated his seat in 2024, potentially leading to voter apathy. The voter turnout was 64.24% in the bypoll and 72.92% in the general election.

Some advantages

The OCMC is common in many countries. It may also have some practical considerations. First, contesting multiple seats provides a safety net for candidates, especially in tightly contested constituencies. Second, in a polity such as India, where politics is centered around the leader and family, OCMC smoothes the leader's continuation or transition in case a leader-centric party secures a majority in the elections but the leader of the party loses out. For instance, Mamata Banerjee lost the Nandigram seat in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections. To make way for her, another leader elected from the Bhabanipur constituency had to resign from the

Assembly. Similar things unfolded in the case of Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand in the 2022 Assembly elections.

International experience

OCMC is not unique to India. Pakistan and Bangladesh allow candidates to contest multiple constituencies but require them to relinquish all but one seat. Pakistan places no limit on the number of constituencies a candidate can contest, as seen in the 2018 elections when the former Prime Minister contested five seats and vacated four. Similarly, Bangladesh allowed candidates to contest up to five constituencies until 2008 but now limits it to three. The practice was once common in the United Kingdom but has been banned since 1983. Most European democracies have phased it out to promote clear representation and accountability.

The misuse of the OCMC far outweighs the benefits. There have been demands for reforms, and probable solutions may be considered. First, amend Section 33(7) of the RP Act 1951 to ban one candidate contesting from multiple constituencies for the same office. The ECI, in 2004, recommended the government ban the practice. The 255th Law Commission report in 2015 made the same recommendation.

Second, recovering the full cost of by-elections from the candidate vacating a seat can serve to discourage candidates from contesting simultaneously. The ECI recommended cost imposition on candidates contesting from multiple constituencies in 2004. However, the practice of OCMC will continue as the winning candidate or political party can afford to pay the cost. Third, a more effective deterrent would be to hold the by-elections after a year, allowing voters ample time to make an informed decision and giving the defeated candidate sufficient time to recover and prepare strategically for another contest. This would also provide a more balanced and fair electoral process. This could be done by amending Section 151A, Representation of Peoples Act 1951 which provides for by-election within six months of the occurrence of vacancy.

Holding elections requires substantial financial resources from the state. Furthermore, with elections being a round-the-year affair in India, the frequent need for by-elections takes time and money – resources that could otherwise be better invested in the country's development. However, as the issue of OCMC (one candidate, one constituency) is political, it requires political willpower and the support of the major parties to bring about change. However, unlike the One Nation One Election, it does not have many proponents in political parties. If "one person, one vote" is the core democratic principle for voters, it is time to enforce "one candidate, one constituency" for candidates.





One Candidate, Multiple Constituencies

एक उम्मीदवार, कई निर्वाचन क्षेत्र

- Ever since the panel for 'One Nation One Election' led by the former President of India, *Ram Nath Kovind*, recommended simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, much has been written on its **positive and negative aspects**, the **practical considerations**, and the **politics** around the subject. Amidst all the political debates, the issue of **one candidate contesting from multiple constituencies (OCMC)** for the same office has not received enough attention.

भारत के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति राम नाथ कोविंद की अध्यक्षता वाली 'वन नेशन वन इलेक्शन' पैनल ने लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं के समानांतर चुनाव की सिफारिश की है। इस पर सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक पहलुओं, व्यावहारिक विचारों, और राजनीति पर बहुत चर्चा हुई है। लेकिन एक उम्मीदवार द्वारा एक ही पद के लिए कई निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से चुनाव लड़ने का मुद्दा चर्चा में नहीं आया।

The Background, the Challenges

पृष्ठभूमि और चुनौतियां

- The **Constitution of India** provides for **regular elections** every five years to the Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha. However, the **Parliament**, empowered by the Constitution, regulates the manner of conducting elections.
भारतीय संविधान में राज्य विधानसभाओं और लोकसभा के लिए हर पांच साल में नियमित चुनाव कराने का प्रावधान है। हालांकि, संविधान ने संसद को चुनाव कराने के तरीके को विनियमित करने की शक्ति दी है।
- The issue of **contesting from multiple constituencies** is addressed in the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**. Until **1996**, there was no limit on the number of constituencies a candidate could contest.
कई निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से चुनाव लड़ने का मुद्दा 1951 के जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम में संबोधित किया गया है। 1996 तक, किसी भी उम्मीदवार के लिए कितने क्षेत्रों से चुनाव लड़ सकते हैं, इसकी कोई सीमा नहीं थी।
- **Before 1996**, candidates contested from **multiple constituencies** (more than two) and vacated all but one seat as per **Section 70 of the Act**, resulting in frequent **by-elections**.
1996 से पहले, उम्मीदवार एक से अधिक निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों (दो से ज्यादा) से चुनाव लड़ते थे और धारा 70 के अनुसार एक को छोड़कर बाकी सीटों को खाली कर देते थे। इसके कारण उपचुनाव बार-बार होते थे।
- In **1996**, the Act was amended to limit candidates to contest from **a maximum of two constituencies**, intending to discourage this practice.





1996 में अधिनियम में संशोधन किया गया, जिससे उम्मीदवारों को अधिकतम दो निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से चुनाव लड़ने तक सीमित कर दिया गया, ताकि इस प्रथा को हतोत्साहित किया जा सके।

Challenges of Frequent By-Elections

बार-बार उपचुनाव की चुनौतियां

- Frequent by-elections increase the **costs to taxpayers**. In the **2014 general election**, administrative costs amounted to **₹3,870 crore**. Adjusted for **6% annual inflation**, the **2024 election** costs were estimated at **₹6,931 crore**, or **₹12.76 crore per seat**.
बार-बार उपचुनाव से करदाताओं पर अतिरिक्त बोझ पड़ता है। 2014 के आम चुनाव में प्रशासनिक लागत ₹3,870 करोड़ थी। 6% वार्षिक मुद्रास्फीति के साथ, 2024 के चुनावों की लागत ₹6,931 करोड़ आंकी गई, यानी प्रति सीट ₹12.76 करोड़।
- If **10 politicians** win from two constituencies, the **extra cost** of by-elections would be approximately **₹130 crore**.
अगर 10 नेता दो निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से जीतते हैं, तो उपचुनाव की अतिरिक्त लागत लगभग ₹130 करोड़ होगी।
- The **massive expenditure by political parties**, estimated at **₹1,35,000 crore** for the 2024 elections (around **₹250 crore per constituency**), adds a significant burden.
राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा ₹1,35,000 करोड़ के अनुमानित व्यय (प्रत्येक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में ₹250 करोड़) से भारी बोझ पड़ता है।
- **By-elections tend to favour ruling parties**, as they can mobilize **resources** and provide **patronage** to workers. This creates a **non-level playing field**, disadvantaging the opposition.
उपचुनाव अक्सर सत्ताधारी पार्टियों के पक्ष में होते हैं क्योंकि वे संसाधनों को जुटाने और कार्यकर्ताओं को संरक्षण देने में सक्षम होते हैं। इससे असमान परिस्थितियां बनती हैं, जिससे विपक्ष को नुकसान होता है।
- **Financial burden** disproportionately falls on defeated candidates and their parties, forcing them to spend **resources again**.
वित्तीय बोझ हारने वाले उम्मीदवारों और उनकी पार्टियों पर अधिक पड़ता है, जिससे उन्हें फिर से संसाधन खर्च करने पड़ते हैं।

Democracy and Voter Trust

लोकतंत्र और मतदाताओं का विश्वास

- Elections should prioritize **people's needs** but contesting multiple seats often serves as a **hedging mechanism** for leaders, undermining **democratic principles**.
चुनावों को जनता की आवश्यकताओं को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए, लेकिन कई सीटों से चुनाव लड़ना अक्सर नेताओं के लिए सुरक्षा रणनीति के रूप में कार्य करता है, जिससे लोकतांत्रिक सिद्धांत कमजोर होते हैं।





- In **2023**, a petition (Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay vs Union of India) argued that vacating seats for by-elections **violates Article 19(1)(a)**, causing **voter confusion and discontent**.

2023 में एक याचिका (अश्विनी कुमार उपाध्याय बनाम भारत संघ) में तर्क दिया गया कि उपचुनाव के लिए सीटें खाली करना **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a)** का उल्लंघन करता है, जिससे **मतदाताओं में भ्रम और असंतोष** पैदा होता है।

- Example: In **Wayanad, Kerala, Rahul Gandhi** vacated his seat in 2024, reducing voter turnout to **64.24%** in the bypoll compared to **72.92%** in the general election.

उदाहरण: **2024** में केरल के वायनाड में **राहुल गांधी** ने अपनी सीट खाली कर दी, जिससे उपचुनाव में मतदाता भागीदारी **64.24%** हो गई, जो आम चुनाव के **72.92%** के मुकाबले कम थी।

Advantages of OCMC

OCMC के लाभ

- **The OCMC is common in many countries.** It may have some practical considerations. **OCMC कई देशों में आम है।** इसके कुछ व्यावहारिक पहलू हो सकते हैं।

- **Contesting multiple seats provides a safety net for candidates,** especially in tightly contested constituencies.

कई सीटों से चुनाव लड़ना उम्मीदवारों के लिए सुरक्षा कवच प्रदान करता है, विशेष रूप से कड़े मुकाबले वाले निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में।

- In a polity such as **India, where politics is centered around the leader and family, OCMC smoothens the leader's continuation or transition.**

भारत जैसे राजनीतिक ढांचे में, जहां राजनीति नेता और परिवार पर केंद्रित होती है, OCMC नेता की निरंतरता या संक्रमण को सुगम बनाता है।

- For example, **Mamata Banerjee lost the Nandigram seat in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections.** To make way for her, another leader elected from the Bhabanipur constituency had to resign.

उदाहरण के लिए, **ममता बनर्जी ने 2021 के पश्चिम बंगाल विधानसभा चुनावों में नंदीग्राम सीट हार दी।** उनके लिए रास्ता बनाने हेतु भबानीपुर निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से निर्वाचित एक अन्य नेता को इस्तीफा देना पड़ा।

- A similar case occurred with **Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, in the 2022 Assembly elections.**

ऐसा ही मामला **पुष्कर सिंह धामी, उत्तराखंड के मुख्यमंत्री, के साथ 2022 के विधानसभा चुनावों में हुआ।**

International Experience

अंतरराष्ट्रीय अनुभव

- **OCMC is not unique to India.** Pakistan and Bangladesh also allow candidates to contest multiple constituencies but require them to relinquish all but one seat.

OCMC भारत के लिए अद्वितीय नहीं है। पाकिस्तान और बांग्लादेश भी उम्मीदवारों को कई





निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से चुनाव लड़ने की अनुमति देते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें केवल एक सीट छोड़कर बाकी सीटों को खाली करना होता है।

- **Pakistan places no limit on the number of constituencies a candidate can contest.** For example, in the **2018 elections**, the former Prime Minister contested five seats and vacated four.

पाकिस्तान में उम्मीदवार द्वारा लड़ी जाने वाली सीटों की संख्या पर कोई सीमा नहीं है। उदाहरण के लिए, **2018 के चुनावों में पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री ने पांच सीटों से चुनाव लड़ा और चार सीटें खाली कर दीं।**

- Bangladesh allowed candidates to contest up to **five constituencies until 2008** but now limits it to three.

बांग्लादेश ने **2008 तक उम्मीदवारों को पांच निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से चुनाव लड़ने की अनुमति दी थी**, लेकिन अब इसे तीन तक सीमित कर दिया है।

- **The United Kingdom banned this practice in 1983.** Most European democracies have phased it out to promote clear representation and accountability.

यूनाइटेड किंगडम ने इस प्रथा पर 1983 में प्रतिबंध लगा दिया। अधिकांश यूरोपीय लोकतंत्रों ने स्पष्ट प्रतिनिधित्व और जवाबदेही को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इसे समाप्त कर दिया।

Reforms and Recommendations

सुधार और सिफारिशें

- **The misuse of the OCMC far outweighs the benefits.** There have been demands for reforms to address these issues.

OCMC का दुरुपयोग इसके लाभों से कहीं अधिक है। इन मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए सुधार की मांग की गई है।

- **Amend Section 33(7) of the RP Act, 1951**, to ban one candidate from contesting multiple constituencies.

1951 के RP अधिनियम की धारा 33(7) में संशोधन करें, ताकि एक उम्मीदवार को कई निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से चुनाव लड़ने से रोका जा सके।

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** in **2004** recommended banning this practice, and the **255th Law Commission report in 2015** made the same recommendation.

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) ने 2004 में इस प्रथा पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की सिफारिश की, और 255वीं विधि आयोग की रिपोर्ट 2015 में भी यही सिफारिश की।

- Recovering the **full cost of by-elections** from the candidate vacating a seat can discourage simultaneous contests.

उम्मीदवार द्वारा सीट खाली करने पर उप-चुनाव की पूरी लागत वसूल करना एक साथ चुनाव लड़ने को हतोत्साहित कर सकता है।

- The **ECI recommended cost imposition in 2004**, but political parties often afford to pay the cost.

ECI ने 2004 में लागत लगाने की सिफारिश की थी, लेकिन राजनीतिक दल अक्सर इस लागत को वहन कर सकते हैं।





- A more effective deterrent would be to **hold by-elections after a year**, allowing voters and candidates ample preparation time.
एक अधिक प्रभावी उपाय उप-चुनाव को एक वर्ष बाद आयोजित करना हो सकता है, जिससे मतदाताओं और उम्मीदवारों को पर्याप्त तैयारी समय मिल सके।
- This requires amending **Section 151A of the RP Act, 1951**, which currently mandates by-elections within six months.
इसके लिए **RP अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 151A में संशोधन** करना होगा, जो वर्तमान में छह महीने के भीतर उप-चुनाव अनिवार्य करता है।
- **Frequent by-elections** consume significant financial resources, which could be better invested in development.
लगातार उप-चुनाव महत्वपूर्ण वित्तीय संसाधन खर्च करते हैं, जिन्हें विकास में बेहतर तरीके से निवेश किया जा सकता है।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- **Political willpower** and support from major parties are necessary to enforce "**One Candidate, One Constituency**" (OCOC).
राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति और प्रमुख दलों का समर्थन "**वन कैंडिडेट, वन कांस्टीट्यूएंसी**" (OCOC) लागू करने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Unlike **One Nation, One Election**, OCOC lacks many proponents among political parties.
वन नेशन, वन इलेक्शन की तुलना में OCOC को राजनीतिक दलों में ज्यादा समर्थन नहीं मिला है।
- If "**one person, one vote**" is a core democratic principle, it is time to enforce "**one candidate, one constituency.**"
यदि "**वन पर्सन, वन वोट**" लोकतंत्र का मुख्य सिद्धांत है, तो "**वन कैंडिडेट, वन कांस्टीट्यूएंसी**" को लागू करने का समय आ गया है।





GS Paper I: Communalism

Permissive no more

The Supreme Court must put an end to violations of the Places of Worship Act

The Supreme Court's interim order halting the registration of fresh suits across the country regarding disputes of places of worship is a welcome departure from the permissive approach of the judiciary in recent times towards such motivated litigation. A Division Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, has done well to stop the flow of litigation and interim orders, including those that allow 'surveys' of such sites and structures, while it deals with the challenges to the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. The order signifies a deep understanding that this is not about a set of civil disputes but the future of the country's secular character. It is amply clear to right-thinking citizens that the law, which freezes the religious character of all places of worship in the country as they were on the day of Independence, would want this legislation to remain on the statute book as a bulwark against elements that want to perpetuate the religious divide caused by such disputes. It is unfortunate, and even condemnable, that courts of law have failed to block these suits at a nascent stage by invoking the bar under this law. Instead, they have been allowing applications for surveys, either disregarding the Act and the Court's endorsement of its necessity in past judgments or ruling that the statutory bar does not apply to them.

In the name of reclaiming religious sites lost to invaders, several groups and purported devotees have been moving civil courts and obtaining questionable orders for surveying mosques for evidence that they may have been built on the ruins of destroyed temples. The success of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement was largely due to the political patronage enjoyed by its spearheads, and a final verdict from the Court, which handed over the disputed land to the Hindu litigants while condemning the demolition of the Babri Masjid mosque in December 1992. That the vandals involved in the demolition were acquitted, without any further appeal, added to the triumphalism that marks this movement for altering the status of mosques. This has given rise to further claims in Varanasi, Mathura, and, more recently, Sambhal, among other places that house mosques dating back to the 16th century. A notable feature of this permissive judicial attitude is the complete absence of any understanding of the history of the temple movement that was largely political in character. That judges could entertain obviously baleful and ill-motivated cases is a great cause of concern for those rightfully invested in the secular nature of the country. The criminal imprint on the nation's fabric left by political movements in a religious garb should not be forgotten.

Permissive no more अब और अनुमति नहीं

The Supreme Court's interim order halting the registration of fresh suits across the country regarding disputes of places of worship is a welcome departure from the permissive approach of the judiciary in recent times.

पूजा स्थलों से संबंधित विवादों पर पूरे देश में नए मुकदमों के पंजीकरण को रोकने वाला सुप्रीम कोर्ट का अंतरिम आदेश हाल के समय में न्यायपालिका के अनुमति देने वाले दृष्टिकोण से एक स्वागत योग्य प्रस्थान है।

A Division Bench headed by Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, stopped the flow of litigation and interim orders, including those allowing 'surveys' of such sites, while it deals with challenges to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजिव खन्ना की अध्यक्षता वाली डिवीजन बेंच ने मुकदमों और अंतरिम आदेशों को रोक दिया, जिसमें इन स्थलों के 'सर्वेक्षण' की अनुमति देने वाले आदेश भी शामिल थे, जबकि यह पूजा स्थलों (विशेष उपबंध) अधिनियम, 1991 की वैधता को चुनौती देने वाले मामलों से निपट रही है।

The order reflects an understanding that this issue concerns the future of the country's secular character, not just civil disputes.

यह आदेश यह समझ को दर्शाता है कि यह मुद्दा केवल नागरिक विवादों का नहीं है, बल्कि देश के धर्मनिरपेक्ष चरित्र के भविष्य का है।

The law freezes the religious character of all places of worship as they were on the day of Independence, serving as a safeguard against elements that aim to perpetuate the religious divide caused by such disputes.

यह कानून सभी पूजा स्थलों के धार्मिक चरित्र को स्वतंत्रता दिवस के समय जैसा था वैसा ही बनाए रखता है, जो ऐसे विवादों से उत्पन्न धार्मिक विभाजन को बढ़ाने वाले तत्वों के खिलाफ एक सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है।

Courts have often failed to block these suits at an early stage by invoking this law and have allowed surveys, disregarding the Act or ruling that the statutory bar does not apply.

न्यायालय अक्सर इस कानून को लागू करके इन मुकदमों को प्रारंभिक चरण में रोकने में विफल रहे हैं और सर्वेक्षणों की अनुमति दी है, जिससे





अधिनियम की अनदेखी हुई है या यह निर्णय दिया गया है कि यह कानून इन पर लागू नहीं होता।

- In the name of **reclaiming religious sites** lost to invaders, groups have been moving courts and obtaining orders for surveying **mosques** for evidence that they were built on destroyed temples.

आक्रांताओं द्वारा खोए गए **धार्मिक स्थलों को पुनः प्राप्त करने** के नाम पर, समूह **मस्जिदों** के सर्वेक्षण के आदेश प्राप्त करने के लिए अदालतों में जा रहे हैं ताकि यह प्रमाण मिल सके कि वे नष्ट किए गए मंदिरों पर बनाई गई थीं।

- The **Ram Janmabhoomi movement** succeeded due to **political patronage**, culminating in a Supreme Court verdict awarding the disputed land to Hindu litigants while condemning the **Babri Masjid demolition (December 1992)**.

राम जन्मभूमि आंदोलन राजनीतिक समर्थन के कारण सफल हुआ और सुप्रीम कोर्ट के एक फैसले में विवादित भूमि को हिंदू याचिकाकर्ताओं को सौंप दिया गया, जबकि **बाबरी मस्जिद विध्वंस (दिसंबर 1992)** की निंदा की गई।

- Vandals involved in the demolition were acquitted, and no further appeal was made, contributing to the triumphalism of movements seeking to alter the **status of mosques**. विध्वंस में शामिल उपद्रवियों को बरी कर दिया गया और कोई और अपील नहीं की गई, जिससे **मस्जिदों की स्थिति बदलने** के प्रयासों को और बढ़ावा मिला।
- Further claims have arisen in **Varanasi, Mathura**, and recently in **Sambhal**, targeting mosques from the **16th century**.

वाराणसी, मथुरा, और हाल ही में संभल में, 16वीं सदी की मस्जिदों को निशाना बनाकर और दावे किए गए हैं।

- The permissive judicial attitude lacks an understanding of the **political nature** of the temple movement, raising concerns among those who value the **secular nature of the country**.

न्यायिक दृष्टिकोण में मंदिर आंदोलन के **राजनीतिक स्वभाव** को समझने की कमी है, जिससे **देश के धर्मनिरपेक्ष चरित्र** की सराहना करने वालों के बीच चिंता बढ़ रही है।

- The **political movements in a religious guise** left a **criminal imprint** on the nation's fabric, which must not be forgotten.

धार्मिक आवरण में राजनीतिक आंदोलनों ने राष्ट्र के ताने-बाने पर **आपराधिक छाप** छोड़ी है, जिसे भूलना नहीं चाहिए।





India's firmer attempts at mineral diplomacy

GS Paper III: Minerals

As India seeks to expand its manufacturing and technological capability, critical minerals will become vital to fulfil this ambition. However, India, a major critical mineral importer, still depends on other countries, primarily China, for its mineral security, which has become a cause of strategic concern. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who voiced India's apprehensions at a defence think tank gathering, said, "While [the] scramble for resources for economic reasons has had a long history, their weaponisation by some nations for strategic reasons is a comparatively new phenomenon", hinting at Chinese attempts. To address India's mineral security challenge, which is aimed at reducing its strategic vulnerability, New Delhi has started an attempt to engage in mineral diplomacy.

Establishing joint ventures

This attempt is based on the pillars of: developing international engagement with mineral-producing countries, and establishing strategic partnerships with intergovernmental organisations. The first pillar focuses on building bilateral ties with resource-rich countries such as Australia, Argentina, the United States, Russia, and Kazakhstan to secure the supply of lithium and cobalt. To facilitate this vision, post-2019, India established the Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL), a joint venture company with a mandate "to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to the Indian domestic market". The objective was to achieve mineral security by securing agreements, and acquisitions through government-to-government, government-to-business, and business-to-business routes.

In March 2022, KABIL signed a Memorandum of understanding with Australia for a critical mineral investment partnership, identifying two lithium and three cobalt projects. Latin America's Lithium Triangle, which constitutes Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia, has also attracted India's



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The moves are to reduce India's strategic vulnerability, but there are issues that need to be resolved

attention. In January 2024, India signed a \$24 million lithium exploration pact with a state-owned enterprise in Argentina for five lithium brine blocks. KABIL is also actively working to secure mineral supplies by facilitating the buying of assets from Bolivia and Chile. Apart from the government, India's private sector has also benefited. Altmin Private Limited signed an agreement with YLB, Bolivia's national company, to secure the raw material supply chain of Li-ion batteries.

Central Asia has also caught India's attention. Recently, India and Kazakhstan formed a joint venture, IREUK Titanium Limited, to produce titanium slag in India. This was one of India's first joint ventures with the Central Asian Republics. This attempt is aligned with New Delhi's proposal to establish an India-Central Asia Rare Earths Forum to leverage the region's rich resources.

Cooperative engagements

The second pillar of mineral diplomacy is international engagement, which is forging and strengthening partnerships with multilateral and multilateral initiatives related to mineral security, such as the Quad (Australia, Japan, India, the United States), the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), Mineral Security Partnership (MSP) and the G-7, for cooperation in the critical mineral supply chain. These cooperative engagements aim to align India with the global best practices in the critical mineral sector across its three segments – upstream, midstream, and downstream.

Additionally, they also facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building, which is important for coordinating with international partners such as the U.S., the European Union (EU), South Korea, and Australia.

To further this collaboration with western partners, India's Ministry of Mines signed a MoU with the International Energy Agency to strengthen cooperation on critical minerals, helping India to "streamline its policies,

regulations, and investment strategies in the critical mineral sector, aligning them with global standards and best practices".

The missing pieces

India's attempt at mineral diplomacy has led to many positive outcomes, but still lacks three essential ingredients required for its international diplomatic engagement. These are: a lack of private sector participation; weak diplomatic capacity, and insufficient sustainable partnership. Also, India's private sector has largely been missing from the equation.

The absence of a critical mineral supply chain strategy and a clear road map for the private sector are two primary variables responsible for the lack of policy clarity, leading to their absenteeism. To address these, India needs to formulate a comprehensive approach for de-risking, considering the role of the private sector across the supply chain. An important step would be to have a supply chain strategy based on India's growth prospects and national security priorities.

Second, India must strengthen its mineral diplomacy engagement. Having a dedicated mineral diplomacy division within the Ministry of External Affairs, similar to the New and Emerging Strategic Technologies (NEST) division and a special position for mineral diplomacy in selected diplomatic missions can be the first step.

Third, India's goal towards mineral security necessitates that New Delhi forge strategic, sustainable, and trusted partnerships with bilateral partners and multilateral forums. Among all its partners, working with EU, South Korea, and the other Quad members is critical to India's mineral security due to its domestic capabilities, diplomatic network and technological know-how. If these issues can be resolved, India's attempts at mineral diplomacy will gain strength and will be able to better complement New Delhi's domestic critical mineral initiatives, which are currently moving at a slow pace.

India's Firmer Attempts at Mineral Diplomacy

भारत के खनिज कूटनीति में दृढ़ प्रयास

- As India seeks to expand its **manufacturing and technological capability**, critical minerals will become vital to fulfill this ambition.

जैसे-जैसे भारत अपनी निर्माण और तकनीकी क्षमता का विस्तार करना चाहता है, महत्वपूर्ण खनिज इस महत्वाकांक्षा को पूरा करने में महत्वपूर्ण हो जाएंगे।

- India, a major **critical mineral importer**, still depends on other countries, primarily **China**, for its mineral security, which has become a cause of **strategic concern**.

भारत, जो एक प्रमुख महत्वपूर्ण खनिज आयातक है, अभी भी अन्य देशों, विशेषकर चीन, पर अपनी खनिज सुरक्षा के लिए निर्भर है, जो रणनीतिक चिंता का कारण बन गया है।

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** highlighted this issue, stating that the **weaponisation of resources** by some nations for strategic reasons is a new phenomenon, hinting at **Chinese attempts**.

केंद्रीय रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने इस मुद्दे पर प्रकाश डाला कि कुछ देशों द्वारा संसाधनों का हथियारीकरण रणनीतिक कारणों से एक नई घटना है, जिसमें चीनी प्रयासों का संकेत दिया गया।





Establishing Joint Ventures

संयुक्त उपक्रमों की स्थापना

- India's mineral diplomacy is based on two pillars:
 - Developing international engagement** with mineral-producing countries.
 - Establishing strategic partnerships** with intergovernmental organisations.

भारत की खनिज कूटनीति दो स्तंभों पर आधारित है:

 - खनिज उत्पादक देशों के साथ अंतरराष्ट्रीय जुड़ाव विकसित करना।
 - अंतरसरकारी संगठनों के साथ रणनीतिक साझेदारी स्थापित करना।
- Bilateral ties with **resource-rich countries** like **Australia, Argentina, the U.S., Russia, and Kazakhstan** are being built to secure lithium and cobalt supply.

खनिज संपन्न देशों जैसे ऑस्ट्रेलिया, अर्जेंटीना, अमेरिका, रूस, और कजाकिस्तान के साथ द्विपक्षीय संबंध बनाए जा रहे हैं ताकि लिथियम और कोबाल्ट की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जा सके।
- India established **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)** post-2019, a joint venture to ensure a consistent supply of **critical and strategic minerals** to the Indian domestic market.

भारत ने 2019 के बाद खनिज विदेश इंडिया लिमिटेड (KABIL) की स्थापना की, जो भारतीय घरेलू बाजार में महत्वपूर्ण और रणनीतिक खनिजों की निरंतर आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक संयुक्त उपक्रम है।
- In **March 2022**, KABIL signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Australia** for a critical mineral investment partnership, identifying two lithium and three cobalt projects.

मार्च 2022 में, KABIL ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के साथ एक महत्वपूर्ण खनिज निवेश साझेदारी के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसमें दो लिथियम और तीन कोबाल्ट परियोजनाएं पहचानी गईं।
- In **January 2024**, India signed a **\$24 million lithium exploration pact** with a state-owned enterprise in **Argentina** for five lithium brine blocks.

जनवरी 2024 में, भारत ने अर्जेंटीना में एक राज्य-स्वामित्व वाली कंपनी के साथ पांच लिथियम ब्राइन ब्लॉकों के लिए **\$24 मिलियन का लिथियम अन्वेषण समझौता** किया।
- KABIL is working to secure mineral supplies from **Bolivia** and **Chile** by facilitating the buying of assets.

KABIL, **बोलीविया** और **चिली** से खनिज आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए संपत्तियों की खरीद को सुविधाजनक बना रहा है।
- India's private sector has also benefited, with **Altmin Private Limited** signing an agreement with **YLB**, Bolivia's national company, to secure the raw material supply chain for Li-ion batteries.

भारत के निजी क्षेत्र को भी लाभ हुआ है, जिसमें **अल्टमिन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड** ने **YLB**, बोलीविया की राष्ट्रीय कंपनी के साथ समझौता किया है, ताकि Li-ion बैटरियों के लिए कच्चे माल की आपूर्ति श्रृंखला सुनिश्चित हो सके।
- In Central Asia, **India and Kazakhstan** formed a joint venture, **IREUK Titanium Limited**, to produce **titanium slag** in India.





मध्य एशिया में, भारत और कजाकिस्तान ने IREUK टाइटेनियम लिमिटेड नामक एक संयुक्त उद्यम का गठन किया, जो भारत में टाइटेनियम स्लैग का उत्पादन करेगा।

- This aligns with India's proposal to establish an **India-Central Asia Rare Earths Forum** to leverage the region's rich resources.

यह भारत के प्रस्ताव के अनुरूप है कि एक **भारत-मध्य एशिया दुर्लभ पृथ्वी मंच** स्थापित किया जाए ताकि इस क्षेत्र के समृद्ध संसाधनों का लाभ उठाया जा सके।

Cooperative Engagements

सहकारी भागीदारी

- The second pillar of **mineral diplomacy** is **international engagement**, focusing on forging and strengthening partnerships with **minilateral** and **multilateral initiatives** related to **mineral security**.

खनिज कूटनीति का दूसरा स्तंभ **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जुड़ाव** है, जो खनिज सुरक्षा से संबंधित **मिनीलेटरल** और **मल्टीलेटरल पहलों** के साथ साझेदारी को मजबूत करने पर केंद्रित है।

- Examples include **Quad** (Australia, Japan, India, the United States), **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)**, **Mineral Security Partnership (MSP)**, and **G-7**.

उदाहरणों में **क्वाड** (ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जापान, भारत, अमेरिका), **इंडो-पैसिफिक इकोनॉमिक फ्रेमवर्क फॉर प्रॉस्पेरिटी (IPEF)**, **मिनरल सिक्योरिटी पार्टनरशिप (MSP)** और **G-7** शामिल हैं।

- These engagements aim to align India with global **best practices** in the **critical mineral sector** across its **upstream**, **midstream**, and **downstream** segments.

ये भागीदारी भारत को **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज क्षेत्र** में वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के साथ **अपस्ट्रीम**, **मिडस्ट्रीम**, और **डाउनस्ट्रीम** खंडों में संगत बनाने का प्रयास करती हैं।

- They also promote **knowledge sharing** and **capacity building** with partners such as the **U.S.**, **European Union (EU)**, **South Korea**, and **Australia**.

यह **ज्ञान साझेदारी** और **क्षमता निर्माण** को भी बढ़ावा देती है, जिसमें **अमेरिका**, **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)**, **दक्षिण कोरिया**, और **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** जैसे साझेदार शामिल हैं।

- India's **Ministry of Mines** signed an **MoU** with the **International Energy Agency** to enhance cooperation on **critical minerals**, helping to **streamline policies, regulations, and investment strategies**.

भारत के **खनन मंत्रालय** ने **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी** के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए, ताकि **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** पर सहयोग को मजबूत किया जा सके, और **नीतियों, विनियमों, तथा निवेश रणनीतियों** को सुव्यवस्थित किया जा सके।

The Missing Pieces

अपूर्ण पक्ष

- Despite positive outcomes, India's mineral diplomacy faces three major challenges: सकारात्मक परिणामों के बावजूद, भारत की खनिज कूटनीति तीन प्रमुख चुनौतियों का सामना करती है:





- **Lack of private sector participation**
निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी की कमी
- **Weak diplomatic capacity**
कमजोर कूटनीतिक क्षमता
- **Insufficient sustainable partnerships**
अपर्याप्त टिकाऊ साझेदारी
- The **absence of a critical mineral supply chain strategy** and **unclear road map** for the private sector discourages participation.
महत्वपूर्ण खनिज आपूर्ति श्रृंखला रणनीति की अनुपस्थिति और निजी क्षेत्र के लिए **स्पष्ट रोड मैप** की कमी भागीदारी को हतोत्साहित करती है।
- India needs a **comprehensive approach** to address these issues, considering **de-risking strategies** for the private sector across the supply chain.
भारत को इन समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए **व्यापक दृष्टिकोण** की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में निजी क्षेत्र के लिए **जोखिम न्यूनीकरण रणनीतियां** शामिल हों।
- Strengthening **mineral diplomacy engagement** requires establishing a **dedicated division** in the **Ministry of External Affairs**, similar to the **NEST division**.
खनिज कूटनीति जुड़ाव को मजबूत करने के लिए, विदेश मंत्रालय में एक **समर्पित प्रभाग** स्थापित करना आवश्यक है, जो **नेस्ट प्रभाग** के समान हो।
- **Creating a special position** for mineral diplomacy in key diplomatic missions is recommended.
प्रमुख राजनयिक मिशनों में खनिज कूटनीति के लिए एक **विशेष पद** बनाने की सिफारिश की जाती है।
- Building **strategic, sustainable, and trusted partnerships** with **EU, South Korea, and Quad members** is vital for **India's mineral security**.
EU, दक्षिण कोरिया, और क्वाड सदस्यों के साथ **रणनीतिक, टिकाऊ और विश्वसनीय साझेदारी** बनाना **भारत की खनिज सुरक्षा** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- If these issues are addressed, India's **mineral diplomacy** can complement its **domestic critical mineral initiatives**, which currently progress at a slow pace.
यदि इन मुद्दों को हल किया जाता है, तो भारत की **खनिज कूटनीति, घरेलू महत्वपूर्ण खनिज पहलों** का पूरक बन सकती है, जो वर्तमान में धीमी गति से प्रगति कर रही हैं।





The digital frontier of inequality

GS Paper II: Inequality

India stands at a pivotal moment in its digital revolution, underpinned by an internationally recognised model of digital public infrastructure. Today, India has 1.18 billion mobile connections, 700 million Internet users, and 600 million smartphones.

While the narrowing of the digital gender divide is a sign of progress, as in many countries, a surge in gender-based violence (GBV), particularly tech-facilitated GBV, threatens to overshadow gains. In response, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development recently launched 'Ab Koi Bahana Nahi (no more excuses)', a national campaign aligned with the global '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'. This annual campaign is led by UN Women.

The risks

India's digital transformation has unlocked immense opportunities for empowerment. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has increased account coverage almost four-fold since 2015, with women holding 55.6% of the accounts. Digital Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-mobile linkages enable direct benefits and cashless transactions, especially in rural areas. However, this increased connectivity has also exposed women to new risks.

In urban areas, online harassment is rampant, particularly targeting women in public-facing roles such as journalists and politicians. Rural India boasts 20% more Internet users than in urban areas (2021 Nielsen report). Already constrained by societal norms, many women and girls lack the digital literacy and skills to navigate online spaces safely. Compounding the issue, many women are also unaware of their rights or the mechanisms available to them for reporting abuse.

TFGBV takes many harmful forms. These include persistent harassment such as cyberstalking, online trolling, and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. Impersonation



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Ensuring women's safety online is not only a moral obligation but also a critical pillar for India's progress

and fraud through fake profiles, voyeurism, and grooming further exploit vulnerable individuals. These often force women and girls to retreat from digital spaces.

India has taken important steps to combat TFGBV. Legal protections, including the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2024, provide a strong foundation to address digital violence. Mechanisms such as the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal enable anonymous reporting, while the government-led Information Security Education and Awareness Programme spreads digital safety awareness. Women-specific programmes, such as Digital Shakti, launched by the National Commission for Women, equip women with tools to navigate online spaces securely. These measures mark great progress in creating safer digital spaces, though some gaps remain.

India also actively engages in international negotiations and agreements, including the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women where UN member states, including India, signed off on agreed conclusions that called for "adequate safeguards in order to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and affordable information and communications technology environment for all women and girls". This underscores India's commitment to tackling TFGBV.

The way forward

Achieving truly safe digital environments for women and girls requires more focused and strategic efforts that can keep pace with this changing and evolving digital world.

The Global Digital Compact, adopted by world leaders including India, at the UN Summit of the Future earlier this year, further strengthens legal and policy frameworks "to counter and eliminate all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use

of technology". Therefore, combating TFGBV must be a top priority. This includes enforcing stricter laws against perpetrators of online violence, and swifter justice for survivors. Holding social media platforms accountable is an important part of the tool kit to reduce TFGBV.

Expanding digital literacy programmes, particularly in rural areas, is critical. Integrating safe online practices into school curriculums and conducting community workshops for women and men, young and old, can be empowering. Additionally, nationwide campaigns that challenge societal norms and actively engage men and boys as allies can foster respectful and inclusive digital spaces.

Collaboration with India's vibrant tech industry is essential. While many platforms have introduced safety features, these need further enhancement to proactively address online abuse. Leveraging artificial intelligence to detect and remove abusive content, yet retaining human oversight, alongside introducing user-friendly reporting mechanisms, can improve safety.

Just as important is the development of robust survivor support systems that offer accessible counselling, legal aid, and rehabilitation services. Expanding the capacity of helplines and initiatives such as TechSakhi, a helpline offering accurate information, empathetic support, and assistance, will ensure that survivors receive timely and effective assistance.

As we concluded observing the 16-Days of Activism that ends on International Human Rights Day every year, India's timely message is unequivocal: *Ab Koi Bahana Nahi*. Ensuring women's safety online is not only a moral obligation but also a critical pillar for India's progress.

Governments, tech companies, civil society groups, individuals, and international organisations have a role to play, and we in the UN Country Team are proud to be a partner in this journey.





The Digital Frontier of Inequality डिजिटल असमानता की सीमाएँ

- India is at a pivotal moment in its **digital revolution**, supported by an internationally recognized model of **digital public infrastructure**.
भारत अपनी डिजिटल क्रांति के एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण में है, जिसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त डिजिटल सार्वजनिक बुनियादी ढांचे के मॉडल द्वारा समर्थित किया गया है।
- India currently has **1.18 billion mobile connections, 700 million Internet users, and 600 million smartphones**.
भारत के पास वर्तमान में 1.18 अरब मोबाइल कनेक्शन, 70 करोड़ इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता, और 60 करोड़ स्मार्टफोन हैं।
- The narrowing of the **digital gender divide** is a sign of progress, but a rise in **tech-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV)** poses significant challenges.
डिजिटल लैंगिक विभाजन का कम होना प्रगति का संकेत है, लेकिन प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित लैंगिक हिंसा (TFGBV) में वृद्धि गंभीर चुनौतियाँ पेश करती है।
- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** launched the '**Ab Koi Bahana Nahi**' campaign, aligned with the global '**16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**' by UN Women.
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने 'अब कोई बहाना नहीं' अभियान शुरू किया, जो यूएन वुमन के '16 डेज़ ऑफ़ एक्टिविज़्म अगेंस्ट जेंडर-बेस्ड वायलेंस' अभियान के अनुरूप है।

The Risks

जोखिम

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** has increased account coverage nearly **four-fold since 2015**, with **55.6% accounts held by women**.
प्रधानमंत्री जन धन योजना ने 2015 के बाद से खातों की संख्या चार गुना बढ़ा दी है, जिसमें 55.6% खाते महिलाओं के पास हैं।
- **Digital Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-mobile linkages** enable **direct benefits** and cashless transactions, especially in **rural areas**.
डिजिटल जन धन-आधार-मोबाइल लिंकिंग के माध्यम से प्रत्यक्ष लाभ और नकदरहित लेनदेन संभव हुआ है, विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में।
- A **2021 Nielsen report** revealed that **rural India** has **20% more Internet users** than urban areas.
2021 की नील्सन रिपोर्ट के अनुसार ग्रामीण भारत में शहरी क्षेत्रों की तुलना में **20% अधिक इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता** हैं।
- Many women in rural areas lack **digital literacy**, skills, and awareness of their rights and mechanisms to report abuse.
ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कई महिलाओं को डिजिटल साक्षरता, कौशल और दुर्यवहार की रिपोर्टिंग तंत्र की जानकारी नहीं है।





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- TFGBV includes cyberstalking, online trolling, **non-consensual sharing of intimate images**, fake profiles, and grooming, which forces many women to retreat from digital spaces.

TFGBV में साइबर स्टॉकिंग, ऑनलाइन ट्रोलिंग, **गोपनीय छवियों को बिना सहमति साझा करना**, नकली प्रोफाइल और ग्रूमिंग शामिल हैं, जिससे कई महिलाएँ डिजिटल स्थान छोड़ने पर मजबूर होती हैं।

Steps Taken by India

भारत द्वारा उठाए गए कदम

- **Information Technology Act, 2000** and **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2024** provide strong legal protections against digital violence.
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000 और भारतीय न्याय संहिता, 2024 डिजिटल हिंसा के खिलाफ मजबूत कानूनी सुरक्षा प्रदान करते हैं।
- The **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** enables **anonymous reporting**, and the **Information Security Education and Awareness Programme** spreads digital safety awareness.
राष्ट्रीय साइबर अपराध रिपोर्टिंग पोर्टल गोपनीय रिपोर्टिंग की सुविधा प्रदान करता है, और सूचना सुरक्षा शिक्षा और जागरूकता कार्यक्रम डिजिटल सुरक्षा जागरूकता फैलाता है।
- **Digital Shakti**, launched by the **National Commission for Women**, equips women with tools for safe online navigation.
डिजिटल शक्ति, जिसे राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग द्वारा शुरू किया गया, महिलाओं को सुरक्षित ऑनलाइन नेविगेशन के उपकरण प्रदान करता है।
- India participated in the **67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**, where **UN member states** agreed to promote **open, secure, and accessible ICT for all women and girls**.
भारत ने महिलाओं की स्थिति पर आयोग के 67वें सत्र में भाग लिया, जहाँ यूएन सदस्य देशों ने महिलाओं और लड़कियों के लिए खुला, सुरक्षित और सुलभ आईसीटी को बढ़ावा देने का संकल्प लिया।

The Way Forward

आगे का रास्ता

- Achieving truly safe digital environments for **women and girls** requires more focused and strategic efforts that can keep pace with this changing and evolving digital world.
महिलाओं और लड़कियों के लिए पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित डिजिटल माहौल प्राप्त करने के लिए अधिक केंद्रित और रणनीतिक प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है, जो इस बदलती और विकसित होती डिजिटल दुनिया की गति के साथ तालमेल बैठा सके।
- The **Global Digital Compact**, adopted by world leaders including **India**, at the **UN Summit of the Future** earlier this year, strengthens legal and policy frameworks to counter and eliminate all forms of violence, including **sexual and gender-based violence amplified by technology**.

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इस साल की शुरुआत में यूएन समिट ऑफ द फ्यूचर में भारत सहित विश्व नेताओं द्वारा अपनाया गया ग्लोबल डिजिटल कॉम्पैक्ट, सभी प्रकार की हिंसा, विशेष रूप से प्रौद्योगिकी द्वारा बढ़ाई गई यौन और लैंगिक हिंसा का मुकाबला करने और उसे खत्म करने के लिए कानूनी और नीतिगत ढांचे को मजबूत करता है।

- Combating **TFGBV (Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence)** must be a **top priority**, including enforcing stricter laws against perpetrators of online violence and providing swifter justice for survivors.

TFGBV (तकनीक-संचालित लैंगिक हिंसा) से निपटना शीर्ष प्राथमिकता होनी चाहिए, जिसमें ऑनलाइन हिंसा के अपराधियों के खिलाफ सख्त कानून लागू करना और पीड़ितों को तेज़ न्याय प्रदान करना शामिल है।

- Holding **social media platforms accountable** is an important part of the toolkit to reduce TFGBV.

सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्मों को जवाबदेह ठहराना TFGBV को कम करने के लिए उपकरण किट का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।

- Expanding **digital literacy programmes**, particularly in rural areas, is critical. **डिजिटल साक्षरता कार्यक्रमों** का विस्तार करना, विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में, अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

- Integrating **safe online practices into school curriculums** and conducting **community workshops for women and men, young and old**, can be empowering.

सुरक्षित ऑनलाइन प्रथाओं को स्कूल पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल करना और महिलाओं और पुरुषों, युवाओं और बुजुर्गों के लिए सामुदायिक कार्यशालाएँ आयोजित करना सशक्त बना सकता है।

- Nationwide campaigns that challenge societal norms and actively engage **men and boys as allies** can foster respectful and inclusive digital spaces.

समाजिक मानदंडों को चुनौती देने वाले और पुरुषों और लड़कों को सहयोगी के रूप में सक्रिय रूप से शामिल करने वाले राष्ट्रव्यापी अभियान सम्मानजनक और समावेशी डिजिटल स्थानों को बढ़ावा दे सकते हैं।

- Collaboration with India's **vibrant tech industry** is essential.

भारत के उत्साही तकनीकी उद्योग के साथ सहयोग आवश्यक है।

- While many platforms have introduced safety features, these need further enhancement to proactively address online abuse.

कई प्लेटफॉर्मों ने सुरक्षा सुविधाएँ पेश की हैं, लेकिन ऑनलाइन दुरुव्यवहार को सक्रिय रूप से संबोधित करने के लिए इन सुविधाओं में और सुधार की आवश्यकता है।

- Leveraging **artificial intelligence** to detect and remove abusive content while retaining human oversight and introducing user-friendly reporting mechanisms can improve safety.

आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस का उपयोग करके अपमानजनक सामग्री का पता लगाना और उसे हटाना, साथ ही मानव निगरानी बनाए रखना और उपयोगकर्ता-अनुकूल रिपोर्टिंग तंत्र पेश करना, सुरक्षा में सुधार कर सकता है।

- Developing robust **survivor support systems** that offer accessible **counselling, legal aid, and rehabilitation services** is crucial.





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सुलभ परामर्श, कानूनी सहायता, और पुनर्वास सेवाएँ प्रदान करने वाले मजबूत पीड़ित समर्थन प्रणाली विकसित करना महत्वपूर्ण है।

- Expanding the capacity of **helplines** and initiatives such as **TechSakhi**, a helpline offering accurate information, empathetic support, and assistance, will ensure survivors receive timely and effective help.

हेल्पलाइन की क्षमता का विस्तार और **टेकसखी** जैसी पहल, जो सटीक जानकारी, सहानुभूतिपूर्ण समर्थन और सहायता प्रदान करती है, यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि पीड़ितों को समय पर और प्रभावी सहायता मिले।

- As we concluded observing the **16 Days of Activism**, ending on **International Human Rights Day** every year, India's message is unequivocal: **Ab Koi Bahana Nahi**.

हर साल **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार दिवस** पर समाप्त होने वाले **16 डेज़ ऑफ़ एक्टिविज़्म** के पालन के साथ, भारत का संदेश स्पष्ट है: **अब कोई बहाना नहीं।**

- Ensuring women's safety online is not only a **moral obligation** but also a **critical pillar** for India's progress.

महिलाओं की ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना न केवल एक **नैतिक दायित्व** है, बल्कि भारत की प्रगति के लिए एक **महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ** भी है।

- Governments, tech companies, civil society groups, individuals, and international organisations have a role to play, and we in the **UN Country Team** are proud to be a partner in this journey.

सरकारों, तकनीकी कंपनियों, नागरिक समाज समूहों, व्यक्तियों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगठनों की भूमिका है, और हम **यूएन कंट्री टीम** में इस यात्रा में भागीदार होने पर गर्व महसूस करते हैं।

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How would a carbon market function?

What are carbon credits and how would they be traded between firms? Why do corporations not want the government to be involved in the issue of carbon credits? Who introduced the concept of carbon credits? Why are some experts critical of carbon offsets?

GS Paper III: Environment

EXPLAINER

The Hindu Bureau

The story so far:

COP29, the ongoing climate conference in Azerbaijan's capital Baku, has given a fillip to the idea of using carbon markets to curb carbon emissions by approving standards that can help in the setting up of an international carbon market as soon as the coming year.

What is a carbon market?

A carbon market is a market that allows the buying and selling of the right to emit carbon into the atmosphere. Suppose a government wants to limit the amount of carbon emitted into the atmosphere. It can issue certificates called carbon credits that allow the holder of the certificate to emit a certain amount of carbon into the atmosphere. One carbon credit is equivalent to 1,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide. By limiting the number of carbon credits that are issued, governments can control how much carbon is released into the environment. It should be noted that anyone who doesn't hold carbon credits to their name would not be allowed to emit any carbon into the atmosphere. Carbon credits were first used in the 1990s in the U.S., which introduced the cap-and-trade model to control the emission of sulphur dioxide.

Individuals and firms that hold carbon credits but don't actually need them for any reason can sell their credits to interested buyers. The price at which these carbon credits are traded is determined by market forces, which in this case are the supply of carbon credits and the demand for these certificates. A carbon market can also include the trading of carbon offsets. In this case, a business that pollutes the environment for example, can purchase carbon offsets sold by an environmental NGO that promises to plant trees that suck a certain amount of carbon emissions out of the



ISTOCKPHOTO

atmosphere for each offset that it sells.

What is good about carbon markets?

Pollution of the environment and climate change caused by carbon emissions is a classic case of what economists call an externality. An externality is caused when the cost of an economic activity is not properly accounted for (or internalised) by the market price system due to the absence of well-defined property rights. For example, a business that uses raw materials such as iron will have to pay the supplier who owns the iron to be able to procure and use it, thus incurring a certain cost. But when the same firm emits carbon into the atmosphere, it doesn't usually have to pay any money to anyone. In other words, firms are generally able to emit their waste into the atmosphere for free. This of course leads to unhindered pollution of the

atmosphere as firms in this case have no financial incentive to curb their carbon emissions. Carbon markets in which the right to pollute is traded for a price can solve the problem by imposing a certain cost on firms for polluting the atmosphere, helping to curb emissions in the process.

The intersection of standardised accounting frameworks and technological advancements has improved the ability of corporations to monitor and report their carbon emissions. While, this is difficult for the vast majority of small businesses in the developing world, particularly in accurately capturing supply chain emissions, ongoing developments, like real-time data tracking of the energy sector, continue to enhance the granularity and reliability of corporate carbon accounting. However, corporations have preferred a voluntary

reporting system, like the Carbon Disclosure Project. They have been loathe to government interventions limiting carbon emissions, arguing that such budgeting may lead to output restrictions or rise in costs. They also point to varied production processes, some that might have diverse supply chains that might make it difficult to find the optimal carbon budget for their facilities. Large multinational corporations such as ExxonMobil and General Motors have advocated for carbon markets that allows free trading of carbon credits among firms at a price determined by market forces, that would allow these firms to purchase carbon credits from other firms, which don't need them as much. This they say, helps allocate carbon credits more efficiently than government diktat.

What can go wrong?

Even when there is a functioning carbon market, a government that is not very keen on reducing emissions may increase the supply of carbon credits and drive down the price of the right to pollute, leading to no noticeable drop in emissions. Others may keep a strict cap on the supply of carbon credits but allow firms to cheat by allowing them to illegally emit carbon. The success of carbon offsets also depends on the degree of personal incentive that firm owners possess to care about carbon emissions, which may often be very little. Critics claim that firms that purchase carbon offsets often do it for the sake of virtue signalling and may have little incentive to ensure that their investments in these instruments are actually helping offset carbon emissions. Meanwhile, other critics have raised more fundamental questions regarding how exactly a government would be able to arrive at the optimum supply of carbon credits. They argue that politicians, who do not incur any personal economic cost when they legislate emission reductions, may restrict the supply of carbon credits more than what is really necessary, leading to slower economic growth.

THE GIST

▼ A carbon market is a market that allows the buying and selling of the right to emit carbon into the atmosphere. Suppose a government wants to limit the amount of carbon emitted into the atmosphere. It can issue certificates called carbon credits that allow the holder of the certificate to emit a certain amount of carbon into the atmosphere.

▼ However, corporations have preferred a voluntary reporting system, like the Carbon Disclosure Project. They have been loathe to government interventions limiting carbon emissions, arguing that such budgeting may lead to output restrictions or rise in costs.

▼ Even when there is a functioning carbon market, a government that is not very keen on reducing emissions may increase the supply of carbon credits and drive down the price of the right to pollute, leading to no noticeable drop in emissions.

How would a carbon market function?

कार्बन बाजार कैसे कार्य करेगा?

- A **carbon market** allows the buying and selling of the right to emit carbon into the atmosphere.
कार्बन बाजार कार्बन को वायुमंडल में उत्सर्जित करने के अधिकार की खरीद और बिक्री की अनुमति देता है।
- Governments can issue **certificates called carbon credits** that allow the holder to emit a certain amount of carbon.
सरकारें कार्बन क्रेडिट्स नामक प्रमाणपत्र जारी कर सकती हैं, जो धारक को एक निश्चित मात्रा में कार्बन उत्सर्जित करने की अनुमति देते हैं।
- One **carbon credit is equivalent to 1,000 kilograms** of carbon dioxide.
एक कार्बन क्रेडिट 1,000 किलोग्राम कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड के बराबर होता है।
- By limiting the number of carbon credits, **governments can control the total carbon emissions**.
कार्बन क्रेडिट की संख्या को सीमित करके, सरकारें कुल कार्बन उत्सर्जन को नियंत्रित कर सकती हैं।





- Those without carbon credits cannot emit any carbon into the atmosphere.
जिनके पास कार्बन क्रेडिट नहीं हैं, वे वायुमंडल में कोई कार्बन उत्सर्जित नहीं कर सकते।

What are carbon credits and how are they traded?

कार्बन क्रेडिट्स क्या हैं और इनका व्यापार कैसे होता है?

- **Carbon credits** were first used in the 1990s in the **U.S.**, under the **cap-and-trade model** to control sulphur dioxide emissions.
कार्बन क्रेडिट्स का पहली बार 1990 के दशक में अमेरिका में कैप-एंड-ट्रेड मॉडल के तहत सल्फर डाइऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन को नियंत्रित करने के लिए उपयोग किया गया था।
- Individuals or firms holding **excess carbon credits** can sell them to buyers.
अतिरिक्त कार्बन क्रेडिट्स रखने वाले व्यक्ति या फर्म इन्हें खरीदारों को बेच सकते हैं।
- The **price of carbon credits** is determined by **market forces**, including supply and demand.
कार्बन क्रेडिट्स की कीमत बाजार की शक्तियों जैसे आपूर्ति और मांग से निर्धारित होती है।

What are carbon offsets?

कार्बन ऑफसेट्स क्या हैं?

- A **carbon offset** allows polluters to compensate for their emissions by funding activities like tree plantation.
कार्बन ऑफसेट प्रदूषकों को उनके उत्सर्जन के लिए वृक्षारोपण जैसी गतिविधियों को वित्तीय सहायता देकर क्षतिपूर्ति करने की अनुमति देता है।
- For example, an NGO promises to plant trees that remove a specific amount of carbon from the atmosphere in exchange for selling offsets.
उदाहरण के लिए, एक एनजीओ ऑफसेट बेचने के बदले वायुमंडल से एक निश्चित मात्रा में कार्बन हटाने के लिए पेड़ लगाने का वादा करता है।

Who introduced the concept of carbon credits?

कार्बन क्रेडिट्स की अवधारणा किसने पेश की?

- Carbon credits were first introduced in the **U.S.** in the 1990s under the **cap-and-trade model**.
कार्बन क्रेडिट्स को पहली बार 1990 के दशक में अमेरिका में कैप-एंड-ट्रेड मॉडल के तहत पेश किया गया था।

Why do corporations not want government involvement in carbon credits?

कंपनियां कार्बन क्रेडिट्स में सरकार की भागीदारी क्यों नहीं चाहती?





- Corporations prefer **market-driven mechanisms** for flexibility in trading and pricing of carbon credits.
कंपनियां बाजार आधारित प्रणाली पसंद करती हैं ताकि कार्बन क्रेडिट्स के व्यापार और मूल्य निर्धारण में लचीलापन हो।

Why are experts critical of carbon offsets?

विशेषज्ञ कार्बन ऑफसेट्स की आलोचना क्यों करते हैं?

- Some experts believe **carbon offsets don't address the root cause of emissions**, allowing companies to continue polluting without reducing emissions.
कुछ विशेषज्ञ मानते हैं कि कार्बन ऑफसेट्स उत्सर्जन की मूल समस्या का समाधान नहीं करते, जिससे कंपनियां उत्सर्जन कम किए बिना प्रदूषण जारी रख सकती हैं।

COP29 and International Carbon Market

COP29 और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कार्बन बाजार

- **COP29**, held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**, approved standards for setting up an **international carbon market** by next year.
COP29, जो **Baku, अज़रबैजान** में आयोजित हुआ, ने अगले साल तक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कार्बन बाजार स्थापित करने के मानकों को मंजूरी दी।

What is good about carbon markets?

कार्बन बाजारों के लाभ क्या हैं?

- Pollution caused by **carbon emissions** is a classic case of **externality**.
कार्बन उत्सर्जन से होने वाला प्रदूषण बाहरी प्रभाव (**externality**) का क्लासिक उदाहरण है।
- Externalities occur when the **cost of an economic activity** is not accounted for in the **market price system** due to the absence of **well-defined property rights**.
बाहरी प्रभाव तब होता है जब आर्थिक गतिविधि की लागत को बाजार मूल्य प्रणाली में नहीं गिना जाता है क्योंकि स्पष्ट संपत्ति अधिकार मौजूद नहीं होते हैं।
- Example: A business must pay for raw materials like **iron** but doesn't pay anyone when it emits **carbon into the atmosphere**.
उदाहरण: कोई व्यवसाय कच्चे माल जैसे लौह अयस्क के लिए भुगतान करता है, लेकिन वायुमंडल में कार्बन उत्सर्जन करने पर किसी को भुगतान नहीं करता।
- Carbon markets impose a **cost on polluting firms**, incentivizing them to reduce emissions.
कार्बन बाजार प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले फर्मों पर लागत लगाते हैं, जिससे उन्हें उत्सर्जन कम करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।
- **Technological advancements** and **standardized frameworks** have improved corporate **carbon monitoring and reporting**.
तकनीकी प्रगति और मानकीकृत ढांचे ने कॉर्पोरेट कार्बन निगरानी और रिपोर्टिंग में सुधार किया है।





- Large corporations advocate for **voluntary systems** like the **Carbon Disclosure Project**, opposing **government intervention** in limiting carbon emissions.
बड़े निगम कार्बन प्रकटीकरण परियोजना (Carbon Disclosure Project) जैसे स्वैच्छिक प्रणालियों का समर्थन करते हैं और कार्बन उत्सर्जन पर सरकारी हस्तक्षेप का विरोध करते हैं।

What can go wrong?

क्या गलत हो सकता है?

- Governments uninterested in reducing emissions may **increase the supply of carbon credits**, lowering their price and failing to curb emissions.
उत्सर्जन घटाने में रुचि न रखने वाली सरकारें कार्बन क्रेडिट की आपूर्ति बढ़ा सकती हैं, जिससे उनकी कीमत कम हो जाती है और उत्सर्जन कम नहीं होता।
- Even with a **strict cap** on credits, **firms might cheat** by illegally emitting carbon.
सख्त सीमा लगाने के बावजूद, फर्म धोखाधड़ी कर सकती हैं और अवैध रूप से कार्बन उत्सर्जित कर सकती हैं।
- Success of **carbon offsets** depends on the **personal incentives** of firm owners to care about emissions, which may often be low.
कार्बन ऑफ़सेट की सफलता फर्म मालिकों की व्यक्तिगत प्रेरणाओं पर निर्भर करती है, जो अक्सर कम हो सकती हैं।
- Critics claim firms use **carbon offsets** for **virtue signaling** rather than actual emission reductions.
आलोचकों का दावा है कि फर्म कार्बन ऑफ़सेट का उपयोग आदर्श प्रदर्शन (virtue signaling) के लिए करती हैं न कि वास्तविक उत्सर्जन घटाने के लिए।
- It is challenging for governments to determine the **optimum supply of carbon credits**, as politicians may **over-restrict supply**, hampering economic growth.
सरकारों के लिए कार्बन क्रेडिट की आदर्श आपूर्ति निर्धारित करना कठिन है क्योंकि राजनेता आपूर्ति को ज़रूरत से अधिक सीमित कर सकते हैं, जिससे आर्थिक विकास बाधित हो सकता है।





Why is the BJD opposing the Polavaram project?

What are the concerns of tribal communities residing in Odisha's Malkangiri district?

GS Paper II: Inter-State Relations

Satyasundar Barik

The story so far:

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has recently intensified its efforts to highlight the potential adverse impacts of the Polavaram Dam project, undertaken by the Andhra Pradesh government, on the tribal communities in Odisha's Malkangiri district. A delegation comprising BJD's Rajya Sabha members submitted a fresh memorandum to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change stating that the impact of submergence due to 'unilateral' change in the design of the project has not yet been studied.

What is the status of the project?

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has vowed to

complete the Polavaram Project on River Godavari by 2027 as the interstate dispute involving mainly Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh has entered a crucial phase. The Union government has assured ₹15,000 crore in this year's budget for the completion of the project.

However, the BJD has alleged that the CWC had refused to conduct a backwater study for the revised design flood, despite the recommendations of experts and the Odisha Government's concerns regarding the safety of tribal populations. The BJD argued that various studies, including those by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and CWC, have shown different estimates for submergence levels. "A backwater study by AP in 2009 indicates that 50-lakh cusec flood will cause submergence up to 216 feet in Odisha, far exceeding the originally agreed maximum level of 174.22 feet. A report from IIT Roorkee in 2019 further estimates that a flood of 58 lakh cusecs would result in

submergence levels of Reservoir Level of 232.28 feet in Odisha," it said.

How did the project start?

The Polavaram Irrigation Project on the river Godavari was conceived as a part of the recommendations of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT). Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha had entered into an agreement dated April 2, 1980, where the project was to be executed by Andhra Pradesh. As per the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganization Act (APRA), 2014, the Polavaram Irrigation Project was declared as a national project.

In response to an RTI query, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said that the maximum height of the concrete dam of Polavaram Project, measured from the deepest foundation level (-18.50m) to the top of bridge is 72.60 metre. The initial project cost was ₹10,151.04 crore in 2005-06 which reached ₹55,548.87 crore in 2019.

What are the concerns?

Though no comprehensive study has been carried out with regards to the likely submergence of the Malkangiri district by backwaters due to the Polavaram project, the Odisha State government in the year 2016 submitted to the NCST that the project was going to submerge 7,656 hectares of land, including forestland, and displace more than 6,800 people including 5,916 tribals in Malkangiri.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti said that as per the Water Resource Department of Andhra Pradesh, by providing remedial measures such as constructing protective embankments for a length of 30 kms along Sileru and Sabari River in Odisha, and 29.12 km along Sabari River in Chhattisgarh, the submergence in both Odisha and Chhattisgarh could be avoided completely. In August this year, the Ministry had asked the State Pollution Control Boards of Odisha and Chhattisgarh to conduct a public hearing for the construction of protective embankments without further loss of time as the project is in an advanced stage of construction. The Odisha State Pollution Control Board is yet to hold a public hearing. The Odisha government had earlier expressed its reservation over the high protective embankment saying it was not feasible. "The construction of an embankment requires the diversion of forestland and creates flooding in Odisha territory."

Why is the BJD opposing the Polavaram project?

बीजेडी पोलावरम परियोजना का विरोध क्यों कर रही है?

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has intensified efforts to highlight the potential adverse impacts of the Polavaram Dam project on tribal communities in Odisha's Malkangiri district.

बीजू जनता दल (बीजेडी) ने ओडिशा के मलकानगिरी जिले में आदिवासी समुदायों पर पोलावरम बांध परियोजना के संभावित नकारात्मक प्रभावों को उजागर करने के प्रयास तेज कर दिए हैं।

- A delegation of BJD's Rajya Sabha members submitted a memorandum to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

बीजेडी के राज्यसभा सदस्यों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने केंद्रीय जल आयोग (CWC), जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय, अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग, और पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय को एक ज्ञापन सौंपा।





- The memorandum stated that the **impact of submergence** due to 'unilateral' changes in the design of the project has not been studied.

ज्ञापन में कहा गया कि परियोजना के डिज़ाइन में 'एकतरफा' बदलाव के कारण जलमग्नता के प्रभाव का अध्ययन नहीं किया गया है।

What is the status of the project?

परियोजना की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है?

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** has vowed to complete the **Polavaram Project on River Godavari by 2027** as the **interstate dispute** involving Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh enters a crucial phase.
आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने गोदावरी नदी पर पोलावरम परियोजना को 2027 तक पूरा करने का वादा किया है, क्योंकि ओडिशा, छत्तीसगढ़, और आंध्र प्रदेश के बीच अंतर्राज्यीय विवाद एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण में पहुंच गया है।
- The **Union government** has assured **₹15,000 crore** in this year's budget for the project's completion.
केंद्र सरकार ने परियोजना की समाप्ति के लिए इस वर्ष के बजट में ₹15,000 करोड़ का आश्वासन दिया है।
- The **BJD** has alleged that the **CWC refused to conduct a backwater study** for the **revised design flood**, despite recommendations from experts and Odisha Government's concerns for the safety of **tribal populations**.
बीजेडी ने आरोप लगाया कि **CWC ने संशोधित डिज़ाइन बाढ़ के लिए बैकवाटर अध्ययन करने से इनकार कर दिया**, जबकि विशेषज्ञों की सिफारिशों और आदिवासी आबादी की सुरक्षा के लिए ओडिशा सरकार की चिंताओं के बावजूद।
- Various studies, including those by the **Government of Andhra Pradesh and CWC**, have shown different estimates for **submergence levels**.
आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार और **CWC** द्वारा किए गए विभिन्न अध्ययनों ने **जलमग्नता स्तरों** के लिए अलग-अलग अनुमान दिखाए हैं।
- A backwater study by **Andhra Pradesh in 2009** indicated that a **50-lakh cusec flood** would cause submergence up to **216 feet** in Odisha, exceeding the originally agreed level of **174.22 feet**.
आंध्र प्रदेश द्वारा 2009 में किए गए बैकवाटर अध्ययन में बताया गया कि **50 लाख क्यूसेक की बाढ़ ओडिशा में 216 फीट तक जलमग्नता का कारण बनेगी**, जो मूल रूप से सहमत **174.22 फीट** के स्तर से अधिक है।
- A **2019 IIT Roorkee report** estimated that a **58 lakh cusec flood** would cause submergence up to **232.28 feet** in Odisha.
2019 के आईआईटी रुड़की रिपोर्ट ने अनुमान लगाया कि **58 लाख क्यूसेक की बाढ़ ओडिशा में 232.28 फीट तक जलमग्नता का कारण बनेगी**।

How did the project start?

यह परियोजना कैसे शुरू हुई?





- The **Polavaram Irrigation Project** on the river Godavari was conceived as a part of the recommendations of the **Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT)**.
गोदावरी नदी पर पोलावरम सिंचाई परियोजना को गोदावरी जल विवाद ट्रिब्यूनल (GWDT) की सिफारिशों के तहत शुरू किया गया था।
- Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha had entered into an agreement on **April 2, 1980**, where the project was to be executed by Andhra Pradesh.
2 अप्रैल 1980 को आंध्र प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश और ओडिशा के बीच एक समझौता हुआ, जिसमें परियोजना को आंध्र प्रदेश द्वारा पूरा किया जाना था।
- As per the **Andhra Pradesh State Reorganization Act (APRA), 2014**, the Polavaram Irrigation Project was declared a **national project**.
आंध्र प्रदेश राज्य पुनर्गठन अधिनियम (APRA), 2014 के अनुसार, पोलावरम सिंचाई परियोजना को **राष्ट्रीय परियोजना** घोषित किया गया।
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti responded to an **RTI query**, stating that the **maximum height** of the Polavaram Project's concrete dam, measured from the **deepest foundation level (-18.50m)** to the top of the bridge, is **72.60 meters**.
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय ने एक **आरटीआई प्रश्न** के जवाब में कहा कि पोलावरम परियोजना के कंक्रीट बांध की अधिकतम ऊंचाई, **सबसे गहरी नींव स्तर (-18.50 मीटर)** से पुल के शीर्ष तक, **72.60 मीटर** है।
- The **initial project cost** was ₹10,151.04 crore in **2005-06**, which increased to ₹55,548.87 crore in **2019**.
2005-06 में परियोजना की **प्रारंभिक लागत** ₹10,151.04 करोड़ थी, जो **2019** में ₹55,548.87 करोड़ हो गई।

What are the concerns?

चिंताएं क्या हैं?

- No **comprehensive study** has been conducted on the likely submergence of the **Malkangiri district** due to the backwaters of the Polavaram project.
पोलावरम परियोजना के बैकवाटर के कारण **मलकानगिरी जिले** के संभावित जलमग्न होने पर कोई **व्यापक अध्ययन** नहीं किया गया है।
- In **2016**, the Odisha government submitted to the NCST that the project would submerge **7,656 hectares of land**, including **forestland**, and displace more than **6,800 people**, including **5,916 tribals** in Malkangiri.
2016 में, ओडिशा सरकार ने एनसीएसटी को बताया कि परियोजना **7,656 हेक्टेयर भूमि**, जिसमें **वन भूमि** भी शामिल है, को जलमग्न कर देगी और **5,916 जनजातियों** सहित मलकानगिरी के **6,800 से अधिक लोगों** को विस्थापित करेगी।
- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** stated that **protective embankments** along **30 km of Sileru and Sabari Rivers in Odisha**, and **29.12 km along Sabari River in Chhattisgarh**, could avoid submergence in both states completely.
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय ने कहा कि ओडिशा में **सिलेरु और सबरी नदियों के 30 किमी** और छत्तीसगढ़ में **सबरी नदी के 29.12 किमी** के **सुरक्षात्मक बांध** जलमग्नता को पूरी तरह से रोक सकते हैं।





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- In **August 2024**, the Ministry asked the State Pollution Control Boards of Odisha and Chhattisgarh to **conduct public hearings** for the construction of protective embankments as the project is in an advanced stage.

अगस्त 2024 में, मंत्रालय ने ओडिशा और छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों से **सुरक्षात्मक बांधों** के निर्माण के लिए **सार्वजनिक सुनवाई** करने को कहा, क्योंकि परियोजना उन्नत चरण में है।

- The **Odisha State Pollution Control Board** has yet to conduct a public hearing.
ओडिशा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने अभी तक सार्वजनिक सुनवाई नहीं की है।
- The Odisha government earlier expressed **reservations over the high protective embankment**, stating it would require the **diversion of forestland** and could create **flooding in Odisha territory**.

ओडिशा सरकार ने पहले उच्च सुरक्षात्मक बांध पर अपनी आपत्ति जताई थी, जिसमें कहा गया था कि इसके लिए वन भूमि के डायवर्जन की आवश्यकता होगी और यह ओडिशा क्षेत्र में बाढ़ पैदा कर सकता है।





GETTY IMAGES

Why simultaneous elections are impractical and complicated

Critics of simultaneous elections have raised a few objections. First, the logistical nightmare of conducting simultaneous elections in a country of a little over 1.4 billion people, in a context where even State elections need to take place in multiple phases

GS Paper II: Elections

Gautam Bhatia

The Winter Session of the Lok Sabha is currently underway. The introduction of the two Bills which would enable simultaneous elections in the country, mainly the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill 2024 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment Bill) 2024, have now been postponed to a later date. In this article, Gautam Bhatia, explains the problem with such a concept.

In recent weeks, there has been increasing discussion about the possibility of having national and State elections at the same time, popularly known as 'one nation, one election'. The formation of a committee, helmed by a former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, to determine how this might be implemented, and what manner of constitutional changes might be required to make it a legal reality, have generated further debate. The primary arguments in favour of simultaneous elections are twofold: first, that it will decrease the costs of conducting elections (and of electioneering); and second, that it will free up political parties from being in 'permanent campaign mode', and allow them to focus on governance (and, for that matter, constructive opposition) for a five-year period.

Point and counterpoint

Against this, critics have pointed out that when you crunch the numbers, the actual financial savings are relatively minuscule. Furthermore, it is a relatively recent pathology of the Indian political system that central government Ministers and politicians spend a significant amount of time campaigning in State elections: if the concern, therefore, is that frequent State elections hamper governance and the business of Parliament, then simultaneous elections seem a needlessly complicated answer when a simple one is available: that State elections should be primarily fought by State party units, while national politicians can get on with the task of governance. The reality,

however, is that the increasingly centralised – and presidential – character of Indian election campaigns means that this is unlikely to be a reality in the near future.

Critics of simultaneous elections have raised a few other objections. First, the logistical nightmare of conducting simultaneous elections in a country of a little over 1.4 billion people, in a context where even State elections need to take place in multiple phases.

The second, and graver concern, is the incompatibility of a rigid election timetable with some of the fundamentals of parliamentary democracy: as is well-known, at the time of Independence, central and State elections were conducted simultaneously. This arrangement broke down towards the end of the 1960s because of the use of Article 356 of the Constitution, which authorises the Union to suspend (or even dismiss) State governments in a narrowly-defined range of circumstances; but also, and apart from that, the essence of parliamentary democracy is that at all times, the government must enjoy the confidence of the House, failing which it must step down, and go back to the people for a fresh mandate.

Consequently, it is obvious that even if, legally and practically, one is able to synchronise central and State elections for one cycle, this will break down the moment a government falls. To this, two solutions have been proposed, both of which tend to make the problem worse. The first is that President's Rule (that is, central rule) will be imposed in that State until the five-year-period is over. Needless to say, this will starkly undermine both federalism and democracy. The second is that elections will be held in that State, but the term of the new Assembly will only be until the next cycle (which could be in a year, or three years, or four years). Not only does this undercut both the justifications for simultaneous elections – cost and an avoidance of continuous campaign – but, rather, leads to perverse incentives (for example, how much

'governance' will a State government be able to do if elections are scheduled in a year?).

The possibility of 'horse-trading'

The upshot of this is that there will be a strong push towards avoiding the fall of a government, even when it has lost the confidence of the House in the ordinary course of things. And, as we have seen in India, there is an almost institutionalised remedy for this: defections, or "horse-trading". It is, by now, clear that the Tenth Schedule's prohibition on horse-trading has been rendered more or less a dead letter, as politicians have found various ways to get around this (and courts have not been successful in stopping it). Thus, as was pointed out by lawyer and parliamentarian Kapil Sibal in an interview recently, simultaneous elections are likely to see an explosion of horse-trading, where the political parties with the biggest pockets will be the biggest beneficiaries.

While these intractable issues speak to the implementation of simultaneous elections, at a deeper level, there are two principled and interrelated arguments against the idea: federalism and democracy.

First, let us take federalism. Over the years, it has increasingly come to be accepted that Indian federalism is not simply a matter of administrative convenience but also a matter of principle that recognises the legitimacy of linguistic, cultural, ethnic, and other forms of collective aspiration, through the grant of Statehood. In this context, there is, of course, Indian democracy at the central level, but also, at the level of each State, democracy takes its own set of claims, demands, and aspirations. Simultaneous elections risk a blurring of these distinct forums and arenas of democracy, with the risk that State-level issues will be subsumed into the national (this is inevitable, given the cognitive dominance of the national, as well as the fact that national-level parties frequently campaign in a national register, for

understandable reasons).

Keeping absolute power in check

A related point is that in our constitutional scheme, the federal structure is an important check upon the concentration of power (buttressed by the existence of the Rajya Sabha at the central level).

The federal structure, in turn, is sustained by a plurality of democratic contests, and a plurality of political outfits, at the State level. Simultaneous elections, for the reasons pointed out above, risk undermining that plurality, and risk precisely the kind of concentration of power that federalism is meant to be a bulwark against.

Second, on democracy: despite the ringing words with which the Preamble of the Constitution begins, the "People" have very little space in the Constitution, especially when it comes to exercising control over their representatives. Unlike many other Constitutions, where public participation in law-making is a guaranteed right, along with other rights such as the right to recall, in the Indian constitutional scheme, elections are the only form of public participation in the public sphere. There is a different conversation to be had about why this is not enough, but given this framework, relatively regular and frequent elections allow for more extended public participation and debate; simultaneous elections would shrink this scope substantially, without any countervailing changes to deepen it in other domains.

Therefore, it is clear that the administrative benefits from simultaneous elections are overstated at best, and non-existent at worst. However, the costs, both in the implementation and in the concept itself, are significant, and create non-trivial risks when it comes to protecting and preserving the federal and democratic design of the Constitution. These, therefore, are good reasons why the idea is a bad one, and ought not to be acted upon.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer.





Why simultaneous elections are impractical and complicated

समानांतर चुनाव क्यों अव्यावहारिक और जटिल हैं

- **Critics of simultaneous elections** have pointed out the **logistical nightmare** of conducting elections in a country with **1.4 billion people**, where even State elections require **multiple phases**.
समानांतर चुनावों के आलोचकों ने 1.4 अरब लोगों वाले देश में चुनाव आयोजित करने को लॉजिस्टिकल दुःस्वप्न बताया है, जहां राज्य चुनाव भी कई चरणों में होते हैं।
- The **Winter Session of the Lok Sabha** is underway, but the introduction of the **Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill 2024** and the **Union Territories Laws (Amendment Bill) 2024** has been postponed.
लोकसभा का शीतकालीन सत्र जारी है, लेकिन संविधान (129वां संशोधन) विधेयक 2024 और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश कानून (संशोधन विधेयक) 2024 को स्थगित कर दिया गया है।
- A committee headed by **former President Ram Nath Kovind** has been formed to examine the constitutional changes needed for simultaneous elections.
पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविंद की अध्यक्षता में एक समिति का गठन किया गया है जो समानांतर चुनावों के लिए आवश्यक संवैधानिक परिवर्तनों की जांच करेगी।
- **Proponents** argue that simultaneous elections will reduce **election costs** and allow political parties to focus on **governance** instead of being in a **'permanent campaign mode'**.
समर्थकों का मानना है कि समानांतर चुनाव चुनाव लागत को कम करेंगे और राजनीतिक दलों को स्थायी चुनाव अभियान की बजाय शासन पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने देंगे।

Point and counterpoint

तर्क और प्रतितर्क

- Critics highlight that financial savings from simultaneous elections are **relatively small**, and the issue of Ministers campaigning in State elections could be addressed by allowing **State units** to fight their elections.
आलोचकों का कहना है कि समानांतर चुनावों से होने वाली आर्थिक बचत अपेक्षाकृत कम है और राज्य चुनावों में मंत्रियों के प्रचार करने की समस्या को राज्य इकाइयों को चुनाव लड़ने देकर हल किया जा सकता है।
- The **centralised and presidential style** of Indian election campaigns makes it unlikely for national politicians to avoid involvement in State elections.
भारतीय चुनाव अभियानों की केंद्रीकृत और राष्ट्रपति शैली के कारण यह असंभव है कि राष्ट्रीय नेता राज्य चुनावों में भाग न लें।
- **Logistical challenges** arise from conducting simultaneous elections in such a large democracy where even **State elections** require multiple phases.





इतने बड़े लोकतंत्र में समानांतर चुनाव कराने से **लॉजिस्टिकल चुनौतियां** उत्पन्न होती हैं, जहां राज्य चुनाव भी कई चरणों में होते हैं।

- **Historical context** shows that simultaneous elections existed initially but broke down in the **1960s** due to **Article 356**, which allows the Union to suspend State governments. ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ दर्शाता है कि शुरुआत में समानांतर चुनाव होते थे, लेकिन **1960 के दशक** में यह **अनुच्छेद 356** के कारण टूट गया, जो केंद्र को राज्य सरकारों को निलंबित करने की अनुमति देता है।

Fundamental challenges to parliamentary democracy

संसदीय लोकतंत्र के लिए मौलिक चुनौतियां

- Parliamentary democracy requires that governments enjoy the **confidence of the House**, and failing this, they must seek a fresh mandate. संसदीय लोकतंत्र में सरकारों को सदन का **विश्वास** प्राप्त करना आवश्यक है, और ऐसा न होने पर उन्हें नया जनादेश लेना होता है।
- If a government falls, the **synchronisation of elections** breaks, and solutions like imposing **President's Rule** undermine **federalism** and **democracy**. यदि कोई सरकार गिरती है, तो चुनावों का **समन्वय** टूट जाता है, और **राष्ट्रपति शासन** जैसे समाधान **संघवाद** और **लोकतंत्र** को कमजोर करते हैं।
- Holding elections mid-cycle with shorter terms for new Assemblies undercuts both **cost savings** and **governance stability**, leading to **perverse incentives**. मध्य-चक्र में चुनाव कराना और नई विधानसभाओं के लिए छोटी अवधि तय करना **लागत बचत** और **शासन स्थिरता** दोनों को कमजोर करता है, जिससे **विपरीत प्रोत्साहन** पैदा होते हैं।

The Possibility of 'Horse-Trading'

'घोड़ा-व्यापार' की संभावना

- There will be a strong push towards avoiding the fall of a government, even when it has lost the confidence of the House in the ordinary course of things. सरकार गिरने से बचने के लिए मजबूत प्रयास किए जाएंगे, भले ही वह सामान्य परिस्थितियों में सदन का विश्वास खो चुकी हो।
- In India, this has led to an almost institutionalised remedy: **defections** or "**horse-trading**". भारत में, यह स्थिति **दल-बदल** या "**घोड़ा-व्यापार**" जैसे संस्थागत उपायों की ओर ले जाती है।
- The **Tenth Schedule's prohibition** on horse-trading has been rendered more or less a **dead letter**, as politicians have found ways to bypass it. **दसवीं अनुसूची में प्रतिबंध** के बावजूद, घोड़ा-व्यापार को लगभग **निष्क्रिय** बना दिया गया है क्योंकि नेताओं ने इसे दरकिनार करने के तरीके खोज लिए हैं।
- Courts have also not been successful in stopping this practice. अदालतें भी इस प्रथा को रोकने में सफल नहीं रही हैं।





- **Simultaneous elections** may lead to an **explosion of horse-trading**, benefiting the **political parties with the biggest pockets**, as pointed out by lawyer and parliamentarian Kapil Sibal.

वकील और सांसद कपिल सिब्बल के अनुसार, **समानांतर चुनाव घोड़ा-व्यापार** में वृद्धि करेंगे, जिससे **सबसे धनी राजनीतिक दलों** को फायदा होगा।

Issues of Federalism and Democracy

संघवाद और लोकतंत्र के मुद्दे

- **Federalism** in India is not just administrative convenience but also recognizes **linguistic, cultural, and ethnic aspirations** through Statehood.
भारत में **संघवाद** केवल प्रशासनिक सुविधा नहीं है बल्कि यह **भाषाई, सांस्कृतिक और जातीय आकांक्षाओं** को राज्य का दर्जा देकर मान्यता प्रदान करता है।
- Democracy exists both at the **central level** and at the level of each **State**, which reflects distinct **claims, demands, and aspirations**.
लोकतंत्र **केंद्र स्तर पर** और **प्रत्येक राज्य स्तर पर** मौजूद है, जो **अलग-अलग दावों, मांगों और आकांक्षाओं** को दर्शाता है।
- **Simultaneous elections** risk the blurring of **State-level issues** into national issues, as **national parties** often campaign using a **national register**.
समानांतर चुनावों से राज्य स्तरीय मुद्दों के राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों में विलय का खतरा है, क्योंकि **राष्ट्रीय पार्टियां** अक्सर **राष्ट्रीय एजेंडे** पर प्रचार करती हैं।

Keeping Absolute Power in Check

पूर्ण सत्ता पर नियंत्रण बनाए रखना

- The **federal structure** acts as an important check on the **concentration of power**, supported by the **Rajya Sabha** at the central level.
संघीय ढांचा सत्ता के केंद्रीकरण पर एक महत्वपूर्ण नियंत्रण के रूप में कार्य करता है, जिसे **केंद्रीय स्तर पर राज्यसभा** द्वारा समर्थन मिलता है।
- This federal structure is sustained by the **plurality of democratic contests** and **State-level political outfits**.
यह संघीय ढांचा **लोकतांत्रिक प्रतियोगिताओं की विविधता** और **राज्य-स्तरीय राजनीतिक दलों** द्वारा बनाए रखा जाता है।
- **Simultaneous elections** risk undermining this plurality, leading to **concentration of power**, against the principle of federalism.
समानांतर चुनाव इस विविधता को कमजोर करने का जोखिम उठाते हैं, जिससे **सत्ता के केंद्रीकरण** का खतरा बढ़ता है, जो संघवाद के सिद्धांत के विपरीत है।

Democracy and Public Participation

लोकतंत्र और जनभागीदारी





- Elections are the **only form of public participation** in the Indian Constitution, as other rights like the **right to recall** are absent.
भारतीय संविधान में चुनाव ही जनभागीदारी का एकमात्र रूप है, क्योंकि वापस बुलाने का अधिकार जैसे अन्य अधिकार मौजूद नहीं हैं।
- Frequent elections provide **extended public debate and participation**, while **simultaneous elections** would shrink this scope.
बार-बार चुनाव जन बहस और भागीदारी का विस्तार करते हैं, जबकि समानांतर चुनाव इस क्षेत्र को सीमित कर देंगे।

Costs and Risks of Simultaneous Elections

समानांतर चुनावों की लागत और जोखिम

- **Administrative benefits** from simultaneous elections are **overstated** or even **non-existent**.
समानांतर चुनावों से जुड़े प्रशासनिक लाभ अतिशयोक्ति या अस्तित्वहीन हैं।
- The risks involve significant threats to **federal and democratic designs**, jeopardizing constitutional principles.
ये जोखिम संघीय और लोकतांत्रिक संरचनाओं को गंभीर खतरा पहुंचाते हैं, जिससे संवैधानिक सिद्धांत खतरे में पड़ जाते हैं।

Dissanayake holds 'fruitful' talks with Jaishankar, Doval

Sri Lankan President to hold talks with PM Modi today on boosting bilateral engagement in trade, investment, energy, maritime security

SS Paper II:
India-Sri-Lanka
NEW DELHI

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Sunday held "fruitful" discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, shortly after kickstarting a three-day visit to India.

It is Mr. Dissanayake's first foreign trip after assuming charge as the President. He will hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday that is expected to focus on boosting bilateral engagement in areas of trade, investment, energy and maritime security.

In his separate discussions with Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Doval, issues relating to overall bilateral ties including ways to expand strategic ties between the two neighbouring nations are believed to have figured.

New Delhi has been maintaining that the development of the two countries are "intertwined", and that it is necessary to



Face to face: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

work together keeping in mind each other's security interests and sensitivities. "Held fruitful discussions tonight with @DrSJaishankar and Shri Ajit Doval on matters of mutual interest," Mr. Dissanayake said in a post on X.

In the delegation-level talks between Mr. Modi and Mr. Dissanayake, the Indian side is also likely to convey to the Sri Lankan leader New Delhi's expectations from Colombo to fulfil the aspirations of the Tamil community in the island nation.

The Tamil community in Sri Lanka has been demanding the implementation of the 13th Amendment that provides for devolution of power to it. The 13th amendment was brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987. In the talks, India is likely to reaffirm its commitment to help Sri Lanka strengthen its economy.

Earlier, Mr. Dissanayake was received at the Delhi airport by Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan.

Dissanayake holds 'fruitful' talks with Jaishankar, Doval

डिसनायके ने जयशंकर, डोवाल के साथ

की 'सार्थक' बातचीत

Sri Lankan President to hold talks with PM Modi today on boosting bilateral engagement in trade, investment, energy, maritime security

श्रीलंका के राष्ट्रपति आज प्रधानमंत्री मोदी से व्यापार, निवेश, ऊर्जा, समुद्री सुरक्षा में द्विपक्षीय भागीदारी बढ़ाने पर चर्चा करेंगे

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Sunday held "fruitful" discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, shortly after kickstarting a three-day visit to India.

रविवार को श्रीलंका के राष्ट्रपति अनुरा कुमार दिस्सानायके ने भारत





में तीन दिवसीय यात्रा की शुरुआत करने के तुरंत बाद विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोवाल के साथ “फायदेमंद” बातचीत की।

- It is Mr. Dissanayake's **first foreign trip** after assuming charge as the President.
यह श्री दिस्सानायके का राष्ट्रपति बनने के बाद **पहला विदेशी दौरा** है।
- He will hold **wide-ranging talks** with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on Monday that is expected to focus on boosting bilateral engagement in areas of **trade, investment, energy, and maritime security**.
वह सोमवार को **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** के साथ **विस्तृत वार्ता** करेंगे, जो **व्यापार, निवेश, ऊर्जा और समुद्री सुरक्षा** के क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित होने की उम्मीद है।
- In his separate discussions with Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Doval, issues relating to overall **bilateral ties** including ways to expand **strategic ties** between the two neighbouring nations are believed to have figured.
श्री जयशंकर और श्री डोवाल के साथ अपनी अलग-अलग वार्ताओं में, **द्विपक्षीय संबंधों** से संबंधित मुद्दे, जिसमें दोनों पड़ोसी देशों के बीच **रणनीतिक संबंधों** को बढ़ाने के तरीकों पर चर्चा हुई है।
- **New Delhi** has been maintaining that the development of the two countries are “intertwined”, and that it is necessary to work together keeping in mind each other's **security interests and sensitivities**.
नई दिल्ली यह मानता आया है कि दोनों देशों का विकास “आपस में जुड़ा हुआ” है, और यह आवश्यक है कि एक दूसरे के **सुरक्षा हितों और संवेदनाओं** को ध्यान में रखते हुए साथ काम किया जाए।
- “Held fruitful discussions tonight with @DrSJaishankar and Shri Ajit Doval on matters of mutual interest,” Mr. Dissanayake said in a post on X.
श्री दिस्सानायके ने X पर पोस्ट करते हुए कहा, “आज रात @DrSJaishankar और श्री अजीत डोवाल के साथ **आपसी हितों** के विषय पर **फायदेमंद** बातचीत की।”

In the delegation-level talks between Mr. Modi and Mr. Dissanayake, the Indian side is also likely to convey to the Sri Lankan leader New Delhi's expectations from Colombo to fulfill the aspirations of the Tamil community in the island nation.

श्री मोदी और श्री दिस्सानायके के बीच प्रतिनिधिमंडल स्तर की वार्ता में, भारतीय पक्ष कोलंबो से तमिल समुदाय की आकांक्षाओं को पूरा करने के लिए **नई दिल्ली** की अपेक्षाएँ भी श्रीलंकाई नेता को व्यक्त कर सकता है।

- The **Tamil community** in Sri Lanka has been demanding the **implementation of the 13th Amendment** that provides for **devolution of power** to it.
श्रीलंका में **तमिल समुदाय** 13वें संशोधन के क्रियान्वयन की मांग कर रहा है, जो इसे **शक्ति का विकेंद्रीकरण** प्रदान करता है।
- The **13th Amendment** was brought in after the **Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987**.
13वां संशोधन 1987 के भारत-श्रीलंकाई समझौते के बाद लाया गया था।
- In the talks, **India** is likely to reaffirm its **commitment** to help **Sri Lanka** strengthen its economy.





वार्ताओं में, भारत श्रीलंका को अपनी आर्थिक स्थिति मजबूत करने में मदद करने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि कर सकता है।

- Earlier, Mr. Dissanayake was received at the Delhi airport by Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan.

इससे पहले, श्री दिस्सानायके का दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर सूचना और प्रसारण राज्य मंत्री ल. मुरुगन ने स्वागत किया।

AIADMK appeals to Centre to cancel nod for mining tungsten

GS Paper III: Minerals

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

At a meeting of its general and executive councils on Sunday, the AIADMK criticised the DMK government in Tamil Nadu on multiple fronts, including the alleged lack of preparation in tackling Cyclone Fengal, inadequate relief efforts, and the law and order situation.

It also urged the Centre to withdraw the permission for mining tungsten in Madurai district, provide funds to Tamil Nadu without discrimination, and shift the subject of education from the Concurrent List to the State List.

Despite the DMK government having urged the Centre to drop the proposal to mine tungsten, the AIADMK criticised it over the alleged delay of over 10 months in making efforts to stall the project.

The meeting, chaired by AIADMK presidium chairman A. Tamilmagan Husain, adopted 16 resolutions, one of which criticised the Chief Minister M.K. Stalin-led DMK government over the alleged lack of arrangements to provide food and water to the people affected by the natural disaster.

It also condemned the government over the alleged deterioration of law



Palaniswami at a meeting of the AIADMK's general and executive councils on Sunday.

and order; and the hike in the electricity tariff, property tax, stamp duty, and the price of milk. The party said the DMK government was deceiving the people by not fulfilling the electoral promises made to government employees, teachers, doctors, nurses, farmers, labourers, fishermen, and weavers.

The party alleged that the DMK government with failing to maintain waterbodies for storage, and condemned it for not having taken steps to realise the Godavari-Cauvery link proposal, the Parambikulam Aliyar project and the Pandiyar and Punnampuzha project. The AIADMK also highlighted the "drama" being staged by the DMK government over seeking exemption from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for Tamil Nadu.

AIADMK appeals to Centre to cancel nod for mining tungsten

एआईएडीएमके ने केंद्र से टंगस्टन खनन की मंजूरी रद्द करने की अपील की

AIADMK Criticises DMK Government in Tamil Nadu

एआईएडीएमके ने तमिलनाडु में डीएमके सरकार की आलोचना की

- At a meeting of its general and executive councils on Sunday, the AIADMK criticised the DMK government in Tamil Nadu on multiple fronts, including the alleged lack of preparation in tackling Cyclone Fengal, inadequate relief efforts, and the law and order situation.

रविवार को अपनी सामान्य और कार्यकारी परिषदों की बैठक में,

एआईएडीएमके ने तमिलनाडु में डीएमके सरकार की कई मोर्चों पर आलोचना की, जिसमें साइकलोन फेंगल से निपटने के लिए तैयारी की कथित कमी, अपर्याप्त राहत प्रयास और कानून और व्यवस्था की स्थिति शामिल थी।

- It also urged the Centre to withdraw the permission for mining tungsten in Madurai district, provide funds to Tamil Nadu without discrimination, and shift the subject of education from the Concurrent List to the State List.

इसने केंद्र से मदुरै जिले में टंगस्टन खनन की अनुमति को वापस लेने, तमिलनाडु को भेदभाव के बिना धन प्रदान करने, और शिक्षा विषय को संविधान की समवर्ती सूची से राज्य सूची में स्थानांतरित करने की अपील की।

- Despite the DMK government having urged the Centre to drop the proposal to mine tungsten, the AIADMK criticised it over the alleged delay of over 10 months in making efforts to stall the project.

हालांकि डीएमके सरकार ने केंद्र से टंगस्टन खनन के प्रस्ताव को रद्द





करने की अपील की थी, एआईएडीएमके ने इस पर आलोचना की कि परियोजना को रोकने के प्रयासों में कथित रूप से **10 महीने से अधिक की देरी** हुई।

- The meeting, chaired by **AIADMK presidium chairman A. Tamilmagan Hussain**, adopted **16 resolutions**, one of which criticised **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin-led DMK government** over the alleged lack of arrangements to provide **food and water** to the people affected by the natural disaster.

बैठक, जिसकी अध्यक्षता एआईएडीएमके प्रेसीडियम अध्यक्ष ए. तमिलमगन हुसैन ने की, में **16 प्रस्ताव** पारित किए गए, जिनमें से एक ने **मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन के नेतृत्व वाली डीएमके सरकार** की आलोचना की, क्योंकि प्राकृतिक आपदा से प्रभावित लोगों को **खाद्य और जल उपलब्ध** कराने के लिए कथित रूप से कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई।

- It also condemned the government over the alleged deterioration of **law and order**, and the hike in **electricity tariff, property tax, stamp duty**, and the **price of milk**.

इसने सरकार की **कानून और व्यवस्था** की स्थिति में कथित बिगाड़ के लिए भी निंदा की, और **बिजली शुल्क, संपत्ति कर, स्टाम्प शुल्क और दूध की कीमतों** में वृद्धि पर भी आलोचना की।

- The party said the **DMK government** was deceiving the people by not fulfilling the **electoral promises** made to **government employees, teachers, doctors, nurses, farmers, labourers, fishermen, and weavers**.

पार्टी ने कहा कि **डीएमके सरकार** लोगों को **सरकारी कर्मचारियों, शिक्षकों, डॉक्टरों, नर्सों, किसानों, श्रमिकों, मछुआरों और बुनकरों** से किए गए **चुनावी वादों** को पूरा न करके धोखा दे रही है।

- The party alleged that the **DMK government**, with failing to maintain **water bodies** for storage, and condemned it for not having taken steps to realise the **Godavari-Cauvery link proposal**, the **Parambikulam Aliyar project** and the **Pandiyar and Punnampuzha project**.

पार्टी ने आरोप लगाया कि **डीएमके सरकार जलाशयों** को संरक्षित करने में असफल रही है, और **गोदावरी-कावेरी लिंक प्रस्ताव, परंबिकुलम अलीयार परियोजना और पंडियार और पुनम्पुझा परियोजना** को साकार करने के लिए कोई कदम नहीं उठाया।

- The **AIADMK** also highlighted the “**drama**” being staged by the **DMK government** over seeking exemption from the **National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)** for Tamil Nadu.

एआईएडीएमके ने यह भी बताया कि **डीएमके सरकार तमिलनाडु के लिए राष्ट्रीय पात्रता और प्रवेश परीक्षा (NEET)** से छूट की मांग पर “**नाटक**” कर रही है।



Morocco welcomes Indian defence companies to set up production units

GS Paper II: India-Morocco

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

Morocco is emerging as a springboard for India's ambitions to expand its footprint in Africa for defence exports. Pitching Morocco as a gateway to Africa and Europe for Indian companies, Abdeltif Loudyi, Morocco's Minister Delegate to the Head of the Government, and In-Charge of Administration of National Defence, said they would like "to offer state-of-the-art environment, zero bureaucracy, and profitability for Indian defence companies".

"Morocco and India enjoy excellent bilateral relations based on mutual respect, and have every potential to pursue their positive momentum in various fields, including defence," Mr. Loudyi said, addressing the India-Morocco defence industry seminar held in Rabat on December 9 and 10, and jointly organised by the Defence Ministries of the



Stronger ties: Officials at the first edition of the India-Morocco Defence industry seminar held in Rabat. X@SIDMINDIA

two countries, the Indian Embassy in Morocco, and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers. "We want you in Morocco; we will support you," he said.

This seminar can only strengthen the historic ties between Morocco and India, two emerging economies with growing strategic cooperation in the defence sector, the Minister observed.

Mr. Loudyi said the launch of the strategic defence industry project placed Morocco at the

centre of attention as a defence development hub, and opened up promising prospects for investors interested in the defence and high-tech sectors, as demonstrated by the new strategic partnership signed between the National Defence Administration and the Tata Group, aimed at local production of the WhAP 8x8 ground combat vehicle. "The partnership between ADN and TASM is part of a broader drive to develop Morocco's defence industry, with the

aim of gradually building strategic autonomy," he observed.

The seminar offered opportunities for joint ventures, technology sharing, and procurement potential for Indian defence companies in Morocco, officials said.

"Presentations by Moroccan officials emphasised the country's investor-friendly climate; free zones, including the Atlantic Free Zone; and incentives for foreign investments. The Indian delegation also visited the Atlantic Free Zone, gaining a comprehensive understanding of Morocco's industrial landscape," the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers said on social media platform X.

Bilateral trade between India and Morocco was approximately \$4.1 billion in 2023, with major exports from India including refined petroleum, vehicles, and various chemicals. India is the largest buyer of phosphate from Morocco.

Morocco welcomes Indian defence companies to set up production units

मोरक्को ने भारतीय रक्षा कंपनियों का उत्पादन इकाइयाँ
स्थापित करने के लिए स्वागत किया

Morocco Emerging as Springboard for India's Defence Exports

मोरक्को भारत के रक्षा निर्यात के लिए कर्षण बिंदु बन रहा है

- **Morocco** is emerging as a springboard for **India's ambitions** to expand its footprint in **Africa** for defence exports.





मोरक्को भारत की आफ्रीका में रक्षा निर्यात के लिए अपनी पहचान बनाने की महत्वाकांक्षाओं का एक महत्वपूर्ण कर्षण बिंदु बनता जा रहा है।

- Pitching **Morocco** as a gateway to **Africa** and **Europe** for Indian companies, **Abdeltif Loudyi**, Morocco's **Minister Delegate** to the Head of the Government, and In-Charge of Administration of National Defence, said they would like “to offer state-of-the-art environment, zero bureaucracy, and profitability for Indian defence companies”.

भारतीय कंपनियों के लिए मोरक्को को आफ्रीका और यूरोप के लिए एक द्वार के रूप में पेश करते हुए, अब्देलतिफ लौदी, मोरक्को के प्रधानमंत्री के प्रमुख प्रतिनिधि और राष्ट्रीय रक्षा प्रशासन के प्रभारी ने कहा कि वे भारतीय रक्षा कंपनियों के लिए “उन्नत वातावरण, शून्य नौकरशाही और लाभकारी माहौल प्रदान करना चाहते हैं।”

- **Morocco** and **India** enjoy excellent **bilateral relations** based on mutual respect, and have every potential to pursue their positive momentum in various fields, including **defence**, said Mr. Loudyi.

मोरक्को और भारत के बीच आपसी सम्मान पर आधारित उत्कृष्ट द्विपक्षीय संबंध हैं, और उनके पास रक्षा सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में सकारात्मक सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने की पूरी क्षमता है, श्री लौदी ने कहा।

- Mr. Loudyi addressed the **India-Morocco defence industry seminar** held in **Rabat** on **December 9 and 10**, jointly organised by the Defence Ministries of both countries, the Indian Embassy in Morocco, and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers.

श्री लौदी ने रबात में 9 और 10 दिसंबर को आयोजित भारत-मोरक्को रक्षा उद्योग सम्मेलन को संबोधित किया, जिसे दोनों देशों के रक्षा मंत्रालयों, मोरक्को में भारतीय दूतावास और भारतीय रक्षा निर्माणकर्ताओं के संघ द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से आयोजित किया गया था।

- He mentioned that the seminar would strengthen the **historic ties** between **Morocco** and **India**, two emerging economies with growing **strategic cooperation** in the **defence sector**.

उन्होंने कहा कि यह सम्मेलन मोरक्को और भारत के बीच ऐतिहासिक संबंधों को मजबूत करेगा, जो रक्षा क्षेत्र में बढ़ती रणनीतिक सहयोग के साथ दो उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाएं हैं।

- Mr. Loudyi highlighted the **strategic defence industry project** that placed **Morocco** at the centre of attention as a defence development hub, opening up promising prospects for investors in the **defence** and **high-tech sectors**, as demonstrated by the new strategic partnership signed between the **National Defence Administration** and the **Tata Group**.

श्री लौदी ने रक्षा उद्योग परियोजना की शुरुआत पर जोर दिया, जिसने मोरक्को को रक्षा विकास के केंद्र के रूप में रखा और रक्षा और हाई-टेक क्षेत्रों में निवेशकों के लिए आशाजनक संभावनाएं खोलीं, जैसा कि राष्ट्रीय रक्षा प्रशासन और टाटा समूह के बीच नए रणनीतिक साझेदारी से साबित हुआ।

- This partnership aims at the **local production of the WhAP 8x8 ground combat vehicle**.

यह साझेदारी WhAP 8x8 ग्राउंड कॉम्बैट वाहन के स्थानीय उत्पादन का लक्ष्य रखती है।

- The **seminar** offered opportunities for **joint ventures**, **technology sharing**, and **procurement potential** for Indian defence companies in Morocco.

सम्मेलन ने मोरक्को में भारतीय रक्षा कंपनियों के लिए संयुक्त उद्यम, प्रौद्योगिकी साझेदारी और खरीद क्षमता के अवसर प्रदान किए।





- **Moroccan officials** emphasised the country’s **investor-friendly climate, free zones**, including the **Atlantic Free Zone**, and incentives for **foreign investments**.
मोरक्कन अधिकारियों ने देश के निवेशक-मित्र वातावरण, मुक्त क्षेत्र, जिसमें एटलांटिक फ्री ज़ोन शामिल है, और विदेशी निवेशों के लिए प्रोत्साहन पर जोर दिया।
- The **Indian delegation** visited the **Atlantic Free Zone**, gaining a comprehensive understanding of **Morocco’s industrial landscape**.
भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने एटलांटिक फ्री ज़ोन का दौरा किया, जिससे उन्हें मोरक्को के औद्योगिक परिदृश्य की व्यापक समझ प्राप्त हुई।
- **Bilateral trade** between **India** and **Morocco** was approximately **\$4.1 billion** in **2023**, with major exports from India including **refined petroleum, vehicles, and various chemicals**.
भारत और मोरक्को के बीच 2023 में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार लगभग \$4.1 बिलियन था, जिसमें भारत से मुख्य निर्यात में परिष्कृत पेट्रोलियम, वाहन और विभिन्न रसायन शामिल हैं।
- **India** is the largest buyer of **phosphate** from **Morocco**.
भारत मोरक्को से फॉस्फेट का सबसे बड़ा खरीदार है।

Modi refers to past to build a fresh narrative

GS Paper I: Post Independence India

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s speech at the debate in the Lok Sabha on the journey of the Constitution was full of references to the past.

Some of them, including references to the late Purushottam Das Tandon, former Congress chief, and the late K.M. Munshi, who was a Minister in the Nehru government, were packed with political narrative-building.

Mr. Modi quoted Tan-

don’s views with regard to India’s glorious past and its past experiences with democracy predating the British. He quoted Munshi’s advocacy of a Uniform Civil Code over a religion-based personal law. The UCC is a core issue for the BJP and Mr. Modi repeated his government’s intention to bring in what he terms a “Secular Civil Code”.

Munshi parted ways with the Congress in the 1950s and formed the Swatantra Party, and was one of the founders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

“Prime Minister Modi raised the issue of Tandon to build and strengthen



Narendra Modi

two narratives – how Nehru was anti-democratic and turned the Congress into the fiefdom of one particular family; and second, Nehru was opposed to ‘pro-Hindu’ leaders right from the beginning. Tandon was known for being a ‘pro-Hindu’ nationalist

leader within the Congress, and was opposed to Nehru’s policy of ‘Muslim appeasement’. Tandon defeated Nehru’s candidate in the election for Congress president. But Nehru made Tandon resign in 1951, threatening to walk out of Congress Working Committee,” Arun Anand, author of two books on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, including *The Saf-ron Surge: Untold Story of RSS Leadership*, said.

It was also, BJP leaders said, a comment on what they say is the situation within the Congress, with the sidelining of the “G23” group of leaders who at-

tempted to lead an eventually unsuccessful banner of revolt within the Congress a few years ago.

“The Congress is on a particular path, [and] due to the leadership of the Gandhis, it appears irreversible. The recollection of what happened to leaders like Munshi and Tandon shows that Congress had all manner of opinion within its fold, including of Hindu consciousness, generally espoused by leaders who were not part of the dynasty. Under the one-family rule, those strains of opinions have been weeded out,” a senior office-bearer of the BJP said.

Modi refers to past to build a fresh narrative

मोदी ने ताजा आख्यान गढ़ने के लिए अतीत का हवाला दिया

Prime Minister Modi’s Speech on the Constitution in Lok Sabha

लोकसभा में संविधान पर प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का भाषण

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s** speech at the **debate in the Lok Sabha** on the journey of the Constitution was full of references to the past.





प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का लोकसभा में संविधान की यात्रा पर भाषण अतीत के संदर्भों से भरा हुआ था।

- Some of the references included mentions of the **late Purushottam Das Tandon**, former Congress chief, and the **late K.M. Munshi**, who was a Minister in the Nehru government, packed with political narrative-building.
इनमें से कुछ संदर्भों में **स्व. पुरुषोत्तम दास तंदन**, पूर्व कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष, और **स्व. के.एम. मुंशी** का उल्लेख था, जो नेहरू सरकार में मंत्री थे, और ये सभी राजनीतिक कथा निर्माण से भरे हुए थे।
- Mr. Modi quoted **Tandon's views** regarding **India's glorious past** and its past experiences with democracy predating the British.
श्री मोदी ने **तंदन के विचारों** का उद्धरण दिया, जो **भारत के गौरवमयी अतीत** और ब्रिटिश से पहले लोकतंत्र के साथ उनके अनुभवों पर आधारित थे।
- Mr. Modi quoted **Munshi's advocacy** of a **Uniform Civil Code** over a **religion-based personal law**. The **UCC** is a core issue for the **BJP** and Mr. Modi repeated his government's intention to bring in what he terms a "**Secular Civil Code**".
श्री मोदी ने **मुंशी के समर्थन** का उद्धरण दिया, जो **धर्म-आधारित व्यक्तिगत कानून** की बजाय **समान नागरिक संहिता (UCC)** के पक्षधर थे। **UCC भा.ज.पा.** के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है और श्री मोदी ने अपनी सरकार की "**धार्मिकनिरपेक्ष नागरिक संहिता**" लाने की मंशा को दोहराया।
- Munshi parted ways with the **Congress** in the **1950s** and formed the **Swatantra Party**, and was one of the founders of the **Vishwa Hindu Parishad**.
मुंशी ने **1950 के दशक** में कांग्रेस से अलग होकर **स्वतंत्र पार्टी** बनाई, और वे **विश्व हिंदू परिषद** के संस्थापकों में से एक थे।
- Prime Minister Modi raised the issue of Tandon to build and strengthen two narratives: प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने तंदन के मुद्दे को उठाकर दो मुख्य कथाएँ बनाई और मजबूत की:
 - **Nehru was anti-democratic** and turned the Congress into the **fiefdom of one particular family**.
नेहरू का लोकतंत्र विरोधी होना और कांग्रेस को एक विशेष परिवार के साम्राज्य में बदल देना।
 - **Nehru was opposed to 'pro-Hindu' leaders** from the beginning.
नेहरू का 'प्रो-हिंदू' नेताओं से शुरू से विरोध था।
- **Tandon** was known for being a **'pro-Hindu' nationalist leader** within the Congress and opposed **Nehru's policy of 'Muslim appeasement'**.
तंदन को कांग्रेस के अंदर एक **'प्रो-हिंदू' राष्ट्रीयतावादी नेता** के रूप में जाना जाता था और वे **नेहरू की 'मुस्लिम तुष्टिकरण' नीति** का विरोध करते थे।
- **Tandon defeated Nehru's candidate** in the election for **Congress president**, but Nehru made **Tandon resign in 1951**, threatening to walk out of the **Congress Working Committee**.
तंदन ने कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष चुनाव में नेहरू के उम्मीदवार को हराया, लेकिन नेहरू ने **1951 में तंदन को इस्तीफा देने के लिए मजबूर किया**, यह धमकी देते हुए कि वे कांग्रेस कार्यसमिति से बाहर चले जाएंगे।
- **BJP leaders** said the mention of **Tandon** also served as a comment on the current situation within the **Congress**, with the sidelining of the **'G23' group** of leaders who attempted to lead an unsuccessful revolt within the party a few years ago.





भा.ज.पा. के नेताओं ने कहा कि तंदन का उल्लेख वर्तमान में कांग्रेस के अंदर की स्थिति पर भी टिप्पणी के रूप में था, जिसमें 'G23' नेताओं को हाशिये पर डाल दिया गया था, जिन्होंने कुछ साल पहले पार्टी के अंदर असफल विद्रोह का नेतृत्व करने की कोशिश की थी।

- A senior office-bearer of the **BJP** said, "The **Congress** is on a particular path, and due to the leadership of the **Gandhis**, it appears irreversible."

भा.ज.पा. के एक वरिष्ठ पदाधिकारी ने कहा, "कांग्रेस एक विशेष रास्ते पर चल रही है, और गांधी परिवार के नेतृत्व के कारण यह अपरिवर्तनीय प्रतीत होता है।"

- The recollection of what happened to leaders like **Munshi** and **Tandon** shows that the **Congress** had all manner of opinion within its fold, including of **Hindu consciousness**, generally espoused by leaders who were not part of the dynasty.

मुंशी और तंदन जैसे नेताओं के साथ क्या हुआ, इसका स्मरण दिखाता है कि कांग्रेस में सभी प्रकार की राय मौजूद थी, जिसमें हिंदू चेतना भी थी, जो आम तौर पर उन नेताओं द्वारा समर्थित थी जो राजवंश का हिस्सा नहीं थे।

- Under the **one-family rule**, those strains of opinions have been weeded out. एक-परिवार के शासन के तहत, उन रायों के रुझानों को समाप्त कर दिया गया है।

Ram temple gets award from British Safety Council

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ram Temple project in Ayodhya bagged the Sword of Honour award from the British Safety Council, said Nripendra Misra, chairman of the construction committee of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, on Sunday.

Mr. Misra said the Sword of Honour is one of the prestigious accolades in safety management, which is given after the British Safety Council conducts the audit of the process and practices, and finally does an on-site activity assessment.

"Only those who achieve a five-star assessment are eligible to enter for the Sword of Honour award contest. Earlier M/s Larsen & Toubro responsible for the construction of the temple were also awarded 'Golden Trophy' by the National Safety Council for safety measures taken in the construction of Ram Temple," he said.

Mr. Misra said the construction of the first and second floors, including the "Shikhar" (top), of the temple along with other significant temples has entered the last phase.

The construction is likely to be completed by June 2025.

Ram temple gets award from British Safety Council

राम मंदिर को ब्रिटिश सुरक्षा परिषद से पुरस्कार मिला

Ram Temple Project in Ayodhya Wins Sword of Honour Award
अयोध्या में राम मंदिर परियोजना को स्वॉर्ड ऑफ ऑनर पुरस्कार मिला

- The **Ram Temple project in Ayodhya** won the **Sword of Honour** award from the **British Safety Council**, as announced by **Nripendra Misra**, chairman of the construction committee of **Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust**, on Sunday.

अयोध्या में राम मंदिर परियोजना को ब्रिटिश सेफ्टी काउंसिल से स्वॉर्ड ऑफ ऑनर पुरस्कार मिला, जैसा कि श्री राम जन्मभूमि तीर्थ क्षेत्र ट्रस्ट के निर्माण समिति के अध्यक्ष नृपेंद्र मिश्रा ने रविवार को घोषणा की।

- **Nripendra Misra** stated that the **Sword of Honour** is one of the most prestigious accolades in **safety management**, awarded after the British Safety Council conducts an audit of the process and practices, followed by an on-site activity assessment.

नृपेंद्र मिश्रा ने कहा कि स्वॉर्ड ऑफ ऑनर सुरक्षा प्रबंधन में सबसे प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कारों में से एक है, जिसे ब्रिटिश सेफ्टी काउंसिल प्रक्रिया और प्रथाओं का ऑडिट करने के बाद और साइट पर गतिविधि मूल्यांकन करने के बाद दिया जाता है।

- Only those who achieve a **five-star assessment** are eligible for the **Sword of Honour award contest**.

केवल वे लोग जो पाँच सितारा मूल्यांकन प्राप्त करते हैं, वे स्वॉर्ड ऑफ ऑनर पुरस्कार प्रतियोगिता के लिए योग्य होते हैं।





- Earlier, **Larsen & Toubro**, responsible for the construction of the temple, was also awarded the '**Golden Trophy**' by the **National Safety Council** for safety measures taken during the construction of the **Ram Temple**.

इससे पहले, **लार्सन एंड टूब्रो**, जो मंदिर के निर्माण के लिए जिम्मेदार था, को **राम मंदिर** के निर्माण के दौरान सुरक्षा उपायों के लिए **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद** द्वारा '**गोल्डन ट्रॉफी**' भी दी गई थी।

- **Misra** mentioned that the construction of the **first and second floors**, including the **Shikhar (top)**, of the temple along with other significant temples has entered the **final phase**.

मिश्रा ने कहा कि मंदिर की **पहली और दूसरी मंजिलें**, जिसमें **शिखर (शीर्ष)** भी शामिल है, और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण मंदिरों का निर्माण अब **अंतिम चरण** में प्रवेश कर चुका है।

- The **construction** is expected to be completed by **June 2025**.

निर्माण की पूर्ति जून 2025 तक होने की संभावना है।

Jaishankar thanks Moldova for helping Indians during the Ukraine crisis

**GS Paper II:
India-Moldova**

NEW DELHI

India on Sunday expressed appreciation for the support that Moldova extended in airlifting stranded Indian nationals who had to be evacuated when the war in Ukraine broke out in February 2022. India's appreciation was conveyed by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at an event held here, where the Embassy of Moldova was officially inaugurated in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Moldova Mihail Popsoi.

"Moldova extended crucial help during the Operation Ganga to evacuate the very large number of stranded Indian students during the Ukraine crisis," Mr. Jaishankar said acknowledging Moldova's support to the Indian citizens in Ukraine who faced a se-



S. Jaishankar and Mihail Popsoi during the joint inauguration of the Embassy of Republic of Moldova, in New Delhi. PTI

rious threat when Russian forces began the 'special military operation' against Ukraine. Operation Ganga was started to airlift Indian students and professionals who were based in Ukraine. At least 20,000 Indian citizens in Ukraine were evacuated with the help of neighbouring Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Moldova and Hungary.

Mr. Jaishankar also an-

nounced that India would open an embassy in Moldova in "not so distant future". He said India and Moldova, which is located in a strategically important part of eastern Europe, have a "shared vision of the world that values peace, understanding and cooperation".

The Embassy of Moldova has been operating out of New Delhi for around a

year but Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Popsoi on Sunday unveiled the official insignia, thereby formally inaugurating it.

Addressing the event, Mr. Popsoi said the inauguration of the Embassy of Moldova is a special moment in the relation between the two sides. "We conducted second round of foreign office consultation after a gap of 21 years reaffirming political engagement. The first official visit of our minister of education happened just two weeks ago. This year we launched a scholarship programme for Indian students and we will expand this initiative," said Mr. Popsoi.

"Despite geographical distance and different traditions, Moldova and India have always maintained a bond of mutual respect and understanding," he said.

Jaishankar thanks Moldova for helping Indians during the Ukraine crisis





जयशंकर ने यूक्रेन संकट के दौरान भारतीयों की मदद करने के लिए मोल्दोवा को धन्यवाद दिया

India Thanks Moldova for Support During Operation Ganga

भारत ने ऑपरेशन गंगा के दौरान मोल्दोवा के समर्थन के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया

- On **Sunday, India** expressed appreciation for the support extended by **Moldova** in airlifting **stranded Indian nationals** during the **Ukraine war** in **February 2022**.
रविवार को, भारत ने मोल्दोवा द्वारा यूक्रेन युद्ध के दौरान फंसे हुए भारतीय नागरिकों को फरवरी 2022 में वायु मार्ग से निकालने के लिए दिए गए समर्थन के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया।
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** conveyed India's appreciation during an event where the **Embassy of Moldova** was officially inaugurated in the presence of **Mihail Popsoi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Moldova**.
विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने भारत का आभार उस कार्यक्रम के दौरान व्यक्त किया, जहां मोल्दोवा का दूतावास औपचारिक रूप से मिहाइल पोपसोई, मोल्दोवा के उपप्रधानमंत्री और विदेश मंत्री की उपस्थिति में उद्घाटित किया गया।
- Mr. Jaishankar acknowledged **Moldova's support** during **Operation Ganga**, which helped evacuate **large numbers of Indian students** stranded in **Ukraine** during the **Ukraine crisis**.
श्री जयशंकर ने ऑपरेशन गंगा के दौरान मोल्दोवा के समर्थन की सराहना की, जिसने यूक्रेन संकट के दौरान फंसे हुए भारतीय छात्रों के विशाल संख्या को निकालने में मदद की।
- **Operation Ganga** was launched to airlift **Indian students** and professionals from **Ukraine**. At least **20,000 Indian citizens** were evacuated with the help of neighbouring countries including **Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Moldova, and Hungary**.
ऑपरेशन गंगा को यूक्रेन से भारतीय छात्रों और पेशेवरों को निकालने के लिए शुरू किया गया था। कम से कम 20,000 भारतीय नागरिकों को पोलैंड, रोमानिया, स्लोवेनिया, मोल्दोवा, और हंगरी जैसे पड़ोसी देशों की मदद से निकाला गया।
- Mr. Jaishankar also announced that India would open an **embassy in Moldova** in the "**not so distant future**".
श्री जयशंकर ने यह भी घोषणा की कि भारत मोल्दोवा में एक दूतावास खोलेगा, जो "बहुत दूर भविष्य में नहीं" होगा।
- He emphasized that India and Moldova, located in a **strategically important part of Eastern Europe**, share a "**shared vision of the world** that values peace, understanding, and cooperation."
उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि भारत और मोल्दोवा, जो पूर्वी यूरोप के एक रणनीतिक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्से में स्थित हैं, के पास एक "साझा दृष्टिकोण है जो शांति, समझ और सहयोग को महत्व देता है।"
- The **Moldova Embassy** had been operating out of **New Delhi** for about a year, and **Jaishankar** and **Popsoi** officially inaugurated it by unveiling the **official insignia** on **Sunday**.
मोल्दोवा दूतावास नई दिल्ली से लगभग एक साल से संचालित हो रहा था, और जयशंकर और



पोपसोई ने रविवार को आधिकारिक चिन्ह का अनावरण कर इसे औपचारिक रूप से उद्घाटित किया।

- Addressing the event, **Popsoi** said that the inauguration is a special moment in the bilateral relationship between the two countries.
कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए, **पोपसोई** ने कहा कि उद्घाटन दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में एक विशेष क्षण है।
- He mentioned that after a **gap of 21 years**, the **second round of foreign office consultations** was conducted, reaffirming **political engagement**.
उन्होंने उल्लेख किया कि **21 वर्षों के अंतराल** के बाद **विदेश मंत्रालय की दूसरी दौर की परामर्श बैठक** आयोजित की गई, जिससे **राजनीतिक जुड़ाव** को फिर से पुष्ट किया गया।
- Moldova** launched a **scholarship program** for Indian students this year and plans to **expand** it further.
मोल्दोवा ने इस वर्ष भारतीय छात्रों के लिए **छात्रवृत्ति कार्यक्रम** शुरू किया और इसे और विस्तार देने की योजना है।
- Popsoi** emphasized that despite **geographical distance** and **different traditions**, **Moldova** and **India** have always maintained a bond of **mutual respect** and **understanding**.
पोपसोई ने यह रेखांकित किया कि **भौगोलिक दूरी** और **विभिन्न परंपराओं** के बावजूद, **मोल्दोवा** और **भारत** ने हमेशा एक-दूसरे के बीच **आपसी सम्मान** और **समझ** का संबंध बनाए रखा है।

Centre launches Jalvahak scheme for cargo movement via inland waterways

GS Paper III

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday launched the Jalvahak scheme to boost long-haul cargo movement via inland waterways.

The scheme incentivises cargo transport on National Waterways 1 (Ganga), 2 (Brahmaputra), and 16 (Barak) and provides an opportunity for the trade interests to explore movement of cargo via waterways with positive economic value proposition, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said.

He flagged off cargo ships *MV AAI*, *MV Homi Bhaba*, and *MV Trishul* along with two dumb barges *Ajay* and *Dikhu* from the G.R. Jetty in Kolkata.

This marks the beginning of fixed scheduled sailing service of cargo vessels from Haldia for NW-1



New network: Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, flags off cargo vessels in Kolkata on Sunday. PTI

(Ganga) and NW-2 (Brahmaputra), the Ministry said in a statement.

“With its advantage of being an economical, ecologically sound, and efficient mode of transportation, we want to boost cargo movement via waterways to decongest the railways and roadways,” Mr. Sonowal said.

Further, the regular scheduled freight service,

which began from Kolkata, will ensure that the cargo is transported and delivered within a stipulated time frame, he said.

35% reimbursement

The Jalvahak scheme offers reimbursement of up to 35% of the total operating expenditure incurred, the Ministry said.

To encourage the business proposition of vessel

operators, the scheme encourages cargo owners to hire vessels owned or operated by government entities. “The incentive scheme is ideal for major shipping companies, freight forwarders, trade bodies and associations that handle bulk and containerised cargo. By opting for the scheme, it provides them an opportunity to optimise their supply chain network. The scheme is initially valid for three years.”

The fixed day scheduled sailing service will ply vessels between Kolkata-Patna-Varanasi-Patna-Kolkata stretch of NW-1 and between Kolkata and Pandu in Guwahati on NW-2 via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR), the Ministry said.

UltraTech Cement said it became the first cement company to leverage NW-1 for gypsum transport at scale.

Centre launches Jalvahak scheme for cargo movement via inland waterways

केंद्र ने अंतर्देशीय जलमार्गों के माध्यम से माल की आवाजाही के लिए जलवाहक योजना शुरू की

Launch of Jalvahak Scheme to Boost Inland Waterways Cargo Movement

जलवाहक योजना की शुरुआत, अंतर्देशीय जलमार्गों के माध्यम से माल ढुलाई को बढ़ावा देने के लिए





- On **Sunday**, the **Centre** launched the **Jalvahak scheme** to boost long-haul cargo movement via **inland waterways**.
रविवार को, केंद्र सरकार ने जलवाहक योजना की शुरुआत की, जो अंतर्देशीय जलमार्गों के माध्यम से लंबी दूरी की माल ढुलाई को बढ़ावा देने के लिए है।
- The scheme incentivizes **cargo transport** on **National Waterways 1 (Ganga), 2 (Brahmaputra), and 16 (Barak)**, and provides opportunities for trade interests to explore **cargo movement via waterways** with a positive economic value proposition.
यह योजना राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग 1 (गंगा), 2 (ब्रह्मपुत्र), और 16 (बारक) पर माल परिवहन को प्रोत्साहित करती है और व्यापार हितधारकों को जलमार्गों के माध्यम से माल ढुलाई का पता लगाने का अवसर प्रदान करती है, जिससे आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से लाभ हो।
- **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister for **Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**, flagged off cargo ships **MV AAI, MV Homi Bhaba, and MV Trishul**, along with two dumb barges, **Ajay and Dikhu**, from the **G.R. Jetty** in **Kolkata**.
सर्बानंद सोनोवाल, पत्तन, नौवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री, ने एमवी AAI, एमवी होमी भाभा, और एमवी त्रिशूल जहाजों के साथ दो डंब बार्ज, अजय और दीखू, को कोलकाता के जी.आर. जेटी से रवाना किया।
- This marks the beginning of **fixed scheduled sailing service** of cargo vessels from **Haldia** for **NW-1 (Ganga) and NW-2 (Brahmaputra)**.
यह हल्दिया से एनडब्ल्यू-1 (गंगा) और एनडब्ल्यू-2 (ब्रह्मपुत्र) के लिए मालवाहक जहाजों की नियत समय पर निर्धारित यात्रा सेवा की शुरुआत का प्रतीक है।
- The scheme aims to boost cargo movement via waterways to **decongest the railways and roadways**.
इस योजना का उद्देश्य जलमार्गों के माध्यम से माल ढुलाई को बढ़ावा देना है, जिससे रेलवे और सड़क मार्गों पर भीड़-भाड़ को कम किया जा सके।
- The regular scheduled freight service, starting from **Kolkata**, will ensure that cargo is transported and delivered within a stipulated **time frame**.
कोलकाता से शुरू होने वाली नियत समय पर नियमित मालवाहन सेवा यह सुनिश्चित करेगी कि माल निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर पहुंचाया और वितरित किया जाए।
- The **Jalvahak scheme** offers **35% reimbursement** of the total operating expenditure incurred.
जलवाहक योजना कुल परिचालन व्यय का **35% प्रतिपूर्ति** प्रदान करती है।
- The scheme encourages cargo owners to hire vessels owned or operated by **government entities**.
यह योजना माल मालिकों को सरकारी संस्थाओं के स्वामित्व या संचालन वाले जहाजों को किराए पर लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती है।
- The incentive scheme is suitable for **major shipping companies, freight forwarders, trade bodies, and associations handling bulk and containerized cargo**.
यह प्रोत्साहन योजना प्रमुख शिपिंग कंपनियों, फ्रेट फॉरवर्डर्स, व्यापार संघों और संगठनों के लिए उपयुक्त है जो थोक और कंटेनरीकृत माल को संभालते हैं।
- The scheme is initially valid for **three years**.
यह योजना प्रारंभ में **तीन वर्षों** के लिए वैध है।
- The fixed day scheduled sailing service will operate vessels between **Kolkata-Patna-Varanasi-Patna-Kolkata** stretch of **NW-1** and between **Kolkata** and **Pandu** in



Guwahati on NW-2 via Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR).

नियत दिन निर्धारित यात्रा सेवा कोलकाता-पटना-वाराणसी-पटना-कोलकाता के एनडब्ल्यू-1 खंड और कोलकाता और गुवाहाटी के पांडु के बीच एनडब्ल्यू-2 पर भारत-बांग्लादेश प्रोटोकॉल मार्ग (IBPR) के माध्यम से जहाजों का संचालन करेगी।

- **UltraTech Cement** became the first cement company to leverage NW-1 for **gypsum transport** at scale.

अल्ट्राटेक सीमेंट एनडब्ल्यू-1 का जिप्सम परिवहन के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर उपयोग करने वाली पहली सीमेंट कंपनी बन गई।

TEL AVIV

Israel to close **Dublin** embassy citing 'extreme anti-Israel policies'

GS Paper I: World Geography



REUTERS

Israel will close its Dublin embassy due to the "extreme anti-Israel policies of the Irish government", Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said on Sunday, citing its recognition of a Palestinian state and support for legal action against Israel. Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said the decision was deeply regrettable. REUTERS

Israel to close Dublin embassy citing 'extreme anti-Israel policies'

इजराइल ने 'अत्यधिक इजराइल विरोधी नीतियों' का हवाला देते हुए डबलिन दूतावास बंद करने का फैसला किया

Israel to Close Its Dublin Embassy Due to Irish Government's Policies

इजराइल ने आयरिश सरकार की नीतियों के कारण डबलिन स्थित दूतावास बंद करने का फैसला किया

- **Israel** will close its **Dublin embassy** due to the "extreme anti-Israel policies of the Irish government," said **Foreign Minister Gideon Saar** on **Sunday**.

इजराइल ने डबलिन दूतावास को बंद करने का फैसला लिया है, जो आयरिश सरकार की अतिवादी इजराइल-विरोधी नीतियों के कारण है, यह विदेश मंत्री गिडियोन सार ने रविवार को कहा।

- The closure is due to **Ireland's recognition of a Palestinian state** and support for **legal action against Israel**.

यह बंदी **आयरलैंड द्वारा फिलिस्तीनी राज्य को मान्यता देने और इजराइल के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्रवाई का समर्थन करने के कारण है।

- **Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris** called the decision "**deeply regrettable**." **आयरिश प्रधानमंत्री साइमन हैरिस** ने इस फैसले को "गहरी खेदजनक" बताया।



GOMA

Rwanda, Congo cancel peace talks to end conflict in eastern Congo

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AFP

Planned talks between Congo and Rwanda were cancelled. Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwanda's President Paul Kagame were set to meet on Sunday in Angola, which has been mediating to put an end to conflict in eastern Congo between the Congolese army and M23 rebel group, which is allegedly backed by Rwanda. AP

के लिए मध्यस्थता कर रहा है, जिसे रवांडा द्वारा समर्थित होने का आरोप है।

Rwanda, Congo cancel peace talks to end conflict in eastern Congo

Planned Talks Between Congo and Rwanda Cancelled

कांगो और रवांडा के बीच निर्धारित वार्ता रद्द

- Planned talks between Congo and Rwanda were cancelled.

कांगो और रवांडा के बीच निर्धारित वार्ता रद्द कर दी गई।

- Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwanda's President Paul Kagame were set to meet on Sunday in Angola, which has been mediating to end the conflict in eastern Congo between the Congolese army and the M23 rebel group, allegedly backed by Rwanda.

कांगो के राष्ट्रपति फेलिक्स त्सिशेकेदी और रवांडा के राष्ट्रपति पॉल

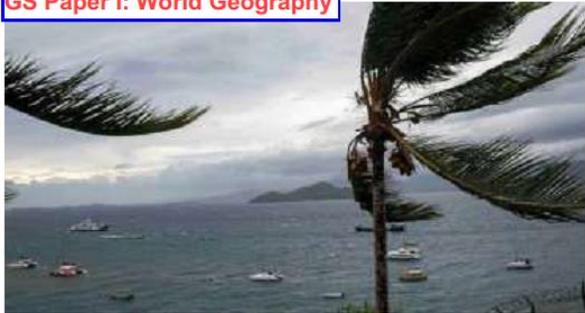
कगामे को रविवार को अंगोला में मिलना था, जो पूर्वी कांगो में कांगो

सेना और M23 विद्रोही समूह के बीच चल रहे संघर्ष को समाप्त करने

CAPE TOWN

14 killed in French territory of Mayotte as Cyclone Chido strikes

GS Paper I: World Geography



AP

At least 14 persons have died and 246 were injured after Cyclone Chido caused devastating damage in the French territory of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean, France's Interior Ministry said on Sunday. The tropical cyclone blew through the southeastern Indian Ocean, also affecting the nearby islands of Comoros and Madagascar. AFP

कहा।

- The tropical cyclone blew through the southeastern Indian Ocean, also affecting the nearby islands of Comoros and Madagascar.

उष्णकटिबंधीय साइक्लोन ने दक्षिण-पूर्व भारतीय महासागर के माध्यम से आंधी मारी, जिससे पास के द्वीपों कोमोरोस और मेडागास्कर पर भी असर पड़ा।

14 killed in French territory of Mayotte as Cyclone Chido strikes

फ़्रांस के मायोटे क्षेत्र में चक्रवात चिडो के कारण 14 लोगों की मौत

Cyclone Chido Causes Devastating Damage in Mayotte

साइक्लोन चिडो ने मयोत्ते में विनाशकारी क्षति की

- At least 14 persons have died and 246 were injured after Cyclone Chido caused devastating damage in the French territory of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean, France's Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

कम से कम 14 लोग मारे गए हैं और 246 घायल हुए हैं, जब

साइक्लोन चिडो ने भारतीय महासागर में स्थित फ्रांसीसी क्षेत्र मयोत्ते

में विनाशकारी क्षति पहुंचाई, फ्रांस के आंतरिक मंत्रालय ने रविवार को





At least 39 killed in Niger in attacks near Burkina Faso

GS Paper I: World Geography

NIAMEY

Thirty-nine people have been killed in two attacks in recent days in western Niger, near the border with Burkina Faso, Niamey's Defence Ministry said Saturday.

"Two horrific tragedies happened in the communities of Libiri and Kokorou, criminals cornered by constant operations by defence and security forces launched attacks on defenceless civilian populations," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The "barbaric acts" saw 21 people killed in Libiri and 18 in Kokorou, including children, the Ministry said.

The operations took place from December 12 to 14, the statement said.

At least 39 killed in Niger in attacks near Burkina Faso

बुर्किना फासो के निकट नाइजर में हुए हमलों में कम से कम 39 लोग मारे गए

Attack in Western Niger Kills 39 People

पश्चिमी नाइजर में हमले में 39 लोग मारे गए

- **Thirty-nine people** have been killed in **two attacks** in recent days in **western Niger**, near the **border with Burkina Faso**, Niamey's **Defence Ministry** said on **Saturday**.

पिछले कुछ दिनों में दो हमलों में पश्चिमी नाइजर में 39 लोग मारे गए, जो बुर्किना फासो की सीमा के पास हुए थे, यह बात नियामी के रक्षा मंत्रालय ने शनिवार को कही।

- The **Defence Ministry** stated that **criminals**, cornered by constant operations by **defence and security forces**, launched attacks on **defenceless civilian populations**.

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने कहा कि अपराधियों ने, जो रक्षा और सुरक्षा बलों के लगातार ऑपरेशनों से कोने में धकेल दिए गए थे, निरिह नागरिक आबादी पर हमले किए।

- **Two horrific tragedies** occurred in the communities of **Libiri** and **Kokorou**, with **21 people killed** in **Libiri** and **18 people killed** in **Kokorou**, including **children**.

दो भयानक त्रासदियां लिबिरी और कोकोरो समुदायों में हुईं, जिनमें लिबिरी में 21 लोग मारे गए और कोकोरो में 18 लोग मारे गए, जिनमें बच्चे भी शामिल हैं।

- The **operations** took place from **December 12 to 14**, as stated by the Defence Ministry.

ऑपरेशन्स 12 से 14 दिसंबर के बीच हुए, जैसा कि रक्षा मंत्रालय ने कहा।





Russian tanker splits in storm, spilling oil into the Kerch Strait

GS Paper I: World Geography

Reuters
MOSCOW

A Russian oil tanker carrying thousands of tonnes of oil products split apart during a heavy storm on Sunday, spilling oil into the Kerch Strait, while another tanker was also in distress after sustaining damage, Russian officials said.

The vessels were in the Kerch Strait between mainland Russia and Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, when they issued distress signals.

Russian investigators opened two criminal cases to look into possible safety violations after at least one person was killed when the 136-metre *Volgoneft 212* tanker, with 15 people on board, split in half with its bow sinking.

The Russian-flagged vessel, built in 1969, was damaged and had run aground, officials said.

The second Russian-flagged ship, the 132-metre *Volgoneft 239*, was drifting after sustaining damage. It has a crew of 14 people and was built in 1973.

Russian tanker splits in storm, spilling oil into the Kerch Strait

तूफान में रूसी टैंकर टूट गया, जिससे तेल केर्च जलडमरूमध्य में फैल गया

Russian Oil Tanker Splits During Storm in Kerch Strait केर्च जलडमरूमध्य में तूफान के दौरान रूसी तेल टैंकर का टूटना

• A Russian oil tanker, carrying thousands of tonnes of oil products, split apart during a heavy storm on Sunday, spilling oil into the Kerch Strait, while another tanker was also in distress after sustaining damage, Russian officials said.

एक रूसी तेल टैंकर, जो हजारों टन तेल उत्पाद ले जा रहा था, रविवार को भारी तूफान के दौरान केर्च जलडमरूमध्य में टूट गया, जिससे तेल फैल गया, जबकि एक और टैंकर भी क्षति के बाद संकट में था, रूसी अधिकारियों ने कहा।

- The vessels were in the Kerch Strait between mainland Russia and Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, when they issued distress signals.
ये जहाज केर्च जलडमरूमध्य में मुख्य रूस और क्रिमिया के बीच थे, जिसे रूस ने 2014 में यूक्रेन से अवैध रूप से जोड़ लिया था, जब उन्होंने संकट संकेत जारी किए।
- Russian investigators opened two criminal cases to look into possible safety violations after at least one person was killed when the 136-meter *Volgoneft 212* tanker, with 15 people on board, split in half with its bow sinking.
रूसी जांचकर्ताओं ने सुरक्षा उल्लंघनों की जांच के लिए दो आपराधिक मामले खोले, जब 136-मीटर *वोल्गोनेफ्ट 212* टैंकर, जिसमें 15 लोग सवार थे, आधे में टूट गया और उसका मुकुट डूब गया, जिसमें कम से कम एक व्यक्ति की मृत्यु हो गई।
- The Russian-flagged vessel, built in 1969, was damaged and had run aground, officials said.
रूसी ध्वज वाला जहाज, जो 1969 में बना था, क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया और तट पर अटक गया, अधिकारियों ने कहा।
- The second Russian-flagged ship, the 132-meter *Volgoneft 239*, was drifting after sustaining damage. It has a crew of 14 people and was built in 1973. दूसरा रूसी ध्वज वाला जहाज, 132-मीटर *वोल्गोनेफ्ट 239*, क्षति के बाद बह रहा था। इसमें 14 लोग का चालक दल है और यह 1973 में बना था।



Nidhi stands tall as India retains women's Asia Cup

PCS



Continental champs: India overcame China in a shootout. @THEHOCKEYINDIA

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India

MUSCAT

India's goalkeeper Nidhi stole the limelight in the penalty shootout, making three sensational saves to help India overcome three-time champion China 3-2 (1-1) and clinch its second consecutive women's junior Asia Cup hockey title here on Sunday.

Nidhi's heroics capped a stellar performance, having already stood tall during

regulation time by thwarting multiple attempts from the Chinese forwards as the four quarters ended in a nerve-wracking 1-1 stalemate.

While skipper Jinzhuang Tan scored for China in the 30th minute, Kanika Siwach's strike early in the second half (41st minute) brought India back into the game in an intense battle for supremacy.

Sakshi Rana gave India a perfect start in the shootout by converting the first attempt, while Nidhi denied China's opener.

China fought back as Hao Guoting equalised, and after misses from Mumtaz Khan and Kanika, it was Ishika's top-corner strike that kept India level at 2-2.

Nidhi's heroics in the final two attempts, blocking shots from Li Jingyi and Zuo Dandan, set the stage for Sunelita Toppo, who sealed the win with a composed finish to seal a memorable victory for India.

The result: India 1 (Kanika Siwach 41) drew with China 1 (Jinzhuang Tan 30). (India won 3-2 via penalty shootout).

Nidhi stands tall as India retains women's Asia Cup

निधि ने भारत को महिला एशिया कप खिताब बरकरार रखने में मदद की

India Wins Second Consecutive Women's Junior Asia Cup Hockey Title

भारत ने दूसरी बार लगातार महिला जूनियर एशिया कप हॉकी खिताब जीता

• India's goalkeeper Nidhi stole the limelight in the penalty shootout, making three sensational saves to help India overcome three-time champion China 3-2 (1-1) and clinch its second consecutive women's junior Asia Cup hockey title here on Sunday.

भारत की गोलकीपर निधि ने पेनल्टी

शूटआउट में तीन शानदार बचाव करके भारत

को तीन बार की चैंपियन चीन 3-2 (1-1) को हराने में मदद की और यहां रविवार को अपना दूसरा लगातार महिला जूनियर एशिया कप हॉकी खिताब जीता।

- Nidhi's heroics capped a stellar performance, having already stood tall during regulation time by thwarting multiple attempts from the Chinese forwards as the four quarters ended in a nerve-wracking 1-1 stalemate.

निधि की वीरता ने एक उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन को पूरा किया, जिसमें उन्होंने नियमित समय के दौरान पहले ही चीनी फॉरवर्ड्स के कई हमलों को नाकाम किया, जब चारों क्वार्टर एक तनावपूर्ण 1-1 ड्रॉ पर समाप्त हुए।

- While skipper Jinzhuang Tan scored for China in the 30th minute, Kanika Siwach's strike early in the second half (41st minute) brought India back into the game in an intense battle for supremacy.

जबकि कप्तान जिन्झुआंग तान ने चीन के लिए 30वें मिनट में गोल किया, कनिका सिवाच के दूसरे हाफ (41वें मिनट) में किए गए गोल ने भारत को खेल में वापस लाया, एक तीव्र संघर्ष में।

- Sakshi Rana gave India a perfect start in the shootout by converting the first attempt, while Nidhi denied China's opener.





साक्षी राणा ने भारत को शूटआउट में पहली कोशिश को गोल में बदलकर एक परफेक्ट शुरुआत दी, जबकि निधि ने चीन के पहले गोल को नाकाम किया।

- **China** fought back as **Hao Guoting** equalised, and after misses from **Mumtaz Khan** and **Kanika**, it was **Ishika's top-corner strike** that kept India level at 2-2.

चीन ने वापसी की जब हाओ गुओटिंग ने बराबरी की, और मुमताज़ खान और कनिका से चूके गोल के बाद, इशिका के टॉप-कॉर्नर स्ट्राइक ने भारत को 2-2 पर बराबरी पर बनाए रखा।

- **Nidhi's heroics** in the final two attempts, blocking shots from **Li Jingyi** and **Zuo Dandan**, set the stage for **Sunelita Toppo**, who sealed the win with a composed finish to seal a memorable victory for **India**.

निधि की वीरता ने अंतिम दो प्रयासों में ली जिनगी और जुओ दांदन के शॉट्स को रोककर सुनेलिता टोपो के लिए मंच तैयार किया, जिन्होंने शांतिपूर्वक गोल करके भारत के लिए यादगार जीत को सुनिश्चित किया।

Deepika, Dhiraj and Ankita top the list at Nationals

PCS

The most notable absentee will be the decorated compound archer **Jyothi Surekha** due to differences between her and the State unit



All set: Dhiraj and Ankita will look to end the year on a high after the near miss in the Paris Games. PTI

ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi
JAMSHEDPUR

Ahead of a busy 2025 calendar, top archers of the country, including **Deepika Kumari**, **Ankita Bhakat**, **B. Dhiraj**, **Abhishek Verma** and **Aditi Swami**, will test themselves in the year-ending National archery championships starting at the **Gopal Maidan**, located in the heart of the city, here on **Monday**.

The most notable absentee will be the decorated compound archer **V. Jyothi Surekha** due to differences between the athlete and

her State unit, the **Andhra Pradesh Archery Association**.

After yet another disappointing outing in the Olympics, **Deepika** redeemed some pride by securing a silver at the World Cup Finals in **Tlaxcala, Mexico**, in October and would be keen to close the year on a good note.

For **Dhiraj**, who along with **Ankita** experienced a so-near-yet-so-far moment to finish fourth in the mixed team event of the Paris Olympics, the National event marks the beginning of his preparations for the next Olympics.

"I take the positives out of our performance in Pa-

ris. For me, the next Olympics is not far away. I am back to the basics.

"This is an important tournament in my preparation phase as I am focusing on improving the core areas of my game," said **Dhiraj**.

The first target for the archers, some of whom recently competed in indoor events abroad, will be to get good rankings in order to be eligible to participate in the National Games in **Uttarakhand** next month.

Then follows a calendar studded with several international events, including the **World Championships**, **World Games**, **Asian championships** and **World Cups**.

Deepika, Dhiraj and Ankita top the list at Nationals

दीपिका, धीरज और अंकिता राष्ट्रीय चैंपियनशिप में शीर्ष पर

The most notable absentee will be the decorated compound archer **Jyothi Surekha** due to differences between her and the State unit

सबसे उल्लेखनीय अनुपस्थिति प्रतिष्ठित कंपाउंड तीरंदाज **ज्योति सुरेखा** की होगी, क्योंकि उनके और राज्य **इकाई** के बीच मतभेद हैं

Top Archers of India to Compete in National Archery Championships

भारत के शीर्ष तीरंदाज राष्ट्रीय तीरंदाजी चैंपियनशिप में प्रतिस्पर्धा करेंगे

- Ahead of a busy 2025 calendar, top archers of the country, including **Deepika Kumari**, **Ankita Bhakat**, **B. Dhiraj**, **Abhishek Verma**, and **Aditi Swami**, will test themselves in the year-ending **National archery championships** starting at the **Gopal Maidan**, located in the heart of the city, here on **Monday**.





2025 के व्यस्त कैलेंडर से पहले, देश के शीर्ष तीरंदाज, जिनमें दीपिका कुमारी, अंकिता भक्त, बी. धीरज, अभिषेक वर्मा, और आदिति स्वामी शामिल हैं, गोपल मैदान में शुरू हो रहे वर्ष के अंत के राष्ट्रीय तीरंदाजी चैंपियनशिप में अपनी परीक्षा लेंगे, जो सोमवार को शहर के दिल में स्थित है।

- The most notable absentee will be the decorated **compound archer V. Jyothi Surekha** due to **differences** between the athlete and her **State unit**, the **Andhra Pradesh Archery Association**.

सबसे प्रमुख अनुपस्थित व्यक्ति होंगी, सम्मानित कंपाउंड तीरंदाज वी. ज्योति सुरेखा, जिनका आंध्र प्रदेश तीरंदाजी संघ के साथ विरोध था।

- After yet another disappointing outing in the **Olympics**, **Deepika** redeemed some pride by securing a **silver** at the **World Cup Finals in Tlaxcala, Mexico**, in **October** and would be keen to close the year on a good note.

ओलंपिक्स में एक और निराशाजनक प्रदर्शन के बाद, दीपिका ने अक्टूबर में ट्लाक्सकाला, मेक्सिको में वर्ल्ड कप फाइनल्स में चांदी जीतकर कुछ आत्मसम्मान पुनः प्राप्त किया और वह इस वर्ष को अच्छे नोट पर समाप्त करने के लिए इच्छुक हैं।

- For **Dhiraj**, who along with **Ankita** experienced a **so-near-yet-so-far moment** to finish **fourth in the mixed team event** of the **Paris Olympics**, the **National event** marks the beginning of his preparations for the next Olympics.

धीरज के लिए, जिन्होंने अंकिता के साथ पेरिस ओलंपिक्स के मिश्रित टीम इवेंट में चौथे स्थान पर समाप्त होकर इतनी पास फिर भी इतनी दूर का अनुभव किया, यह राष्ट्रीय आयोजन उनके अगले ओलंपिक्स की तैयारी की शुरुआत है।

- "I take the positives out of our performance in **Paris**. For me, the next **Olympics** is not far away. I am back to the basics. This is an important tournament in my **preparation phase** as I am focusing on improving the **core areas** of my game," said **Dhiraj**.

"मैं पेरिस में हमारे प्रदर्शन से सकारात्मक बातें निकालता हूं। मेरे लिए, अगला ओलंपिक्स दूर नहीं है। मैं बेसिक्स पर वापस आ गया हूं। यह मेरे प्रशिक्षण चरण में एक महत्वपूर्ण टूर्नामेंट है क्योंकि मैं अपने खेल के मुख्य क्षेत्रों में सुधार पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहा हूं," धीरज ने कहा।

- The first target for the archers, some of whom recently competed in indoor events abroad, will be to get good **rankings** in order to be eligible to participate in the **National Games** in **Uttarakhand** next month.

तीरंदाजों के लिए पहला लक्ष्य, जिनमें से कुछ हाल ही में विदेश में इनडोर इवेंट्स में प्रतिस्पर्धा कर चुके हैं, अच्छा रैंकिंग प्राप्त करना होगा ताकि वे अगले महीने उत्तराखंड में राष्ट्रीय खेलों में भाग लेने के योग्य हो सकें।

- Then follows a calendar studded with several **international events**, including the **World Championships**, **World Games**, **Asian championships**, and **World Cups**.

इसके बाद एक कैलेंडर है, जिसमें कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय आयोजनों की सूची है, जिनमें विश्व चैंपियनशिप, विश्व खेल, एशियाई चैंपियनशिप, और विश्व कप शामिल हैं।





World Cup
kho kho, to be
held from
Jan 13 to 19, to
feature 41
teams

World Cup kho kho, to be held from Jan 13 to 19, to feature 41 teams

विश्व कप खो-खो, 13 से 19 जनवरी तक आयोजित किया जाएगा, जिसमें 41 टीमों भाग लेंगी

PCS

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Inaugural World Cup Kho Kho Tournament

प्रारंभिक विश्व कप खो-खो टूर्नामेंट

The inaugural World Cup kho kho is scheduled to feature 41 teams, including 20 women's teams, from around the world.

- The inaugural World Cup Kho Kho is scheduled to feature **41 teams**, including **20 women's teams**, from around the world.

प्रारंभिक विश्व कप खो-खो में 41 टीमों भाग लेंगी, जिनमें से 20 महिला टीमों होंगी, और यह दुनिया भर से भागीदारों को आकर्षित करेगा।

England, Germany, Holland, Poland, Kenya, South Africa, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Peru, Australia and host India are expected to field both men and women teams in the league cum knock-out competition to be played at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium and the Noida Indoor Stadium from January 13 to 19.

- **England, Germany, Holland, Poland, Kenya, South Africa, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Peru, Australia, and host India** are expected to field both **men and women teams** in the **league cum knock-out competition** to be played at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium** and the **Noida Indoor Stadium** from **January 13 to 19**.

इंग्लैंड, जर्मनी, नीदरलैंड्स, पोलैंड, केन्या, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, बांगलादेश, भूटान, ईरान, मलेशिया, नेपाल, पाकिस्तान, दक्षिण कोरिया, श्रीलंका, पेरू, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, और मेज़बान भारत दोनों पुरुष और महिला टीमों के साथ लीग-कम-नॉकआउट प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेंगे, जो इंदिरा गांधी इंडोर स्टेडियम और नोएडा इंडोर स्टेडियम में 13 से 19 जनवरी तक खेले जाएगी।

Ghana, USA, Argentina and Brazil will field only men's teams. Uganda, Indonesia and New Zealand will be fielding only the women's teams.

- **Ghana, USA, Argentina, and Brazil** will field only **men's teams**.

घाना, यूएसए, अर्जेंटीना, और ब्राज़ील केवल पुरुष टीमों को मैदान में उतारेंगे।

- **Uganda, Indonesia, and New Zealand** will field only **women's teams**.

यूगांडा, इंडोनेशिया, और न्यूज़ीलैंड केवल महिला टीमों को मैदान में उतारेंगे।

"We will be hosting 615 players and 125 support staff, apart from technical officials," said the president of the Kho Kho Federation of India, Sudhanshu Mittal.

- "We will be hosting **615 players** and **125 support staff**, apart from **technical officials**," said the president of the **Kho Kho Federation of India, Sudhanshu Mittal**.

"हम 615 खिलाड़ियों और 125 सहायक स्टाफ की मेज़बानी करेंगे, इसके अलावा तकनीकी अधिकारियों को भी मेज़बानी देंगे," भारत खो-खो संघ के अध्यक्ष, सुधांशु मित्तल ने कहा।

- The teams have confirmed their travel plans and are set to arrive on **January 10 and 11**.

The teams have confirmed their travel plans and are set to arrive on January 10 and 11.

टीमों ने अपनी यात्रा योजनाओं की पुष्टि की है और वे 10 और 11 जनवरी को भारत पहुंचने के लिए तैयार हैं।

The host will take care of the accommodation, food and transport requirements of teams and officials. Volunteers are also being trained to take care of various logistics.

- The host will take care of the **accommodation, food, and transport** requirements of teams and officials.

मेज़बान टीमों और अधिकारियों के आवास, खाना, और यातायात की व्यवस्था करेगा।

- **Volunteers** are also being trained to take care of various **logistics**.

स्वयंसेवकों को विभिन्न लॉजिस्टिक्स की देखभाल के लिए भी प्रशिक्षित किया जा रहा है।



Can we make **black holes** reveal themselves in echoes of light?

When light passes around a black hole, its path bends. So some parts of the light take a direct route to the viewer while others pass around the black hole a few times before getting back on the original path. In this way, light emitted by a distant source in the cosmos may reach the earth at different instances, creating light echoes

GS Paper III: S&T

Qudsia Gani

When it comes to making sense of our universe, the importance of black holes is hard to understate. Scientists know that a black hole exerts a strong gravitational pull, so much so that any object that gets closer to its centre beyond a point can never get back out. The effects of black holes on their surroundings include the release of a tremendous amount of energy. These effects are crucial to determining the structures of the galaxies they occupy and how the stars around them evolved over time.

A study published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters* on November 7 is notable in this wider context. It was carried out by astrophysicists from the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, and led by George Wong of the School of Natural Sciences at Princeton University. In their study, the researchers presented a new method to measure the properties of black holes by using the effects they have on light flowing around them.

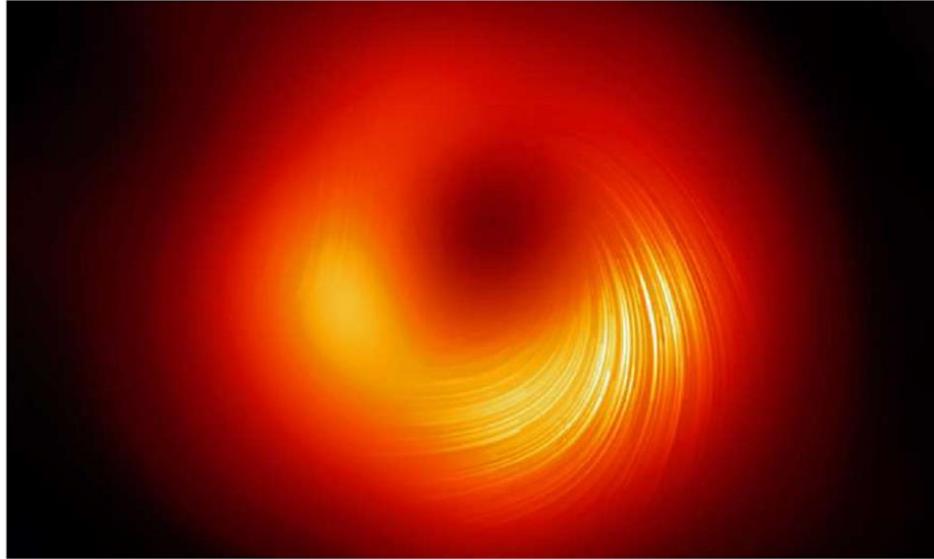
Signatures in the light

When light passes around a very heavy object, like a black hole, its path bends. As a result some parts of the light may take a direct route to the viewer while others may pass around the black hole a few times before getting back on its original path. In this way, light emitted by a distant source in the cosmos may reach the earth at different instances, depending on its interactions with black holes on the way. When two beams of light emitted by the same source reach the earth at different points, the beam that arrived second will be an echo of the beam that arrived first. This phenomenon is thus called a light echo.

The manner and extent to which light circles around a black hole depends on the black hole's mass and radius. If the black hole is spinning (a.k.a., a Kerr black hole), it will also depend on the object's angular momentum. Thus, according to the study, scientists can use light echoes as a new and independent way to the masses and spins of black holes.

In general, the task of measuring a black hole's mass and spin is quite tedious because all the matter, hot gases, and the radiation swirling around the object complicate observations and make signals harder to extract from the noise. Light, fortunately, is affected differently and light echoes could offer a better signal-to-noise ratio.

An object that bends light is called a



A view of the M87 supermassive black hole in polarised light as captured by the Event Horizon Telescope and released in 2021. EHT COLLABORATION (CC BY 4.0)

lens. Black holes do this by the sheer strength of their gravity; thus, the phenomenon is called gravitational lensing. Scientists theorised long ago that gravitational lensing could create light echoes, but they have not been directly measured so far. To get around this issue, the new study proposes the use of a technique called long-baseline interferometry. The principle here is that the non-simultaneous arrival of two signals – like two light beams – could interfere with each other to create a new, unique signal.

To spot light echoes created by a black hole, one telescope could be placed on the earth and the other in space. While the number of instruments may seem modest, they will have to operate with supreme technical rigour.

The main motivation for the new study was the fact that some of the supermassive black holes in the centre of the Milky Way and the nearby M87 galaxies have been found to have bright rings of light at a frequency of 230 GHz around them. The structure of these rings is influenced by astrophysical forces and the spacetime geometry of black holes, and scientists have been keen to study them in detail using very long baseline interferometry techniques. One particular aspiration is to trace the black hole's

Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity also anticipated the phenomenon of light echoes. In particular the theory predicts the echoes will be achromatic, meaning light of all frequencies should be able to form echoes

shadow on these rings to understand spacetime around the black holes.

Independent of colour

The analysis in the new study essentially focused on a black hole at the centre of the M87 galaxy – an appealing object of study for light echoes since it's quite large in the sky. But the results are also applicable to other black holes. The baseline in 'long baseline interferometry' refers to the distance between the two telescopes that receive the light. According to the study, it should be at least $40 G\lambda$, where $G\lambda$ is a unit of measurement that refers to the telescopes' ability to collect signals at a specific frequency.

The Princeton team also carried out preliminary high-resolution simulations to test the credibility of their technique. For this, team members collected several thousand instantaneous images of light

travelling around the M87 black hole, located nearly 55 million lightyears away, using the Event Horizon Telescope. Then they estimated the time beams of light took to travel from the near end of the black hole to its far end, which, according to their idea, would depend on the black hole's mass and angular momentum, after adjusting for the angle at which the telescope was viewing it. From this simulated data, the team inferred the echo delay.

Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity also anticipated the phenomenon of light echoes. In particular the theory predicts the echoes will be achromatic, meaning light of all frequencies should be able to form echoes. (Since $G\lambda$ is inversely proportional to the frequency, building a telescope to detect the echoes is a separate headache.) Thus any approach to detect light echoes at multiple frequencies at the same time could provide a good test of the new technique. A positive result will also be yet another confirmation that the general theory of relativity provides an accurate description of black holes.

(Qudsia Gani is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics, Government Degree College Pattan, Baramulla. qudsiagani6@gmail.com)

THE GIST

The effects black holes have on their surroundings are crucial to determining the structures of the galaxies they occupy and how the stars around them evolved over time

The mass and radius of a black hole impact the manner in which light behaves. The study claims that light echoes can be used as a new way to determine the masses and spins of black holes

Researchers collected images of light travelling around the M87 black hole. They estimated the time light took to travel from the near end to its far end, which depends on its mass and momentum. From this data, the team inferred echo delay

Can we make black holes reveal themselves in echoes of light?

Website: patrioticias.in
Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>





क्या हम ब्लैक होल को प्रकाश की प्रतिध्वनि में स्वयं को प्रकट करने में सक्षम बना सकते हैं?

When light passes around a black hole, its path bends. So some parts of the light take a direct route to the viewer while others pass around the black hole a few times before getting back on the original path. In this way, light emitted by a distant source in the cosmos may reach the earth at different instances, creating light echoes

जब प्रकाश ब्लैक होल के चारों ओर से गुजरता है, तो उसका मार्ग मुड़ जाता है। इसलिए प्रकाश के कुछ हिस्से दर्शक तक सीधे मार्ग से पहुँचते हैं जबकि अन्य मूल मार्ग पर वापस आने से पहले ब्लैक होल के चारों ओर से कुछ बार गुज़रते हैं। इस तरह, ब्रह्मांड में दूर के स्रोत से उत्सर्जित प्रकाश अलग-अलग समय पर पृथ्वी तक पहुँच सकता है, जिससे प्रकाश प्रतिध्वनियाँ पैदा होती हैं

Black Holes and Their Importance in Understanding the Universe

ब्लैक होल्स और ब्रह्मांड को समझने में उनका महत्व

- **Black holes** exert a strong **gravitational pull**, so much so that any object that gets closer to its center beyond a certain point can never get back out.
ब्लैक होल बहुत मजबूत गुरुत्वाकर्षण बल पैदा करते हैं, इतना कि कोई भी वस्तु जो उनके केंद्र के पास एक निश्चित बिंदु से आगे बढ़ती है, वह बाहर नहीं आ सकती।
- The effects of **black holes** on their surroundings include the release of a tremendous amount of **energy**, which is crucial to determining the structures of the **galaxies** they occupy and how the **stars** around them evolved.
ब्लैक होल्स का उनके आस-पास के वातावरण पर प्रभाव अत्यधिक ऊर्जा के रिलीज़ के रूप में होता है, जो यह निर्धारित करने में महत्वपूर्ण है कि वे जिन गैलेक्सी में स्थित हैं, उनकी संरचनाएँ कैसी हैं और उनके आसपास के तारे समय के साथ कैसे विकसित हुए हैं।
- A **study** published in the **Astrophysical Journal Letters** on **November 7** is notable in this context.
7 नवंबर को एस्ट्रोफिजिकल जर्नल लेटर्स में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन इस संदर्भ में महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The study was carried out by **astrophysicists** from the **Institute for Advanced Study** in **Princeton, New Jersey**, led by **George Wong** of the **School of Natural Sciences at Princeton University**.
यह अध्ययन प्रिंसटन, न्यू जर्सी के इंस्टिट्यूट फॉर एडवांस्ड स्टडी के एस्ट्रोफिजिसिस्ट्स द्वारा किया गया था, जिसकी अगुवाई प्रिंसटन विश्वविद्यालय के नेचुरल साइंसेज स्कूल के जॉर्ज वॉंग ने की।
- The researchers presented a new method to measure the properties of **black holes** by using the effects they have on **light** flowing around them.





शोधकर्ताओं ने **ब्लैक होल्स** की गुणों को मापने का एक नया तरीका प्रस्तुत किया है, जो उनके चारों ओर बहने वाली **रोशनी** पर उनके प्रभावों का उपयोग करता है।

- **Light** passing around a very heavy object like a **black hole** bends, causing different parts of the light to take different paths before returning to its original route.
जब **रोशनी** एक बहुत भारी वस्तु जैसे **ब्लैक होल** के पास से गुजरती है, तो उसकी दिशा मुड़ जाती है, जिससे रोशनी के विभिन्न हिस्से अपने मूल मार्ग पर वापस आने से पहले अलग-अलग रास्ते अपनाते हैं।
- When two beams of light emitted by the same source reach Earth at different times, the beam that arrives second is an **echo** of the first. This phenomenon is called a **light echo**.
जब एक ही स्रोत से उत्सर्जित दो **रोशनी की किरणें** पृथ्वी पर अलग-अलग समय पर पहुंचती हैं, तो जो किरण दूसरी बार पहुंचती है, वह पहली की **गूंज** होती है। इस घटना को **लाइट इको** कहा जाता है।
- The manner and extent to which light circles around a **black hole** depends on its **mass**, **radius**, and if it is spinning (i.e., a **Kerr black hole**), its **angular momentum**.
जिस तरीके से और जिस सीमा तक **ब्लैक होल** के चारों ओर रोशनी घूमती है, यह उसके **द्रव्यमान**, **त्रिज्या**, और यदि वह घूम रहा है (यानी, एक **केर ब्लैक होल**) तो उसके **कोणीय संवेग** पर निर्भर करता है।
- Scientists can use **light echoes** as a new and independent way to measure the **masses** and **spins** of black holes.
वैज्ञानिक **लाइट इकोस** का उपयोग **ब्लैक होल्स** के **द्रव्यमान** और **घूमने की गति** को मापने के लिए एक नया और स्वतंत्र तरीका मान सकते हैं।
- Measuring a black hole's **mass** and **spin** is difficult due to the hot gases, matter, and radiation swirling around the object, making it hard to extract clear signals.
एक ब्लैक होल के **द्रव्यमान** और **घूमने की गति** को मापना कठिन है, क्योंकि इसके आसपास गर्म गैसों, पदार्थ और विकिरण घूम रहे होते हैं, जिससे साफ संकेत प्राप्त करना मुश्किल हो जाता है।
- **Light echoes** could offer a better **signal-to-noise ratio** as light is affected differently.
लाइट इकोस एक बेहतर **सिग्नल-टू-नॉइज़ अनुपात** प्रदान कर सकते हैं क्योंकि रोशनी का प्रभाव अलग होता है।
- **Gravitational lensing** occurs when an object bends light with its gravity, creating a **light echo**. This has been theorized but never directly measured.
जब कोई वस्तु अपनी गुरुत्वाकर्षण शक्ति से रोशनी को मोड़ती है, तो **गुरुत्वाकर्षण लेंसिंग** होती है, जिससे **लाइट इको** उत्पन्न होता है। इसे सिद्धांत में बताया गया है, लेकिन अब तक इसे सीधे मापा नहीं गया है।
- The new study proposes using **long-baseline interferometry** to measure the effects of light echoes.
नया अध्ययन **लॉन्ग-बेसलाइन इंटरफेरोमेट्री** का उपयोग करके लाइट इकोस के प्रभावों को मापने का प्रस्ताव करता है।
- **Long-baseline interferometry** involves the non-simultaneous arrival of two signals, like two light beams, which can interfere to create a unique signal.





लॉन्ग-बेसलाइन इंटरफेरोमेट्री में दो संकेतों, जैसे दो रोशनी की किरणों का असमय आगमन होता है, जो आपस में हस्तक्षेप करके एक अद्वितीय संकेत उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।

Detecting Light Echoes from Black Holes

ब्लैक होल्स से लाइट इकोस का पता लगाना

- To spot **light echoes** created by a **black hole**, one telescope could be placed on Earth and the other in space. The number of instruments might seem modest, but they will need to operate with **supreme technical rigor**.

ब्लैक होल द्वारा उत्पन्न लाइट इकोस का पता लगाने के लिए, एक दूरबीन पृथ्वी पर और दूसरी अंतरिक्ष में रखी जा सकती है। उपकरणों की संख्या मामूली लग सकती है, लेकिन उन्हें उत्कृष्ट तकनीकी कड़ाई से काम करना होगा।

- The main motivation for the new study was the discovery that some **supermassive black holes** in the center of the **Milky Way** and the nearby **M87 galaxies** have bright **rings of light** at a frequency of **230 GHz** around them.

नए अध्ययन का मुख्य उद्देश्य यह था कि कुछ सुपरमैसिव ब्लैक होल्स जो मिलकी वे और पास की M87 गैलेक्सी के केंद्र में स्थित हैं, उनके चारों ओर 230 GHz आवृत्ति पर चमकीली रोशनी की अंगूठी पाई गई हैं।

- The structure of these rings is influenced by **astrophysical forces** and the **spacetime geometry** of black holes. Scientists are keen to study these rings in detail using **very long baseline interferometry** techniques.

इन अंगूठियों की संरचना एस्ट्रोफिजिकल बलों और ब्लैक होल्स के स्पेसटाइम ज्यामेट्री द्वारा प्रभावित होती है। वैज्ञानिक इन अंगूठियों का बहुत लंबी बासलाइन इंटरफेरोमेट्री तकनीकों का उपयोग करके विस्तृत अध्ययन करने के लिए उत्सुक हैं।

- One goal is to trace the black hole's **shadow** on these rings to understand the **spacetime** around the black holes.

एक उद्देश्य यह है कि इन अंगूठियों पर ब्लैक होल की छाया का पता लगाकर ब्लैक होल्स के चारों ओर के स्पेसटाइम को समझा जाए।

- The analysis focused on a **black hole** at the center of the **M87 galaxy**, which is a large object in the sky, making it ideal for studying **light echoes**. The results are applicable to other black holes as well.

विश्लेषण ने M87 गैलेक्सी के केंद्र में स्थित एक ब्लैक होल पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया, जो आकाश में एक बड़ा वस्तु है, जिससे यह लाइट इकोस का अध्ययन करने के लिए आदर्श बन जाता है। परिणाम अन्य ब्लैक होल्स पर भी लागू होते हैं।

- The **baseline** in **long baseline interferometry** refers to the distance between the two telescopes receiving the light.

लॉन्ग-बेसलाइन इंटरफेरोमेट्री में बेसलाइन से तात्पर्य उन दो दूरबीनों के बीच की दूरी से है जो रोशनी प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।

- According to the study, the baseline should be at least **40 GA**, where **GA** is a unit of measurement for the telescopes' ability to collect signals at a specific frequency.





अध्ययन के अनुसार, बेसलाइन कम से कम **40 GA** होनी चाहिए, जहाँ **GA** एक माप की इकाई है जो दूरबीनों की विशिष्ट आवृत्ति पर संकेत प्राप्त करने की क्षमता को संदर्भित करता है।

- The Princeton team carried out preliminary **high-resolution simulations** to test the credibility of their technique.

प्रिंसटन टीम ने अपनी तकनीक की विश्वसनीयता परखने के लिए प्रारंभिक **उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन सिमुलेशन्स** किए।

- The team collected several thousand instantaneous images of light traveling around the **M87 black hole**, located nearly **55 million light-years** away, using the **Event Horizon Telescope**.

टीम ने **इवेंट होराइजन टेलीस्कोप** का उपयोग करके **M87 ब्लैक होल** के चारों ओर यात्रा करती हुई रोशनी की कई हजार तात्कालिक छवियाँ एकत्र की, जो लगभग **55 मिलियन प्रकाश-वर्ष** दूर स्थित है।

- They estimated the time light beams took to travel from the near end of the black hole to its far end, which depends on the black hole's **mass** and **angular momentum**, after adjusting for the angle at which the telescope was viewing it. उन्होंने अनुमानित किया कि रोशनी की किरणों को ब्लैक होल के निकटतम सिरे से उसके दूरतम सिरे तक पहुंचने में कितना समय लगता है, जो ब्लैक होल के **द्रव्यमान** और **कोणीय संवेग** पर निर्भर करता है, बाद में उस कोण को समायोजित करने के बाद जिस पर दूरबीन उसे देख रही थी।

- From this simulated data, the team inferred the **echo delay**.

इस सिमुलेटेड डेटा से, टीम ने **इको डिले** का अनुमान निकाला।

- **Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity** also anticipated the phenomenon of **light echoes**, predicting that they would be **achromatic**, meaning light of all frequencies could form echoes.

अल्बर्ट आइंस्टीन का सामान्य सापेक्षता सिद्धांत ने भी **लाइट इकोस** की घटना की भविष्यवाणी की थी, यह अनुमानित करते हुए कि वे **अक्रोमैटिक** होंगे, यानी सभी आवृत्तियों की रोशनी इकोस बना सकती है।

- Since **GA** is inversely proportional to the frequency, building a telescope to detect the echoes is a separate challenge.

चूंकि **GA** आवृत्ति के विपरीत अनुपाती है, इसलिए इकोस का पता लगाने के लिए एक दूरबीन बनाना एक अलग चुनौती है।

- An approach to detect **light echoes** at multiple frequencies simultaneously could provide a good test of the new technique.

एक ऐसा दृष्टिकोण जो **लाइट इकोस** का पता लगाने के लिए कई आवृत्तियों पर एक साथ काम करता हो, नए तकनीक की अच्छी परीक्षा प्रदान कर सकता है।

- A positive result will further confirm that the **general theory of relativity** provides an accurate description of **black holes**.

एक सकारात्मक परिणाम **सामान्य सापेक्षता सिद्धांत** की यह पुष्टि करेगा कि यह **ब्लैक होल्स** का सही विवरण प्रदान करता है।



Mirror life: a deadly geometry

GS Paper III: S&T

In a mirror, left and right become swapped. While you unscrew a bottle cap anti-clockwise in the real world, in the mirror you'll be rotating it clockwise.

Anything that has a handedness — left or right — is said to be chiral.

Chiral molecules that are mirror images of each other are called enantiomers. A good example is the compound thalidomide. It was sold as a sedative for four years in the late 1950s before being withdrawn.

Scientists found that the right-handed enantiomer worked as a sedative, but the left-handed one caused severe birth defects.

In the human body itself, the amino acids used to make proteins are all left-handed whereas the DNA is right-handed (the double-helix twists to the right). The reasons are a mystery.

Scientists have been making and studying enantiomers in the lab for a long time, but recently a few of them have started on the road to creating "microbes" — synthetic bacteria whose building blocks are enantiomers of their natural counterparts.



This illustration shows a DNA molecule twisting to the left. In our bodies, DNA twists to the right, and left-twisting DNA is absent. GETTY IMAGES

Earlier this month, an international group of scientists, including Deepa Agashe of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, published a 300-page technical report and a commentary in the journal *Science* warning against efforts to build mirror life.

"Our analysis suggests that mirror bacteria would likely evade many immune mechanisms mediated by chiral molecules, potentially causing lethal infection in humans, animals, and plants," the commentary read.

- The Hindu Bureau

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each other are called **enantiomers**. A good example is the compound **thalidomide**.

काइरल अणु जो एक-दूसरे के आईने की छाया होते हैं, उन्हें **एनांटीओमर्स** कहा जाता है। इसका एक अच्छा उदाहरण **थैलिडोमाइड** यौगिक है।

- **Thalidomide** was sold as a sedative for four years in the late 1950s before being withdrawn.

थैलिडोमाइड को 1950 के दशक के अंत में चार वर्षों तक एक शांति दायक दवा के रूप में बेचा गया था, बाद में इसे वापस ले लिया गया।

- Scientists found that the **right-handed enantiomer** worked as a sedative, but the **left-handed enantiomer** caused severe **birth defects**.

वैज्ञानिकों ने पाया कि **दाहिने हाथ का एनांटीओमर** एक शांति दायक के रूप में काम करता था, लेकिन **बाएं हाथ का एनांटीओमर** गंभीर **जन्म दोष** उत्पन्न करता था।

- In the human body, **amino acids** used to make proteins are all **left-handed**, whereas **DNA** is **right-handed** (the double-helix twists to the right).

मानव शरीर में, प्रोटीन बनाने के लिए उपयोग होने वाले **एमिनो एसिड** सभी **बाएं हाथ** होते हैं, जबकि **डीएनए** **दाहिने हाथ** का होता है (डबल हेलिक्स दाहिनी दिशा में मुड़ता है)।

Mirror life: a deadly geometry

दर्पण जीवन: एक घातक ज्यामिति

Chirality and Enantiomers काइरैलिटी और एनांटीओमर्स

- In a **mirror**, left and right become swapped. For example, while you unscrew a bottle cap **anti-clockwise** in the real world, in the mirror, it will appear as though you are rotating it **clockwise**.

आईने में, बाएं और दाएं के स्थान बदल जाते हैं।

उदाहरण के लिए, जब आप वास्तविक दुनिया में बोटल का ढक्कन **एंटी-क्लॉकवाइज** घुमाते हैं, तो आईने में यह आपको **क्लॉकवाइज** घूमता हुआ दिखाई देगा।

- Anything that has **handedness** — left or right — is said to be **chiral**.

जो कुछ भी **हैंडेडनेस** (बाएं या दाएं) रखता है, उसे **काइरल** कहा जाता है।

- **Chiral molecules** that are mirror images of





- The reasons for these preferences remain a **mystery**.
इन प्राथमिकताओं के कारण अभी भी एक रहस्य बने हुए हैं।
- Scientists have been making and studying **enantiomers** in the lab for a long time, but recently some have started working on creating **microbes** — synthetic bacteria whose building blocks are **enantiomers** of their natural counterparts.
वैज्ञानिक लंबे समय से प्रयोगशालाओं में एनांटीओमर्स बना रहे हैं और उनका अध्ययन कर रहे हैं, लेकिन हाल ही में कुछ ने सूक्ष्मजीवों को बनाने पर काम शुरू किया है - सिंथेटिक बैक्टीरिया जिनके निर्माण खंड उनके प्राकृतिक समकक्षों के एनांटीओमर्स हैं।
- Earlier this month, an international group of scientists, including **Deepa Agashe** from the **National Centre for Biological Sciences**, Bengaluru, published a **300-page technical report** and a commentary in the journal **Science**, warning against efforts to build **mirror life**.
इस महीने के शुरुआत में, एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वैज्ञानिक समूह, जिसमें दीपा अगरसे और नेशनल सेंटर फॉर बायोलॉजिकल साइंसेस, बेंगलुरु के वैज्ञानिक शामिल थे, ने 300 पन्नों की तकनीकी रिपोर्ट और साइंस पत्रिका में एक टिप्पणी प्रकाशित की, जिसमें आईने जैसी जीवन बनाने के प्रयासों के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी गई थी।
- The commentary warned that **mirror bacteria** would likely evade many **immune mechanisms** mediated by chiral molecules, potentially causing **lethal infections** in humans, animals, and plants.
टिप्पणी में चेतावनी दी गई कि आईने जैसी बैक्टीरिया संभवतः चिरल अणुओं द्वारा नियंत्रित कई प्रतिरक्षा तंत्रों से बचने में सक्षम होंगे, जिससे मृत्युई संक्रमण हो सकते हैं, जो मानवों, जानवरों और पौधों में फैल सकते हैं।

