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20_12_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

- 1. MPs Clash Outside House Over 'Insult' to Ambedkar / सांसदों के बीच सदन के बाहर 'अंबेडकर का अपमान' को लेकर टकराव (GS Paper-II: Parliament)**
- 2. RS Deputy Chairman rejects no-trust notice against Dhankhar by Opposition / राज्यसभा उपाध्यक्ष ने विपक्ष द्वारा धनखड़ के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव को खारिज किया (GS Paper-II: Parliament)**
- 3. Delhi govt. imposes ban on firecrackers throughout the year; SC directs U.P., Haryana govts. to follow suit / दिल्ली सरकार ने पूरे साल के लिए पटाखों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया; सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यूपी, हरियाणा सरकारों को भी ऐसा करने का निर्देश दिया (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
- 4. SC stays Kerala High Court directives on elephant parades at temple festivals / सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंदिर उत्सवों में हाथियों की परेड पर केरल हाई कोर्ट के निर्देशों पर रोक लगाई (GS Paper-III: Environment (Animals Rights) / (GS Paper-I: A&C)**





5. **Farmer Outfits Reject Centre's Draft Policy on Agri Marketing / किसान संगठनों ने कृषि विपणन पर केंद्र की मसौदा नीति को खारिज किया (GS Paper-III: Agriculture Marketing)**
6. **The Indian Constitution — Violated / भारतीय संविधान – उल्लंघन (GS Paper-II: Constitution / (GS Paper-I: Ambedkar)**
7. **Reality Check on Sri Lanka's Tamil Question / श्रीलंका के तमिल प्रश्न पर वास्तविकता जांच (GS Paper-II: India-Sri-Lanka)**
8. **Crimes against humanity and an obtuse Indian stance / मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध और एक अस्पष्ट भारतीय रुख (GS Paper-II: International Treatise)**
9. **Positive Direction / सकारात्मक दिशा (GS Paper-II: India-China)**
10. **Should legislatures in India have fixed tenures? / क्या भारत में विधायिकाओं की तय अवधि होनी चाहिए? (GS Paper-II: Parliament)**
11. **The Social Character of Scientific Knowledge / वैज्ञानिक ज्ञान का सामाजिक चरित्र (Essay)**
12. **Only Union govt. can decide, says HC on Rahul citizenship row / राहुल नागरिकता विवाद पर हाई कोर्ट का कहना है कि केवल केंद्र सरकार ही निर्णय ले सकती है (GS Paper-II: Citizenship)**
13. **SC rejects contempt plea over dharam sansad nod / धर्म संसद को अनुमति देने पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अवमानना याचिका खारिज की (GS Paper-II: Contempt of Court)**



14. **Disrobing of women is a blot on the Constitution:**
SC / महिलाओं का नग्न करना संविधान पर कलंक: सुप्रीम कोर्ट
(GS Paper-I: Society)
15. **Govt. asks X to delete 'partial' clips of Shah's**
comments / सरकार ने X से शाह की टिप्पणियों के 'आंशिक'
क्लिप को हटाने को कहा (GS Paper-III: Cyber Crime)

MPs clash outside House over 'insult' to Ambedkar

Two BJP members injured; FIR against Rahul for 'causing grievous hurt, endangering life, using criminal force'; Congress MPs say ruling party leaders manhandled them, file counter complaint

GS Paper II: Parliament

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Ties between the Opposition and Treasury benches hit rock bottom on Thursday, with each side accusing the other of physical assault during a protest outside Parliament over alleged insults to the architect of the Constitution, B.R. Ambedkar.

Ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) MPs and Opposition members of the INDIA bloc took out separate protest marches and faced off at the entry gate of the Parliament House, leading to jostling in which two BJP MPs were injured and required hospitalisation.

The Delhi Police registered a first information report (FIR) against Rahul



Major tumult: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visiting BJP MP Pratap Sarangi, who was injured in a clash on Thursday. PTI

Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, based on an earlier complaint by BJP MPs, under various sections of the BNS for "voluntarily causing grievous hurt, endangering life and personal safety of others and using criminal force".

The Congress leaders, on the other hand, accused BJP MPs of "manhandling" them to block their entry into the Parliament building. They too lodged a complaint accusing the BJP MPs of using "criminal force, assault and battery" against Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge.

The NDA MPs were protesting the Congress's alleged ill-treatment of Dr. Ambedkar while the INDIA bloc MPs were protesting against Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that it had "become a fashion to keep repeating Ambedkar's name".

'Not a wrestling ring'

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accused Mr. Gandhi of physically pushing former Union Minister Pratap Sarangi and BJP MP Mukesh Rajput, while forcing his way past them to enter Parliament. "Parliament is not a place to show physical strength. It is not a wrestling ring," he said.

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MPs Clash Outside House Over 'Insult' to Ambedkar सांसदों के बीच सदन के बाहर 'अंबेडकर का अपमान' को लेकर टकराव

Two BJP members injured; FIR against Rahul Gandhi for "causing grievous hurt, endangering life, using criminal force."

दो बीजेपी सदस्य घायल; राहुल गांधी के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज, जिसमें "गंभीर चोट पहुंचाने, जीवन को खतरे में डालने और आपराधिक बल प्रयोग" का आरोप है।

- Congress MPs allege BJP leaders manhandled them, file counter-complaint. कांग्रेस सांसदों ने आरोप लगाया कि बीजेपी नेताओं ने उनके साथ मारपीट की, और पलटकर शिकायत दर्ज कराई।

Tensions Between Opposition and Treasury Benches

विपक्ष और सत्तारूढ़ पक्ष के बीच तनाव

- Relations between **Opposition and Treasury benches hit rock bottom** during a protest over alleged insults to **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, the architect of the Constitution. विपक्ष और सत्तारूढ़ पक्ष के संबंध बुरी तरह खराब हुए जब प्रदर्शन में संविधान निर्माता डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर का कथित अपमान हुआ।
- **Separate protest marches by NDA and INDIA bloc MPs** outside Parliament led to **jostling**, injuring two BJP MPs who required hospitalisation. संसद के बाहर एनडीए और इंडिया ब्लॉक के सांसदों के अलग-अलग प्रदर्शन में धक्का-मुक्की हुई, जिसमें दो बीजेपी सांसद घायल हो गए जिन्हें अस्पताल में भर्ती करना पड़ा।

FIR and Counter-Complaints

एफआईआर और पलट शिकायतें

- Delhi Police registered an **FIR against Rahul Gandhi**, alleging voluntary causing of grievous hurt, endangering life, and using criminal force. दिल्ली पुलिस ने राहुल गांधी के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज की, जिसमें गंभीर चोट पहुंचाने, जीवन को खतरे में डालने और आपराधिक बल प्रयोग का आरोप है।
- **Congress leaders accused BJP MPs of "manhandling" Mallikarjun Kharge, filing a complaint for criminal force and assault.** कांग्रेस नेताओं ने आरोप लगाया कि बीजेपी सांसदों ने मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे के साथ दुर्व्यवहार किया और आपराधिक बल और हमले की शिकायत दर्ज कराई।





Protests Over Ambedkar's Name

अंबेडकर के नाम को लेकर प्रदर्शन

- NDA MPs protested against Congress for alleged ill-treatment of **Dr. Ambedkar**.
एनडीए सांसदों ने डॉ. अंबेडकर के कथित गलत व्यवहार को लेकर कांग्रेस का विरोध किया।
- INDIA bloc MPs protested **Home Minister Amit Shah's statement**, saying it had “become a fashion to keep repeating Ambedkar’s name.”
इंडिया ब्लॉक के सांसदों ने गृह मंत्री अमित शाह के बयान का विरोध किया, जिसमें कहा गया कि “अंबेडकर का नाम बार-बार दोहराना फैशन बन गया है।”

Parliamentary Affairs Minister's Statement

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री का बयान

- Minister **Kiren Rijju** accused **Rahul Gandhi** of pushing BJP MPs, including **Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput**, while entering Parliament.
मंत्री किरण रिजजू ने राहुल गांधी पर आरोप लगाया कि उन्होंने संसद में प्रवेश करते समय बीजेपी सांसदों, जिनमें प्रताप सारंगी और मुकेश राजपूत शामिल हैं, को धक्का दिया।
- Rijju remarked, “**Parliament is not a wrestling ring.**”
रिजजू ने कहा, “संसद कुश्ती का अखाड़ा नहीं है।”

Injuries and Hospitalization of BJP MPs

बीजेपी सांसदों की चोटें और अस्पताल में भर्ती

- The BJP MPs **Pratap Sarangi (69)** and **Mukesh Rajput** were taken to **Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital** after sustaining **head injuries**.
69 वर्षीय बीजेपी सांसद प्रताप सारंगी और मुकेश राजपूत को राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल ले जाया गया जब उन्हें सिर में चोटें आईं।
- **Mr. Sarangi had to get stitches** on his temple.
श्री सारंगी के माथे पर टांके लगाए गए।

Claims by BJP MP Phangnon Konyak

बीजेपी सांसद फांगनोन कोन्याक का दावा

- **Phangnon Konyak**, a BJP MP from Nagaland, claimed she “felt very uncomfortable” as **Rahul Gandhi came close** and started shouting at her.
नगालैंड की बीजेपी सांसद फांगनोन कोन्याक ने दावा किया कि वह “बहुत असहज महसूस कर रही थीं” जब राहुल गांधी उनके करीब आए और चिल्लाने लगे।

PM Modi's Concern and Rijju's Warning

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की चिंता और रिजजू की चेतावनी





- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** telephoned Mr. Sarangi and Mr. Rajput to inquire about their health.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने श्री सारंगी और श्री राजपूत को फोन करके उनके स्वास्थ्य की जानकारी ली।
- **Kiren Rijju**, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, warned of **appropriate action against Rahul Gandhi**, the LoP in Lok Sabha.
संसदीय मामलों के मंत्री किरन रिजजू ने लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी के खिलाफ उचित कार्रवाई की चेतावनी दी।

Accusations by Congress MPs

कांग्रेस सांसदों के आरोप

- **Rahul Gandhi** accused BJP MPs of “manhandling” and “pushing” to prevent his entry into the Parliament building.
राहुल गांधी ने बीजेपी सांसदों पर “दुर्व्यवहार” और “धक्का-मुक्की” का आरोप लगाया ताकि उन्हें संसद भवन में प्रवेश करने से रोका जा सके।
- Mr. Gandhi told reporters that **BJP MPs pushed and threatened him** when he was trying to enter Parliament.
श्री गांधी ने संवाददाताओं से कहा कि बीजेपी सांसदों ने उन्हें धक्का दिया और धमकी दी जब वह संसद में प्रवेश करने की कोशिश कर रहे थे।

Police Complaints and Counter-Complaints

पुलिस शिकायतें और प्रतिशिकायतें

- **BJP MPs Anurag Thakur, Bansuri Swaraj, and Hemang Joshi** lodged a police complaint against Mr. Gandhi, accusing him of “attempt to murder, physical assault, and incitement”.
बीजेपी सांसद अनुराग ठाकुर, बंसुरी स्वराज और हेमांग जोशी ने श्री गांधी के खिलाफ पुलिस शिकायत दर्ज कराई, जिसमें उन पर “हत्या का प्रयास, शारीरिक हमला और उकसावे” का आरोप लगाया गया।
- Congress MPs **Digvijaya Singh, Mukul Wasnik**, and others filed a counter-complaint, accusing BJP MPs of “criminal force, assault, and battery” against Mr. Kharge.
कांग्रेस सांसद दिग्विजय सिंह, मुकुल वासनिक और अन्य ने प्रतिशिकायत दर्ज कराई, जिसमें बीजेपी सांसदों पर श्री खड़गे के खिलाफ “आपराधिक बल, हमला और पिटाई” का आरोप लगाया गया।

Support from INDIA Bloc MPs

इंडिया ब्लॉक के सांसदों का समर्थन

- **INDIA bloc MPs**, including T.R. Baalu (DMK), Sougata Ray (TMC), and Supriya Sule (NCP), sent a letter to **Speaker Om Birla**, accusing BJP MPs of manhandling Mr.





Gandhi.

इंडिया ब्लॉक के सांसदों, जिनमें टी.आर. बालू (DMK), सौगत रॉय (TMC) और सुप्रिया सुले (NCP) शामिल हैं, ने स्पीकर ओम बिरला को एक पत्र भेजकर बीजेपी सांसदों पर श्री गांधी के साथ दुर्व्यवहार का आरोप लगाया।

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's Reaction

प्रियंका गांधी वाड़ा की प्रतिक्रिया

- **Priyanka Gandhi Vadra** accused BJP MPs of **pushing and shoving**, stating it was a conspiracy to protect **Amit Shah**.

प्रियंका गांधी वाड़ा ने बीजेपी सांसदों पर धक्का-मुक्की का आरोप लगाते हुए कहा कि यह अमित शाह को बचाने की साजिश थी।

Mr. Kharge's Letter to Speaker

श्री खड़गे का स्पीकर को पत्र

- **Mr. Kharge** alleged BJP MPs **pushed him**, causing him to lose balance, injure his knees, and demanded an inquiry into the **"attack"**.

श्री खड़गे ने आरोप लगाया कि बीजेपी सांसदों ने उन्हें धक्का दिया, जिससे उनका संतुलन बिगड़ गया और घुटनों में चोट लगी। उन्होंने "हमले" की जांच की मांग की।

NDA MPs' Stand

एनडीए सांसदों का पक्ष

- NDA MPs claimed **Mr. Gandhi ignored a side passage** and tried to **push his way through the middle of the stairs**, leading to the **jostling and injury**.

एनडीए सांसदों ने दावा किया कि श्री गांधी ने साइड पैसेज को नजरअंदाज किया और सीढ़ियों के बीच से जबरदस्ती जाने की कोशिश की, जिससे धक्का-मुक्की और चोट लगी।



RS Deputy Chairman rejects no-trust notice against Dhankhar by Opposition

GS Paper II: Parliament
The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, rejected on Thursday the Opposition's no-confidence motion against Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. He said in his ruling that the notice was an act of impropriety to mar the reputation of the Vice-President. The reasons for rejection included a wrong spelling of Mr. Dhankhar's name in the notice. Mr. Harivansh said he would issue a detailed order soon.

In his ruling tabled on Thursday afternoon, the Deputy Chairman said the matter came to him as the Chairman recused himself from considering the Opposition's notice signed by



Harivansh

60 members. He said the no-confidence notice under Article 67(b) of the Constitution was not addressed to any specific authority but publicised by the main Opposition party, the Congress. "Invoked Article 67(b) peremptorily mandates at least 14 days' prior notice for any resolution contemplating the Vice-President's removal. Thus, December 10, 2024 notice of intention could

permit such a resolution only after December 24," he said, noting that the Winter Session was scheduled till December 20. "In full know of the situation that the resolution cannot be brought during this session, this was initiated only to set a narrative against second highest Constitutional office and the Vice-President," he said.

'Casual and cavalier'

Mr. Harivansh said the notice was replete with assertions to malign Mr. Dhankhar by listing events from the time he assumed office in August 2022. "A look at the notice reveals it couldn't be more casual and cavalier, wanting on every conceivable aspect and severally flawed – ab-

sence of addressee, absence of resolution text, incumbent Vice-President's name not correctly spelt in the entire petition, documents and videos asserted not made part, premised on links of disjointed media reports without authentication and many more," the ruling said.

The Deputy Chairman said the notice's lack of bona fides, and subsequent events revealed it being "a calculated unwholesome attempt to garnish publicity; run down the constitutional institution; insinuate the personal image of the incumbent Vice-President – notably, the first from the agricultural community to hold this office in the history of Independent India".

RS Deputy Chairman rejects no-trust notice against Dhankhar by Opposition

राज्यसभा उपाध्यक्ष ने विपक्ष द्वारा धनखड़ के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव को खारिज किया

- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, rejected the Opposition's no-confidence motion against Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, citing it as an act of impropriety to tarnish the reputation of the Vice-President.
राज्यसभा के उपाध्यक्ष हरिवंश ने अध्यक्ष जगदीप धनखड़ के खिलाफ विपक्ष के अविश्वास प्रस्ताव को खारिज कर दिया, इसे उप राष्ट्रपति की प्रतिष्ठा को धूमिल करने का एक अनुचित कार्य बताया।





- The notice was rejected due to **spelling errors in Mr. Dhankhar's name** and other procedural flaws.
नोटिस को धनखड़ के नाम की गलत वर्तनी और अन्य प्रक्रिया संबंधित खामियों के कारण खारिज कर दिया गया।
- Harivansh announced that he would issue a **detailed order soon**.
हरिवंश ने घोषणा की कि वह जल्द ही विस्तृत आदेश जारी करेंगे।
- The Chairman **recused himself** from considering the notice signed by **60 members**, transferring the matter to the Deputy Chairman.
अध्यक्ष ने स्वयं को **60 सदस्यों** द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित नोटिस पर विचार करने से अलग कर लिया और यह मामला उपाध्यक्ष को सौंप दिया।
- The notice, under **Article 67(b) of the Constitution**, mandates **14 days' prior notice for any resolution regarding the Vice-President's removal**.
संविधान के अनुच्छेद 67(बी) के तहत नोटिस में उप राष्ट्रपति को हटाने के लिए 14 दिनों की पूर्व सूचना की आवश्यकता होती है।
- The notice was submitted on **December 10, 2024**, making the resolution valid only after **December 24**, while the **Winter Session ends on December 20**.
नोटिस 10 दिसंबर 2024 को दिया गया, जिससे यह प्रस्ताव केवल 24 दिसंबर के बाद वैध होता, जबकि शीतकालीन सत्र 20 दिसंबर को समाप्त हो रहा है।
- Harivansh stated that the notice was **initiated to set a narrative against the Vice-President**, despite knowing the resolution could not be tabled during this session.
हरिवंश ने कहा कि यह नोटिस, सत्र में प्रस्ताव पेश न हो सकने की स्थिति को जानते हुए भी, उप राष्ट्रपति के खिलाफ एक कथा गढ़ने के लिए शुरू किया गया था।

'Casual and cavalier' approach in notice

नोटिस में 'अनौपचारिक और लापरवाह' दृष्टिकोण

- The notice contained assertions maligning Mr. Dhankhar, listing events since he assumed office in **August 2022**.
नोटिस में अगस्त 2022 में पद संभालने के बाद से धनखड़ के खिलाफ आरोप शामिल थे।
- The notice lacked essential elements, including:
 - **Addressee name**
 - **Resolution text**
 - **Correct spelling of the Vice-President's name**नोटिस में आवश्यक तत्वों की कमी थी, जैसे:
 - पता प्राप्तकर्ता का नाम
 - प्रस्ताव का पाठ
 - उप राष्ट्रपति के नाम की सही वर्तनी।
- Harivansh criticized the notice for relying on **unverified media reports and links**, describing it as **calculated to garner publicity** and undermine the Vice-President's image.
हरिवंश ने नोटिस को अप्रमाणित मीडिया रिपोर्टों और लिंकों पर आधारित बताया और इसे प्रचार पाने और उप राष्ट्रपति की छवि को नुकसान पहुंचाने का सोचा-समझा प्रयास बताया।





- He highlighted that Mr. Dhankhar is the **first from the agricultural community** to hold this office in the history of Independent India.

उन्होंने इस तथ्य को रेखांकित किया कि धनखड़ स्वतंत्र भारत के इतिहास में कृषि समुदाय से आने वाले पहले व्यक्ति हैं, जिन्होंने यह पद संभाला है।

Delhi govt. imposes ban on firecrackers throughout the year; SC directs U.P., Haryana govts. to follow suit

GS Paper III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday imposed a ban on all forms of firecrackers throughout the year in the national capital.

“There shall be a complete ban on manufacturing, storage, selling (including delivery through online marketing platforms), and bursting of all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Territory of Delhi throughout the year with immediate effect,” an order issued by the government read.

For the past few years, the Delhi government has been imposing bans on firecrackers only for the winter months when air



Residents of the Capital burst firecrackers to celebrate Deepavali in violation of a ban imposed by the Delhi government. FILE PHOTO

pollution rises in the city. This year, too, the government had imposed a ban from October 14 till January 1, 2025.

The Delhi government informed the Supreme Court that it had imposed an “all-pervasive, permanent” ban on firecrackers.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka, senior advocate Shadan Farasat, representing Delhi, said the order was passed by the Principal Secretary, Environment, Government of Delhi, on December 19 pursuant to the top court’s

orders. “We have banned it [firecrackers]... It is permanent, all-pervasive,” Mr. Farasat submitted.

The senior lawyer said the statutory order of ban was passed under Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

‘Need similar measures’

The Delhi government counsel, however, said its ban would become really effective only if the other National Capital Region (NCR) States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh enforce similar measures.

Meanwhile, advocate Rohini Musa, appearing for 150 firecracker dealers in Delhi, said the top court had directed the Delhi government to take a call on

this issue in consultation with them. “There was no consultation, nothing,” Ms. Musa submitted in court.

The hearing saw Rajasthan submit that it had imposed a similar ban in its areas that are part of the NCR through an order on December 17.

This left the court to focus on Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. “We direct Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to impose a similar ban as Delhi,” the court ordered.

Previous hearings had seen the apex court press NCR States to impose a perennial ban on the manufacture, sale, and bursting of firecrackers in the region in a forceful bid to reduce not only toxicity in air but also noise pollution.

Delhi govt. imposes ban on firecrackers throughout the year; SC directs U.P., Haryana govts. to follow suit

दिल्ली सरकार ने पूरे साल के लिए पटाखों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया;

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यूपी, हरियाणा सरकारों को भी ऐसा करने का

निर्देश दिया

- The **Delhi government** imposed a **ban on all forms of firecrackers** throughout the year in the **National Capital Territory of Delhi**.

दिल्ली सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली में पूरे साल सभी प्रकार के पटाखों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया।

- The order bans the **manufacturing, storage, selling (including online delivery), and bursting of firecrackers with immediate effect**.





आदेश में पटाखों के निर्माण, भंडारण, बिक्री (ऑनलाइन डिलीवरी सहित) और फोड़ने पर तत्काल प्रभाव से प्रतिबंध लगाया गया।

- In previous years, the ban was limited to the **winter months**, typically from **October to January**, when **air pollution levels rise**.

पिछले वर्षों में, प्रतिबंध केवल शीतकालीन महीनों में, आमतौर पर अक्टूबर से जनवरी तक, लगाया जाता था जब वायु प्रदूषण का स्तर बढ़ता था।

- This year, a ban was imposed from **October 14 to January 1, 2025**.

इस वर्ष, 14 अक्टूबर से 1 जनवरी, 2025 तक प्रतिबंध लगाया गया।

- The **Delhi government** informed the **Supreme Court** about its "**all-pervasive, permanent**" ban on firecrackers.

दिल्ली सरकार ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को "सर्वव्यापी और स्थायी" प्रतिबंध के बारे में सूचित किया।

- The ban was passed under **Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986**, as stated by the **Principal Secretary, Environment, Government of Delhi**, on **December 19, 2024**.

यह प्रतिबंध पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 5 के तहत, दिल्ली सरकार के पर्यावरण प्रधान सचिव द्वारा 19 दिसंबर 2024 को पारित किया गया।

'Need similar measures'

'समान कदमों की आवश्यकता'

- The **Delhi government's counsel** stated that the ban would be effective only if **other NCR states**, including **Rajasthan, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh**, implemented similar measures.

दिल्ली सरकार के वकील ने कहा कि यह प्रतिबंध तभी प्रभावी होगा जब अन्य एनसीआर राज्यों, जैसे राजस्थान, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश, समान कदम उठाएं।

- **Rajasthan** informed the court that it had imposed a similar ban in its **NCR areas** on **December 17**.

राजस्थान ने अदालत को सूचित किया कि उसने अपने एनसीआर क्षेत्रों में 17 दिसंबर को समान प्रतिबंध लगाया है।

- The **Supreme Court** directed **Uttar Pradesh and Haryana** to impose a similar ban as **Delhi**.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उत्तर प्रदेश और हरियाणा को दिल्ली की तरह समान प्रतिबंध लगाने का निर्देश दिया।

Previous hearings and court observations

पिछली सुनवाई और अदालत के अवलोकन

- In earlier hearings, the **Supreme Court** emphasized the need for a **perennial ban** on the **manufacture, sale, and bursting** of firecrackers in the **NCR region** to reduce **air toxicity and noise pollution**.

पिछली सुनवाई में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एनसीआर क्षेत्र में पटाखों के निर्माण, बिक्री और फोड़ने पर स्थायी



प्रतिबंध की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया, ताकि वायु विषाक्तता और ध्वनि प्रदूषण को कम किया जा सके।

- Advocates for **150 firecracker dealers in Delhi** argued that the **Delhi government** should have consulted them before imposing the ban.

दिल्ली के **150 पटाखा डीलरों** के वकीलों ने तर्क दिया कि प्रतिबंध लगाने से पहले दिल्ली सरकार को उनसे सलाह लेनी चाहिए थी।

SC stays Kerala High Court directives on elephant parades at temple festivals

GS Paper I: A&C

GS Paper III: Environment (Animal Rights)

NEW DELHI

Striking a balance between animal rights and temple customs, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Thiruvambady and Paramakkavu devaswoms to strictly adhere to the **Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules, 2012** during **Thrisur Pooram** while staying any directions issued by the Kerala High Court found contrary to the law.

The two **devaswoms**, which host the centuries-old annual festival of **Thrisur Pooram**, had approached the top court challenging the Kerala High Court's back-to-back orders in November,



Grand ceremony: Decorated elephants lined up for 'Kudamattam', the most spectacular event of the Thrisur Pooram. FILE PHOTO

which included directions that **elephants paraded at the festival should maintain an exact distance of three metres from each other.**

“How do you expect an elephant to maintain a three-metre distance?

They will keep moving. This is impractical,” Justice B.V. Nagarathna, heading a Bench comprising Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, addressed senior advocate Shyam Divan. He was appearing for V.K. Venkitchalam, a party in the High

Court who opposed the devaswoms' appeal.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Abhilash M.R., representing the devaswoms, alleged that the **High Court had overstepped judicial boundaries to issue extensive festival-centric directives over and above the 2012 Rules.**

“The court cannot go on supplementing. There is a rule-making body. There were no complaints of violations in this case. Directions cannot be issued in vacuum,” Justice Nagarathna observed.

The management committees of the devaswoms and elephant owners have welcomed the stay imposed by the Supreme Court.

SC stays Kerala High Court directives on elephant parades at temple festivals

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंदिर उत्सवों में हाथियों की परेड पर केरल हाई कोर्ट के निर्देशों पर रोक लगाई





The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu devaswoms to strictly adhere to the **Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules, 2012** during Thrissur Pooram, while staying any directions by the Kerala High Court found contrary to the law.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को थिरुवंबाडी और परमेक्कवु देवस्वम से कैप्टिव एलिफैंट्स (प्रबंधन और रखरखाव) नियम, 2012 का त्रिशूर पूरम के दौरान कड़ाई से पालन करने को कहा और केरल हाई कोर्ट के किसी भी ऐसे निर्देश पर रोक लगाई जो कानून के खिलाफ हो।

- The two devaswoms, which host the **centuries-old Thrissur Pooram festival**, had approached the Supreme Court challenging the **Kerala High Court's back-to-back orders in November**, which included **directions for elephants to maintain an exact distance of three metres from each other during parades**.

इन दोनों देवस्वम ने, जो सदियों पुराने त्रिशूर पूरम उत्सव का आयोजन करते हैं, सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख किया था और नवंबर में केरल हाई कोर्ट के लगातार आदेशों को चुनौती दी थी, जिनमें हाथियों को परेड के दौरान तीन मीटर की सटीक दूरी बनाए रखने के निर्देश दिए गए थे।

- Justice B.V. Nagarathna, heading a Bench comprising Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, questioned the practicality of maintaining a **three-metre distance**, saying, "How do you expect an elephant to maintain a three-metre distance? They will keep moving."

न्यायमूर्ति बी.वी. नागरथना, जो न्यायमूर्ति एन. कोटिश्वर सिंह के साथ पीठ का नेतृत्व कर रही थीं, ने तीन मीटर की दूरी बनाए रखने की व्यावहारिकता पर सवाल उठाते हुए कहा, "आप हाथी से तीन मीटर की दूरी बनाए रखने की उम्मीद कैसे कर सकते हैं? वे चलते रहेंगे।"

- Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Abhilash M.R., representing the devaswoms, argued that the **High Court had overstepped judicial boundaries by issuing extensive festival-centric directives over and above the 2012 Rules**.

वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता कपिल सिब्बल और अधिवक्ता अभिलाष एम.आर., जो देवस्वम का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे, ने तर्क दिया कि हाई कोर्ट ने न्यायिक सीमाओं को लांघते हुए 2012 नियमों से आगे बढ़कर उत्सव-केंद्रित व्यापक निर्देश जारी किए।

- Justice Nagarathna noted, "The court cannot go on supplementing. There is a rule-making body. Directions cannot be issued in vacuum."

न्यायमूर्ति नागरथना ने कहा, "कोर्ट लगातार नियम जोड़ नहीं सकती। एक नियम बनाने वाली संस्था है। निर्देश शून्य में जारी नहीं किए जा सकते।"

- The **management committees of the devaswoms and elephant owners** welcomed the stay imposed by the Supreme Court. देवस्वम और हाथी मालिकों की प्रबंधन समितियों ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा लगाई गई रोक का स्वागत किया।





Farmer outfits reject Centre's draft policy on agri marketing

GS Paper III: Agriculture Marketing

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Farmer outfits in Punjab have asked the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the State to reject the draft **National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing**, asserting it could be an attempt to reintroduce the contentious provisions of the three farm laws, which the Union government repealed following the farmers' protests.

The concerns surrounding the draft were raised at a meeting held here on Thursday between representatives of farmers' unions and Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian, according to a government statement.

Minister's assurance

The Minister assured farmers' union leaders that the State government will not allow farmers' interests to be affected by the National Policy Framework on agricultural marketing.

"The State government is concerned as this policy could have serious implications for the State and its farmers, so we want to analyse and consult on each and every aspect of the draft policy shared by the

Bid to reintroduce contentious provisions of three farm laws, fear farm unions; hold meeting with Punjab Minister

Government of India," Mr. Khudian is quoted in the statement.

He added that agriculture experts and other stakeholders will also be consulted soon to analyse it thoroughly so that not a single point is left unconsidered.

'Potential privatisation' Farmer unions' leaders including Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Ruldu Singh Mansa, Satnam Singh Ajnala, and others expressed deep concerns over potential privatisation, monopolistic practices in the guise of the new policy, the statement said, adding that "it could be an attempt to reintroduce the contentious provisions of the three farm laws".

Farmer leaders urged the State government for further examination before sending a response to the Centre so that Punjab and its farmers' interests could be fully secured.

Farmer Outfits Reject Centre's Draft Policy on Agri Marketing

किसान संगठनों ने कृषि विपणन पर केंद्र की मसौदा नीति को खारिज किया

• Farmer outfits in Punjab have asked the **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government** in the State to reject the draft **National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing**, asserting it could be an attempt to reintroduce the contentious provisions of the **three farm laws** repealed after the farmers' protests.

पंजाब में किसान संगठनों ने राज्य में आम आदमी पार्टी (आप) सरकार से कृषि विपणन पर राष्ट्रीय नीति ढांचे को खारिज करने की मांग की, यह दावा करते हुए कि यह तीन कृषि कानूनों के विवादास्पद प्रावधानों को फिर से लागू करने का प्रयास हो सकता है, जिन्हें किसानों के विरोध के बाद रद्द कर दिया गया था।

• Concerns surrounding the draft were raised during a meeting held on **Thursday** between representatives of farmers' unions and Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Gurmeet Singh Khudian**, as per a government statement. मसौदे को लेकर चिंताएं गुरुवार को किसान संघों के प्रतिनिधियों और पंजाब कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री गुरमीत सिंह खुदीयां के बीच हुई बैठक में उठाई गई, जैसा कि सरकारी बयान में कहा गया।

Minister's Assurance मंत्री का आश्वासन

• The Minister assured farmers' union leaders that the State government would not allow the **National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing** to affect farmers' interests. मंत्री ने किसान संघ नेताओं को आश्वासन दिया कि राज्य





सरकार कृषि विपणन पर राष्ट्रीय नीति ढांचे को किसानों के हितों को प्रभावित करने की अनुमति नहीं देगी।

- He added that the policy could have serious implications for the State and its farmers, so the State would **analyse and consult** every aspect of the draft shared by the **Government of India**.

उन्होंने कहा कि यह नीति राज्य और किसानों के लिए गंभीर प्रभाव डाल सकती है, इसलिए राज्य **भारत सरकार** द्वारा साझा किए गए मसौदे के हर पहलू का विश्लेषण और परामर्श करेगा।

- Agriculture experts and other stakeholders will also be consulted to thoroughly analyse the policy to ensure no point is left unconsidered.
नीति का पूरी तरह से विश्लेषण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कृषि विशेषज्ञों और अन्य हितधारकों से भी परामर्श किया जाएगा ताकि कोई भी बिंदु अनदेखा न हो।

Concerns of Farmer Leaders

किसान नेताओं की चिंताएं

- Farmer leaders, including **Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Ruldu Singh Mansa, and Satnam Singh Ajnala**, expressed concerns over **potential privatisation** and monopolistic practices under the new policy.
जोगिंदर सिंह उग्राहा, बलबीर सिंह राजेवाल, दर्शन पाल, रुल्दू सिंह मानसा और सतनाम सिंह अजनाला सहित किसान नेताओं ने नई नीति के तहत संभावित निजीकरण और एकाधिकार प्रथाओं को लेकर चिंताएं व्यक्त कीं।
- They alleged that the policy might be an attempt to reintroduce the **contentious provisions of the three farm laws**.
उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि यह नीति तीन कृषि कानूनों के विवादास्पद प्रावधानों को फिर से लागू करने का प्रयास हो सकती है।
- Farmer leaders urged the State government to **thoroughly examine** the policy before responding to the Centre to safeguard Punjab and its farmers' interests.
किसान नेताओं ने राज्य सरकार से केंद्र को जवाब देने से पहले नीति की पूरी तरह जांच करने का आग्रह किया ताकि पंजाब और इसके किसानों के हितों की रक्षा की जा सके।



The Indian Constitution – violated

On December 11, violence broke out in Maharashtra's Parbhani city after a man damaged a replica of the Constitution, a part of the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. With tension still in the air, the incident has triggered fear among Dalits, following the death of a member of the community in judicial custody, which it claims was due to 'police brutality', reports **Snehal Mutha**

GS Paper I: Ambedkar
GS Paper II: Constitution

Just outside the two-platform Parbhani railway station in Maharashtra's Marathwada region flutters the Indian national flag mounted on a pole. Beyond the tea shops selling *misal pav* and hotels catering to travellers, in front of an Art Deco building, is a statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who headed the drafting committee of the Constitution of India. Behind the statue are more symbols of the Indian republic: a replica of the Ashoka Chakra that forms the central symbol of the national flag, and the Ashoka Pillar, the original erected in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, where Buddha gave his first sermon. In front is the Constitution, now covered in a blue cloth, the colour of Ambedkar's Scheduled Castes Federation of India flag. From the statue, the Doctor Line market begins, extending about 3 km up to Gandhi Park.

Dilip Raghade, 55, who runs a newspaper stand next to the statue, recalls a scuffle between a man and an autorickshaw driver between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on December 10. "At first, I thought he had pulled something out of the autorickshaw and thrown it on the road. Later, I realised that it was the replica of the Constitution. The autorickshaw driver had confronted the man," he says. Soon, a crowd of about 200 people gathered and the man was thrashed, say witnesses. People ran towards the market spreading the word, and shops began to shut.

The police, the District Collector, and Ambedkarite leaders showed up and took the badly injured man to hospital, says Raghade. The man was arrested and the police told people that he was mentally ill and had not done the damage on purpose. Ambedkarites, however, were not convinced. They blocked the Nandigram Express for at least 30 minutes. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Yashwant Kale says the train left Parbhani station only after the Government Railway Police dispersed the crowd.

The next day, following protests by Ambedkarites, there was stone pelting and arson, followed by a crackdown by the Parbhani police. Somnath Suryavanshi, 35, who had come from Pune for his law entrance examination, was allegedly picked up from where he was staying. He died in judicial custody a few days later.

Ambedkarites claim people not from their community joined the protests so the blame for the violence would fall on them. They say the "police brutality" was a reflection of how Dalits are treated in society.

Protests of different kinds

Earlier in the day on December 10, Hindu Sakal Samaj, a right-wing outfit, had taken out a *morch* (march) condemning the atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, which has a prominent border with India. It took place a few metres from the Ambedkar statue where the statue of 17th-century Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji, a symbol of Maratha pride, is located. There was not much movement in the city during the *morch*, say the residents of Parbhani. Ambedkarites claim several people delivered provocative speeches. This right-wing event combined with the desecration of the Constitution's replica angered Dalits, many of whom are Ambedkar's followers. Around 8 p.m. that night, the administration organised a *shanti samiti baithak* (peaceful meeting). Here, Ambedkarite leaders said they would carry out a protest at five locations in Parbhani the next day. They would also submit a letter to the Collector putting forth their demands, which included charging the man and his 'accomplices' under the stringent Unlawful Activ-



The crowd was massive; they could have burnt anything that came in its way. The anger was visible, and the police were hiding

KAPIL CHONDE
Trader,
Parbhani market

ities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and making him undergo a polygraph test to find out the 'mastermind' behind the act of vandalism. That night, the city went to sleep peacefully.

The following day, Ambedkarite organisations called for a bandh. These included the Republican Sena led by a grandson of Ambedkar; the Republican Party of India (A) led by Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale; and the Buddhist Society of India, founded by Ambedkar himself, who had converted to Buddhism.

Ambedkarite groups began protests across the city around 8 a.m. People gathered in groups ranging from 200 to 1,000. Seven groups peacefully submitted the charter of demands to the Collector. The police say the eighth group got disruptive, forcing its way into the Collector's office. Soon, they say, violence erupted in the market, about 600 metres from the office. There was stone pelting and arson, followed by the firing of tear gas shells, say witnesses.

A city unsettled

Ambedkarites say the police reacted violently. A 32-year-old demonstrator says, "The police first stopped us from reaching out to the Collector. That is why we agitated and some of us got on top of the police van to raise slogans. Now, they are looking for me everywhere." She has been in hiding after a video featuring her protesting went viral. Infuriated, she says, "We agitated for something that has given us a dignified life." She says a few men wearing masks and holding lathis had joined the protesters. "The people of Ambedkar Basti did not have these when they left."

Eight FIRs were registered, over 200 people booked, and 50 arrested, including minor girls from Dalit *bastis* (neighbourhoods) in Parbhani such as Gautam Nagar, Priyadarshini Nagar, Rahul Nagar, and Bhim Nagar. The police booked people on charges of rioting, assault on public servants, promoting enmity, and damaging public property. "Two police vans, two four-wheelers, 18 two-wheelers, and hundreds of shops were damaged. Nine police personnel were injured. Five women were released a day after detention," says the ASP. "So far, 27 people have been arrested," he says.

On December 11, orders were issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, preventing the assembly of five or more people. Social activists and locals have criticised the administration for taking a whole day to do this. "The State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) unit was stationed a few kilometres from here in Hingoli, yet the police did not act," says a 49-year-old retailer in the area. The SRPF was deployed the next day after 2 p.m.

Vijay Wakode, an Ambedkarite leader, who



A victim of the violence offers prayers in front of statuette of Buddha and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at her home in Parbhani, Maharashtra. VIJAY SONEJI

died of a heart attack while protesting against the death of Somnath, had said the protest was peaceful until 1 p.m. "Then things went haywire and we cancelled the rally scheduled to be held after the protest," he had said, adding that people not part of the Ambedkar movement got mixed in the crowd, making Ambedkarite organisations the scapegoat "to malign us".

During the Maharashtra Assembly's winter session in Nagpur, the Opposition slammed the Mahayuti government over "poor law and order" in the State. In response, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said, "The government will never do anything against the Constitution and the insult of it will not be tolerated."

Meanwhile, newly appointed Minister and MLA from Jintur in Parbhani Meghana Bordikar told mediapersons that "Suryavanshi's death was due to a heart attack". She also defended the police, saying, "They arrested the accused immediately."

A market on edge

One of the shops that was damaged belonged to Kapil Chonde, 25. As news of the violence spread, he quickly bundled up sweaters, caps, and dark glasses that lay on his makeshift platform under a tarpaulin tied between an electric pole and bamboo struts. On seeing the mob rush in his direction, he sought safety in a *pucca* shop, but a lot of his goods were burnt. "The crowd was massive; they could have burnt anything that came in its way. The anger was visible and the police were hiding," Chonde says, two days after the incident, distraught. He estimates his loss at ₹40,000. He has taken a loan of ₹60,000 and wonders how he will pay it back.

Several traders are grappling with the task of assessing the extent of damage. Boards were damaged, doors bashed in, pushcarts broken, and bits thrown into the gutter. The Parbhani police estimate that property worth at least ₹30 lakh was damaged. Doctor Line has shops owned by a variety of trading communities from different ethnicities and religions. However, Kashinath Shinde, 45, one of the owners, says, "Most shops are of the Maratha community. The violence was targeted at them as the perpetrator is a Maratha."

The area around the Ambedkar statue has been cordoned off with barricades. Riot Control Police vans are stationed at the opposite end of the road. At least 10 police personnel are deployed every 300 metres, and police vans stationed at every kilometre, with patrolling every half an hour. The government also suspended Internet services for two days.

Rumours abound in the city. One talks about the arrest of a 10-year-old girl, another the custodial death of a woman. The moment a rumour is spread, the shutters of shops go down. This happens a couple of times. The police announce on loudspeakers that these claims are untrue.

Dalits traumatised

In Dalit settlements, people are gripped with fear of getting picked up by the police. Kalawanti Dabade, 50, a daily wage earner, says, "The police are searching every house and taking our children." A demonstrator from Bhim Nagar says, "We started pelting stones when the police resorted to lathi charge and opened tear gas. We missed our exams because they are looking for us and many of us are in hiding." His body is covered with black and green scars that he says are a result of the lathi charge. "The government hospital refused to take me in, saying I was a rioter." Vachala Manavte, 53, was hospitalised after

she was released from jail on December 12. She works at a nearby hospital and was allegedly thrashed for recording a video of the police while they were detaining youth in Priyadarshini Nagar. "After dragging me there, they threw me in the lock-up and slapped and kicked me. They were trying to retrieve my mobile phone's password to delete the video," she says.

Rutuja, 20, and Pooja, 27, along with two minor sisters, aged 14 and 12, from Bhim Nagar were taken into custody. "They treated us like animals and humiliated us for being Dalit. I could actually relate to *Jai Bhim* [a Tamil movie on a tribal woman fighting for justice]. They asked us to kneel and not look up," says Rutuja, adding that the police also took her hall ticket for her first-year BA exams. Pooja tells a similar story. The minor girls' mother has sent them to Nanded to avoid harassment by the police.

Politicians have been visiting the area following the violence. Athawale visited the Ambedkar statue, garlanded it, met officials in-charge of the administration, and residents of Bhim Nagar. Sujat Ambedkar, the great-grandson of Ambedkar, also garlanded the statue and visited Bhim Nagar. On December 17, Prakash Ambedkar, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi chief and Sujat's father, posted a video on X and wrote: "A mother of a newborn was brutally assaulted by the police in her house. She had locked herself in the bathroom to save herself from the violence, but the police broke the door down and brutally beat her up."

Conspiracy theories

The man who desecrated the Constitution is from Mirzapur village in Parbhani district and worked at grocery shops in Parbhani. His father-in-law, who asked not to be named, says his younger son was the first to receive a call from the police informing them about the incident. He adds that he will accept what the law decides. "For the last two months, he had been hospitalised in Akola [about 200 km from Parbhani] and arrived in the city on the day of the incident," he says. "For the past 16 years, he has been under treatment for mental health issues." A doctor confirms this.

Ambedkarite organisations believe the man was used. "This could be a conspiracy to create a rift between Marathas and Dalits. The police must probe this under the Supreme Court's observation," Bhimrao Hattimbire, an Ambedkarite leader from Parbhani, says.

However, District Collector Raghunath Gawade calls this a "mere coincidence" and dismisses such a possibility. "Prima facie there is no correlation between the two incidents. We are investigating this angle. This was a huge but unintentional mistake."

Somnath's brother Premnath Suryavanshi is now fighting for justice. His lawyer, Pawan Jondhale, says Somnath had no role in the events of December 11 and was picked up with other men from Shankar Nagar, where a number of Dalits live. "He came to Parbhani from Pune to fulfil his dream of becoming a lawyer," he says. "He did odd jobs, from driving to labour work, and supported his family."

Vilas Kale, who calls himself a Parbhani, sits outside a restaurant whose board was damaged in the violence. In February, during the Urs (death anniversary of a Muslim holy man) of Hazrat Sayyed Shah Turabul Haq Baba, which saw the participation of both Hindus and Muslims, tensions over the molestation of a woman resulted in stone pelting. "The Urs was cut short by four days citing law and order issues," he says. "Parbhani has always been sensitive."

The Indian Constitution — Violated भारतीय संविधान – उल्लंघन





On December 11, violence broke out in Maharashtra's **Parbhani city** after a man damaged a replica of the Constitution, a part of the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

11 दिसंबर को महाराष्ट्र के परभणी शहर में हिंसा हुई जब एक व्यक्ति ने संविधान की प्रतिकृति, जो डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर की प्रतिमा का हिस्सा थी, को क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया।

- The incident has triggered fear among **Dalits**, following the death of a member of the community in **judicial custody**, which they claim was due to **police brutality**. इस घटना ने दलितों में डर पैदा कर दिया, खासकर न्यायिक हिरासत में समुदाय के एक सदस्य की मौत के बाद, जिसे वे पुलिस की बर्बरता बताते हैं।

The Site of the Incident

घटना स्थल

- The **Parbhani railway station** area includes the statue of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, behind which are symbols of the **Indian Republic**: a replica of the **Ashoka Chakra** and the **Ashoka Pillar**. परभणी रेलवे स्टेशन क्षेत्र में डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर की प्रतिमा है, जिसके पीछे भारतीय गणराज्य के प्रतीक हैं: अशोक चक्र और अशोक स्तंभ की प्रतिकृति।
- In front of the statue is the **Constitution**, now covered with a **blue cloth**, symbolizing **Ambedkar's Scheduled Castes Federation of India flag**. प्रतिमा के सामने संविधान है, जिसे अब नीले कपड़े से ढका गया है, जो अंबेडकर के शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया के झंडे का प्रतीक है।



Sequence of Events on December 10

10 दिसंबर की घटनाओं का क्रम

- Around **4 p.m. to 5 p.m.**, a man damaged the **replica of the Constitution** near the statue of **Dr. Ambedkar**. लगभग शाम 4 बजे से 5 बजे के बीच, एक व्यक्ति ने डॉ. अंबेडकर की प्रतिमा के पास संविधान की प्रतिकृति को नुकसान पहुंचाया।
- A crowd of around **200 people** gathered, and the man was beaten by the public. करीब **200 लोगों** की भीड़ इकट्ठा हो गई और उस व्यक्ति को लोगों ने पीट दिया।
- The **police, District Collector, and Ambedkarite leaders** arrived, and the man was taken to the hospital and later arrested.





पुलिस, जिला कलेक्टर, और अंबेडकरवादी नेता पहुंचे और उस व्यक्ति को अस्पताल ले जाया गया और बाद में गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया।

- The **police claimed** the man was **mentally ill** and had no intention of desecration, but **Ambedkarites protested** by blocking the **Nandigram Express** for 30 minutes.

पुलिस ने दावा किया कि वह व्यक्ति मानसिक रूप से अस्वस्थ था और उसका अपमान करने का कोई इरादा नहीं था, लेकिन अंबेडकरवादियों ने नंदीग्राम एक्सप्रेस को 30 मिनट के लिए रोककर विरोध किया।

Death in Judicial Custody

न्यायिक हिरासत में मौत

- **Somnath Suryavanshi**, a **35-year-old** law aspirant, was allegedly picked up during protests and later died in **judicial custody**.

सोमनाथ सूर्यवंशी, 35 वर्षीय विधि छात्र, को विरोध प्रदर्शन के दौरान कथित तौर पर उठाया गया और बाद में न्यायिक हिरासत में उनकी मृत्यु हो गई।

- **Ambedkarites claim** this reflects societal discrimination against **Dalits** and alleged **police brutality**.

अंबेडकरवादियों का दावा है कि यह दलितों के प्रति समाज में भेदभाव और पुलिस की बर्बरता को दर्शाता है।

Protests and Demands

विरोध और मांगें

- On **December 10**, **Hindu Sakal Samaj**, a right-wing group, conducted a **march** condemning atrocities against **Hindus in Bangladesh**.

10 दिसंबर को हिंदू सकल समाज, एक दक्षिणपंथी समूह, ने बांग्लादेश में हिंदुओं पर अत्याचार की निंदा करते हुए रैली निकाली।

- The **Ambedkarites** were angered by the desecration of the **Constitution's replica** and alleged **provocative speeches** by the march's participants.

अंबेडकरवादी संविधान की प्रतिकृति के अपमान और रैली में दिए गए कथित उकसाने वाले भाषणों से नाराज हो गए।

- A **peace meeting** was held that night, and **Ambedkarite leaders** announced protests at five locations in Parbhani the next day.

उस रात एक शांति बैठक आयोजित की गई, और अंबेडकरवादी नेताओं ने अगले दिन परभणी में पांच स्थानों पर विरोध प्रदर्शन की घोषणा की।

Violence During Protests

विरोध प्रदर्शन के दौरान हिंसा

- On **December 11**, **Ambedkarite groups** called for a **bandh** and peacefully submitted demands to the **Collector**.





11 दिसंबर को अंबेडकरवादी समूहों ने बंद का आह्वान किया और कलेक्टर को अपनी मांगें शांतिपूर्ण तरीके से सौंपी।

- However, violence erupted near the **Collector's office** and in the **market area**, leading to **stone pelting, arson**, and the use of **tear gas** by the police.

हालांकि, कलेक्टर कार्यालय और बाजार क्षेत्र के पास हिंसा भड़क गई, जिसमें पथराव, आगजनी और पुलिस द्वारा आंसू गैस का इस्तेमाल किया गया।

A City Unsettled

एक अशांत शहर

- **Ambedkarites** accused the police of **violent reactions**. A 32-year-old demonstrator stated that the police stopped them from reaching the **Collector**, leading to agitation. Some protesters climbed on police vans to raise slogans, and many are now in hiding after videos went viral.

अंबेडकरवादियों ने पुलिस पर हिंसक प्रतिक्रिया का आरोप लगाया। एक 32 वर्षीय प्रदर्शनकारी ने कहा कि पुलिस ने उन्हें कलेक्टर तक पहुंचने से रोका, जिसके कारण आंदोलन हुआ। कई प्रदर्शनकारी पुलिस वैन पर चढ़कर नारे लगाने लगे, और वीडियो वायरल होने के बाद कई छिपे हुए हैं।

- **Masked men** with lathis joined the protest, though residents of **Ambedkar Basti** claimed they didn't bring these weapons.
नकाबपोश व्यक्ति लाठियों के साथ प्रदर्शन में शामिल हुए, हालांकि **अंबेडकर बस्ती** के निवासियों का कहना है कि उन्होंने ये हथियार नहीं लाए।
- Eight **FIRs** were registered, over **200 people booked**, and **50 arrested**, including **minor girls** from Dalit bastis like **Gautam Nagar, Priyadarshini Nagar, Rahul Nagar, and Bhim Nagar**.

आठ एफआईआर दर्ज, 200 से अधिक लोगों पर मामला दर्ज, और 50 लोग गिरफ्तार, जिनमें दलित बस्तियों जैसे गौतम नगर, प्रियदर्शिनी नगर, राहुल नगर और भीम नगर की नाबालिग लड़कियां शामिल हैं।

- The charges include **rioting, assault on public servants, promoting enmity**, and **damaging public property**. Two police vans, four-wheelers, and **18 two-wheelers** were damaged, and nine police personnel were injured.

आरोपों में दंगा, लोक सेवकों पर हमला, दुश्मनी को बढ़ावा देना, और सार्वजनिक संपत्ति को नुकसान पहुंचाना शामिल हैं। दो पुलिस वैन, चार-पहिया वाहन, और 18 दो-पहिया वाहन क्षतिग्रस्त हुए, और नौ पुलिसकर्मी घायल हुए।

Section 163 and SRPF Deployment

अनुभाग 163 और एसआरपीएफ की तैनाती

- On **December 11**, orders under **Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** prohibited the assembly of five or more people. Critics noted that this action was delayed by a day.





11 दिसंबर को भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता की धारा 163 के तहत पांच या अधिक लोगों के इकट्ठा होने पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया। आलोचकों ने इस कदम को एक दिन की देरी से उठाया बताया।

- **State Reserve Police Force (SRPF)**, stationed in **Hingoli**, was deployed only after 2 p.m. on the next day.

हिंगोली में तैनात राज्य रिजर्व पुलिस बल (एसआरपीएफ) को अगले दिन दोपहर 2 बजे के बाद तैनात किया गया।

Political and Community Reactions

राजनीतिक और सामुदायिक प्रतिक्रियाएं

- During the Maharashtra Assembly's **winter session**, the **Opposition** criticized the **Mahayuti government** for poor law and order.
महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा के शीतकालीन सत्र के दौरान, विपक्ष ने महा युति सरकार पर कानून और व्यवस्था खराब होने का आरोप लगाया।
- Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** stated, "The government will not tolerate any **insult to the Constitution**."
मुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस ने कहा, "सरकार किसी भी संविधान के अपमान को बर्दाश्त नहीं करेगी।"
- Newly appointed Minister **Meghana Bordikar** claimed **Suryawanshi's death** was due to a **heart attack**, defending the police for their prompt action.
नव नियुक्त मंत्री मेघना बोर्डिकर ने कहा कि सूर्यवंशी की मृत्यु दिल का दौरा पड़ने से हुई, और पुलिस की त्वरित कार्रवाई का बचाव किया।

Market Damages and Trader Losses

बाजार में नुकसान और व्यापारियों का घाटा

- Traders reported extensive damage to their shops, including **burnt goods, broken carts**, and **bashed-in doors**, with losses estimated at **₹30 lakh**.
व्यापारियों ने अपनी दुकानों में बड़े पैमाने पर नुकसान की सूचना दी, जिसमें जले हुए सामान, टूटे हुए ठेले, और दरवाजों को तोड़ा गया शामिल है। नुकसान ₹30 लाख का अनुमान है।
- **Doctor Line shops**, primarily owned by the **Maratha community**, were heavily damaged, raising allegations of targeted violence.
डॉक्टर लाइन की दुकानें, मुख्य रूप से मराठा समुदाय के स्वामित्व वाली, बुरी तरह क्षतिग्रस्त हुईं, जिससे लक्षित हिंसा के आरोप लगे।

Cordoned Areas and Internet Suspension

घेरा बंद क्षेत्र और इंटरनेट निलंबन





- The area around the **Ambedkar statue** was cordoned off with **barricades**, and **internet services were suspended for two days.**

अंबेडकर प्रतिमा के आसपास के क्षेत्र को बैरिकेड्स से घेर दिया गया और दो दिनों के लिए इंटरनेट सेवाएं निलंबित कर दी गईं।

Reality check on Sri Lanka's Tamil question

GS Paper II: India-Sri-Lanka

Many in Sri Lanka closely tracked their President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's recent visit to India. The ceremonial red carpet welcome he received from Indian President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his various engagements, and, importantly, the joint statement issued by the two governments, drew much notice in the local media.

It was Mr. Dissanayake's first state visit abroad, after he won the presidency in September this year, and the ruling National People's Power (NPP) won a spectacular two-thirds majority in the general election in November. India was hosting not just one of Sri Lanka's most powerful Presidents but also a leftist leader from a party (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna - JVP or the People's Liberation Front) that once furiously opposed India and its perceived "interventionist" role in Sri Lanka.

Much has indeed changed in India, Sri Lanka, and in India-Sri Lanka relations. The JVP is not the same today, as the story of its rise to state power reveals. Neither is Sri Lanka, whose political landscape stands radically altered in ways few imagined possible two years ago. Analysts are yet to fully decipher the astounding victory of the JVP-led NPP, especially in the island nation's north, east, and the hill country that are home to the country's Tamil, Muslim and Malaiyaha Tamil minorities. India's priorities, too, have seen a marked shift, as New Delhi remains preoccupied with countering Chinese influence in the neighbourhood.

Changing Indian interests

While everything else changes, Sri Lanka's long-pending national question remains, with all past governments in Colombo failing to deliver a definitive political settlement. India's past involvement as an arbiter of Tamil rights, for many in Sri Lanka, set high expectations for its influence in more recent decades, including the post-war years since 2009. In an interview to this daily in 2022, late Tamil leader R. Sampanthan said "India has a special duty" in ensuring that the spirit of the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987, and the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution born out of it, are fully implemented. Except, Indian interests today are evidently different.

The joint statement issued by New Delhi and Colombo on December 16, 2024, offers a reality check. The 34-point document, titled 'Fostering partnerships for a shared future', and spanning political, economic, and strategic cooperation, makes no reference to the pending political solution, or post-war reconciliation, or Tamil aspirations. The only power sharing that finds mention is in a proposal for a high-capacity grid



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interconnection between India and Sri Lanka.

However, in his remarks at the joint press conference, Mr. Modi said, "We hope that the Sri Lankan government shall fulfil the aspirations of the Tamil people. And that they shall fulfil their commitment towards fully implementing the Constitution of Sri Lanka and conducting the Provincial Council Elections." He did not reference the 13th Amendment.

Mr. Dissanayake framed the issue differently. He said, "People from all the Provinces – North, South, East, and West – representing diverse communities and various walks of life contributed to this mandate. As a leader entrusted with such an important responsibility by my people, I clearly understand that the essence of democracy lies in the coexistence of diverse political views and groups."

The NPP's poll manifesto includes an assurance to hold elections to the provincial councils, now defunct for over five years, and enact a new Constitution based on wide public consultations. President Dissanayake, too, has made the pledge more than once. But his government is yet to spell out its own vision for a durable political solution.

The NPP has consistently avoided the language of the "13th Amendment" that till date carries the baggage of "Indian imposition" for the country's Sinhala-Buddhist majority, and likely triggers discomfort for the JVP party base. In a recent column, 'NPP in Power: Possibilities for Post-War Reconciliation through Civic Nationalism', Sri Lankan political scientist Jayadeva Uyangoda observed that the NPP shuns both the "devolution discourse" introduced by India, and the "liberal peace discourse" of conflict resolution, reconciliation, and peacebuilding, promoted by agencies of the United Nations, global and local rights groups. He wrote, "The NPP does not seem to want its agenda for inter-ethnic peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka to be seen as a continuation of what it sees as 'failed' past attempts."

Contentious amendment

The controversial 13th Amendment continues to evoke mixed, and often strong, reactions among Sri Lankans. Even the Tamils are divided over whether it is a necessary but insufficient measure of power devolution, or a problematic legislation that tamed historic demands for federalism. The last time that the 13th Amendment went out of focus was when the Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe administration (2015-19) attempted drafting a new constitution. The effort failed, but Mr. Dissanayake has said his government would build on the draft.

It is true that two main formulations of the past have not proved successful for the Tamil people.

It is also not hard to see why the JVP may be wary of using either discourse. But the Tamils who contributed significantly to the NPP's big win are justified in seeking greater clarity on what the government has in mind for them. Fifteen years after the end of the civil war, they are still doggedly chasing the truth about their forcibly disappeared loved ones. They are still fighting to reclaim their land held by the military. They are still struggling to rebuild their livelihoods shattered in those years of bloodshed and mass destruction. They still do not have a say in how their provinces, setback by a devastating war, should be reconstructed.

The government's promise of national integration or a unified "Sri Lankan identity" can be evaluated only based on its specific policies to address war-time accountability, political agency, and meaningful development in the north and east. A new political order may now be at the country's helm, but old questions will not go away.

The recent elections have given Mr. Dissanayake and the NPP rare national momentum and unprecedented legislative influence. The government now has a real chance to reimagine the political solution through people's post-war realities.

State of the Tamil polity

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's Tamil polity, too, faces a big challenge. After the electorate delivered a clear message to the regional Tamil parties in the recent polls – the NPP beat them in all but one district in the north and east – the Tamil polity is struggling to regain its voice.

After habitually looking to the international community to push for Tamil rights, the Tamil political leadership is now forced to confront its own failure. Those counting on India would do well to understand that the Tamil question is no more an issue that serves a domestic political compulsion or provides diplomatic leverage to New Delhi. It is time they recognised India's waning interest and influence on the Tamil question. Besides, they must ask if India has any moral standing to ask another country to treat minorities better.

The Tamil polity's core strategy of engaging western powers dominating UN bodies, India, and the Tamil diaspora has clearly not yielded substantive progress on the ground. To remain relevant and rebuild credibility, the Tamil polity appears to have little choice but to reorient itself to the people it seeks to represent. The Tamil people in Sri Lanka have reminded their leaders, who were busy talking to actors elsewhere for years, to listen to them now.

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The joint statement issued by New Delhi and Colombo during the Sri Lankan President's India visit reveals the neighbours' current preoccupations





Reality Check on Sri Lanka's Tamil Question

श्रीलंका के तमिल प्रश्न पर वास्तविकता जांच

- Many in Sri Lanka closely tracked their President **Anura Kumara Dissanayake's** recent visit to **India**.
श्रीलंका में कई लोगों ने राष्ट्रपति **अनुरा कुमारा दिस्सानयके** की हाल की **भारत** यात्रा पर ध्यान दिया।
- It was Mr. Dissanayake's first state visit abroad, after he won the presidency in **September 2024**, and the ruling **National People's Power (NPP)** won a spectacular **two-thirds majority in the November 2024 general election**.
यह श्री दिस्सानयके की पहली राज्य यात्रा थी, जब उन्होंने **सितंबर 2024** में राष्ट्रपति पद जीतने के बाद, और **नवंबर 2024** में सामान्य चुनाव में **राष्ट्रीय जनशक्ति पार्टी (NPP)** को शानदार दो-तिहाई बहुमत प्राप्त हुआ।
- India was hosting not just one of Sri Lanka's most powerful Presidents but also **a leftist leader from a party (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna – JVP or the People's Liberation Front)** that once furiously opposed India and its perceived "interventionist" role in Sri Lanka.
भारत न केवल श्रीलंका के सबसे शक्तिशाली राष्ट्रपति को मेज़बानी कर रहा था, बल्कि एक वामपंथी नेता को भी, जो एक पार्टी (**जनता विमुक्ति परामुना - JVP या जन मुक्ति मोर्चा**) से हैं, जो कभी भारत और श्रीलंका में इसके "हस्तक्षेपकर्ता" भूमिका का विरोध करती थी।
- The JVP is not the same today, as the story of its rise to state power reveals. **JVP** आज वैसा नहीं है, जैसा इसके राज्य शक्ति में उदय की कहानी दर्शाती है।
- Analysts are yet to fully decipher the astounding victory of the **JVP-led NPP**, especially in the island nation's **north, east, and the hill country that are home to the country's Tamil, Muslim, and Malaiyaha Tamil minorities**.
विश्लेषक अभी तक **JVP-नेतृत्व वाली NPP** की चौंकाने वाली जीत को पूरी तरह से नहीं समझ पाए हैं, विशेष रूप से द्वीप राष्ट्र के **उत्तर, पूर्व, और पहाड़ी क्षेत्र** में, जो देश के **तमिल, मुस्लिम, और मलैयाह तमिल अल्पसंख्यकों** का घर हैं।
- India's priorities, too, have seen a marked shift, as **New Delhi** remains preoccupied with countering **Chinese influence** in the neighbourhood.
नई दिल्ली की प्राथमिकताएँ भी एक प्रमुख बदलाव से गुजर रही हैं, क्योंकि **भारत पड़ोस में चीनी प्रभाव** का मुकाबला करने में व्यस्त है।
- Sri Lanka's long-pending national question remains, with all past governments in Colombo failing to deliver a definitive political settlement.
श्रीलंका का लंबित राष्ट्रीय प्रश्न बना हुआ है, जिसमें कोलंबो की सभी पिछली सरकारें एक निर्णायक राजनीतिक समाधान देने में असफल रही हैं।
- India's past involvement as an arbiter of Tamil rights, for many in Sri Lanka, set high expectations for its influence in more recent decades, including the post-war years since **2009**.





श्रीलंका में तमिल अधिकारों के एक मध्यस्थ के रूप में भारत की पिछली भूमिका ने, विशेष रूप से 2009 के बाद के युद्धोत्तर वर्षों में, इसके प्रभाव को लेकर उच्च उम्मीदें जगाई थीं।

- **R. Sampanthan**, late Tamil leader, said “India has a special duty” in ensuring that the spirit of the **Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987**, and the **13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution** born out of it, are fully implemented.

दिवंगत तमिल नेता **R. सम्पन्थन** ने कहा “भारत का एक विशेष कर्तव्य है” यह सुनिश्चित करने में कि **इंडो-लंका समझौते 1987** की भावना, और श्रीलंका संविधान में उससे उत्पन्न **13वां संशोधन** पूरी तरह से लागू हो।

- The joint statement issued by **New Delhi** and **Colombo** on **December 16, 2024**, offers a reality check.

नई दिल्ली और **कोलंबो** द्वारा **16 दिसंबर 2024** को जारी संयुक्त बयान में वास्तविकता की जांच दी गई है।

- The **34-point** document, titled ‘**Fostering partnerships for a shared future**’, and spanning political, economic, and strategic cooperation, makes no reference to the pending political solution, or post-war reconciliation, or Tamil aspirations.

34-बिंदु दस्तावेज़, जिसका शीर्षक ‘संयुक्त भविष्य के लिए साझेदारी को बढ़ावा देना’ है, और जो राजनीतिक, आर्थिक और सामरिक सहयोग को शामिल करता है, लंबित राजनीतिक समाधान, युद्धोत्तर सुलह, या तमिल आकांक्षाओं का कोई उल्लेख नहीं करता है।

- The only power-sharing that finds mention is in a proposal for a **high-capacity grid interconnection between India and Sri Lanka**.

केवल शक्ति-साझाकरण का उल्लेख **भारत** और **श्रीलंका** के बीच उच्च क्षमता ग्रिड इंटरकनेक्शन के प्रस्ताव में किया गया है।

- In his remarks at the joint press conference, Mr. **Modi** said, “We hope that the Sri Lankan government shall fulfill the aspirations of the Tamil people.”

संयुक्त प्रेस सम्मेलन में अपनी टिप्पणी में श्री **मोदी** ने कहा, “हम आशा करते हैं कि श्रीलंकाई सरकार तमिल लोगों की आकांक्षाओं को पूरा करेगी।”

- Mr. **Dissanayake** framed the issue differently, emphasizing that “People from all the Provinces — North, South, East, and West — representing diverse communities and various walks of life contributed to this mandate.”

श्री **दिस्सानयके** ने इस मुद्दे को अलग तरह से प्रस्तुत किया, यह कहते हुए कि “सभी प्रांतों से लोग – उत्तर, दक्षिण, पूर्व और पश्चिम – विभिन्न समुदायों और जीवन के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हुए इस जनादेश में योगदान दिए।”

- The **NPP**’s poll manifesto includes an assurance to hold elections to the **provincial councils, now defunct for over five years, and enact a new Constitution based on wide public consultations**.

NPP के चुनावी घोषणापत्र में यह आश्वासन शामिल है कि **प्रांतीय परिषदों** के चुनाव कराए जाएंगे, जो अब पाँच वर्षों से अस्तित्वहीन हैं, और व्यापक सार्वजनिक परामर्शों के आधार पर एक नया संविधान तैयार किया जाएगा।

- **President Dissanayake** has made the pledge more than once.

राष्ट्रपति दिस्सानयके ने यह वचन कई बार दिया है।





- The **NPP** has consistently avoided the language of the “**13th Amendment**” that till date carries the baggage of “Indian imposition” for the country’s **Sinhala-Buddhist majority**, and likely triggers discomfort for the **JVP** party base.

NPP ने लगातार “**13वें संशोधन**” की भाषा से बचा है, जो आज तक देश के **सिंहला-बौद्ध बहुसंख्या** के लिए “भारतीय थोपने” का बोझ लिए हुए है, और संभवतः **JVP** पार्टी के आधार के लिए असहजता उत्पन्न करता है।

- **Jayadeva Uyangoda**, Sri Lankan political scientist, observed that the **NPP** shuns both the “devolution discourse” introduced by **India**, and the “liberal peace discourse” of conflict resolution, reconciliation, and peacebuilding, promoted by agencies of the **United Nations**, global and local rights groups.

श्रीलंकाई राजनीतिक वैज्ञानिक **जयदेव उयंगोड़ा** ने देखा कि **NPP** दोनों, “भारत द्वारा प्रस्तुत किए गए ‘विकेंद्रीकरण संवाद’” और “संघर्ष समाधान, सुलह, और शांति निर्माण का ‘उदारवादी शांति संवाद’”, जिसे **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** और वैश्विक तथा स्थानीय अधिकार समूहों द्वारा बढ़ावा दिया गया है, से बचता है।

- He wrote, “The **NPP** does not seem to want its agenda for inter-ethnic peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka to be seen as a continuation of what it sees as ‘failed’ past attempts.”

उन्होंने लिखा, “**NPP** ऐसा नहीं चाहता लगता कि श्रीलंका में अंतर-जातीय शांति और सुलह के अपने एजेंडे को उसके द्वारा ‘असफल’ माने गए पिछले प्रयासों की निरंतरता के रूप में देखा जाए।”

Contentious amendment विवादास्पद संशोधन

- The controversial **13th Amendment** continues to evoke mixed and strong reactions among **Sri Lankans**.

विवादास्पद **13वां संशोधन** श्रीलंकाई लोगों में मिश्रित और तीव्र प्रतिक्रियाएँ उत्पन्न करता है।

- The Tamils are divided over whether it is a necessary but insufficient measure of **power devolution** or a problematic legislation that tamed historic demands for **federalism**.

तमिल लोग इस पर विभाजित हैं कि यह **शक्ति का विकेंद्रीकरण** का एक आवश्यक लेकिन अपर्याप्त उपाय है या यह ऐतिहासिक **संघवाद** की मांगों को नियंत्रित करने वाला एक समस्याग्रस्त कानून है।

- The last time the 13th Amendment went out of focus was during the **Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe administration (2015-19)**, which attempted drafting a new constitution.

13वें संशोधन पर आखिरी बार ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया था जब **मैत्रीपाला सिरिसेना-रानील विक्रमसिंघे प्रशासन (2015-19)** ने एक नया संविधान तैयार करने का प्रयास किया था।

- **Mr. Dissanayake** has said his government would build on the draft of the previous attempt.

श्री दाँसानायक ने कहा है कि उनकी सरकार पिछले प्रयास के मसौदे पर काम करेगी।





- It is true that **two main formulations** of the past have not proved successful for the **Tamil people**.
यह सही है कि अतीत के दो मुख्य प्रारूप तमिल लोगों के लिए सफल नहीं हुए हैं।
- The **JVP** may be wary of using either discourse.
जेवीपी इन दोनों विमर्शों का उपयोग करने में सतर्क हो सकता है।
- Fifteen years after the end of the **civil war**, Tamils are still struggling to reclaim their land held by the military.
सिविल युद्ध के अंत के पंद्रह साल बाद भी तमिल अपनी ज़मीन को जो सेना द्वारा कब्ज़ा की गई है, वापस प्राप्त करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।
- The government's promise of **national integration** or a unified "**Sri Lankan identity**" can only be evaluated based on its specific policies to address **war-time accountability, political agency, and meaningful development in the north and east**.
सरकार का **राष्ट्रीय एकता** या एकीकृत "**श्रीलंकाई पहचान**" का वादा केवल इसके विशेष नीतियों के आधार पर आंका जा सकता है जो युद्धकालीन **जवाबदेही**, राजनीतिक एजेंसी और उत्तर और पूर्व में सार्थक विकास को संबोधित करती हैं।
- A new political order may now be at the country's helm, but old questions will not go away.
एक नया राजनीतिक आदेश अब देश की कमान में हो सकता है, लेकिन पुराने प्रश्न हल नहीं होंगे।
- The recent **elections** have given **Mr. Dissanayake** and the **NPP** rare national momentum and unprecedented **legislative influence**.
हाल की **चुनावों** ने श्री **दाँसानायक** और **एनपीपी** को दुर्लभ राष्ट्रीय उत्साह और अभूतपूर्व **संविधानिक प्रभाव** प्रदान किया है।
- The government now has a real chance to **reimagine the political solution** through people's post-war realities.
अब सरकार के पास लोगों की युद्धोत्तर वास्तविकताओं के माध्यम से **राजनीतिक समाधान** की पुनः कल्पना करने का वास्तविक मौका है।

State of the Tamil polity

तमिल राजनीति की स्थिति

- After the electorate delivered a clear message to the **regional Tamil parties**, the Tamil polity is struggling to regain its voice.
चुनाव आयोग ने **क्षेत्रीय तमिल पार्टियों** को स्पष्ट संदेश दिया, इसके बाद तमिल राजनीति अपनी आवाज़ को पुनः प्राप्त करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रही है।
- The **Tamil political leadership is now forced to confront its own failure after looking to the international community for Tamil rights**.
तमिल राजनीतिक नेतृत्व को अब **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय** से तमिल अधिकारों के लिए मदद की उम्मीद रखने के बाद अपनी असफलता का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
- Tamil political leadership must realize **India's waning interest and influence on the Tamil question**.





तमिल राजनीतिक नेतृत्व को यह समझना होगा कि तमिल प्रश्न पर भारत की घटती रुचि और प्रभाव है।

- The Tamil polity's core strategy of engaging western powers, India, and the Tamil diaspora has not yielded substantial progress on the ground.

तमिल राजनीति की मुख्य रणनीति, जो पश्चिमी शक्तियों, भारत, और तमिल प्रवासी के साथ जुड़ी हुई है, ने ज़मीनी स्तर पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति नहीं की है।

- To rebuild credibility, the Tamil polity must reorient itself to the people it seeks to represent.

विश्वसनीयता को फिर से बनाने के लिए, तमिल राजनीति को उस जनता की ओर फिर से उन्मुख होना चाहिए, जिसे वह प्रतिनिधित्व करना चाहती है।

- The Tamil people in Sri Lanka have reminded their leaders to listen to them now. श्रीलंका में तमिल लोगों ने अपने नेताओं को यह याद दिलाया है कि अब उन्हें उनकी सुननी चाहिए।

Crimes against humanity and an obtuse Indian stance

GS Paper II: International Treaties

On December 4, 2024, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution approving the text of a proposed treaty governing the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity (CAH treaty). This marks the beginning of the negotiation process among states for the conclusion of a CAH treaty. This resolution comes five years after the International Law Commission submitted the draft text of the CAH treaty to the Sixth Committee – the primary forum for considering legal questions in the UNGA. This development is a landmark in the international community's quest to combat impunity for CAH.

There is a gap in accountability

Alongside genocide and war crimes, CAH are among the grave international crimes which the International Criminal Court (ICC), established under the Rome Statute, seeks to punish. Importantly, genocide and war crimes are also governed by dedicated treaties, i.e., the Genocide Convention of 1948 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, respectively. However, CAH are governed only under the Rome Statute, which includes specific criminal acts such as murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, torture, imprisonment, and rape committed as part of a 'widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack'. CAH were first codified in the 1945 London Charter establishing the Nuremberg Tribunal to investigate and prosecute the crimes committed in connection with the Second World War, and later in the statutes of the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, and Rwanda. However, there is no dedicated treaty for CAH yet, creating a gap in terms of accountability in the legal architecture of international criminal justice. There are three reasons justifying the need for a CAH treaty.



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India's response to a 'crimes against humanity' treaty aligns with its aversion to the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court

First, the jurisdiction of the ICC covers a limited number of states, making it challenging to punish perpetrators of CAH in non-member states. Second, the Rome Statute and the ICC only address individual criminal responsibility. A dedicated CAH treaty would allow for holding states accountable under international law for their failure to prevent the commission of CAH, as is the case with the Genocide Convention of 1948. For instance, in 2019, The Gambia filed a case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Myanmar for alleged violations of the Genocide Convention against the ethnic Rohingya population. A dedicated CAH treaty would create an obligation for state parties to adopt administrative, legislative, or judicial measures to prevent the commission of CAH. Failure to meet this obligation could become the basis for the ICJ's jurisdiction if the CAH treaty so provides. Third, a CAH treaty presents an opportunity to enlarge the scope of CAH to include, as suggested by various states in the Sixth Committee, starvation of civilian populations, gender apartheid, forced pregnancy, the use of nuclear weapons, terrorism, exploitation of natural resources, and crimes against indigenous populations.

India's stand

India is not a party to the Rome Statute and has consistently objected to the ICC's jurisdiction over issues such as the powers of the ICC prosecutor, the role of the UN Security Council under the Rome Statute, and the non-inclusion of 'use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction' as a war crime. Further, India has argued that crimes committed only during armed conflicts – and not those committed during peacetime – should be considered CAH. Moreover, India does not favour the inclusion of 'enforced disappearance' as an act that can

constitute CAH. Instead, India advocates for the inclusion of 'terrorism' as an act amounting to CAH. India's response to a CAH treaty aligns with its aversion to the Rome Statute and the ICC. For the last five years, since 2019, India has consistently argued for an 'in-depth study' and thorough discussion on the need for a dedicated treaty. India's stance at the UNGA reflects its scepticism that a CAH treaty might duplicate the already existing regime under the Rome Statute. Further, India takes issue with the exclusion of 'terror-related acts' and the 'use of nuclear weapons' from the definition of CAH in the proposed treaty. Most importantly, reiterating that it is not a party to the Rome Statute, India has stressed at the UNGA that national legislations and the jurisdiction of national courts are more appropriate fora for dealing with CAH and other international crimes.

Lead the way

Currently, India does not have domestic legislation prohibiting international crimes. In 2018, Justice S. Muralidhar of the Delhi High Court in *State vs Sajjan Kumar* observed that 'neither crimes against humanity nor genocide have been made part of India's criminal law, a lacuna that needs to be addressed urgently'. Nonetheless, there is little or no debate on the need for such laws in the domestic legal and policy spaces. The recent amendments to the criminal law were a missed opportunity to include these crimes in the penal law. This is inconsistent with India's own insistence on the primacy of national and territorial jurisdiction for dealing with CAH. India should incorporate CAH and other international crimes into its domestic law, even if it is not a party to the Rome Statute, and lead the way in ending impunity for grave human rights violations – a role that befits a true Vishwaguru.





Crimes against humanity and an obtuse Indian stance मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध और एक अस्पष्ट भारतीय रुख

On December 4, 2024, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution approving the text of a proposed treaty governing the **prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity (CAH) treaty**.

4 दिसंबर 2024 को संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा (यूएनजीए) ने मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध (CAH) पर रोकथाम और दंड के लिए प्रस्तावित संधि के मसौदे को मंजूरी देने के लिए एक प्रस्ताव को अपनाया।

- This marks the beginning of the **negotiation process** among states for the conclusion of a **CAH treaty**.

यह राज्यों के बीच संधि पर बातचीत की प्रक्रिया की शुरुआत का प्रतीक है।

- This resolution comes **five years** after the **International Law Commission** submitted the draft text of the CAH treaty to the **Sixth Committee** — the primary forum for considering legal questions in the **UNGA**.

यह प्रस्ताव पाँच वर्ष बाद आता है जब अंतरराष्ट्रीय विधि आयोग ने CAH संधि के मसौदे को छठे समिति — जो यूएनजीए में कानूनी प्रश्नों पर विचार करने का मुख्य मंच है — को प्रस्तुत किया था।

- Genocide and war crimes are governed by dedicated treaties, i.e., the **Genocide Convention of 1948** and the **Geneva Conventions of 1949**, respectively.
नरसंहार और युद्ध अपराधों को समर्पित संधियों द्वारा नियंत्रित किया जाता है, अर्थात् 1948 का नरसंहार संधि और 1949 की जिनेवा संधियाँ।

- **CAH** are governed only under the **Rome Statute**, which includes specific criminal acts such as **murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, torture, imprisonment, and rape** committed as part of a '**widespread or systematic attack** directed against any **civilian population**.

CAH केवल रोम अनुशासन के तहत नियंत्रित होते हैं, जिसमें हत्याएँ, विनाश, गुलामी, निर्वासन, यातना, कारावास, और बलात्कार जैसे विशिष्ट आपराधिक कृत्य शामिल हैं, जो किसी नागरिक जनसंख्या के खिलाफ एक 'व्यापक या व्यवस्थित हमले' के रूप में किए जाते हैं।

- **CAH** were first codified in the **1945 London Charter** establishing the **Nuremberg Tribunal** to investigate and prosecute crimes committed during **World War II**.

CAH को पहली बार 1945 का लंदन चार्टर में संहतिबद्ध किया गया था, जो नूरेनबर्ग ट्रिब्यूनल की स्थापना करता था ताकि द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के दौरान किए गए अपराधों की जांच और मुकदमा चलाया जा सके।

- However, there is no dedicated treaty for **CAH** yet, creating a gap in terms of accountability in the legal architecture of international criminal justice.

हालाँकि, **CAH** के लिए अभी तक कोई समर्पित संधि नहीं है, जिससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्याय के कानूनी ढांचे में जवाबदेही की कमी उत्पन्न हो रही है।





- There are three reasons justifying the need for a **CAH treaty**:

CAH संधि की आवश्यकता को सही ठहराने के तीन कारण हैं:

- The jurisdiction of the **ICC** covers a limited number of states, making it challenging to punish perpetrators of **CAH** in **non-member states**.
- The **Rome Statute** and the **ICC** only address individual criminal responsibility. A dedicated CAH treaty would allow for holding **states** accountable for their failure to prevent **CAH**.

ICC का अधिकार क्षेत्र सीमित संख्या में राज्यों तक ही है, जिससे **गैर-सदस्य राज्यों** में **CAH** के अपराधियों को दंडित करना चुनौतीपूर्ण हो जाता है।

रोम अनुशासन और **ICC** केवल व्यक्तिगत आपराधिक जिम्मेदारी को संबोधित करते हैं। एक समर्पित **CAH संधि** राज्यों को **CAH** को रोकने में विफल रहने के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराने का अवसर प्रदान करेगी।

- A **CAH treaty** presents an opportunity to enlarge the scope of **CAH** to include acts like **starvation of civilian populations, gender apartheid, forced pregnancy, use of nuclear weapons, terrorism, exploitation of natural resources**, and crimes against **indigenous populations**.

एक **CAH संधि** का यह अवसर है कि इसके दायरे का विस्तार **नागरिक जनसंख्या का अकाल, लिंग के आधार पर अलगाव, बलात्कृत गर्भावस्था, परमाणु हथियारों का उपयोग, आतंकवाद, प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का शोषण, और आदिवासी जनसंख्या के खिलाफ अपराधों** को शामिल किया जा सके।

- **India** is not a party to the **Rome Statute** and has consistently objected to the **ICC's jurisdiction** over issues such as the **powers of the ICC prosecutor**, the role of the **UN Security Council**, and the non-inclusion of '**use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction**' as a war crime.

भारत रोम अनुशासन का पक्षकार नहीं है और उसने **ICC** के अधिकार क्षेत्र पर लगातार आपत्ति जताई है, जैसे कि **ICC अभियोजक के अधिकार, संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की भूमिका, और 'परमाणु हथियारों और अन्य विनाशक हथियारों के उपयोग'** को युद्ध अपराध के रूप में न शामिल करना।

- **India** argues that crimes committed only during **armed conflicts**, and not those committed during **peacetime**, should be considered **CAH**.

भारत का तर्क है कि केवल **सशस्त्र संघर्षों** के दौरान किए गए अपराधों को ही **CAH** माना जाना चाहिए, न कि जो अपराध **शांतिपूर्ण समय** के दौरान किए गए हों।

- **India** does not favour the inclusion of '**enforced disappearance**' as an act constituting **CAH**.

भारत 'मजबूरन गायब कर दिए जाने' को **CAH** के रूप में शामिल करने के पक्ष में नहीं है।

- **India** advocates for the inclusion of '**terrorism**' as an act amounting to **CAH**.

भारत 'आतंकवाद' को **CAH** के रूप में शामिल करने का पक्षधर है।

- **India's response** to a CAH treaty aligns with its aversion to the **Rome Statute** and the **ICC**.

भारत की प्रतिक्रिया **CAH संधि** पर **रोम अनुशासन** और **ICC** के प्रति इसके विरोध के अनुरूप है।

- For the last **five years**, since **2019**, **India** has consistently argued for an '**in-depth study**' and thorough discussion on the need for a dedicated treaty.





पिछले पाँच वर्षों से, 2019 के बाद, भारत लगातार एक समर्पित संधि की आवश्यकता पर 'गहरे अध्ययन' और विस्तृत चर्चा की बात कर रहा है।

- India has stressed at the **UNGA** that **national legislations** and the jurisdiction of **national courts** are more appropriate fora for dealing with **CAH** and other international crimes.

भारत ने यूएनजीए में यह जोर देकर कहा है कि **राष्ट्रीय कानून** और **राष्ट्रीय न्यायालयों** का अधिकार क्षेत्र **CAH** और अन्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराधों से निपटने के लिए अधिक उपयुक्त मंच है।

- India currently does not have **domestic legislation** prohibiting international crimes. भारत वर्तमान में अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराधों को निषेध करने के लिए **घरेलू कानून** नहीं रखता है।
- In 2018, **Justice S. Muralidhar** of the **Delhi High Court** observed that neither **crimes against humanity** nor **genocide** have been made part of **India's criminal law**, a lacuna that needs to be addressed urgently.

2018 में दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायमूर्ति एस. मुरलीधर ने यह टिप्पणी की कि न तो मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध और न ही नरसंहार को भारत के आपराधिक कानून का हिस्सा बनाया गया है, जो एक ऐसा दोष है जिसे तत्काल ठीक किया जाना चाहिए।

- The recent amendments to the **criminal law** were a missed opportunity to include these crimes in the **penal law**.

हाल की आपराधिक कानून में संशोधन इन अपराधों को दंड विधि में शामिल करने का एक खोया हुआ अवसर था।

- **India's stance** is inconsistent with its insistence on the primacy of **national and territorial jurisdiction** for dealing with **CAH**. भारत का **रुख राष्ट्रीय और क्षेत्रीय अधिकार क्षेत्र** की प्रधानता पर इसके जोर देने के साथ असंगत है, जो **CAH** से निपटने के लिए है।
- **India's commitment to human rights** and its active participation in global human rights forums are at odds with its reluctance to take stronger steps against **CAH**. भारत का मानवाधिकारों के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता और वैश्विक मानवाधिकार मंचों में इसकी सक्रिय भागीदारी इसके **CAH** के खिलाफ मजबूत कदम उठाने से हिचकिचाहट के साथ असंगत हैं।

- India has made **three major reservations**:
 - Inclusion of **'terrorism'**
 - Exclusion of **'use of nuclear weapons'**
 - Acceptance of **'only armed conflict'** situations.

भारत ने तीन प्रमुख आरक्षण किए हैं:

- 'आतंकवाद' को शामिल करना
- 'परमाणु हथियारों का उपयोग' को बाहर करना
- 'केवल सशस्त्र संघर्ष' स्थितियों को स्वीकारना





GS Paper II: India-China

Positive direction

India must ensure greater transparency in talks with China

The 23rd meeting of the “Special Representatives” (SRs) of India and China – National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister and Senior Politburo member Wang Yi – was a milestone in the restoration of ties since October this year. Although the meeting of SRs is a stand-alone process, meant to look at the broader boundary dispute and resolve differences over the 3,500 kilometre-long Line of Actual Control (LAC), it had been paused since the military standoff in 2020. There were a few firsts too: the two men meeting in their capacities as SRs since 2019, although they have held talks in the interim; such a high-level visit to China and also Mr. Doval travelling to Beijing since 2020. This indicates that the decision to hold the SR talks, as mandated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping during talks in Kazan in October, is a signal that with only LAC disengagement completed, New Delhi is willing to move ahead on other mechanisms for talks with Beijing, without waiting for the next processes of de-escalation and de-induction. The two sides have agreed to restart the Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra from India, border trade in Sikkim, and data sharing for trans-boundary rivers. Other suspended ties, including direct flights, business and student visa liberalisation, and journalist exchanges, are also understood to be under discussion. On the boundary question, the Doval-Wang talks yielded what the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs termed as “six consensuses”, and the Ministry of External Affairs referred to as “positive directions” in its release. These involve continuing to implement the LAC de-escalation process; revert to the SR process on resolving the boundary issue according to the Eleven-articles set out in a 2005 agreement; strengthen Confidence Building Measures at the border and cross-border exchanges; enhance coordination of the SR process, and the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs to follow up agreements and to hold the next Doval-Wang talks in 2025 in India.

The optics and the messaging of the SR meeting indicate a certain momentum in re-engagement after four years of serious military tensions, and the suspension of regular contact, although bilateral trade continued to thrive. The meeting comes just ahead of 2025, that marks 75 years of diplomatic relations, and a likely visit to China by Mr. Modi as it hosts the next SCO summit. While restoring the links is important, it is necessary to strike a note of caution so that the situation caused by the amassing of troops and LAC transgressions by the PLA in 2020 is not repeated. The government must also ensure more transparency in its conversations with Beijing over the future steps in normalising ties, the dismantling of buffer zones, restoration of *status quo ante* to 2020, and mechanisms for future deterrence against aggression at the India-China boundary.

Positive Direction

सकारात्मक दिशा

The 23rd meeting of the “Special Representatives” (SRs) of India and China — National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister and Senior Politburo member Wang Yi — was a milestone in the restoration of ties since October this year.

भारत और चीन के “विशेष प्रतिनिधियों” (SRs) की 23वीं बैठक – राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल और चीनी विदेश मंत्री और वरिष्ठ पोलितब्यूरो सदस्य वांग यी – अक्टूबर से इस वर्ष संबंधों के पुनर्स्थापन में एक मील का पत्थर थी।

• Although the meeting of SRs is a stand-alone process, meant to look at the broader boundary dispute and resolve differences over the **3,500 kilometre-long Line of Actual Control (LAC)**, it had been paused since the military standoff in **2020**.

हालाँकि SRs की बैठक एक स्वायत्त प्रक्रिया है, जिसका उद्देश्य व्यापक सीमा विवाद पर विचार करना और **3,500 किलोमीटर लंबी वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (LAC)** पर मतभेदों का समाधान करना है, इसे **2020** में सैन्य गतिरोध के बाद स्थगित कर दिया गया था।

• There were a few firsts too: the two men meeting in their capacities as SRs since **2019**, although they have held talks in the interim; such a high-level visit to China and also Mr. Doval travelling to Beijing since **2020**.

कुछ नए पहलू भी थे: दोनों व्यक्तियों ने **2019** के बाद SRs के रूप में मुलाकात की, हालाँकि इस दौरान उन्होंने बातचीत की है; इस तरह की उच्च-स्तरीय यात्रा **चीन** और **2020** से श्री डोभाल का बीजिंग जाना भी एक पहली बार था।

• This indicates that the decision to hold the SR talks, as mandated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President Xi Jinping** during talks in **Kazan in October**, is a signal that with only LAC disengagement completed, **New Delhi** is willing to move ahead on other mechanisms for talks with Beijing, without waiting for the next processes of de-escalation and de-induction.

यह संकेत देता है कि **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** और **राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग** द्वारा





अक्टूबर में कज़ान में बातचीत के दौरान SR talks आयोजित करने का निर्णय, यह संकेत है कि केवल LAC disengagement पूरा होने के साथ, नई दिल्ली बीजिंग के साथ बातचीत के लिए अन्य तंत्रों पर आगे बढ़ने को तैयार है, बिना अगले de-escalation और de-induction प्रक्रियाओं का इंतजार किए।

- The two sides have agreed to restart the **Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra from India**, border trade in **Sikkim**, and **data sharing for trans-boundary rivers**.

दोनों पक्षों ने भारत से कैलाश-मांसरोवर यात्रा फिर से शुरू करने, सिक्किम में सीमा व्यापार, और पार-सीमा नदियों के लिए डेटा साझा करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है।

- Other suspended ties, including **direct flights, business and student visa liberalization**, and **journalist exchanges**, are also understood to be under discussion. अन्य निलंबित संबंध, जिनमें सीधे उड़ानें, व्यापार और छात्र वीजा उदारीकरण, और पत्रकारों का आदान-प्रदान भी चर्चा के तहत समझे जाते हैं।

- On the boundary question, the **Doval-Wang talks** yielded what the **Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs** termed as “**six consensuses**”, and the **Ministry of External Affairs** referred to as “**positive directions**” in its release.

सीमा मुद्दे पर, डोभाल-वांग वार्ता में चीनी विदेश मंत्रालय द्वारा “छह सहमति बिंदु” और विदेश मंत्रालय द्वारा अपनी विज्ञप्ति में “सकारात्मक दिशाएँ” के रूप में व्यक्त किया गया।

- These involve continuing to implement the LAC de-escalation process; revert to the SR process on resolving the boundary issue according to the Eleven-articles set out in a **2005 agreement**; strengthen **Confidence Building Measures** at the border and cross-border exchanges; enhance coordination of the SR process, and the **Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs** to follow up agreements and to hold the next **Doval-Wang talks** in **2025** in India.

इनमें LAC de-escalation प्रक्रिया को लागू करना जारी रखना; सीमा मुद्दे को हल करने के लिए **2005 समझौते** में निर्धारित ग्यारह अनुच्छेदों के अनुसार SR प्रक्रिया को पुनः आरंभ करना; सीमा पर और सीमा पार आदान-प्रदान में विश्वास निर्माण उपायों को मजबूत करना; SR प्रक्रिया के समन्वय को बढ़ाना, और भारत-चीन सीमा मामलों पर परामर्श और समन्वय के लिए कार्यकारी तंत्र द्वारा समझौतों का पालन करना और अगले डोभाल-वांग वार्ता **2025** में भारत में आयोजित करना शामिल है।

- The optics and the messaging of the SR meeting indicate a certain momentum in re-engagement after four years of serious military tensions, and the suspension of regular contact, although **bilateral trade** continued to thrive.

SR बैठक की दृश्यता और संदेश यह संकेत देते हैं कि चार वर्षों तक गंभीर सैन्य तनाव और नियमित संपर्क के निलंबन के बाद पुनः जुड़ाव में एक विशेष गति आई है, हालांकि द्विपक्षीय व्यापार फलता-फूलता रहा।

- The meeting comes just ahead of **2025**, which marks **75 years of diplomatic relations**, and a likely visit to **China** by Mr. **Modi** as it hosts the next **SCO summit**.

बैठक **2025** से ठीक पहले हुई, जो कूटनीतिक संबंधों के **75 वर्ष** को चिन्हित करता है, और चीन में श्री **मोदी** की संभावित यात्रा जब यह आगामी **SCO शिखर सम्मेलन** का आयोजन करेगा।

- While restoring the links is important, it is necessary to strike a note of caution so that the situation caused by the amassing of troops and **LAC transgressions** by the PLA in



2020 is not repeated.

जबकि संबंधों को पुनर्स्थापित करना महत्वपूर्ण है, यह आवश्यक है कि सावधानी बरतें ताकि 2020 में PLA द्वारा सैनिकों का जमावड़ा और LAC उल्लंघन जैसी स्थिति दोबारा न हो।

- The government must also ensure more **transparency** in its conversations with Beijing over the future steps in normalising ties, the dismantling of buffer zones, restoration of **status quo ante to 2020**, and mechanisms for future deterrence against aggression at the **India-China boundary**.

सरकार को बीजिंग के साथ संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के भविष्य कदमों, बफ़र ज़ोन को समाप्त करने, 2020 के पूर्व स्थिति की बहाली, और भारत-चीन सीमा पर आक्रमण के खिलाफ भविष्य में निवारक तंत्रों के बारे में अपनी बातचीत में अधिक पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए।

Should legislatures in India have fixed tenures?

GS Paper II: Parliament

PARLEY

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024, mandates a fixed five-year term for the Lok Sabha, with State Legislature elections aligned to this cycle. If the Lok Sabha or any State Assembly is dissolved before completing its full term, mid-term elections will be held only for the remainder of the five-year term. Should legislatures in India have fixed tenures? P.D.T. Achary and M.R. Madhavan discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Aaratrika Bhaumik. Edited excerpts:

Do fixed legislative tenures promote better governance by reducing the disruptions of frequent elections?

P.D.T. Achary: It is worth questioning whether this Bill and the proposal for simultaneous polls are necessary at all. The claim that such a system will reduce electoral expenditure lacks credibility. A portion of the expenditure is allocated by the Election Commission and State governments through budgetary provisions from the Centre and the States. However, the majority of election spending is incurred by political parties. Even if some costs are saved, it is improbable that political parties would redirect these funds towards development or infrastructure projects. More importantly, frequent elections enhance political accountability, compelling representatives to regularly engage with the electorate.

M.R. Madhavan: This Bill does not propose a fixed term for legislatures, as it allows for mid-term elections. It ensures accountability to the legislature, in line with the core tenet of the parliamentary system. By permitting mid-term elections, the Bill is also in conformity with the basic structure of the Constitution. The key change, however, is that in the event of a mid-term election, the term of the newly elected legislature will be shorter than five years. Whether this improves governance is uncertain. However, it does not provide the same stability as the U.S. presidential system, for instance, where the incumbent President can only be removed through impeachment.

Does aligning the tenure of State Assemblies with that of the Lok Sabha compromise federalism and pose a threat to political plurality?

MRM: I find the Bill symmetrical since it also aligns the tenure of Parliament with that of



The winter session of the Parliament, in New Delhi, ANI

State Assemblies. For instance, if the Central government collapses after three years, fresh elections will be conducted for the Lok Sabha, and the newly elected legislative body will serve only a reduced term of two years. Therefore, I don't think State Assemblies are being aligned with Parliament. Rather, the Bill standardises the timing of all elections to a common date. I do not see any threat to federalism in this approach.

The argument that simultaneous polls would drive voters to select the same party for both the Centre and the State Assembly is flawed, as it underestimates the electorate's intelligence. Historical examples, such as the 2014 elections in Delhi, demonstrate that voters can and do make distinct choices. Despite the BJP's overwhelming victory at the Centre, voters elected the AAP in the State Assembly, despite both polls being held within six months of each other.

PDTA: For the first time, this Bill seeks to make the tenure of State Assemblies contingent upon that of Parliament. For instance, if Parliament completes its full term while a State Assembly is only in its second year, the Assembly would be prematurely dissolved, with elections held concurrently with Parliament. This approach undermines the principles of federalism. Under the existing constitutional framework, State Assemblies function as autonomous legislative bodies. This Bill seeks to alter their independent tenure, a crucial attribute of the federal structure.

Could such a system discourage attempts to destabilise governments and curb practices like horse-trading?

PDTA: This is a novel proposal, and it is difficult to predict whether such a system can



Under the existing constitutional framework, State Assemblies function as autonomous legislative bodies. This Bill seeks to alter their independent tenure, a crucial attribute of the federal structure

P.D.T. ACHARY

effectively deter these practices at this stage. However, a greater concern lies in the potential erosion of India's identity as a federal republic, which is rooted in the autonomy of its legislative bodies.

MRM: My understanding of the Bill is that it aligns the tenure of State Assemblies with Parliament for the first time. However, after a few electoral cycles, if a mid-term election occurs for Parliament, State Assemblies will continue and will not be dissolved.

Recent large-scale defections in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, where MLAs resigned or were disqualified, triggered by-elections. However, I doubt the Bill will curb such practices. A more significant concern is the dissolution of the House. If a government falls after three and a half years, mid-term elections will be necessary, taking an additional 4-6 months. This would result in a Lok Sabha with a tenure of one year or less, which I believe is undesirable.

Does the Bill adequately account for political exigencies? For instance, if the ruling party splits but the breakaway faction refuses to side with the Opposition.

MRM: I believe the Bill effectively addresses such contingencies. For instance, the 2013 Delhi and 2005 Bihar legislative Assembly elections resulted in hung Assemblies. In Delhi, the Congress, AAP, and BJP were unable to arrive at a consensus and form the government. The Bill resolves such deadlocks by allowing fresh elections to take place. The only difference is that the newly elected legislature will serve a reduced tenure rather than the full five years.

PDTA: The Constitution prescribes a five-year term for State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha but allows for their dissolution to address political exigencies. This flexibility reflects a pragmatic approach to governance. While fixed legislative tenures provide stability, the option to dissolve legislatures is crucial for addressing political instability. For instance, State governments have often dissolved Assemblies

to seek a fresh and decisive mandate through mid-term elections – a contingency the Bill fails to adequately address.

Could the German model of a constructive vote of no-confidence help resolve political stalemates?

PDTA: Such a proposal was rejected by the high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind. It has also been deliberated upon previously, but I doubt its adoption is feasible in India.

MRM: I don't think it is a viable option given our system. In most instances, when a ruling government loses a no-confidence motion, no alternative government commands a majority in the House. This could lead to a situation where the incumbent government remains in power but lacks the majority needed to pass essential bills or the budget.

The U.K.'s Fixed-term Parliaments Act of 2011, repealed in 2022, was criticised for triggering constitutional crises and policy paralysis. Are there lessons for India?

MRM: The Bill is being misunderstood as proposing fixed legislative tenures when it only introduces a "maximum term". This is different from the system that existed in the U.K., where a newly elected legislature would complete its full five-year term, even if mid-term elections were to be held. In contrast, under the system proposed by the Bill, if the government loses the confidence of the legislative majority, mid-term elections will be called, and the newly elected legislature will then serve a truncated tenure.

PDTA: In a country like ours, political instability is a real possibility, especially at the State level. While Parliament will continue to have its five-year tenure, States may encounter situations that necessitate mid-term elections, resulting in shorter tenures for State legislatures. I firmly believe that, despite its flaws, the current system should be preserved. The proposal for simultaneous elections risks creating unnecessary turmoil, and there is no compelling reason to pursue it at this juncture. The government should instead focus on tackling more pressing challenges that affect the people.



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Should legislatures in India have fixed tenures? क्या भारत में विधायिकाओं की तय अवधि होनी चाहिए?

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024, mandating a fixed five-year term for the Lok Sabha, with State Legislature elections aligned to this cycle.

संविधान (एक सौ उन्नतीसवां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024, 17 दिसंबर 2024 को लोकसभा में पेश किया गया, जिसमें लोकसभा के लिए पाँच साल की तय अवधि और राज्य विधानसभाओं के चुनाव को इस चक्र से मिलाने का प्रावधान है।

- If the **Lok Sabha** or any **State Assembly** is dissolved before completing its full term, **mid-term elections** will be held only for the remainder of the **five-year term**.
यदि लोकसभा या कोई भी राज्य विधानसभा अपनी पूरी अवधि समाप्त होने से पहले भंग हो जाती है, तो केवल मध्यकालिक चुनाव बाकी पाँच साल की अवधि के लिए आयोजित किए जाएंगे।
- **P.D.T. Achary** and **M.R. Madhavan** discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik**.
P.D.T. Achary और **M.R. Madhavan** इस सवाल पर **Aaratrika Bhaumik** द्वारा संचालित एक संवाद में चर्चा करते हैं।
- **P.D.T. Achary** questions whether the **Bill** and the proposal for **simultaneous polls** are necessary, arguing that the claim to reduce **electoral expenditure** lacks credibility.
P.D.T. Achary सवाल उठाते हैं कि क्या विधेयक और समान चुनावों का प्रस्ताव आवश्यक है, उनका कहना है कि चुनावी खर्च को कम करने का दावा विश्वसनीय नहीं है।
- A portion of **expenditure** is allocated by the **Election Commission** and **State governments** through budgetary provisions from the **Centre** and the **States**, but the majority of election spending is incurred by **political parties**.
खर्च का एक हिस्सा निर्वाचन आयोग और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा केंद्र और राज्यों से बजटीय प्रावधानों के माध्यम से आवंटित किया जाता है, लेकिन चुनाव खर्च का अधिकांश हिस्सा राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा वहन किया जाता है।
- **Frequent elections** enhance **political accountability**, compelling **representatives** to regularly engage with the electorate.
बार-बार चुनाव राजनीतिक जवाबदेही को बढ़ाते हैं, जिससे प्रतिनिधियों को नियमित रूप से मतदाताओं के साथ संवाद करना पड़ता है।
- **M.R. Madhavan** states that the Bill does not propose a fixed term for legislatures but allows for **mid-term elections** and ensures **accountability** to the legislature, in line with the parliamentary system.
M.R. Madhavan का कहना है कि यह विधेयक विधायिकाओं के लिए तय अवधि का प्रस्ताव नहीं करता है, बल्कि मध्यकालिक चुनावों की अनुमति देता है और विधायिका के प्रति जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करता है, जो संसदीय प्रणाली के अनुरूप है।





- The key change is that in the event of a mid-term election, the term of the newly elected legislature will be shorter than **five years**.
मुख्य बदलाव यह है कि यदि **मध्यकालिक चुनाव** होते हैं, तो नए चुने गए **विधायिका** की अवधि **पाँच साल** से कम होगी।
- The Bill does not provide the same stability as the **U.S. presidential system**, where the incumbent President can only be removed through **impeachment**.
यह विधेयक **यू.एस. राष्ट्रपति प्रणाली** जैसी स्थिरता प्रदान नहीं करता, जहां मौजूदा राष्ट्रपति को केवल **महाभियोग** के माध्यम से हटाया जा सकता है।
- Aligning the tenure of **State Assemblies** with that of the **Lok Sabha** is argued to **compromise federalism** and threaten **political plurality**.
राज्य विधानसभाओं की अवधि को **लोकसभा** के साथ संरेखित करना **संघवाद** से समझौता करने और **राजनीतिक बहुलता** को खतरे में डालने का आरोप लगाया जाता है।
- **M.R. Madhavan** finds the Bill symmetrical and argues that aligning elections to a common date does not threaten **federalism**.
M.R. Madhavan विधेयक को सामंजस्यपूर्ण मानते हैं और उनका कहना है कि चुनावों को एक सामान्य तिथि पर संरेखित करना **संघवाद** को खतरे में नहीं डालता।
- The argument that **simultaneous polls** would drive voters to select the same party for both the Centre and the State Assembly is flawed, as demonstrated by the **2014 Delhi elections**.
यह तर्क कि **समान चुनावों** से मतदाता केंद्र और राज्य विधानसभा दोनों के लिए एक ही पार्टी का चयन करेंगे, गलत है, जैसा कि **2014 दिल्ली चुनावों** ने दिखाया।
- **P.D.T. Achary** argues that for the first time, the Bill seeks to make the tenure of **State Assemblies** contingent upon that of **Parliament**, undermining **federalism**.
P.D.T. Achary का कहना है कि पहली बार यह विधेयक **राज्य विधानसभाओं** की अवधि को **संसद** की अवधि पर निर्भर बनाता है, जिससे **संघवाद** कमजोर होता है।
- Under the existing constitutional framework, **State Assemblies** function as **autonomous legislative bodies**, but this Bill alters their independent tenure, a key feature of **federal structure**.
वर्तमान संवैधानिक ढांचे के तहत, **राज्य विधानसभाएं स्वायत्त विधायी संस्थाएं** के रूप में कार्य करती हैं, लेकिन यह विधेयक उनकी स्वतंत्र अवधि को बदलता है, जो **संघीय संरचना** का एक महत्वपूर्ण गुण है।
- **P.D.T. Achary** raises concerns about the potential erosion of India's identity as a **federal republic** due to the proposed system.
P.D.T. Achary प्रस्तावित प्रणाली के कारण भारत की **संघीय गणराज्य** के रूप में पहचान के संभावित ह्रास पर चिंता व्यक्त करते हैं।
- **M.R. Madhavan** doubts the Bill will curb practices like **horse-trading**, but expresses concern over **mid-term elections** and the potential delay in forming a new government.
M.R. Madhavan को संदेह है कि यह विधेयक **घोड़े-कारोबारी** जैसी प्रथाओं को काबू करेगा, लेकिन वे **मध्यकालिक चुनावों** और एक नई सरकार बनाने में संभावित देरी पर चिंता व्यक्त करते हैं।
- If a government falls after **three and a half years**, mid-term elections will be necessary, and the **Lok Sabha** could have a **one-year** or shorter tenure, which is undesirable.





यदि कोई सरकार तीन और आधे साल बाद गिरती है, तो मध्यकालिक चुनाव जरूरी होंगे, और लोकसभा की अवधि एक साल या इससे कम हो सकती है, जो अवांछनीय है।

Does the Bill adequately account for political exigencies?

क्या बिल राजनीतिक आपात स्थितियों को पर्याप्त रूप से ध्यान में रखता है?

- MRM believes the Bill effectively addresses contingencies like the ruling party split. For example, **Delhi's 2013** and **Bihar's 2005** legislative elections resulted in **hung Assemblies**. The Bill resolves such deadlocks by allowing fresh elections, but the newly elected legislature will serve a **reduced tenure**.

MRM का मानना है कि बिल राजनीतिक आपात स्थितियों को प्रभावी ढंग से संबोधित करता है, जैसे कि सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी का विभाजन। उदाहरण के लिए, **दिल्ली 2013** और **बिहार 2005** के विधानसभा चुनावों में **hung Assemblies** हुई थीं। बिल ऐसे गतिरोधों को हल करने के लिए ताजे चुनावों की अनुमति देता है, लेकिन नए चुने गए विधानसभा का कार्यकाल **घटा हुआ** होगा।

- PDTA points out that the **Constitution** prescribes a **five-year term** for legislatures but allows for **dissolution** to address political exigencies. Fixed tenures provide **stability**, but the option to dissolve legislatures is crucial to address political instability.

PDTA का कहना है कि **संविधान** विधानसभा के लिए **पाँच साल का कार्यकाल** निर्धारित करता है, लेकिन राजनीतिक आपात स्थितियों को संबोधित करने के लिए **विघटन** की अनुमति देता है। तय कार्यकाल **स्थिरता** प्रदान करता है, लेकिन विधानसभा को विघटित करने का विकल्प राजनीतिक अस्थिरता को संबोधित करने के लिए आवश्यक है।

- States often dissolve Assemblies for **mid-term elections** to seek a **fresh mandate**, which the Bill doesn't adequately address.

राज्य अक्सर **मध्यकालिक चुनावों** के लिए विधानसभा को विघटित करते हैं ताकि **नया जनादेश** प्राप्त किया जा सके, जिसे बिल पर्याप्त रूप से संबोधित नहीं करता है।

Could the German model of a constructive vote of no-confidence help resolve political stalemates?

क्या जर्मन मॉडल में एक निर्माणात्मक अविश्वास प्रस्ताव राजनीतिक गतिरोधों को हल करने में मदद कर सकता है?

- PDTA mentions that this proposal was **rejected by the high-level committee** led by former President **Ram Nath Kovind**. It has been deliberated before, but its adoption in India is not feasible.

PDTA का उल्लेख है कि इस प्रस्ताव को **पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविंद** द्वारा नेतृत्व किए गए उच्च-स्तरीय समिति ने **नकारा** किया था। इसे पहले भी चर्चा की गई थी, लेकिन भारत में इसका अपना संभव नहीं है।

- MRM agrees and adds that in most cases when a ruling government loses a **no-confidence motion**, no alternative government commands a majority, which could lead to the incumbent government staying in power without a majority.

MRM सहमति व्यक्त करते हैं और जोड़ते हैं कि अधिकांश मामलों में जब सत्तारूढ़ सरकार





अविश्वास प्रस्ताव हार जाती है, तो कोई वैकल्पिक सरकार बहुमत हासिल नहीं करती है, जिससे वर्तमान सरकार बिना बहुमत के सत्ता में बनी रहती है।

The U.K.'s Fixed-term Parliaments Act of 2011, repealed in 2022, was criticised for triggering constitutional crises and policy paralysis. Are there lessons for India?

यूके के 2011 का फिक्स्ड-टर्म पार्लियामेंट्स एक्ट, जो 2022 में निरस्त किया गया, को संविधानिक संकट और नीतिगत गतिरोध उत्पन्न करने के लिए आलोचना की गई थी। क्या भारत के लिए इससे कुछ सीख है?

- MRM clarifies that the Bill does not propose **fixed tenures** but introduces a “**maximum term**”. The U.K. system allowed a full **five-year term**, even after mid-term elections, whereas the Indian Bill proposes that after a **mid-term election**, the newly elected legislature will serve a **reduced tenure**.

MRM स्पष्ट करते हैं कि बिल निर्धारित कार्यकाल का प्रस्ताव नहीं करता, बल्कि “अधिकतम कार्यकाल” प्रस्तुत करता है। यूके प्रणाली में पाँच साल का कार्यकाल पूरा किया जाता था, भले ही मध्यकालिक चुनाव हुए हों, जबकि भारतीय बिल में प्रस्तावित है कि मध्यकालिक चुनाव के बाद, नए चुने गए विधानसभा का कार्यकाल घटा हुआ होगा।

- PDTA argues that **political instability** is a real concern, especially at the **State level**. He believes **States** might face situations necessitating **mid-term elections**, resulting in **shorter tenures** for **State legislatures**. He advocates for preserving the current system despite its flaws.

PDTA का कहना है कि राजनीतिक अस्थिरता एक वास्तविक चिंता है, विशेषकर राज्य स्तर पर। उनका मानना है कि राज्य ऐसी परिस्थितियों का सामना कर सकते हैं जिनके लिए मध्यकालिक चुनाव जरूरी होंगे, जिससे राज्य विधानसभा का कार्यकाल कम हो सकता है। वह इसके दोषों के बावजूद वर्तमान प्रणाली को बनाए रखने की वकालत करते हैं।

- The proposal for **simultaneous elections** risks creating **unnecessary turmoil**, and the government should instead focus on addressing more **pressing challenges** that affect the people.

समकालिक चुनावों का प्रस्ताव अनावश्यक उथल-पुथल पैदा करने का खतरा है, और सरकार को इसके बजाय लोगों को प्रभावित करने वाली अधिक तत्काल चुनौतियों को संबोधित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।





The social character of scientific knowledge

In science, not knowing is ubiquitous. The problems arise when we don't know, or choose to overlook, where science ends and faith begins

Essay
Vasudevan Mukunth

Many of us want to know how the SARS-CoV-2 virus originated. To do that, right now we need to unravel its evolution from its bat coronavirus ancestor by sequencing the genomes of animals and viruses near the outbreak site and we need to effect China's cooperation to check whether SARS-CoV-2 could have 'leaked' from a lab. Where the virus came from was once singularly important because the answer could have pointed the way to avoiding similar outbreaks in future. But today, there is good reason for this question to take the back seat.

We don't know where or how the virus originated. If it did in a lab, we would have to re-examine how we regulate research facilities and their safeguards and the manner of political oversight that won't curtail research freedom. If the virus is au naturel, we would have to institute and/or expand pathogen surveillance, eliminate wildlife trafficking, and improve social security measures to ensure populations can withstand outbreaks without becoming distressed. But even as these possibilities aren't equally likely (according to scientists I trust), the origin of SARS-CoV-2 is less important than it once was because the COVID-19 pandemic caused us to implement all these outcomes to varying degrees.

SARS-CoV-2 isn't special of course: it's still difficult to conclusively say what really happened with many things, scientifically. In 1977, a telescope in the U.S. recorded a signal from outer space that remains strange to this day. We don't have a physical explanation for the "spooky" result of an experiment Anton Zeilinger and co. conducted in 1998. We lack a complete understanding of how general anaesthesia works its magic on the brain. Not even their makers fully know how powerful AI models work the way they do. No existing theory of nature can say what happens in intervals shorter than 10^{-43} seconds.

In fact, not knowing is ubiquitous. To quote philosopher Nicholas Rescher, "no one can say in advance what questions natural science can and cannot answer." But science communication has taught me not all of us can know everything unless we invest considerable, perhaps even impossible, resources. Years ago, the philosopher Daniel Sarewitz wrote an article that changed my relationship with science. He argued that while we may know about the Higgs boson particle and that it gives other elementary particles their masses, we can't truly know any of this until we learn the complicated mathematics required to make sense of it. Until then, we just have faith in the physicists who know. This relationship goes for most technical information in our lives.

Science journalists like me communicate science by providing for scientists' claims, to quote Rescher, "the backing of a rationale that renders [their] correctness evident", but I still demand a considerable amount of faith from readers. At some point faith also becomes trust but trust still isn't understanding. (This said, the system of sanctions should they err provides a reasonable backstop for trust in scientists' and journalists' work.) The general idea here is that you pick someone you trust and you believe what they say to be true. Let's call this the social character of scientific knowledge.

When people encounter a weighty concept scientists aren't able to explain fully, the social character becomes more apparent than it normally is. Some people trust impassioned scientists unwilling to consider extra-scientific possibilities. Some lean towards authority figures who don't trust science to provide the answer. Historically, people have turned to faith in the face of the unknown. The problems arise when we don't know, or choose to overlook, where science ends and faith/trust begins. Then we fixate on answers that may never matter at the expense of answers that are already useful.

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SARS-CoV-2 किसी प्रयोगशाला से 'लीक' हुआ था।

- Where the virus came from was once singularly important because the answer could have pointed the way to avoiding similar outbreaks in future.

The Social Character of Scientific Knowledge

वैज्ञानिक ज्ञान का सामाजिक चरित्र

In science, not knowing is ubiquitous. The problems arise when we don't know, or choose to overlook, where science ends and faith begins.

विज्ञान में न जानना सर्वव्यापी है।

समस्याएँ तब उत्पन्न होती हैं जब हम नहीं जानते, या जानबूझकर यह

नजरअंदाज करते हैं कि विज्ञान कहां समाप्त होता है और विश्वास कहां शुरू होता है।

• Many of us want to know how the SARS-CoV-2 virus originated. To do that, right now we need to unravel its evolution from its bat coronavirus ancestor by sequencing the genomes of animals and viruses near the outbreak site and we need to effect China's cooperation to check whether SARS-CoV-2 could have 'leaked' from a lab.

हम में से कई लोग यह जानना चाहते हैं कि

SARS-CoV-2 वायरस कहां से उत्पन्न हुआ।

ऐसा करने के लिए, हमें अभी इसके बैट

कोरोनावायरस पूर्वज से इसके विकास को जानने

के लिए पशुओं और वायरस के जीनोम की

अनुक्रमण करना होगा, और हमें चीन के सहयोग

की आवश्यकता होगी यह जांचने के लिए कि क्या





वायरस कहां से आया था, यह कभी विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण था क्योंकि इसका उत्तर भविष्य में इसी तरह के प्रकोपों से बचने का मार्ग दिखा सकता था।

- But today, there is good reason for this question to take the back seat.
लेकिन आज, इस सवाल को पीछे हटने के लिए एक अच्छा कारण है।
- We don't know where or how the virus originated. If it did in a lab, we would have to re-examine how we regulate research facilities and their safeguards and the manner of political oversight that won't curtail research freedom.
हम नहीं जानते कि वायरस कहां या कैसे उत्पन्न हुआ। अगर यह किसी प्रयोगशाला में हुआ था, तो हमें यह पुनः जांचना होगा कि हम **अनुसंधान सुविधाओं** और उनके **सुरक्षा उपायों** को कैसे नियंत्रित करते हैं और **राजनीतिक निगरानी** के तरीके को कैसे परिभाषित करते हैं ताकि यह **अनुसंधान स्वतंत्रता** को कम न करे।
- If the virus is au naturel, we would have to institute and/or expand pathogen surveillance, eliminate wildlife trafficking, and improve social security measures to ensure populations can withstand outbreaks without becoming distressed.
अगर वायरस प्राकृतिक रूप से उत्पन्न हुआ है, तो हमें **पैथोजन निगरानी** स्थापित और/या विस्तारित करनी होगी, **वन्यजीव तस्करी** को समाप्त करना होगा, और **सामाजिक सुरक्षा उपायों** को सुधारना होगा ताकि जनसंख्या प्रकोपों का सामना कर सके बिना परेशान हुए।
- But even as these possibilities aren't equally likely (according to scientists I trust), the origin of SARS-CoV-2 is less important than it once was because the **COVID-19** pandemic caused us to implement all these outcomes to varying degrees.
लेकिन जबकि ये संभावनाएँ समान रूप से **संभावित** नहीं हैं (उन वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार जिन पर मैं विश्वास करता हूँ), **SARS-CoV-2** का उत्पत्ति पहले की तरह महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है क्योंकि **COVID-19** महामारी ने हमें इन सभी परिणामों को विभिन्न डिग्री तक लागू करने के लिए मजबूर किया।
- SARS-CoV-2 isn't special of course: it's still difficult to conclusively say what really happened with many things, scientifically.
SARS-CoV-2 विशेष नहीं है: यह अभी भी बहुत सारी चीजों के साथ यह निर्णायक रूप से कहना मुश्किल है कि वैज्ञानिक रूप से वास्तव में क्या हुआ।
- In 1977, a telescope in the U.S. recorded a signal from outer space that remains strange to this day.
1977 में, **अमेरिका** में एक दूरदर्शन ने बाहरी अंतरिक्ष से एक संकेत रिकॉर्ड किया जो आज तक अजीब बना हुआ है।
- We don't have a physical explanation for the "spooky" result of an experiment Anton Zeilinger and co. conducted in 1998.
हमारे पास **1998** में **एंटन ज़ैलिंगर** और उनके सहकर्मियों द्वारा किए गए एक प्रयोग के "भूतिया" परिणाम का भौतिक स्पष्टीकरण नहीं है।
- We lack a complete understanding of how general anaesthesia works its magic on the brain.
हमारे पास यह समझने का पूरा तरीका नहीं है कि सामान्य **एनेस्थीसिया** मस्तिष्क पर अपनी जादुई प्रभाव कैसे डालता है।





- Not even their makers fully know how powerful AI models work the way they do.
यहां तक कि इनके निर्माता भी पूरी तरह से नहीं जानते कि कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) मॉडल इस तरह से काम कैसे करते हैं।
- No existing theory of nature can say what happens in intervals shorter than $10^{(-43)}$ seconds.
प्रकृति के वर्तमान में कोई भी सिद्धांत यह नहीं कह सकता कि $10^{(-43)}$ सेकंड से छोटे अंतराल में क्या होता है।
- In fact, not knowing is ubiquitous. To quote philosopher Nicholas Rescher, “no one can say in advance what questions natural science can and cannot answer.”
वास्तव में, न जानना सर्वव्यापी है। दर्शनशास्त्री निकोलस रेशर के शब्दों को उद्धृत करते हुए, “कोई यह नहीं कह सकता कि प्राकृतिक विज्ञान किस प्रश्न का उत्तर दे सकता है और किसका नहीं।”
- But science communication has taught me not all of us can know everything unless we invest considerable, perhaps even impossible, resources.
लेकिन विज्ञान संवाद ने मुझे यह सिखाया है कि हम में से सभी लोग सब कुछ नहीं जान सकते, जब तक हम काफी संसाधन नहीं निवेश करते, शायद यह असंभव भी हो।
- Years ago, the philosopher Daniel Sarewitz wrote an article that changed my relationship with science.
कई साल पहले, दर्शनशास्त्री डैनियल सरेविट्ज़ ने एक लेख लिखा जो मेरे और विज्ञान के रिश्ते को बदल दिया।
- He argued that while we may know about the Higgs boson particle and that it gives other elementary particles their masses, we can't truly know any of this until we learn the complicated mathematics required to make sense of it.
उन्होंने तर्क किया कि जबकि हम हिग्स बोसोन कण के बारे में जानते हैं और यह अन्य मूलभूत कणों को उनका द्रव्यमान देता है, हम में से कोई भी इस सब को वास्तव में नहीं जान सकता जब तक हम इसके अर्थ को समझने के लिए आवश्यक जटिल गणित नहीं सीखते।
- Until then, we just have faith in the physicists who know.
तब तक, हमें सिर्फ भौतिकविदों पर विश्वास होता है जो जानते हैं।
- This relationship goes for most technical information in our lives.
यह संबंध हमारे जीवन के अधिकांश तकनीकी जानकारी के लिए लागू होता है।
- Science journalists like me communicate science by providing for scientists' claims, to quote Rescher, “the backing of a rationale that renders [their] correctness evident”, but I still demand a considerable amount of faith from readers.
विज्ञान पत्रकार जैसे मैं विज्ञान को संवादित करते हैं और वैज्ञानिकों के दावे को समर्थन प्रदान करते हैं, रेशर के शब्दों में, “वह तर्क समर्थन जो [उनकी] सत्यता को स्पष्ट करता है”, लेकिन फिर भी मैं पाठकों से एक काफी मात्रा में विश्वास की मांग करता हूं।
- At some point faith also becomes trust but trust still isn't understanding.
किसी बिंदु पर विश्वास भी विश्वास में बदल जाता है, लेकिन विश्वास फिर भी समझ नहीं होता।
- The general idea here is that you pick someone you trust and you believe what they say to be true.





यहां का सामान्य विचार यह है कि आप किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को चुनते हैं जिस पर आप विश्वास करते हैं और आप मानते हैं कि जो वह कहते हैं वह सच है।

- Let's call this the social character of scientific knowledge. इसे हम वैज्ञानिक ज्ञान के सामाजिक चरित्र के रूप में बुलाते हैं।
- When people encounter a weighty concept scientists aren't able to explain fully, the social character becomes more apparent than it normally is. जब लोग एक महत्वपूर्ण सिद्धांत से सामना करते हैं जिसे वैज्ञानिक पूरी तरह से नहीं समझ सकते, तो इसका सामाजिक चरित्र सामान्य से अधिक स्पष्ट हो जाता है।
- Some people trust impassioned scientists unwilling to consider extra-scientific possibilities. कुछ लोग ऐसे उत्साही वैज्ञानिकों पर विश्वास करते हैं जो अतिरिक्त-वैज्ञानिक संभावनाओं पर विचार करने को तैयार नहीं होते।
- Some lean towards authority figures who don't trust science to provide the answer. कुछ लोग उन प्राधिकृत व्यक्तियों की ओर झुकते हैं जो विज्ञान पर विश्वास नहीं करते कि वह उत्तर प्रदान कर सकता है।
- Historically, people have turned to faith in the face of the unknown. ऐतिहासिक रूप से, लोग अज्ञात के सामने विश्वास की ओर मुड़े हैं।
- The problems arise when we don't know, or choose to overlook, where science ends

Only Union govt. can decide, says HC on Rahul citizenship row

Only Union govt. can decide, says HC on Rahul citizenship row

राहुल नागरिकता विवाद पर हाई कोर्ट का कहना है कि केवल केंद्र सरकार ही निर्णय ले सकती है

On Thursday, the Allahabad High Court said the Union government is the competent authority to decide on citizenship-related matters.

गुरुवार को, इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि नागरिकता से संबंधित मामलों पर निर्णय लेने का अधिकार केवल केंद्र सरकार के पास है।

- The oral observations were made during the hearing of a petition that seeks directions from the court for a **CBI probe** into the alleged **British citizenship** of **Rahul Gandhi**, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP.

यह मौखिक टिप्पणी उस याचिका की सुनवाई के दौरान की गई, जो

GS Paper II: Citizenship

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday said the **Union government is the competent authority to decide on citizenship-related matters**. The oral observations were made during the hearing of a petition that seeks directions from the court for a **CBI probe** into the alleged **British citizenship** of **Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi**.

The petition filed by S. Vignesh Shishir, being heard by the Bench of Chief Justice Arun Bhansali and Justice Jaspreet Singh, also prayed for directions to the **Chief Election Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Electoral Officer, and Rae Bareilly's Returning Officer to cancel Mr. Gandhi's electoral certificate**.

Mr. Shishir's social media profile says that he is a BJP member.

In his application, he

The petitioner said he has details from U.K. govt. to prove that Rahul is a British citizen

claimed that he had submitted a detailed representation-cum-complaint to the **Foreigners Division of the Union Home Ministry**, in which he had requested the authorities concerned to **cancel Mr. Gandhi's Indian citizenship under Rules and Regulations of Section 9(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, read with Rule 40(2) of the Citizenship Rules, 2009 and Schedule III of 2009 Rules**.

On Thursday, he told the court that **he has details from the U.K. government that proves that the Congress leader is a British citizen**. As the Home Ministry needed time to decide on the representation, the court adjourned the matter for further hearing on March 24, 2025.





लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता और कांग्रेस सांसद राहुल गांधी की कथित ब्रिटिश नागरिकता की जांच के लिए अदालत से सीबीआई जांच की दिशा देने की मांग करती है।

- The petition was filed by **S. Vignesh Shishir**, and is being heard by the **Bench of Chief Justice Arun Bhansali and Justice Jaspreet Singh**.

यह याचिका एस. विजनेश शिशिर द्वारा दायर की गई थी, और इसे मुख्य न्यायाधीश अरुण भंसाली और न्यायमूर्ति जसप्रीत सिंह की पीठ द्वारा सुना जा रहा है।

- The petition also prayed for directions to the **Chief Election Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Electoral Officer**, and **Rae Bareilly's Returning Officer** to cancel **Mr. Gandhi's electoral certificate**.

याचिका में मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, और रायबरेली के रिटर्निंग अधिकारी को श्री गांधी का चुनाव प्रमाण पत्र रद्द करने का निर्देश देने की भी प्रार्थना की गई थी।

- **Mr. Shishir's social media profile** indicates that he is a **BJP member**.

श्री शिशिर की सोशल मीडिया प्रोफाइल से पता चलता है कि वह भाजपा के सदस्य हैं।

- In his application, he claimed that he had submitted a detailed **representation-cum-complaint** to the **Foreigners Division of the Union Home Ministry**, requesting the authorities to cancel Mr. Gandhi's Indian citizenship under **Section 9(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955**, read with **Rule 40(2) of the Citizenship Rules, 2009** and **Schedule III of 2009 Rules**.

अपने आवेदन में उन्होंने दावा किया कि उन्होंने केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय के विदेशी विभाग में एक विस्तृत प्रतिनिधित्व-समेत शिकायत दी थी, जिसमें उन्होंने संबंधित अधिकारियों से भारतीय नागरिकता कानून, 1955 की धारा 9(2) के तहत श्री गांधी की भारतीय नागरिकता रद्द करने का अनुरोध किया था, जिसे नागरिकता नियम, 2009 के नियम 40(2) और 2009 के नियमों की अनुसूची III के साथ पढ़ा गया था।

- On Thursday, he told the court that he has details from the **U.K. government** proving that the Congress leader is a **British citizen**.

गुरुवार को, उन्होंने अदालत से कहा कि उनके पास ब्रिटिश सरकार से विवरण हैं, जो यह साबित करते हैं कि कांग्रेस नेता ब्रिटिश नागरिक हैं।

- As the **Home Ministry** needed time to decide on the representation, the court adjourned the matter for further hearing on **March 24, 2025**.

चूंकि गृह मंत्रालय को प्रतिनिधित्व पर निर्णय लेने के लिए समय चाहिए था, अदालत ने मामले की अगली सुनवाई 24 मार्च 2025 तक के लिए स्थगित कर दी।





SC rejects contempt plea over *dharam sansad* nod

GS Paper II: Contempt of Court

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a plea filed by senior bureaucrats and activists seeking contempt action against the Ghaziabad district administration and Uttar Pradesh Police for allowing a *dharam sansad*.

However, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna directed the authorities to keep track of the happenings in the *sansad* and record the event.

The petitioners led by activist Aruna Roy, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl D'Souza, alleged that the administration gave permission to the Yati Narasinghanand Foundation to hold the *dharam sansad* between December 17 and 21 at Ghaziabad despite the programme advertisements showing communal statements against the followers of Islam, inciting violence against Muslims.

They argued that the alleged lapse on the part of the district administration and the State Police amounted to a "wilful and deliberate contempt of the orders of the Supreme Court wherein it had directed all competent and appropriate authorities to take *suo motu* action against individuals or groups who indulge in communal activities and hate speeches."

The Chief Justice asked the petitioners to approach the authorities concerned. "All matters cannot come to the apex court. If I entertain one, I have to entertain all," the CJI said. Mr. Bhushan insisted that one case should be made an example. "If it happens in one case, it will stop," he argued.

SC rejects contempt plea over *dharam sansad* nod

धर्म संसद को अनुमति देने पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अवमानना याचिका खारिज की

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a plea filed by senior bureaucrats and activists seeking contempt action against the Ghaziabad district administration and Uttar Pradesh Police for allowing a *dharam sansad*.

गुरुवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं की दायर की गई याचिका को खारिज कर दिया, जिसमें गाज़ियाबाद जिला प्रशासन और उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस के खिलाफ धर्म संसद को अनुमति देने पर अवमानना कार्यवाही की मांग की गई थी।

• However, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna directed the authorities to keep track of the happenings in the *sansad* and record the event.

हालांकि, भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने अधिकारियों को धर्म संसद में हो रही घटनाओं का रिकॉर्ड रखने और उन पर नजर रखने का निर्देश दिया।

• The petitioners led by activist Aruna Roy, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl D'Souza, alleged that the administration gave permission to the Yati Narasinghanand Foundation to hold the *dharam sansad* between December 17 and 21 at Ghaziabad, despite the programme advertisements showing communal statements against the followers of Islam, inciting violence against Muslims.

याचिकाकर्ताओं के नेतृत्व में सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता अरुणा रॉय, जिनका प्रतिनिधित्व वकील प्रशांत भूषण और चेरिल डी'सूजा द्वारा किया गया, ने आरोप लगाया कि प्रशासन ने यति नरसिंह आनंद फाउंडेशन को गाज़ियाबाद में 17 से 21 दिसंबर के बीच धर्म संसद आयोजित करने की अनुमति दी, जबकि कार्यक्रम के विज्ञापनों में इस्लाम के अनुयायियों के खिलाफ साम्प्रदायिक बयान दिए गए थे, जो मुसलमानों के खिलाफ हिंसा उकसाते थे।

• They argued that the alleged lapse on the part of the district administration and the State Police amounted to a "wilful and deliberate contempt" of the orders of the Supreme Court, which had directed all competent and





appropriate authorities to take **suo motu action** against individuals or groups indulging in **communal activities** and **hate speeches**.

उन्होंने तर्क किया कि जिला प्रशासन और राज्य पुलिस की कथित चूक सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेशों के खिलाफ “जानबूझकर और जानबूझकर अवमानना” के बराबर है, जिसमें सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सभी सक्षम और उचित अधिकारियों को साम्प्रदायिक गतिविधियों और नफरत भरे भाषणों में शामिल व्यक्तियों या समूहों के खिलाफ सुवो मोटो कार्रवाई करने का निर्देश दिया था।

- The **Chief Justice** asked the petitioners to approach the **authorities concerned**.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने याचिकाकर्ताओं से संबंधित अधिकारियों से संपर्क करने को कहा।
- “All matters cannot come to the apex court. If I entertain one, I have to entertain all,” the CJI said.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने कहा, “सभी मामले शीर्ष अदालत में नहीं आ सकते। अगर मैं एक मामले को स्वीकार करता हूँ, तो मुझे सभी को स्वीकार करना होगा।”

- **Mr. Bhushan** insisted that one case should be made an example. “If it happens in one case, it will stop,” he argued.

भूषण ने जोर देकर कहा कि एक मामले को उदाहरण बनाना चाहिए। “अगर यह एक मामले में होता है, तो यह रुक जाएगा,” उन्होंने तर्क किया।

Disrobing of women is a blot on the Constitution: SC

GS Paper I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday in a judgment said the disrobing, grievous assault and public humiliation committed on two women accused of witchcraft in rural Bihar in 2020 amounted to a blot on the constitutional spirit of equality and dignity.

A Bench of Justices C.T. Ravikumar and Sanjay Karol castigated the Patna High Court for staying criminal proceedings against the accused persons and the Bihar government for not pursuing the case to bring justice to the women.

“Witchcraft is deeply intertwined with superstition, patriarchy and social control, leaving it to no

It also pulled up Patna High Court for staying the criminal proceedings against the accused

manner of surprise that such allegations were most often directed against women who were either widows or elderly. A variety of reasons are accepted to be the reasons for casting such aspersions – caste-based discrimination, retaliation for defying social norms, etc,” Justice Karol observed in a 19-page judgment.

The court held that each case of inhumane and degrading incidents against women accused of witchcraft potentially went against the spirit of the Constitution.

“Dignity goes to the very core of the existence of an individual in society. Any action which undermines dignity either by an act of another person or that of the State is potentially going against the spirit of the Constitution of India,” the court highlighted, reviving the trial against the accused.

“Incidents such as the one before us, as also many others that come across our desks, keep us alive to the on-ground reality that however much has been done by way of legislative, executive and judicial action to protect vulnerable sections of the society, in this context women, from exploitation, its effect has not permeated to the grassroot level,” the court said.

Disrobing of women is a blot on the Constitution: SC

महिलाओं का नग्न करना संविधान पर कलंक: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

- The **Supreme Court** on Thursday in a judgment said the **disrobing**, grievous **assault** and **public humiliation** committed on two women accused of **witchcraft** in **rural Bihar in 2020** amounted to a **blot on the constitutional spirit of equality and dignity**.
गुरुवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एक फैसले में कहा कि 2020 में बिहार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में जादू-टोना के आरोप में दो महिलाओं पर किए गए नग्न करना,





घातक हिंसा और सार्वजनिक अपमान संविधान की समानता और गौरव की भावना पर एक कलंक है।

- A Bench of Justices C.T. Ravikumar and Sanjay Karol castigated the Patna High Court for staying criminal proceedings against the accused persons and the Bihar government for not pursuing the case to bring justice to the women.

न्यायमूर्ति सी.टी. रविकुमार और संजय करोल की पीठ ने पटना उच्च न्यायालय की आलोचना की, जिसने आरोपियों के खिलाफ अपराधी कार्यवाही पर रोक लगाई और बिहार सरकार को महिलाओं को न्याय दिलाने के लिए मामले की प्रक्रिया को आगे नहीं बढ़ाने के लिए।

- “Witchcraft is deeply intertwined with superstition, patriarchy and social control, leaving it to no manner of surprise that such allegations were most often directed against women who were either widows or elderly. A variety of reasons are accepted to be the reasons for casting such aspersions — caste-based discrimination, retaliation for defying social norms, etc,” Justice Karol observed in a 19-page judgment.

"जादू-टोना गहरे तरीके से अंधविश्वास, पितृसत्ता और सामाजिक नियंत्रण से जुड़ा हुआ है, जिससे यह कोई आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है कि इस तरह के आरोप अक्सर विधवाओं या बुजुर्ग महिलाओं के खिलाफ लगाए जाते थे। इस तरह के आरोप लगाने के विभिन्न कारण माने जाते हैं – जातिवाद आधारित भेदभाव, सामाजिक मानदंडों का उल्लंघन करने पर प्रतिशोध, आदि," न्यायमूर्ति करोल ने 19 पृष्ठों के निर्णय में टिप्पणी की।

- The court held that each case of inhumane and degrading incidents against women accused of witchcraft potentially went against the spirit of the Constitution.

कोर्ट ने कहा कि जादू-टोना के आरोप में महिलाओं के खिलाफ प्रत्येक अमानवीय और अपमानजनक घटना संविधान की भावना के खिलाफ हो सकती है।

- “Dignity goes to the very core of the existence of an individual in society. Any action which undermines dignity either by an act of another person or that of the State is potentially going against the spirit of the Constitution of India,” the court highlighted, reviving the trial against the accused.

"गौरव समाज में किसी व्यक्ति के अस्तित्व के मूल में है। कोई भी कार्य जो गौरव को नुकसान पहुंचाता है, चाहे वह दूसरे व्यक्ति द्वारा किया गया हो या राज्य द्वारा, वह भारतीय संविधान की भावना के खिलाफ हो सकता है," कोर्ट ने कहा, आरोपियों के खिलाफ मुकदमे को फिर से शुरू करते हुए।

- “Incidents such as the one before us, as also many others that come across our desks, keep us alive to the on-ground reality that however much has been done by way of legislative, executive and judicial action to protect vulnerable sections of the society, in this context women, from exploitation, its effect has not permeated to the grassroots level,” the court said.

"हमारे सामने जिस प्रकार की घटनाएं आई हैं, साथ ही कई अन्य घटनाएं जो हमारे सामने आई हैं, वे हमें भूमिगत वास्तविकता से अवगत कराती हैं कि समाज के सामाजिक, कार्यपालिका और न्यायिक क्रियावली के माध्यम से हालांकि समाज के कमजोर वर्गों, इस संदर्भ में महिलाओं, को शोषण से बचाने के लिए काफी काम किया गया है, लेकिन इसका प्रभाव जमीन स्तर तक नहीं पहुंचा है," कोर्ट ने कहा।





Govt. asks X to delete 'partial' clips of Shah's comments

Govt. asks X to delete 'partial' clips of Shah's comments

सरकार ने X से शाह की टिप्पणियों के 'आंशिक' क्लिप को हटाने को कहा

GS Paper III: Cyber Crime

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Union Home Ministry, has demanded that X take down a clip of Home Minister Amit Shah's contested remarks in Parliament on B.R. Ambedkar and the Congress.

In an email to certain Congress MPs and to the official Congress X handle, the social media company cited the I4C charge that the viral clip "violates the law(s) of India". X told the Congress account-holders that it had not taken any action on the government's demand.

"Under what basis was this demand issued," Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete asked on Thursday, defending the posts.

The BJP has said that the clip cuts off at a misleading point.

The I4C used powers granted under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to send notices to X to take down the video. In March, I4C was authorised and designated as an agency to issue "Take Down Notices" to social media intermediaries and platforms to remove "unlawful content".

Other than I4C, this power is entrusted to all law enforcement agencies, including the State police. The I4C was established by the Home Ministry to provide a framework and ecosystem for these law enforcement agencies to monitor and deal with cybercrime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

A government official said that notices under Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act to take down online content can be issued even without the registration of a First Information Report (FIR).

I4C CEO Rajesh Kumar did not answer queries on whether any FIR had been filed in this case.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Union Home Ministry, has demanded that X take down a clip of Home Minister Amit Shah's contested remarks in Parliament on B.R. Ambedkar and the Congress.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय के तहत भारतीय साइबर क्राइम कोऑर्डिनेशन सेंटर (I4C) ने X से गृह मंत्री अमित शाह की लोकसभा में की गई B.R. अंबेडकर और कांग्रेस पर विवादित टिप्पणियों के क्लिप को हटाने की मांग की है।

In an email to certain Congress MPs and to the official Congress X handle, the social media company cited the I4C charge that the viral clip "violates the law(s) of India."

कुछ कांग्रेस सांसदों और कांग्रेस के आधिकारिक X हैंडल को एक ईमेल में, सोशल मीडिया कंपनी ने I4C द्वारा आरोप का हवाला देते हुए कहा कि वायरल क्लिप "भारत के कानूनों का उल्लंघन" करती है।

X told the Congress account-holders that it had not taken any action on the government's demand.

X ने कांग्रेस खाता धारकों से कहा कि उसने सरकार की मांग पर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की है।

"Under what basis was this demand issued," Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete asked on Thursday, defending the posts.

"किस आधार पर यह मांग जारी की गई थी," कांग्रेस प्रवक्ता सुप्रिया श्रीनाते ने गुरुवार को पूछा, पोस्टों का बचाव करते हुए।

The BJP has said that the clip cuts off at a misleading point.

भा.ज.पा. ने कहा कि क्लिप एक गलत दिशा में कट जाती है।

The I4C used powers granted under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to send notices to X to take down the video.

I4C ने सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000 के धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत प्राधिकृत शक्तियों का उपयोग करते हुए X को वीडियो हटाने का नोटिस भेजा।

In March, I4C was authorised and designated as an agency to issue 'Take Down Notices' to social media intermediaries and platforms to remove "unlawful content".

मार्च में, I4C को एक एजेंसी के रूप में प्राधिकृत किया गया था और उसे सोशल मीडिया मध्यस्थों और प्लेटफार्मों को "अवैध सामग्री" हटाने के लिए 'टेक डाउन नोटिस' जारी करने का अधिकार दिया गया था।

Other than I4C, this power is entrusted to all law enforcement agencies, including the State police.





I4C के अलावा, यह अधिकार सभी कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों, जिसमें राज्य पुलिस भी शामिल है, को सौंपा गया है।

- The **I4C** was established by the **Home Ministry** to provide a framework and ecosystem for these law enforcement agencies to monitor and deal with **cybercrime** in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

I4C को गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा स्थापित किया गया था, ताकि यह कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों को एक ढांचा और पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र प्रदान कर सके, ताकि वे साइबर अपराध की निगरानी और निपटारे को समन्वित और समय तरीके से कर सकें।

- A **government official** said that notices under **Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act** to take down online content can be issued even without the registration of a **First Information Report (FIR)**.

एक सरकारी अधिकारी ने कहा कि सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत ऑनलाइन सामग्री हटाने के लिए नोटिस पहली सूचना रिपोर्ट (FIR) के पंजीकरण के बिना भी जारी किए जा सकते हैं।

- **I4C CEO Rajesh Kumar** did not answer queries on whether any **FIR** had been filed in this case.

I4C के CEO राजेश कुमार ने इस मामले में यह नहीं बताया कि क्या कोई **FIR** दायर की गई है।

Eklavya schools struggle to meet 5% PVTG sub-quota; dropouts on the rise

GS Paper I: Society

NEW DELHI

About four years after the Centre introduced a sub-quota of 5% for the **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in admissions to Eklavya Model Residential Schools for tribal students across the country, government data show that they are struggling to meet this quota. Just 3.4% of students in these schools now are from these communities.

The number of such students dropping out has been rising for three years in a row. Data obtained by *The Hindu* through the Right to Information Act show that of the 1,30,101 students enrolled into all 407 such functional schools as of October, 4,480 belong to PVTG communities, which amounts to about 3.4% of the total student popula-



Of the 1.3 lakh students in 407 Eklavya Model Residential Schools as of October, 4,480 belong to PVTG communities. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion at these schools.

The data showed that States that had the most students – Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Gujarat – were struggling to meet the 5% quota. In Madhya Pradesh, PVTG students account for 3.8% of the total students, in Chhattisgarh, they make up 2.74% of the student population, whereas in

Gujarat, just 21 students out of the total 10,688 belong to PVTG communities.

This comes even as government data tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday showed that more and more PVTG students had been dropping out of these schools for the past three years. Tabling this data in response to a question

from DMK MP Kanimozhi, the Tribal Affairs Ministry said that in 2021-22, 10 PVTG students had dropped out. This had increased to 14 in 2022-23, and to 18 in the following academic year.

“Infrastructure gaps, teacher shortage, pressure to work for earning, quality of education, are some of the reasons for drop out,” the reply tabled by Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikhey said.

The provision to introduce a 5% sub-quota for PVTG students in admissions to these schools was introduced after their administration was centralised by setting up the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) in 2019. The first set of guidelines issued by the NESTS in 2020 accommodated this in the reservation matrix.





Eklavya schools struggle to meet 5% PVTG sub-quota; dropouts on the rise

एकलव्य स्कूलों को 5% PVTG उप-कोटा पूरा करने में कठिनाई हो रही है; स्कूल छोड़ने वालों की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है

Struggles with PVTG Sub-Quota in Eklavya Model Residential Schools

ईकलव्य मॉडल आवासीय विद्यालयों में PVTG सब-क्वोटा की चुनौतियाँ

- 4 years after the Centre introduced a subquota of 5% for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), government data shows that they are struggling to meet this quota.
केंद्र सरकार ने 4 साल पहले विशेष रूप से संवेदनशील जनजातीय समूहों (PVTGs) के लिए 5% सब-क्वोटा पेश किया था, सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार ये समुदाय इसे पूरा करने में संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।
- Just 3.4% of students in these schools are from PVTG communities.
इन विद्यालयों में केवल 3.4% छात्र PVTG समुदायों से हैं।
- The number of PVTG students dropping out has been rising for three years in a row. PVTG छात्रों का ड्रॉपआउट आंकड़ा पिछले तीन वर्षों से बढ़ रहा है।
- Data obtained through the Right to Information Act shows that 1,30,101 students were enrolled in 407 schools as of October, with 4,480 students from PVTG communities, amounting to about 3.4% of the total student population.
सूचना के अधिकार (RTI) अधिनियम के तहत प्राप्त आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि अक्टूबर तक 1,30,101 छात्र 407 स्कूलों में नामांकित थे, जिसमें 4,480 छात्र PVTG समुदायों से थे, जो कुल छात्र संख्या का लगभग 3.4% हैं।
- States with the most students, such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Gujarat, are struggling to meet the 5% quota.
जो राज्य सबसे अधिक छात्र संख्या वाले हैं, जैसे कि मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़, ओडिशा और गुजरात, उन्हें 5% कोटा पूरा करने में कठिनाई हो रही है।
 - In Madhya Pradesh, PVTG students account for 3.8% of the total student population.
मध्य प्रदेश में, PVTG छात्र कुल छात्र संख्या का 3.8% हैं।
 - In Chhattisgarh, they make up 2.74% of the student population.
छत्तीसगढ़ में, ये छात्र कुल छात्र संख्या का 2.74% हैं।
 - In Gujarat, just 21 students out of the total 10,688 students belong to PVTG communities.
गुजरात में, कुल 10,688 छात्रों में से केवल 21 छात्र PVTG समुदायों से हैं।
- Government data tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday showed that more and more PVTG students have been dropping out for the past three years.



गुरुवार को लोकसभा में प्रस्तुत सरकारी आंकड़ों से पता चला कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में अधिक से अधिक PVTG छात्र ड्रॉपआउट हो रहे हैं।

- In **2021-22**, **10 PVTG students** dropped out.
2021-22 में, 10 PVTG छात्रों ने ड्रॉपआउट किया।
- In **2022-23**, the number increased to **14 students**.
2022-23 में, यह संख्या बढ़कर 14 छात्रों तक पहुंच गई।
- In the following academic year (**2023-24**), the number further increased to **18 students**.

अगले शैक्षणिक वर्ष (**2023-24**) में, यह संख्या बढ़कर **18 छात्रों तक पहुंच गई।**

- The **Tribal Affairs Ministry** attributed the dropouts to **infrastructure gaps, teacher shortages, pressure to work for earning, and quality of education**.
जनजातीय मामलों मंत्रालय ने ड्रॉपआउट के कारणों के रूप में संचालनात्मक कमी, शिक्षक की कमी, आय के लिए काम करने का दबाव, और शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता को जिम्मेदार ठहराया।
- The provision for a **5% sub-quota for PVTG students** was introduced after the administration of these schools was centralized by establishing the **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** in 2019.
PVTG छात्रों के लिए 5% सब-क्वोटा का प्रावधान तब पेश किया गया जब इन विद्यालयों के प्रशासन को 2019 में राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा समाज (NESTS) द्वारा केंद्रीकृत किया गया।
- The first set of guidelines issued by **NESTS in 2020** accommodated this sub-quota in the **reservation matrix**.
2020 में NESTS द्वारा जारी किए गए पहले दिशा-निर्देशों में इस सब-क्वोटा को आरक्षण मैट्रिक्स में शामिल किया गया।

India and France sign MoU for new National Museum

**GS Paper II:
India-France**

NEW DELHI

India and France on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of the new National Museum, on the lines of the Louvre in Paris, at the historic North Block and South Block in the national capital. The museum, named Yuga Yugeen Bharat, when completed would be the largest in the world.

The agreement was signed by Herve Barbaret, Director General and CEO of France Museums, and B.R. Mani, Director General of the National Museum of India.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who was present at the signing, said, "I think we would veritabily be seeing the inspiration for the remaking of Bharat," when South Block and North Block become the



The delegates from India and France sign the agreement for the development of the new National Museum on Thursday. PTI

kind of museums that are envisaged.

"It is a very important expression of international cooperation. We are also seeing a very important cultural collaboration and, as all of you know, culture is in a sense the essence of soft power," Mr. Jaishankar said.

"With France, we have had a strong relationship, what in our profession we call strategic partnership,

and underpinning that India and France see each other as important poles in a multi-polar world," he said.

The 'Yuga Yugeen Bharat' museum will be developed through adaptive reuse in collaboration with France, which is renowned for its expertise in such projects – exemplified by the Louvre, the Grand Palais, and the Hotel de la Marine.

India and France sign MoU for new National Museum

भारत और फ्रांस ने नए राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए

India and France Sign MoU for National Museum Development

भारत और फ्रांस ने राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय के विकास के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए

- **India and France signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday for the development of the new National Museum, on the**





lines of the **Louvre in Paris**, at the historic **North Block and South Block** in the **national capital**.

भारत और फ्रांस ने गुरुवार को एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए जो नई राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय के विकास के लिए है, जो पेरिस के लौवरे की तर्ज पर राष्ट्रीय राजधानी के ऐतिहासिक नॉर्थ ब्लॉक और साउथ ब्लॉक में बनेगा।

- The museum, named **Yuga Yugeen Bharat**, when completed, would be the **largest in the world**.

संग्रहालय का नाम **युग युगीन भारत** रखा जाएगा, और जब यह पूरा होगा, तो यह **दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा संग्रहालय** होगा।

- The agreement was signed by **Herve Barbaret, Director General and CEO of France Museums**, and **B.R. Mani, Director General of the National Museum of India**.

समझौते पर हेर्वे बार्बारे, फ्रांस म्यूजियम के महानिदेशक और सीईओ, और बी.आर. मणि, राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय भारत के महानिदेशक ने हस्ताक्षर किए।

- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar**, who was present at the signing, said, "I think we would veritably be seeing the inspiration for the remaking of Bharat," when South Block and North Block become the kind of museums that are envisaged.

विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर, जो हस्ताक्षर समारोह में मौजूद थे, ने कहा, "मुझे लगता है कि हम वास्तव में भारत के पुनर्निर्माण के लिए प्रेरणा देखेंगे," जब साउथ ब्लॉक और नॉर्थ ब्लॉक वह प्रकार के संग्रहालय बनेंगे जिनकी कल्पना की गई है।

- **Jaishankar** further stated, "It is a very important expression of international cooperation. We are also seeing a very important cultural collaboration and, as all of you know, culture is in a sense the essence of soft power."

जयशंकर ने आगे कहा, "यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग की एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण अभिव्यक्ति है। हम एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सांस्कृतिक सहयोग भी देख रहे हैं और जैसा कि आप सभी जानते हैं, संस्कृति एक प्रकार से **मुलायम शक्ति** (सॉफ्ट पावर) का सार है।"

- "With **France**, we have had a strong relationship, what in our profession we call **strategic partnership**, and underpinning that India and France see each other as **important poles in a multi-polar world**," he said.

"फ्रांस के साथ, हमारे पास एक मजबूत संबंध है, जिसे हम अपने पेशे में **सामरिक साझेदारी** कहते हैं, और इसके आधार पर भारत और फ्रांस एक-दूसरे को **बहु-धुवीय दुनिया में महत्वपूर्ण ध्रुव** मानते हैं," उन्होंने कहा।

- The '**Yuga Yugeen Bharat**' museum will be developed through **adaptive reuse** in collaboration with **France**, which is renowned for its expertise in such projects — exemplified by the **Louvre**, the **Grand Palais**, and the **Hotel de la Marine**.

'युग युगीन भारत' संग्रहालय को **अनुकूल पुनः उपयोग** के माध्यम से फ्रांस के साथ मिलकर विकसित किया जाएगा, जो इस तरह के प्रोजेक्ट्स में अपनी विशेषज्ञता के लिए प्रसिद्ध है — जैसा कि **लौवरे**, **ग्रांड पलैस**, और **होटल डे ला मरीन** द्वारा उदाहरणित किया गया है।



'India is highest tariff major economy'

GS Paper III: External Sector

Both India and U.S. need to lower tariffs to boost trade and make it 'fair and equal', says U.S. envoy; points to 10-fold increase in bilateral trade despite difficulties on both sides and America becoming India's number one trading partner

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti on Thursday said India is the "highest tariff" major economy in the world and New Delhi and Washington need to work together to lower tariffs to increase trade for making it "fair and equal".

His comment comes days after U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said that India charged "a lot" of tariff, reiterating his intention to impose reciprocal tariffs in retaliation for what New Delhi would im-



Tariff war: Mr. Garcetti observed that as the two countries "become closer", they are able to be "more blunt" with each other. PTI

pose on the import of certain American products.

Addressing an event organised by the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) here, Mr. Garcetti observed that as the two countries

"become closer", they are able to be "more blunt" with each other.

"We need together to lower tariffs, not to see them go up. We need together to increase trade

and to make it more fair and equal. We need to together make sure that there's training and talent that meets the needs of companies on both sides of the Indo Pacific," he said.

In an interactive session after his address, Mr. Garcetti pointed out that "despite the difficulties on both sides", the India-U.S. bilateral trade had witnessed a "10-fold increase", with America becoming the country's number one trading partner.

"I think that as you hear, as recently as yesterday, President-elect Trump talk about trade and how tariffs

need to be done fairly, let us have honest conversations. I think it's helpful for us to speak bluntly, but let us use that as a starting point to negotiate much more deeply than we do," the U.S. Ambassador to India said.

He further outlined that even though the U.S. and India don't really talk in ambitious ways about trade, yet the two countries have expanded trade ten-fold since 2001. Mr. Trump has repeatedly claimed that India is a "tariff king" and imposes "tremendously high" tariffs on American products.

'India is highest tariff major economy'

‘भारत सबसे अधिक लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने वाली प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्था है’

Both India and U.S. need to lower tariffs to boost trade and make it 'fair and equal', says U.S. envoy; points to 10-fold increase in bilateral trade despite difficulties on both sides and America becoming India's number one trading partner

अमेरिकी राजदूत ने कहा कि भारत और अमेरिका को व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने और इसे 'निष्पक्ष और समान' बनाने के लिए टैरिफ कम करने की जरूरत है; दोनों पक्षों की कठिनाइयों के बावजूद द्विपक्षीय व्यापार में 10 गुना वृद्धि हुई है और अमेरिका भारत का नंबर एक व्यापारिक साझेदार बन गया है

U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti Calls for Lower Tariffs in India





अमेरिकी राजदूत एरिक गार्सेटी ने भारत में टैक्स कम करने की अपील की

- **U.S. Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti**, on Thursday said that **India is the “highest tariff” major economy in the world**, and **New Delhi and Washington need to work together** to lower tariffs and increase trade to make it **“fair and equal”**.
भारत में अमेरिकी राजदूत एरिक गार्सेटी ने गुरुवार को कहा कि भारत दुनिया की सबसे उच्चतम टैक्स वाली प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्था है, और नई दिल्ली और वाशिंगटन को एक साथ मिलकर टैक्स कम करने और व्यापार बढ़ाने की जरूरत है ताकि यह **“न्यायपूर्ण और समान”** हो।
- **His comment** came days after **U.S. President-elect Donald Trump** said that **India charged “a lot” of tariffs**, reiterating his intention to impose **reciprocal tariffs** in retaliation for what New Delhi would impose on the import of certain American products. यह टिप्पणी तब आई जब अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति-चुनाव डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने कहा कि भारत **“बहुत” टैक्स वसूलता है**, और उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि वह प्रतिशोध में प्रतिवर्ती टैक्स लगाने का इरादा रखते हैं, जैसा कि भारत कुछ अमेरिकी उत्पादों के आयात पर लगाएगा।
- Addressing an event organized by the **U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC)**, Mr. Garcetti observed that as the two countries **“become closer,”** they are able to be **“more blunt”** with each other.
यूएस-इंडिया बिजनेस काउंसिल (USIBC) द्वारा आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में, श्री गार्सेटी ने कहा कि जैसे ही दोनों देश **“निकट आते हैं,”** वे एक-दूसरे के साथ **“ज्यादा स्पष्ट”** हो सकते हैं।
- **“We need together to lower tariffs, not to see them go up. We need together to increase trade and to make it more fair and equal,”** he said.
“हमें एक साथ मिलकर टैक्स कम करने की जरूरत है, उन्हें बढ़ते हुए नहीं देखना चाहिए। हमें एक साथ मिलकर व्यापार बढ़ाने की जरूरत है और इसे न्यायपूर्ण और समान बनाना चाहिए,” उन्होंने कहा।
- **“We need to together make sure that there’s training and talent that meets the needs of companies on both sides of the Indo-Pacific,”** he added.
“हमें एक साथ यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि दोनों पक्षों के इंडो-पैसिफिक में कंपनियों की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए प्रशिक्षण और प्रतिभा हो,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- In an interactive session after his address, Mr. Garcetti pointed out that **despite difficulties on both sides, the India-U.S. bilateral trade** had witnessed a **“10-fold increase”**, with **America becoming the country’s number one trading partner**. अपनी बात के बाद एक संवादात्मक सत्र में, श्री गार्सेटी ने कहा कि दोनों पक्षों में **कठिनाइयों के बावजूद, भारत-अमेरिका द्विपक्षीय व्यापार में “10 गुना वृद्धि” हुई है, और अमेरिका अब देश का नंबर एक व्यापारिक साझेदार बन गया है।**
- **“I think that as you hear, as recently as yesterday, President-elect Trump talk about trade and how tariffs need to be done fairly, let us have honest conversations. I think it’s helpful for us to speak bluntly, but let us use that as a starting point to negotiate much more deeply than we do,”** the U.S. Ambassador to India said.
“मुझे लगता है कि जैसे आप सुनेंगे, जैसे हाल ही में कल, राष्ट्रपति-चुनाव ट्रम्प ने व्यापार और टैक्स को न्यायपूर्ण तरीके से करने की बात की थी, तो हमें ईमानदार बातचीत करनी चाहिए। मुझे लगता है कि हमारे लिए सीधे बोलना फायदेमंद है, लेकिन हमें इसका इस्तेमाल एक शुरुआती





बिंदु के रूप में करना चाहिए ताकि हम जितना गहरे से समझौता कर सकते हैं, उतना करें," भारत में अमेरिकी राजदूत ने कहा।

- He further outlined that even though the **U.S. and India don't really talk in ambitious ways about trade**, yet the two countries have expanded trade **ten-fold since 2001**. उन्होंने आगे बताया कि हालांकि अमेरिका और भारत व्यापार के बारे में वास्तव में महत्वाकांक्षी तरीके से बात नहीं करते, फिर भी दोनों देशों के बीच 2001 से व्यापार में दस गुना वृद्धि हुई है।
- **Mr. Trump** has repeatedly claimed that **India is a "tariff king"** and imposes **"tremendously high tariffs"** on American products. श्री ट्रम्प ने बार-बार यह दावा किया है कि भारत "टैक्स का राजा" है और अमेरिकी उत्पादों पर "बहुत उच्च" टैक्स लगाता है।

Centre sets June '26 deadline for solar firms to adopt India-made solar cells

GS Paper II

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI



In a step towards discouraging foreign imports of components used in solar panel manufacturing, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a deadline of June '26, after which solar companies must use only India-made solar photovoltaic cells in their panels to participate in government procurement programmes.

"With installed capacity of solar PV cells in the country expected to increase substantially in next year, it has been proposed to issue List-II of solar PV cells under ALMM, which shall be effective from 1st June 2026," says an office order from the MNRE, issued earlier this month.

'List-II' refers to a list of companies that make solar cells. Indian solar companies primarily rely on solar cells from China and Southeast Asia. Relying on domestic supplies is however likely to make solar power costlier.

Schemes such as the ₹75,000 crore PM rooftop-solar programme, PM Kisan programmes that part pay the cost of installing solar panels to urban and rural consumers, must source panels from domestic companies approved by the MNRE.

"The price of Indian solar cells are 1.5 times to twice that of those from China even after Basic Customs Duty. Such high prices can drive up the cost of capital cost of solar power projects by ₹5-10 million per megawatt. This will

raise tariffs by 40-50 paise per unit," Sehul Bhatt, Director- Research, Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics, said in a statement.

So far, 92 gigawatt of solar capacity has been installed in India. Currently, India has installed solar-module manufacturing capacity of about 63 GW and solar-cell manufacturing capacity of about 5.8 GW. Government and industry estimates expect that 80 GW of module capacity will be added by 2027 and cell manufacturing capacity rise to 60 GW by FY27, with ₹30,000 crore in investments.

Earlier this year, the MNRE introduced a list of Approved List of Module Manufacturers. Those setting up solar installations and wishing to avail of government subsidies necessarily had to source modules only from these manufacturers. These lists are part of a larger government strategy to encourage domestic production of solar panels, however India still lacks the capacity to manufacture components used in cells such as wafers and ingots and will continue to depend on China and South east Asia for these.

Centre sets June '26 deadline for solar Firms to adopt India-made solar cells

केंद्र ने सौर कंपनियों को भारत में निर्मित सौर सेल अपनाने के लिए जून 26 की समय सीमा तय की

India Sets Deadline for Using Only Domestic Solar Cells

भारत ने केवल घरेलू सौर कोशिकाओं का उपयोग करने के लिए समय सीमा तय की

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has set a deadline of **June 2026**, after which **solar companies** must use only **Indian-made solar photovoltaic cells** in their panels to participate in **government procurement programmes**.

नई और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय (MNRE) ने जून 2026 की समय सीमा तय की है, जिसके बाद सौर कंपनियों को अपने पैनल में केवल भारतीय निर्मित सौर फोटोवोल्टिक कोशिकाओं का उपयोग करना होगा यदि वे सरकारी खरीद कार्यक्रमों में भाग लेना चाहते हैं।

- The **installed capacity of solar PV cells** in the country is expected to increase substantially in the next year, and a proposal to issue **List-II of solar PV cells under ALMM** will come into effect from **1st June 2026**. देश में सौर पीवी कोशिकाओं की स्थापित क्षमता अगले साल काफी बढ़ने की उम्मीद है, और ALMM के तहत सौर पीवी कोशिकाओं की सूची-II 1 जून 2026 से प्रभावी होगी।





- **List-II** refers to a list of companies that manufacture solar cells. Indian solar companies primarily rely on solar cells from **China and Southeast Asia**.

सूची-II उन कंपनियों की सूची को संदर्भित करती है जो सौर कोशिकाएं बनाती हैं। भारतीय सौर कंपनियाँ मुख्य रूप से **चीन और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया** से सौर कोशिकाओं पर निर्भर रहती हैं।

- Relying on domestic supplies is likely to make solar power **costlier**.
घरेलू आपूर्ति पर निर्भर होने से सौर ऊर्जा **महंगी** हो सकती है।
- Schemes like the **₹75,000 crore PM rooftop solar programme** and **PM Kusum programmes** will require solar panels to be sourced from **domestic companies approved by the MNRE**.

₹75,000 करोड़ पीएम रूफटॉप सौर कार्यक्रम और PM कुसुम कार्यक्रमों जैसी योजनाओं में सौर पैनलों को **MNRE** द्वारा स्वीकृत घरेलू कंपनियों से प्राप्त करना होगा।

- The price of **Indian solar cells** is **1.5 to 2 times** that of those from China, even after **Basic Customs Duty**. This could increase the **capital cost** of solar power projects by **₹5-10 million per megawatt**, raising **tariffs by 40-50 paise per unit**.

भारतीय सौर कोशिकाओं की कीमत **चीन की कोशिकाओं** से **1.5 से 2 गुना** अधिक है, यहां तक कि **बेसिक कस्टम ड्यूटी** के बाद भी। इससे सौर ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं की **पूंजी लागत ₹5-10 मिलियन प्रति मेगावाट** तक बढ़ सकती है, और **टैक्स में 40-50 पैसे प्रति यूनिट** का इजाफा हो सकता है।

- So far, **92 gigawatts of solar capacity** has been installed in India.
अब तक, **भारत में 92 गीगावाट सौर क्षमता** स्थापित की गई है।
- India currently has **installed solar module manufacturing capacity** of about **63 GW** and **solar-cell manufacturing capacity** of about **5.8 GW**.
वर्तमान में, भारत में **63 GW का सौर मॉड्यूल निर्माण क्षमता** और **5.8 GW की सौर कोशिका निर्माण क्षमता** है।

- Government and industry estimates expect that **80 GW** of module capacity will be added by **2027** and **cell manufacturing capacity** will rise to **60 GW by FY27**, with **₹30,000 crore investments**.

सरकार और उद्योग के अनुमान के अनुसार, **2027 तक 80 GW मॉड्यूल क्षमता** जोड़ी जाएगी और **FY27 तक कोशिका निर्माण क्षमता बढ़कर 60 GW** हो जाएगी, जिसमें **₹30,000 करोड़ का निवेश** होगा।

- Earlier this year, the **MNRE** introduced a list of **Approved List of Module Manufacturers**, requiring those setting up solar installations to source modules from these manufacturers to avail of **government subsidies**.

इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में, **MNRE** ने **मॉड्यूल निर्माताओं की स्वीकृत सूची** पेश की, जिससे सौर स्थापना करने वाले कंपनियों को **सरकारी सब्सिडी** प्राप्त करने के लिए इन निर्माताओं से मॉड्यूल प्राप्त करने की आवश्यकता होगी।

- These lists are part of a larger government strategy to encourage **domestic production of solar panels**, but India still lacks the capacity to manufacture components used in cells such as **wafers and ingots**.

ये सूचियाँ **सौर पैनलों का घरेलू उत्पादन** बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार की एक बड़ी रणनीति का हिस्सा हैं, लेकिन भारत के पास कोशिकाओं में उपयोग होने वाले घटकों जैसे **विफर और इन्गोट्स** का निर्माण करने की क्षमता नहीं है।





- India will continue to depend on **China and Southeast Asia** for these components.
भारत इन घटकों के लिए चीन और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया पर निर्भर रहेगा।

Mass rape orchestrator gets 20-year jail term in France

Essay and Ethics: GS Paper IV

Agence France-Presse
AVIGNON

A court on Thursday sentenced a French man to 20 years jail for committing and orchestrating the mass rapes of his now former wife Gisele Pelicot with dozens of strangers, but her children expressed disappointment at what they saw as overly-lenient sentences for the other men convicted.

The convictions of all 51 defendants and their sentencing brought to a close a three-month trial that has horrified France, resonated across the world and turned Gisele Pelicot into an icon of female courage.

Dominique Pelicot, who had already confessed to the crimes, was earlier found guilty by the court in the southern city of Avignon.



Gisele Pelicot

non. His 50 co-defendants were also convicted by the court, with no acquittals.

They received jail terms of between three and 15 years – less than what prosecutors had demanded. Two of these defendants had their jail terms suspended.

The three Pelicot children “are disappointed by these low sentences,” said a family member, asking not to be identified, adding

that there was “no question” of any of the children wanting to speak to their father after the conviction.

Delivering sentence, the presiding judge said Dominique Pelicot will not be eligible for parole until he has served two thirds of his sentence.

Dominique Pelicot, 72, has admitted to drugging Gisele Pelicot for almost a decade so he and strangers he recruited online could rape her.

The case has sparked protests and drew fresh attention to male violence in France.

Rights activists hope that the trial will lead to change in society.

“It’s time that the macho, patriarchal society that trivialises rape changes,” Gisele Pelicot said in November.

mass rapes of his now former wife, **Gisele Pelicot**, with dozens of strangers.

फ्रांसीसी अदालत ने डॉमिनिक पेलेकोट को अपनी अब पूर्व पत्नी गिजेल पेलेकोट के साथ सैकड़ों अजनबियों द्वारा सामूहिक बलात्कार करने और उसे संगठित करने के लिए 20 साल की सजा सुनाई।

- The children of **Gisele Pelicot** expressed **disappointment** at what they saw as **overly lenient sentences** for the other **50 defendants** convicted in the case.

गिजेल पेलेकोट के बच्चों ने उन अन्य 50 अभियुक्तों के लिए जो सजा देखी, उस पर निराशा जताई, जो उनके अनुसार बहुत हल्की थी।

- All **51 defendants** were convicted, and their sentencing concluded a **three-month trial** that shocked France and gained global attention.
सभी 51 अभियुक्तों को दोषी ठहराया गया, और उनकी सजा से तीन महीने का मुकदमा समाप्त हुआ, जिसने फ्रांस को हैरान कर दिया और वैश्विक ध्यान आकर्षित किया।
- **Dominique Pelicot**, who had already confessed to the crimes, was found guilty by the court in **Avignon**, a city in southern France.

Mass rape orchestrator gets 20-year jail term in France

सामूहिक बलात्कार के आरोपी को फ्रांस में 20 साल की जेल की सजा

French Man Sentenced to 20 Years for Orchestrating Mass Rapes

फ्रांसीसी व्यक्ति को सामूहिक बलात्कारों की साजिश रचने के लिए 20 साल की सजा

- A French court sentenced **Dominique Pelicot to 20 years in jail** for committing and orchestrating the





डॉमिनिक पेलेकोट, जिन्होंने पहले ही अपराधों का कबूल किया था, को **एविगन**, जो कि फ्रांस के दक्षिणी शहर में स्थित है, की अदालत ने दोषी पाया।

- The **50 co-defendants** received jail terms ranging from **3 to 15 years**, which were less than what **prosecutors** had demanded.

50 सह-अभियुक्तों को **3 से 15 साल** तक की सजा मिली, जो **अभियोजकों** द्वारा मांगी गई सजा से कम थी।

- **Two defendants** had their jail terms **suspended**.

दो अभियुक्तों की सजा **स्थगित** कर दी गई।

- A family member of the Pelicot children stated that they were **disappointed** by the **low sentences** and confirmed that there was **no intention** to speak to their father after the conviction.

पेलिकोट बच्चों के एक परिवार सदस्य ने कहा कि वे **निम्न सजा से निराश** हैं और यह भी पुष्टि की कि सजा के बाद वे अपने पिता से **कोई बात नहीं** करना चाहते।

- The presiding judge stated that **Dominique Pelicot** will not be eligible for **parole** until he has served **two-thirds of his sentence**.

अध्यक्ष न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि **डॉमिनिक पेलेकोट** को उसकी सजा का **दो तिहाई** हिस्सा पूरा करने तक **पैरोल** का अधिकार नहीं मिलेगा।

- **Dominique Pelicot**, aged **72**, admitted to drugging his wife, **Gisele Pelicot**, for almost a decade so he and strangers he recruited online could rape her.

डॉमिनिक पेलेकोट, जो **72 साल** के हैं, ने स्वीकार किया कि उन्होंने अपनी पत्नी **गिजेल पेलेकोट** को लगभग एक दशक तक नशीला पदार्थ देकर वह और जिन अजनबियों को उन्होंने ऑनलाइन भर्ती किया, वे उसे बलात्कार कर सकें।

- The case has led to **protests** and brought attention to **male violence** in France.

इस मामले ने **विरोध प्रदर्शन** किए और फ्रांस में **पुरुषों द्वारा हिंसा** पर ध्यान आकर्षित किया।

- **Rights activists** hope that this trial will lead to **societal change** in how rape is viewed.

अधिकार कार्यकर्ताओं का मानना है कि यह मुकदमा **समाज में बदलाव** का कारण बनेगा कि बलात्कार को कैसे देखा जाता है।

- **Gisele Pelicot** expressed in **November** that it's time for the **macho, patriarchal society** that trivializes rape to change.

गिजेल पेलेकोट ने **नवंबर** में कहा कि यह समय है कि **पुरुष प्रधान, पितृसत्तात्मक समाज** जो बलात्कार को सामान्य करता है, उसे बदलना चाहिए।

