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22_12_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

1. Review of GST on life and health insurance deferred / जीवन और स्वास्थ्य बीमा पर जीएसटी की समीक्षा स्थगित (GS Paper-II: GST and GST Council)
2. Govt. amends rule to restrict access to polling footage / सरकार ने मतदान फुटेज तक पहुंच को प्रतिबंधित करने के लिए नियम में संशोधन किया (GS Paper-II: Elections)
3. 25% of India's total area under green cover: report / भारत का कुल क्षेत्रफल का 25% हिस्सा हरित क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत: रिपोर्ट (GS Paper-III: Environment)
4. Bihar is turning a new page with 'Didi Ki Libraries' for children living in rural areas / बिहार ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले बच्चों के लिए 'दीदी की लाइब्रेरी' के साथ एक नया पृष्ठ खोल रहा है (PCS)
5. Modi calls diaspora in Kuwait 'mini-Hindustan' / मोदी ने कुवैत में प्रवासी समुदाय को 'मिनी हिंदुस्तान' बताया (GS Paper-II: India-UAE)

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : **9971932488**
Website : patrioticias.in



6. **Change in election conduct rules erodes integrity, says Cong.** / कांग्रेस का कहना है कि चुनाव आचार संहिता में बदलाव से ईमानदारी खत्म हो रही है। (GS Paper-II: Elections)
7. **Madan Lokur is UN Internal Justice Council chief** / मदन लोकर संयुक्त राष्ट्र आंतरिक न्याय परिषद के प्रमुख हैं (GS Paper-II: International Bodies)
8. **Parliamentary panel suggests giving subsidies to farmers to keep non-milching livestock** / संसदीय पैनल ने सुझाव दिया है कि किसानों को गैर-दूध देने वाले पशुओं को रखने के लिए सब्सिडी दी जाए (PCS)
9. **Railway stations in Bengal promote GI-tagged products** / बंगाल में रेलवे स्टेशनों पर जीआई-टैग उत्पादों को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा (GS Paper-II: GI Tag)
10. **Phase I of Maritime Museum in Gujarat to open next year** / गुजरात में समुद्री संग्रहालय का पहला चरण अगले साल खुलेगा (PCS)
11. **Temple managements not implementing reservation rosters, says NCST member** / एनसीएसटी सदस्य का कहना है कि मंदिर प्रबंधन आरक्षण रोजर लागू नहीं कर रहा है (GS Paper-I: Society)
12. **Row over whitewashing of century-old murals in Kolkata** / कोलकाता में सौ साल पुराने भित्तिचित्रों की सफेदी को लेकर विवाद (GS Paper-I: Art and Culture)
13. **Will ensure Pashmina shawls don't attract high GST: Omar** / हम यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि पश्मीना शॉल पर



अधिक जीएसटी न लगे: उमर (GS Paper-I: Pashmina Shawls)

14. **Moon was formed around 4.51 billion years ago, says study / अध्ययन के अनुसार चंद्रमा का निर्माण लगभग 4.51 अरब वर्ष पहले हुआ था (GS Paper-I: Geography)**
15. **Eco-friendly reactor converts air and water into ammonia / पर्यावरण अनुकूल रिएक्टर हवा और पानी को अमोनिया में परिवर्तित करता है (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
16. **Denali Fault tore apart ancient joining of landmasses / डेनाली फॉल्ट ने भूभागों के प्राचीन जोड़ को तोड़ दिया (GS Paper-I: World Geography)**
17. **Journal retracts the discredited hydroxychloroquine paper / जर्नल ने हाइड्रोक्सीक्लोरोक्वीन पर विवादित पेपर वापस लिया (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
18. **What are India's plans for a quantum satellite? / क्वांटम उपग्रह के लिए भारत की क्या योजनाएं हैं? (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
19. **Why are some packaged foods under a cloud? / कुछ पैकेज्ड खाद्य पदार्थ संदेह के घेरे में क्यों हैं? (GS Paper-II: Health Sector)**
20. **Why have Manipur SITs made little progress? / मणिपुर एसआईटी ने इतनी कम प्रगति क्यों की है? (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)**
21. **The spinner who shattered status-quo / स्पिनर जिसने यथास्थिति को तोड़ दिया (PCS)**



22. **Rebels with a cause / एक उद्देश्य के साथ विद्रोही** (GS Paper-II: West Asia)
23. **Revolving door PM / घूमने वाला दरवाज़ा पी.एम.** (GS Paper-II: France)
24. **U.S. authorises military sales of more than \$5 billion to Egypt, \$295 million to Taiwan / अमेरिका ने मिस्र को 5 बिलियन डॉलर से अधिक और ताइवान को 295 मिलियन डॉलर से अधिक की सैन्य बिक्री को मंजूरी दी** (GS Paper-II: Global Politics)
25. **Greens power / ग्रीन्स पावर** (GS Paper-III: Sustainable Development)

Review of GST on life and health insurance deferred

Review of GST on life and health insurance deferred

Council raises taxes on used cars, exempts gene therapy and long-range surface-to-air missiles, and proposes setting up a ministerial group to examine tax levies imposed by disaster-hit States

GS Paper II: GST and GST Council
NEW DELHI

The much-anticipated review of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) levies on life and health insurance premiums was put off by the GST Council, the apex body in charge of the indirect tax regime, at its 55th meeting on Saturday, as some members sought more discussions on the matter before taking a final call.

A Group of Ministers under Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary is now expected to meet afresh to deliberate on the insurance levies once more before coming back to the Council with its recommendations. Moreover, suggestions on rate rationalisation pertaining to about 150 items, including a price-based differential levy for garments, and 5% levies for packaged drinking water, and bicycles priced under ₹10,000, were also put off till the

Playing safe

At the GST Council's 55th meeting, members agreed to some changes in the indirect tax regime, while deferring a decision on many broader issues



D-day: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs GST Council meeting in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

SETTLED	NOT SETTLED
<p>Popcorn taxation – Savoury to attract 5% or 12% GST, 18% levy on sweetened varieties</p> <p>Gift vouchers are not taxable</p>	<p>Levy on fortified rice kernels to be reduced from 18% to 5%</p> <p>Tax on used cars, including electric ones, raised from 12% to 18%</p>
	<p>Review of the GST levied on health and life insurance premiums</p> <p>Future of Compensation Cess levies after March 2026 sunset</p>
	<p>Plan to tax Floor Space Index (FSI) charges for real estate firms</p> <p>Rate Rationalisation – GoM proposals made for rate changes on about 150 items not taken up</p>

Council's next meeting.

The Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, which met in Jaisalmer, also decided to grant more time to a ministerial group tasked with suggesting a road map for dealing with the GST Compensation

Cess levies on several items that are scheduled for a March 2026 sunset.

The Council did agree on some rate changes, including exempting gene therapy and long-range surface-to-air missiles (LRSAMs) from the tax, raising the levies on used

car sales, including electric vehicles, to 18% from 12%.

Separately, a ministerial group would be set up to examine tax levies by States hit by natural disasters.

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जीवन और स्वास्थ्य बीमा पर जीएसटी की समीक्षा स्थगित

Council raises taxes on used cars, exempts gene therapy and long-range surface-to-air missiles, and proposes setting up a ministerial group to examine tax levies imposed by disaster-hit States



परिषद ने पुरानी कारों पर कर बढ़ा दिया है, जीन थेरेपी और लंबी दूरी की सतह से हवा में मार करने वाली मिसाइलों को छूट दी है, तथा आपदा प्रभावित राज्यों द्वारा लगाए गए करों की जांच के लिए एक मंत्रिस्तरीय समूह गठित करने का प्रस्ताव रखा है

GST Review on Life and Health Insurance Premiums

जीएसटी समीक्षा जीवन और स्वास्थ्य बीमा प्रीमियम पर

- The review of GST levies on life and health insurance premiums was postponed by the GST Council at its 55th meeting.

जीएसटी काउंसिल ने जीवन और स्वास्थ्य बीमा प्रीमियम पर जीएसटी कर की समीक्षा को अपनी 55वीं बैठक में स्थगित कर दिया।

- Some members sought further discussions before taking a final call on the matter.

कुछ सदस्यों ने इस मामले पर अंतिम निर्णय लेने से पहले अधिक चर्चा की मांग की।

- A Group of Ministers under Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary will meet again to deliberate on insurance levies.

बिहार के उपमुख्यमंत्री समाट चौधरी के नेतृत्व में एक मंत्रियों का समूह फिर से बैठक करेगा ताकि बीमा करों पर विचार किया जा सके।

- The Group of Ministers will return to the GST Council with its recommendations.

मंत्रियों के समूह अपनी सिफारिशों के साथ जीएसटी काउंसिल में वापस आएगा।

- Suggestions on rate rationalisation for about 150 items, including garments, packaged drinking water, and bicycles priced under ₹10,000, were also postponed till the Council's next meeting.

दर की उचितता पर 150 वस्तुओं के लिए सुझाव, जिसमें परिधान, पैकज्ड पेयजल, और ₹10,000 से कम कीमत वाली साइकिलें शामिल हैं, को काउंसिल की अगली बैठक तक स्थगित कर दिया गया।

- The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, met in Jaisalmer.

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण की अध्यक्षता में जीएसटी काउंसिल की बैठक जैसलमेर में हुई।

- The Council decided to grant more time to a ministerial group tasked with suggesting a road map for dealing with GST Compensation Cess levies on several items that are scheduled for a March 2026 sunset.

काउंसिल ने एक मंत्री समूह को और अधिक समय देने का निर्णय लिया है, जिसका काम

जीएसटी मुआवजा उपकर करों पर मार्च 2026 तक समाप्त होने वाली वस्तुओं के लिए रोड मैप सुझाना है।

- Some rate changes were agreed, including exempting gene therapy and long-range surface-to-air missiles (LRSAMs) from tax.

कुछ दर में बदलाव सहमति के तहत किए गए, जिसमें जीन थेरेपी और लॉन्ग-रेंज सतह से वायु

मिसाइलें (LRSAMs) को कर से छूट देना शामिल है।



- **Used car sales**, including **electric vehicles**, will now be taxed at **18%**, up from the previous **12%**.

उपयोगी कारों की बिक्री, जिसमें इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन भी शामिल हैं, अब 18% कर से टैक्स किया जाएगा, जबकि पहले यह 12% था।

- A separate **ministerial group** will be set up to examine tax levies by **States hit by natural disasters**.

एक अलग मंत्री समूह का गठन किया जाएगा ताकि प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से प्रभावित राज्यों द्वारा लगाए गए करों की जांच की जा सके।

Govt. amends rule to restrict access to polling footage

GS Paper II: Elections

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
 NEW DELHI

The Centre has amended the Conduct of Election Rules to restrict public access to a section of poll documents. This was brought into effect through a notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on Friday following a recommendation by the Election Commission.

Rule 93(2)(a) of the 1961 Conduct of Election Rules had earlier stated that “all other papers relating to the election shall be open to public inspection”.

After the amendment, it reads, “all other papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection”.

While officials said the rule has been amended to prevent misuse of CCTV footage of polling stations, RTI activists have termed it a setback to transparency.

The move follows a recent direction to the EC by the Punjab and Haryana High Court to share all documents related to Haryana Assembly polls, including treating CCTV

New changes

The Centre has amended Conduct of Election Rules to restrict public access to a section of poll documents

■ The Election Commission says the rule mentions election papers and does not specifically refer to electronic records. In order to remove this ambiguity, the rule has been amended to safeguard misuse of CCTV footage from inside the polling stations

■ The move comes after a recent direction to the EC by the Punjab and Haryana High Court to share all documents related to Haryana Assembly Elections, including CCTV footage



footage also as permissible under Rule 93(2), to a petitioner named Mahmoud Pracha.

According to a senior EC official, “The rule mentioned election papers. The election papers and documents do not specifically refer to electronic records. In order to remove this ambiguity and considering the serious issue of violation of secrecy of vote and potential misuse of CCTV footage of inside of the polling station using artificial intelligence by a single person, the rule has been amended.”

He said, “Sharing of CCTV footage may have serious repercussions, especially in sensitive regions like Jammu and Kashmir,

naxal-affected regions, etc., where secrecy is important. Lives of voters may also be at risk. All election papers and documents are otherwise available for public inspection.”

“Candidates in any case have access to all documents, papers and records. Even Mr. Pracha was entitled for all the documents and records from his Constituency when he contested as a candidate in Lok Sabha Elections 2024,” the official said, adding that nothing has been amended in the rules in this regard.

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ERODES INTEGRITY: CONG.

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Govt. amends rule to restrict access to polling footage

सरकार ने मतदान फुटेज तक पहुंच को प्रतिबंधित करने के लिए नियम में संशोधन किया

Amendment to the Conduct of Election Rules

निर्वाचन आचार संहिता नियमों में संशोधन

- The **Centre** has amended the **Conduct of Election Rules** to restrict public access to a section of poll documents.

केंद्र ने निर्वाचन आचार संहिता नियमों में संशोधन किया है, ताकि चुनाव दस्तावेजों के एक हिस्से तक जनता की पहुंच को प्रतिबंधित किया जा सके।

- This amendment was brought into effect through a **notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on Friday**, following a recommendation by the **Election Commission**.



यह संशोधन कानून और न्याय मंत्रालय द्वारा शुक्रवार को जारी अधिसूचना के माध्यम से लागू किया गया, जो निर्वाचन आयोग की सिफारिश पर आधारित था।

- **Rule 93(2)(a)** of the 1961 **Conduct of Election Rules** had previously stated that “**all other papers relating to the election shall be open to public inspection.**”

1961 के निर्वाचन आचार संहिता नियमों के नियम 93(2)(a) में पहले यह कहा गया था कि “चुनाव से संबंधित सभी अन्य कागजात जनता की जांच के लिए खुले होंगे।”

- After the amendment, it now reads, “**all other papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection.**”

संशोधन के बाद, अब यह कहा जाता है, “इन नियमों में निर्दिष्ट सभी अन्य कागजात जो चुनाव से संबंधित हैं, जनता की जांच के लिए खुले होंगे।”

- Officials mentioned the rule was amended to prevent **misuse of CCTV footage** from polling stations.

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि नियम को चुनाव केंद्रों के सीसीटीवी फुटेज के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए संशोधित किया गया है।

- **RTI activists** have termed this amendment as a **setback to transparency.**

सूचना अधिकार (RTI) कार्यकर्ताओं ने इस संशोधन को पारदर्शिता के लिए झटका बताया है।

- The amendment follows a **recent direction** by the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** to the **Election Commission** to share all documents related to the **Haryana Assembly polls**, including CCTV footage.

यह संशोधन पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा निर्वाचन आयोग को दी गई एक हालिया दिशा के बाद किया गया, जिसमें हरियाणा विधानसभा चुनाव से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज़, जिसमें सीसीटीवी फुटेज भी शामिल था, साझा करने का आदेश दिया गया था।

- The court had directed the Election Commission to treat CCTV footage as **permissible under Rule 93(2)** for a petitioner named **Mahmoud Pracha.**

न्यायालय ने निर्वाचन आयोग को नियम 93(2) के तहत सीसीटीवी फुटेज को स्वीकृत मानने का निर्देश दिया था, जो एक याचिकाकर्ता महमूद प्राच्छा के लिए था।

- According to a senior **Election Commission** official, the rule now removes ambiguity around **electronic records.**

एक वरिष्ठ निर्वाचन आयोग अधिकारी के अनुसार, अब यह नियम इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रिकॉर्ड्स के बारे में अस्पष्टता को दूर करता है।

- The amendment is made to address issues like the **violation of secrecy of vote** and potential misuse of **CCTV footage** using **artificial intelligence.**

इस संशोधन का उद्देश्य मतदाता की गोपनीयता के उल्लंघन और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता का उपयोग करके सीसीटीवी फुटेज के दुरुपयोग जैसी समस्याओं को संबोधित करना है।

- The official emphasized that sharing of CCTV footage could have serious repercussions, especially in **sensitive regions** like **Jammu and Kashmir**, and **naxal-affected regions.** अधिकारी ने जोर दिया कि सीसीटीवी फुटेज साझा करने से गंभीर परिणाम हो सकते हैं, विशेषकर संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों जैसे जम्मू और कश्मीर, और नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में।



- The official also stated that **lives of voters** may be at risk if such footage is shared. अधिकारी ने यह भी कहा कि यदि इस तरह का फुटेज साझा किया जाता है तो मतदाताओं की जान जोखिम में हो सकती है।
- All **election papers and documents** are otherwise available for public inspection. अन्यथा, सभी चुनाव दस्तावेज और कागजात जनता की जांच के लिए उपलब्ध हैं।
- **Candidates** have access to all **documents, papers, and records** related to the elections. उम्मीदवारों को चुनाव से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज, कागजात और रिकॉर्ड तक पहुंच प्राप्त होती है।
- Even **Mahmoud Pracha** was entitled to access all documents and records from his **Constituency** when he contested in the **Lok Sabha Elections 2024**. यहां तक कि महमूद प्राच्छा को भी जब उन्होंने लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 में अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से चुनाव लड़ा, तब सभी दस्तावेजों और रिकॉर्ड्स तक पहुंच का अधिकार था।
- The official clarified that **nothing has been amended** in the rules regarding the access to these documents. अधिकारी ने स्पष्ट किया कि इन दस्तावेजों तक पहुंच के संबंध में नियमों में कुछ भी संशोधित नहीं किया गया है।

25% of India's total area under green cover: report

**GS Paper III:
Environment**

CHENNAI

India's forest and tree cover has reached a quarter of the country's total geographical area, according to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, released by the Government of India on Saturday.

The increase of 25.17% breaks down to 21.76% of forest cover (7.15 lakh sq. km) and 3.41% of tree cover (1,289 sq. km).

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) defines "forest cover" as land with tree canopy density exceeding 10% and covering at least

one hectare. Thus "forest" in ISFR includes plantations.

The FSI counts trees outside forests towards the 'tree cover' if they occupy less than one hectare and if they also lie outside reserve forest areas. FSI Director-General Anoop Singh said bamboo cover is also included in the tree cover.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav singled out the report's finding that India has augmented its carbon sink by 2.29 billion tonnes over 2005 levels.

India's Nationally Deter-



Sea of green: The India State of Forest Report 2023 was released by the Government of India on Saturday. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

mined Contributions towards the Paris Agreement's targets require it to create an additional car-

bon sink of at least 2.5 billion tonnes by 2030.

The FSI's inclusion of plantations in "forests" has

been controversial, however, as they lack the deadwood and underground biomass development that also sequester carbon.

The FSI has been assessing forest cover since 1987 and tree cover since 2001. The current report estimated green cover using data from the Resourcesat series of satellites operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

Since 2021, Madhya Pradesh has had the largest area under forest and tree cover (85,724 sq. km).

**CONTINUED ON
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25% of India's total area under green cover: report

भारत का कुल क्षेत्रफल का 25% हिस्सा हरित क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत: रिपोर्ट



India's Forest and Tree Cover: ISFR 2023 Report

भारत का वन और वृक्ष आच्छादन: ISFR 2023 रिपोर्ट

- According to the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023**, released by the **Government of India** on **Saturday**, India's forest and tree cover has reached a **quarter** of the country's total geographical area.

भारत सरकार द्वारा **शनिवार** को जारी **भारत राज्य वन रिपोर्ट (ISFR) 2023** के अनुसार, भारत का वन और वृक्ष आच्छादन देश के कुल भौगोलिक क्षेत्र का **चौथाई** हो गया है।

- The total increase in forest and tree cover is **25.17%**, which breaks down into **21.76% of forest cover** (covering **7.15 lakh sq. km**) and **3.41% of tree cover** (covering **1,289 sq. km**).

कुल वन और वृक्ष आच्छादन में **25.17%** की वृद्धि हुई है, जिसमें **वन आच्छादन का 21.76%** (जो **7.15 लाख वर्ग किमी** में फैला है) और **वृक्ष आच्छादन का 3.41%** (जो **1,289 वर्ग किमी** में फैला है) शामिल है।

- The **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** defines **forest cover** as land with **tree canopy density exceeding 10%** and covering at least **one hectare**.

वन सर्वेक्षण भारत (FSI) के अनुसार **वन आच्छादन** को उस भूमि के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है जहां **वृक्षों की छांव घनत्व 10% से अधिक** हो और **कम से कम एक हेक्टेयर** क्षेत्र में फैली हो।

- According to the FSI, **plantations** are also included in the **forest** category.

FSI के अनुसार, **बागवानी** को भी **वन श्रेणी** में शामिल किया गया है।

- The FSI counts **trees outside forests** towards the '**tree cover**' if they occupy less than **one hectare** and are outside **reserve forest areas**.

FSI उन **वृक्षों** को '**वृक्ष आच्छादन**' में गिनता है जो **एक हेक्टेयर से कम** क्षेत्र में फैले होते हैं और **संरक्षित वन क्षेत्रों** के बाहर होते हैं।

- According to **FSI Director-General Anoop Singh**, **bamboo cover** is also included in the **tree cover**.

FSI महानिदेशक अनुप सिंह के अनुसार, **बांस आच्छादन** को भी **वृक्ष आच्छादन** में शामिल किया जाता है।

- **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** highlighted that the report shows India has **augmented its carbon sink by 2.29 billion tonnes** over **2005 levels**.

केंद्रीय पर्यावरण मंत्री भूपेंद्र यादव ने यह बताते हुए कहा कि रिपोर्ट में यह दर्शाया गया है कि भारत ने **2005 स्तरों के मुकाबले 2.29 अरब टन** अपने **कार्बन सिंक** में वृद्धि की है।

- India's **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the **Paris Agreement** target the creation of an additional carbon sink of at least **2.5 billion tonnes** by **2030**.

भारत की **पेरिस समझौते** के तहत **राष्ट्रीय रूप से निर्धारित योगदान (NDCs)** का लक्ष्य है कि **2030 तक कम से कम 2.5 अरब टन** का **अतिरिक्त कार्बन सिंक** बनाया जाए।

- The inclusion of **plantations** in the "**forest**" category by FSI has been controversial, as plantations lack the **deadwood** and **underground biomass** that also help in carbon sequestration.



FSI द्वारा बागवानी को “वन” श्रेणी में शामिल करने पर विवाद उठे हैं, क्योंकि बागवानी में मरे हुए लकड़ी और भूमिगत जैविक पदार्थ की कमी होती है, जो कार्बन संधारण में भी मदद करते हैं।

- The FSI has been assessing **forest cover** since 1987 and **tree cover** since 2001. FSI वन आच्छादन का आकलन 1987 से और वृक्ष आच्छादन का आकलन 2001 से कर रहा है।
- The current report estimated the **green cover** using data from the **Resourcesat satellites** operated by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. वर्तमान रिपोर्ट में हरित आच्छादन का अनुमान इंडियन स्पेस रिसर्च ऑर्गनाइजेशन (ISRO) द्वारा संचालित रिसोर्ससैट उपग्रहों के डेटा का उपयोग करके किया गया है।
- Since 2021, **Madhya Pradesh** has had the largest area under **forest and tree cover** at **85,724 sq. km.** 2021 से, मध्य प्रदेश का वन और वृक्ष आच्छादन का सबसे बड़ा क्षेत्र है, जो 85,724 वर्ग किमी में फैला है।

Bihar is turning a new page with 'Didi Ki Libraries' for children living in rural areas

PCS

SPOTLIGHT

Amit Bhelari

Harsh Kumar, 22, is studying for a B.Tech degree in Gaya College, one of Bihar's premier institutions. A resident of Amhara village, on the outskirts of Patna, the State capital, nearly 45 km from the city centre, Kumar's father is a small farmer, and the family struggles to eke out a living.

After he graduated from the government-run Amhara High School, he wanted to work towards a degree in engineering, but there were hardly any books available to crack the Bihar Combined Entrance Competitive Examination for admission to various professional courses. "I simply couldn't afford the books. If it wasn't for the 'Didi Ki Library', I would not be pursuing this course," he says.

Started last year by the Bihar government, Community Library and Career Development Centres (CLCDC), across 100 blocks in the State, are known as 'Didi Ki Libraries' (roughly translating to a library run by an older sister). The free-of-cost libraries, in 32 out of 38 districts, are a boon for children who come from families that cannot afford books. The library offers free Internet services and a quiet space

for children to study and for the youth to meet and exchange ideas.

Patna district has four such libraries in Bihta, Khusrupur, Patuha, and Bakhtiyarpur, all rural areas. Across the State, 'Didi Ki Libraries' have a 6,000-strong sitting capacity while the total enrolment is 1.1 lakh, of which 63% are girls. There is a daily footfall of 60-70 learners, as per Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (JEEVIKA), an initiative under the State government's Rural Development Department.

The World Bank-supported JEEVIKA runs the 'Didi Ki Libraries', with each headed by Vidya Didi, a dedicated cadre of community workers. The Education Department supports the initiative by providing books.

A village gladdened
Rinku Kumari, 21, graduated this year with a degree in History from Mahant Madhusudan College in Patna. She spends five to six hours in the library every day. "I want to clear the UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) exam, and I cannot afford the tuition fee for a coaching institute."

Coaching institutes can cost anywhere from ₹5,000 a month. The average farmer's income in 2021-22 in Bihar was ₹9,252 against the national average of ₹13,661,



New chapter: Children studying at a 'Didi Ki Library' as Archana Kumari, a Vidya Didi, keeps an eye on them at Amhara village in Patna district of Bihar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

as per the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

In Amhara village, she finds books that will help her through the entrance exam that at least 10 lakh people from across India write each year, for just a little over 1,000 posts. She admits that the books are limited, but says, "With the Wi-Fi I am able to download free books online."

The library in the village is painted yellow and has Mahatma Gandhi's message of avoiding the seven sins in Hindi. It has three rooms

with a seating capacity of 60 at a time and more than 1,200 books on the shelves. Within the rooms are pictures of former president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose, as well as maps of India and the world, a window to possibility. Like most other libraries, it has cubicles, students' chairs with desk extensions, ceiling fans, power back-up, a water filter, CCTV cameras, and LED screen. They also get two newspapers and magazines each.

Archana Kumari, the Vidya Didi of Amhara library, says, "The moment a form for a competitive exam is published, I inform the children and then help them to fill them up. We provide printouts as well, so they do not need to go to the city for any work related to filling forms."

She adds that when the library was opened in February 2023, it had 30 children. Now, Amhara has 1,765 registered children.

The library is operational eight hours a day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays;

and during exams, on Sundays as well. It has both fiction and non-fiction books, with textbooks from Classes 8 to 12 of the Bihar Board along with sample answer papers. Children can get books issued, though the preference is for them to read on the site.

Some of the most popular books are those that help students learn English, including *Word Power Made Easy* by Norman Lewis and the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. Books like *Animal Farm*, the political satire by George Orwell, are also popular.

In Hindi, *Hamara Samvidhan* by Subhash Kashyap and *Bharat Ka Swatantrata Sangharsh* by a cluster of authors are well thumbed through. It also has books to prepare for competitive exams for the Railways, banking, and National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, among others.

A library in a village in Bihar is often a distant dream. The State saw a 20.46% dropout rate at the secondary level, the highest in India, in 2021-22. The national average was 12.6%.

According to Archana, many students who frequently visit the library have gained admission in Bihar's top institutes like the Development Management Institute. Many have graduated with BEd de-

grees that will make them eligible for teachers' jobs.

These libraries are emerging as a local support system for increasing the participation of rural children and marginalised learners in higher education.

There are 1,408 registered children at Makh-dumpur panchayat in Jehanabad district of Bihar. The library functions on the first floor of the Panchayat Bhavan in Kohra village.

Room to read
Pawan Kumar, 21, a student of Surendra Prasad Yadav College, Gaya, pursuing a BSc degree, says, "We have a joint family of 10 members and it is difficult to study at home. So, I began coming here four months ago. Now, I am a regular. There is no unnecessary chit-chat and the conversations are around studies. The first time I heard the word library was when this space opened."

The Social Development Manager of Jehanabad district, Faizan Tanveer, says the main objective of such a centre is to develop and promote library culture in rural areas and reading among the underprivileged students. The centre also aims at addressing issues such as child marriage, child labour, and gender-based discrimination by empowering adolescents, especially girls.

"We have a collaboration with National Institute of Open Schooling and Indira Gandhi National Open University for distance education. So, we offer admission support for students as well," says Shabnam Raza, the Vidya Didi of the library in Kohra.

Big picture

IAS officer and Chief Executive Officer-cum-State Mission Director of JEEVIKA, Himanshu Sharma, says, "Education is a proven tool to break generational poverty. CLCDCs aim to bridge the gap between disadvantaged rural youth and their urban peers."

CLCDCs have achieved a few milestones as well. Over 2,500 children applied for technical, professional, and vocational courses with career counselling support, and 110 have secured admission, including two girls in Miranda House and one in Daulat Ram College, both under Delhi University.

Six students gained admission in the postgraduate programme in a development management MBA course with scholarships worth ₹32 lakh. This year, 62 of those visiting these libraries have been selected as Bihar Public Service Commission teachers.

LINK TO FULL STORY
» <https://bit.ly/3P71rgp>

Bihar is turning a new page with 'Didi Ki Libraries' for children living in rural areas

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



बिहार ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले बच्चों के लिए 'दीदी की लाइब्रेरी' के साथ एक नया पृष्ठ खोल रहा है

'Didi Ki Libraries' Support Bihar's Youth

'दीदी की लाइब्रेरी' बिहार के युवाओं का समर्थन कर रही है

- **Harsh Kumar**, 22, is studying for a **BTech degree** at **Gaya College**, one of Bihar's premier institutions.
हर्ष कुमार, 22, गया कॉलेज में बीटेक डिग्री के लिए अध्ययन कर रहे हैं, जो बिहार के प्रमुख संस्थानों में से एक है।
- He hails from **Amhara village**, on the outskirts of **Patna**, around **45 km** from the city centre.
वह पटना के बाहरी इलाके अमहारा गांव से हैं, जो शहर के केंद्र से लगभग **45 किमी** दूर है।
- His father is a small farmer, and the family struggles to make ends meet.
उनके पिता एक छोटे किसान हैं, और परिवार गुजारे के लिए संघर्ष करता है।
- After graduating from the **government-run Amhara High School**, Harsh wanted to pursue an engineering degree but found it difficult to afford the books for the **Bihar Combined Entrance Competitive Examination**.
सरकारी अमहारा हाई स्कूल से स्नातक होने के बाद, हर्ष ने इंजीनियरिंग डिग्री हासिल करने की चाहत रखी, लेकिन बिहार संयुक्त प्रवेश प्रतियोगी परीक्षा के लिए किताबें खरीदना उनके लिए मुश्किल था।
- He credits '**Didi Ki Library**' for enabling him to pursue his course.
वह अपने कोर्स को आगे बढ़ाने में सक्षम होने के लिए 'दीदी की लाइब्रेरी' को श्रेय देते हैं।
- The **Bihar government** started the **Community Library and Career Development Centres (CLCDC)**, across **100 blocks** in the state, known as '**Didi Ki Libraries**'.
बिहार सरकार ने राज्य के **100 ब्लॉकों** में कम्युनिटी लाइब्रेरी और करियर डेवलपमेंट सेंटर्स (CLCDC) की शुरुआत की, जिन्हें 'दीदी की लाइब्रेरी' कहा जाता है।
- These libraries offer **free books**, **Internet services**, and a quiet study space for children from families who cannot afford books.
ये लाइब्रेरी निःशुल्क किताबें, इंटरनेट सेवाएं, और उन बच्चों के लिए एक शांत अध्ययन स्थान प्रदान करती हैं जो परिवारों के पास किताबें खरीदने का खर्च नहीं होता।
- Patna district has four such libraries in **Bihta**, **Khusrupur**, **Fatuha**, and **Bakhtiyarpur**, all in rural areas.
पटना जिले में बिहटा, खुसरपुर, फतुहा, और बख्तियारपुर में चार ऐसी लाइब्रेरी हैं, जो सभी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्थित हैं।
- Across Bihar, '**Didi Ki Libraries**' have a sitting capacity of **6,000** and a total enrollment of **1.1 lakh**, with **63% girls**.



बिहार में 'दीदी की लाइब्रेरी' की बैठने की क्षमता 6,000 है और कुल नामांकन 1.1 लाख है, जिसमें 63% लड़कियां हैं।

- The libraries see a daily footfall of **60-70 learners**, as per **Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (JEEViKA)**.

इन लाइब्रेरी में 60-70 विद्यार्थियों का प्रतिदिन आगमन होता है, जैसा कि बिहार ग्रामीण जीविका संवर्धन सोसाइटी (JEEViKA) द्वारा रिपोर्ट किया गया है।

- **JEEViKA**, supported by the **World Bank**, runs the '**Didi Ki Libraries**', each headed by **Vidya Didis**, a dedicated cadre of community workers.

JEEViKA, जिसे विश्व बैंक का समर्थन प्राप्त है, 'दीदी की लाइब्रेरी' चलाता है, जिसमें प्रत्येक लाइब्रेरी की देखरेख विद्या दीदी करती हैं, जो समुदायिक कार्यकर्ताओं का एक समर्पित दल है।

- The **Education Department** supports these libraries by providing books.

शिक्षा विभाग इन लाइब्रेरी को किताबें प्रदान करके उनका समर्थन करता है।

- **Rinku Kumari**, 21, graduated this year with a degree in **History** from **Mahant Madhusudan College** in Patna and spends five to six hours every day in the library.

रिंकु कुमारी, 21, ने इस वर्ष पटना के महंत माधुसूदन कॉलेज से इतिहास में डिग्री प्राप्त की और वह हर दिन पांच से छह घंटे लाइब्रेरी में बिताती हैं।

- She aims to clear the **UPSC exam** but cannot afford tuition fees for a coaching institute. उनका उद्देश्य **UPSC परीक्षा** पास करना है, लेकिन वह कोचिंग संस्थान की ट्यूशन फीस का खर्च नहीं उठा सकती।

- Coaching institutes can cost **₹5,000 per month**; the average farmer's income in **2021-22** in Bihar was **₹9,252**, against the national average of **₹13,661**.

कोचिंग संस्थान की फीस **₹5,000 प्रति माह** हो सकती है; बिहार में **2021-22** में औसत किसान की आय **₹9,252** थी, जबकि राष्ट्रीय औसत **₹13,661** था।

- In **Amhara village**, Rinku finds books to help her prepare for the entrance exam, which sees around **10 lakh** candidates from across India competing for just **1,000 posts**.

अमहारा गांव में रिंकु को प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी करने के लिए किताबें मिलती हैं, जिसमें भारत भर से **10 लाख** उम्मीदवारों के बीच केवल **1,000 पदों** के लिए प्रतियोगिता होती है।

- Although the books are limited, she can download **free books online** through the library's Wi-Fi.

हालांकि किताबें सीमित हैं, लेकिन वह लाइब्रेरी के Wi-Fi के माध्यम से **निःशुल्क किताबें**

ऑनलाइन डाउनलोड कर सकती हैं।

- The **Amhara library** is painted yellow and features **Mahatma Gandhi's message** of avoiding the seven sins in Hindi.

अमहारा लाइब्रेरी को पीला रंग दिया गया है और इसमें हिंदी में **महात्मा गांधी का संदेश** है कि सात पापों से बचना चाहिए।

- The library has **three rooms** with a seating capacity of **60** and over **1,200 books** on the shelves.

लाइब्रेरी में **तीन कमरे** हैं, जिनकी बैठने की क्षमता **60** है और शेल्फ पर **1,200 से अधिक किताबें** हैं।



Website: patrioticias.in

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



- Inside the library are pictures of **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, **Subhas Chandra Bose**, and maps of India and the world.
लाइब्रेरी के अंदर ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम, सुभाष चंद्र बोस की तस्वीरें और भारत और दुनिया के मानचित्र हैं।
- The library also has **cubicles**, **students' chairs with desk extensions**, **ceiling fans**, **power back-up**, **water filter**, **CCTV cameras**, and an **LED screen**.
लाइब्रेरी में क्यूबिकल्स, स्टूडेंट्स की कुर्सियां और डेस्क विस्तार, सीलिंग फैन, पावर बैक-अप, वॉटर फिल्टर, CCTV कैमरे, और LED स्क्रीन भी हैं।
- The library receives **two newspapers** and **magazines** daily.
लाइब्रेरी को दो समाचार पत्र और मैगजीन रोज मिलती हैं।
- **Archana Kumari**, the **Vidya Didi** of the Amhara library, helps students with filling out forms for competitive exams and provides printouts.
अर्चना कुमारी, जो अमहारा लाइब्रेरी की विद्या दीदी हैं, छात्रों को प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं के लिए फॉर्म भरने में मदद करती हैं और प्रिंटआउट भी प्रदान करती हैं।

Growth of 'Didi Ki Libraries' and Their Impact

'दीदी की लाइब्रेरी' का विकास और उनका प्रभाव

- The **Amhara library** had **30 children** when it opened in **February 2023**. Now, it has **1,765 registered children**.
अमहारा लाइब्रेरी में फरवरी 2023 में उद्घाटन के समय 30 बच्चे थे। अब, इसमें 1,765 पंजीकृत बच्चे हैं।
- The library is open **eight hours a day**, from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays**, and during exams, also on Sundays.
लाइब्रेरी प्रति दिन आठ घंटे खुलती है, 9 बजे से 5 बजे तक (कामकाजी दिनों में), और परीक्षा के दौरान, रविवार को भी।
- It offers both **fiction** and **non-fiction books**, including **textbooks from Classes 8 to 12** of the **Bihar Board**, along with **sample answer papers**.
इसमें काव्य और गैर-काव्य दोनों प्रकार की किताबें उपलब्ध हैं, जिनमें कक्षा 8 से 12 तक के बिहार बोर्ड के पाठ्यपुस्तकें और नमूना उत्तर पत्र शामिल हैं।
- Children can **issue books**, but the preference is for them to **read on-site**.
बच्चे किताबें जारी कर सकते हैं, लेकिन प्राथमिकता इस बात की है कि वे वहां पर ही पढ़ें।
- Some of the most popular books include **English learning books** like **Word Power Made Easy** by **Norman Lewis**, and the **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary**.
सबसे प्रसिद्ध किताबों में अंग्रेजी सीखने की किताबें जैसे नॉर्मन लुईस द्वारा वर्ड पावर मेड ईजी और ऑक्सफोर्ड एडवांस्ड लर्नर का डिक्शनरी शामिल हैं।
- Books like **Animal Farm** by **George Orwell** and **Hamara Samvidhan** by **Subhash Kashyap** are also popular.
जॉर्ज ऑरवेल द्वारा एनीमल फार्म और सुभाष कश्यप द्वारा हमारा संविधान जैसी किताबें भी लोकप्रिय हैं।

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- It also has books for preparing for **competitive exams** for the **Railways, banking**, and the **National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)**, among others.
इसमें रेलवे, बैंकिंग, और राष्ट्रीय पात्रता-संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (NEET) जैसे प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं की तैयारी के लिए किताबें भी हैं।
- The dropout rate in Bihar at the **secondary level** was **20.46%** in **2021-22**, the highest in India, compared to the national average of **12.6%**.
बिहार में **2021-22** में **माध्यमिक स्तर पर ड्रॉपआउट दर 20.46%** थी, जो भारत में सबसे अधिक थी, जबकि राष्ट्रीय औसत **12.6%** था।
- Many students who frequently visit the library have gained admission in Bihar's top institutes like the **Development Management Institute**.
वे कई छात्र जो नियमित रूप से लाइब्रेरी में आते हैं, बिहार के प्रमुख संस्थानों जैसे **डेवलपमेंट मैनेजमेंट इंस्टीट्यूट** में प्रवेश पा चुके हैं।
- Several students have graduated with **BEd degrees**, qualifying them for **teachers' jobs**.
कई छात्र **BEd डिग्री** प्राप्त कर चुके हैं, जो उन्हें **शिक्षक की नौकरी** के लिए योग्य बनाती हैं।
- The libraries are acting as a local support system, helping increase the participation of rural children and marginalized learners in **higher education**.
ये लाइब्रेरी एक स्थानीय सहायता प्रणाली के रूप में कार्य कर रही हैं, जो **ग्रामीण बच्चों और निम्न जाति वर्ग** के छात्रों की **उच्च शिक्षा** में भागीदारी बढ़ाने में मदद कर रही हैं।
- There are **1,408 registered children** in **Makhdumpur panchayat, Jehanabad district** in Bihar.
मखदुमपुर पंचायत, जहानाबाद जिला, बिहार में 1,408 पंजीकृत बच्चे हैं।
- The library in Makhdumpur functions on the **first floor** of the **Panchayat Bhavan** in **Kohra village**.
मखदुमपुर की लाइब्रेरी **कोहरा गांव में पंचायती भवन की पहली मंजिल** पर कार्यरत है।
- **Pawan Kumar, 21**, a student pursuing **BSc** at **Surendra Prasad Yadav College, Gaya**, says he finds it difficult to study at home due to his joint family. He started coming to the library four months ago and is now a regular.
पवन कुमार, 21, जो **सुरेंद्र प्रसाद यादव कॉलेज, गया** में **BSc** कर रहे हैं, कहते हैं कि घर में संयुक्त परिवार होने के कारण उन्हें पढ़ाई में कठिनाई होती है। उन्होंने चार महीने पहले लाइब्रेरी आना शुरू किया और अब वे नियमित रूप से आते हैं।
- **Faizan Tanveer**, the **Social Development Manager** of **Jehanabad district**, explains that the main goal of the centre is to promote **library culture** in rural areas and encourage reading among underprivileged students.
जहानाबाद जिले के सामाजिक विकास प्रबंधक फैजान तंवीर बताते हैं कि केंद्र का मुख्य उद्देश्य ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में **लाइब्रेरी संस्कृति** को बढ़ावा देना और वंचित छात्रों में पढ़ाई को प्रोत्साहित करना है।
- The centre also aims to address issues like **child marriage, child labour**, and **gender-based discrimination** by empowering adolescents, especially girls.
यह केंद्र **बाल विवाह, बाल श्रम, और लिंग आधारित भेदभाव** जैसे मुद्दों को हल करने का भी उद्देश्य रखता है, विशेष रूप से किशोरों, खासकर लड़कियों को सशक्त बनाकर।

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- The library has a collaboration with **National Institute of Open Schooling** and **Indira Gandhi National Open University** for **distance education** and provides **admission support** to students.

लाइब्रेरी का राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्थान और इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय के साथ दूरी शिक्षा के लिए सहयोग है, और यह छात्रों को प्रवेश सहायता भी प्रदान करती है।

- **Himanshu Sharma, IAS officer** and **CEO-cum-State Mission Director of JEEViKA**, states that education is a proven tool to break **generational poverty** and **CLCDCs** aim to bridge the gap between disadvantaged rural youth and urban peers.

हिमांशु शर्मा, IAS अधिकारी और JEEViKA के CEO-cum-State Mission Director कहते हैं कि शिक्षा पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी गरीबी को तोड़ने का सिद्ध उपकरण है और CLCDCs का उद्देश्य वंचित ग्रामीण युवाओं और शहरी साथियों के बीच का अंतर पाटना है।

- Over **2,500 children** applied for **technical, professional, and vocational courses** with career counselling support, and **110** have secured admission, including **two girls in Miranda House** and **one in Daulat Ram College**, both under **Delhi University**.

2,500 से अधिक बच्चों ने तकनीकी, पेशेवर, और व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए करियर परामर्श सहायता के साथ आवेदन किया, और 110 को प्रवेश मिला, जिनमें दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के मिरांडा हाउस में दो लड़कियां और दौलत राम कॉलेज में एक लड़की शामिल हैं।

- Six students gained admission in the postgraduate program in **Development Management MBA** with scholarships worth **₹32 lakh**.

छह छात्रों को डेवलपमेंट मैनेजमेंट MBA के पोस्टग्रेजुएट प्रोग्राम में ₹32 लाख की छात्रवृत्ति के साथ प्रवेश मिला।

- **62 students** visiting these libraries were selected as **Bihar Public Service Commission** teachers this year.

इस वर्ष 62 छात्रों को बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग के शिक्षक के रूप में चयनित किया गया।

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Modi calls diaspora in Kuwait 'mini-Hindustan'

PM addresses Indian community in Kuwait, says India has potential to become skill capital of the world, discusses initiatives implemented by the Indian government, including e-Migrate portal

GS Paper II: India-UAE

Press Trust of India
KUWAIT

Praising the diaspora's contribution to global growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday that India had the potential to become the "skill capital of the world".

Mr. Modi was addressing a large gathering of the Indian community at a special event, "Hala Modi", at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex in the city.

"Every year, hundreds of Indians come to Kuwait. You have added an Indian touch to Kuwaiti society. You have filled the canvas of Kuwait with the colours of Indian skills. You have mixed the essence of India's talent, technology, and tradition in Kuwait," Mr. Modi said.

'Youngest country'

The Prime Minister, who is visiting Kuwait at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Emir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, expressed happiness about the presence of Indians from diverse corners of the country in the Gulf nation, and called it a "mini-Hindustan". India's start-ups, fintech firms, smart technology and green technology can develop cutting-edge solutions for every need of Kuwait, he said.

"India is well-equipped



Close interaction: Narendra Modi during a visit to a labour camp in Kuwait on Saturday. PTI

to meet the world's demand for skilled talent... India also has the potential to become the skill capital of the world," Mr. Modi said and underlined that for many decades to come, India will remain the youngest country in the world.

Highlighting India's strong commitment to supporting Indian workers in Kuwait and across the Gulf, Mr. Modi discussed technology-driven initiatives implemented by the government, including the e-Migrate portal.

Thanking the Emir for his invitation, Mr. Modi said that it was after 43 years that an Indian Prime Minister was visiting Kuwait to strengthen and solidify the age-old friendship.

"The relationship between India and Kuwait is one of civilisation, the sea, affection, trade, and commerce. India and Kuwait are located on two shores of the Arabian Sea. It's not just diplomacy that connects us, but also the bonds of the heart," the Prime Minister said to loud cheer from the gathering.

'Special moment'

"Today, personally, this moment is very special for me. For you all, coming to India takes four hours, but for the Prime Minister of India, it took four decades," he told the Indian gathering.

Mr. Modi further recalled the centuries-old strong trade ties between the two countries. "Our el-

ders in Gujarat still recall how Kuwaiti traders learnt Gujarati, wrote books in it and traded their world-famous pearls in our markets. We took supplies of horses and many other items. There has been a long-lasting relationship between India and Kuwait," he said.

He also reminded the diaspora that till 60-65 years ago, Indian rupees were accepted in Kuwait.

The PM said that in the coming decades, India and Kuwait will become significant partners in prosperity.

The Prime Minister extended an invitation to diaspora members to participate in Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Maha Kumbh to be held in India in January.

Modi calls diaspora in Kuwait 'mini-Hindustan'

मोदी ने कुवैत में प्रवासी समुदाय को 'मिनी हिंदुस्तान' बताया

PM addresses Indian community in Kuwait, says India has potential to become skill capital of the world, discusses initiatives implemented by the Indian government, including e-Migrate portal

प्रधानमंत्री ने कुवैत में भारतीय समुदाय को संबोधित किया, कहा कि भारत में विश्व की कौशल

राजधानी बनने की क्षमता है, उन्होंने ई-माइग्रेट पोर्टल सहित भारत सरकार द्वारा क्रियान्वित पहलों पर चर्चा की।

Prime Minister Modi Praises Indian Diaspora's Contribution
प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने भारतीय प्रवासी के योगदान की सराहना की



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** said that **India** has the potential to become the “**skill capital of the world**”.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि भारत में "दुनिया की कौशल राजधानी" बनने की क्षमता है।

- He was addressing a large gathering of the Indian community at a special event called “**Hala Modi**” in the **Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex** in **Kuwait**.

वह कुवैत में शेख साद अल-अब्दुल्ला इनडोर स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स में भारतीय समुदाय के एक बड़े समागम में "हाला मोदी" नामक विशेष कार्यक्रम को संबोधित कर रहे थे।

- He said, “Every year, hundreds of Indians come to Kuwait. You have added an **Indian touch** to Kuwaiti society, mixing the essence of **India’s talent, technology, and tradition.**”

उन्होंने कहा, "हर साल सैकड़ों भारतीय कुवैत आते हैं। आपने कुवैती समाज में भारतीय छाप छोड़ी है, जिसमें भारत की प्रतिभा, प्रौद्योगिकी, और परंपरा की झलक है।"

- The Prime Minister described **Kuwait** as a “**mini-Hindustan**” due to the presence of Indians from diverse parts of India.

प्रधानमंत्री ने कुवैत को भारत के विभिन्न हिस्सों से आए भारतीयों की उपस्थिति के कारण “मिनी-हिंदुस्तान” बताया।

- He emphasized that India is well-equipped to meet the world’s demand for **skilled talent** and has the potential to become the “**skill capital of the world**”.

उन्होंने जोर दिया कि भारत दुनिया की कुशल प्रतिभा की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए पूरी तरह से सक्षम है और “दुनिया की कौशल राजधानी” बनने की क्षमता रखता है।

- Mr. Modi highlighted India’s commitment to supporting Indian workers in **Kuwait** and across the Gulf, mentioning initiatives like the **eMigrate portal**.

श्री मोदी ने कुवैत और खाड़ी देशों में भारतीय श्रमिकों को समर्थन देने के भारत के प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित किया, और eMigrate पोर्टल जैसे पहलों का उल्लेख किया।

- The Prime Minister thanked the **Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**, for inviting him, noting that it was after **43 years** that an Indian Prime Minister was visiting **Kuwait**.

प्रधानमंत्री ने कुवैत के अमीर शेख मेशाल अल-अहमद अल-जबेर अल-सबाह का आभार व्यक्त किया और यह उल्लेख किया कि 43 साल बाद कोई भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री कुवैत आया है।

- He mentioned that the **relationship between India and Kuwait** is based on **civilization, the sea, affection, trade, and commerce**, stating that it is not only diplomacy but also the bonds of the heart that connect the two nations.

उन्होंने कहा कि भारत और कुवैत के बीच संबंध सभ्यता, समुद्र, स्नेह, व्यापार, और वाणिज्य पर आधारित हैं, और यह केवल कूटनीति नहीं बल्कि दिलों के संबंध हैं जो दोनों देशों को जोड़ते हैं।

- Mr. Modi remarked that this visit was very **special** for him, as for the Indian Prime Minister, it took **four decades** to visit **Kuwait**.

श्री मोदी ने कहा कि यह यात्रा उनके लिए बहुत विशेष है, क्योंकि भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री के लिए कुवैत आने में चार दशकों का समय लगा।

- He recalled the **centuries-old trade ties** between India and Kuwait, mentioning how Kuwaiti traders learned **Gujarati** and traded pearls in Indian markets.



उन्होंने भारत और कुवैत के बीच सदियों पुरानी व्यापारिक संबंधों को याद किया, और बताया कि कुवैती व्यापारियों ने गुजराती सीखी और भारतीय बाजारों में मोती का व्यापार किया।

- Mr. Modi reminded the diaspora that until **60-65 years ago**, Indian rupees were accepted in **Kuwait**.

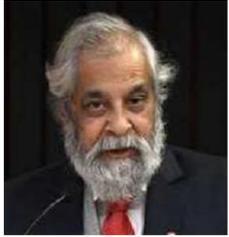
श्री मोदी ने प्रवासी समुदाय को याद दिलाया कि **60-65 साल पहले तक**, भारतीय रुपयों को कुवैत में स्वीकार किया जाता था।

- The Prime Minister stated that in the coming decades, **India** and **Kuwait** will become significant partners in **prosperity**.

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि आने वाले दशकों में भारत और कुवैत समृद्धि के महत्वपूर्ण साझेदार बनेंगे।

- He extended an invitation to the diaspora to participate in the **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** and **Maha Kumbh** to be held in **India** in **January**.

उन्होंने प्रवासी समुदाय के सदस्यों को भारत में जनवरी में आयोजित होने वाले प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस और महाकुंभ में भाग लेने के लिए निमंत्रण दिया।



Madan B. Lokur

Madan Lokur is UN Internal Justice Council chief

मदन लोकुर संयुक्त राष्ट्र आंतरिक न्याय परिषद के प्रमुख हैं

Former Supreme Court Judge Appointed Chairperson of UN Internal Justice Council

पूर्व सुप्रीम कोर्ट जज को संयुक्त राष्ट्र आंतरिक न्याय परिषद का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया

- **Justice Madan B. Lokur** has been appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **United Nations Internal Justice Council** for a term ending on **November 12, 2028**.

जस्टिस मदन बी. लोथुर को संयुक्त राष्ट्र आंतरिक न्याय परिषद का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है, जिनका कार्यकाल **12 नवम्बर 2028** को समाप्त होगा।

- In a communication to Justice Lokur, UN **Secretary-General António Guterres** informed him about the appointment, stating that the retired judge would head the council, which also comprises other distinguished jurists.

जस्टिस लोथुर को एक पत्र में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सचिव-जनरल एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने उनके इस नियुक्ति के बारे में जानकारी दी, जिसमें कहा गया कि सेवानिवृत्त जज परिषद का नेतृत्व करेंगे, जिसमें अन्य प्रतिष्ठित विधिज्ञ भी शामिल हैं।

- **Justice Lokur** was born in **1953** and was appointed as a **judge of the Supreme Court** on **June 4, 2012**.

जस्टिस लोथुर का जन्म **1953** में हुआ था और उन्हें **4 जून 2012** को सुप्रीम कोर्ट का जज नियुक्त किया गया था।

- He demitted office on **December 30, 2018**, upon attaining the age of superannuation.

Madan Lokur is UN Internal Justice Council chief

GS Paper II:
International Bodies

NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B. Lokur was appointed Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council for a term ending on November 12, 2028.

In a communication to Justice Lokur, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the retired judge would head the council which also comprises other distinguished jurists.

Born in 1953, Justice Lokur was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court on June 4, 2012.

He demitted office on December 30, 2018, upon attaining the age of superannuation.



उन्होंने 30 दिसम्बर 2018 को अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया, जब उन्होंने सेवानिवृत्ति की आयु प्राप्त की।

Change in election conduct rules erodes integrity, says Cong.

The Law Ministry had changed Rule 93(2)(a) of the 1961 Conduct of Election Rules; move of the EC will be challenged legally, says Congress

GS Paper II: Elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday said that a change in rules regarding the conduct of elections is "a vindication of our assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process managed by the Election Commission of India (EC)".

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, tagged a media report that claimed that the Union Law Ministry, in consultation with the EC, effected a change in the rules after the Punjab and Haryana High Court asked the EC to supply all information including video and CCTV footage pertaining to a particular booth in the recent Haryana Assembly polls to the petitioner.

On Friday, the Law Ministry, through a Gazette notification, had changed



The EC, instead of complying with the verdict, rushes to amend the law to curtail the list of what can be shared. Why is EC afraid of transparency?

JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress communication chief

Rule 93(2)(a) of the 1961 Conduct of Election Rules under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Earlier, the said rule stated that "all other papers relating to the election shall be open to public inspection". However, it has now been changed to read: "all other papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection".

"If there was ever a vindication of our assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process managed by the Election Commission of India

in recent times, this is it. Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and information will restore faith in the process – a reasoning the Punjab and Haryana High Court agreed with when it directed the EC to share information that it is legally required to do so with the public," said Mr. Ramesh.

"Yet the EC, instead of complying with the judgment, rushes to amend the law to curtail the list of what can be shared. Why is the EC so afraid of transparency? This move of the EC will be challenged legally right away," he added.

Change in election conduct rules erodes integrity, says Cong.

कांग्रेस का कहना है कि चुनाव आचार संहिता में बदलाव से ईमानदारी खत्म हो रही है।

The Law Ministry had changed Rule 93(2)(a) of the 1961 Conduct of Election Rules; move of the EC will be challenged legally, says Congress

कानून मंत्रालय ने 1961 के चुनाव संचालन नियम के नियम 93(2)(ए) में बदलाव किया है; कांग्रेस का कहना है कि चुनाव आयोग के इस कदम को कानूनी तौर पर चुनौती दी जाएगी

Congress Criticizes Change in Election Rules, Claims Vindication

कांग्रेस ने चुनावी नियमों में बदलाव की आलोचना की, और इसे अपनी बातों का प्रमाण बताया

- The Congress party on Saturday said that a change in rules regarding the conduct of elections is "a vindication of our assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process managed by the Election Commission of India (EC)."

कांग्रेस पार्टी ने शनिवार को कहा कि चुनाव संचालन से संबंधित नियमों में बदलाव "हमारी



बातों का साक्षात्कार है, जो चुनाव आयोग द्वारा संचालित चुनावी प्रक्रिया की तीव्र गिरावट को लेकर थी।"

- **Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh**, in a post on X, tagged a media report that claimed that the **Union Law Ministry**, in consultation with the EC, effected a change in the rules after the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** asked the EC to supply all information including video and CCTV footage related to a particular booth in the recent **Haryana Assembly elections** to the petitioner.

कांग्रेस संचार प्रमुख जयराम रमेश ने X पर एक पोस्ट में एक मीडिया रिपोर्ट को टैग किया, जिसमें दावा किया गया था कि केंद्रीय कानून मंत्रालय, चुनाव आयोग के परामर्श से, नियमों में बदलाव करने के बाद पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय ने चुनाव आयोग से हाल की हरियाणा विधानसभा चुनावों में एक विशेष बूथ से संबंधित वीडियो और सीसीटीवी फुटेज सहित सभी जानकारी देने के लिए कहा था।

- On Friday, the **Law Ministry**, through a **Gazette notification**, changed **Rule 93(2)(a)** of the **1961 Conduct of Election Rules** under the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**. Earlier, the rule stated that "all other papers relating to the election shall be open to public inspection."

शुक्रवार को, कानून मंत्रालय ने गजट अधिसूचना के माध्यम से 1951 के प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम के तहत 1961 के चुनाव संचालन नियमों के नियम 93(2)(a) को बदल दिया। पहले, इस नियम में कहा गया था कि "चुनाव से संबंधित सभी अन्य कागजात जनता के निरीक्षण के लिए उपलब्ध होंगे"।

- The rule has now been changed to read: "all other papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection."

अब नियम को इस प्रकार बदल दिया गया है: "चुनाव से संबंधित इन नियमों में निर्दिष्ट सभी अन्य कागजात जनता के निरीक्षण के लिए उपलब्ध होंगे।"

- **Jairam Ramesh** criticized the change, stating, "If there was ever a vindication of our assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process managed by the Election Commission of India in recent times, this is it."

जयराम रमेश ने इस बदलाव की आलोचना करते हुए कहा, "यदि हाल के समय में चुनाव आयोग द्वारा संचालित चुनावी प्रक्रिया की तीव्र गिरावट के बारे में हमारी बातों का कभी कोई साक्षात्कार था, तो यह वही है।"

- Ramesh emphasized, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and information will restore faith in the process — a reasoning the Punjab and Haryana High Court agreed with when it directed the EC to share information that it is legally required to do so with the public."

रमेश ने कहा, "सूरज की रोशनी सबसे अच्छा कीटाणुनाशक है, और जानकारी प्रक्रिया में विश्वास को बहाल करेगी — यही कारण था जिसे पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय ने स्वीकार किया था, जब उसने चुनाव आयोग को जानकारी साझा करने का निर्देश दिया, जो उसे कानूनी रूप से सार्वजनिक करने का अधिकार था।"

- He further questioned, "Yet the EC, instead of complying with the judgment, rushes to amend the law to curtail the list of what can be shared. **Why is the EC so afraid of**



transparency?"

उन्होंने आगे सवाल किया, "फिर भी चुनाव आयोग, न्यायिक आदेश का पालन करने के बजाय, उस सूची को संक्षिप्त करने के लिए कानून में संशोधन करने की जल्दी करता है, जो साझा किया जा सकता है। चुनाव आयोग को पारदर्शिता से इतना डर क्यों है?"

- He added, "This move of the EC will be challenged legally right away."

उन्होंने जोड़ा, "चुनाव आयोग का यह कदम कानूनी रूप से तुरंत चुनौती दी जाएगी।"

Parliamentary panel suggests giving subsidies to farmers to keep non-milching livestock

PCS

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Agriculture, headed by former Punjab Chief Minister and Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi, has recommended subsidies for farmers to keep non-milching animals to manage the problem of stray cattle. The panel asked the Centre to increase the allocation for insuring livestock.

Appreciating the efforts of the Union Animal Husbandry Department to control the birth of male bovine offspring using sex-sorted semen techniques – whereby only female calves are born with 90% accuracy rate – the panel said there is also need to prevent further growth of stray cattle from the already existing livestock population of 193.46 million cattle and 109.85 million buffaloes.

"Therefore, the Committee recommend that some incentive/subsidy



Stray cattle graze at a potato farm in Uttar Pradesh.

may be provided to farmers and farm labourers for taking care of cattle and buffaloes which are past their economic utility in addition to increasing fund allocation for promotion of Gaushalas [cattle shelters] across country with farmers having a choice to either avail services of Gaushala or avail government incentive/subsidy for taking care of their non-productive bovine animals," the report said.

The panel also noted that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is covering only 1% of the livestock population under the Centrally

sponsored National Livestock Mission for livestock insurance due to insufficient budget provision.

"Looking towards the risk of more than 10 crore engaged in animal husbandry activities the committee recommends that Government should immediately initiate massive livestock insurance scheme to bring 53.5 crore livestock population under the ambit of this scheme. The committee recommends that higher allocation may be made available by the Government for implementation of livestock insurance scheme," the report said.

It also asked the Centre to work for self-sufficiency in cattle feed and fodder availability. "With increased availability of green fodder, cost incurred by farmers on milk production will be decreased and dependence of farmers on cattle feed will also be reduced. This will increase profit margins of dairy farmers," the panel said.

Parliamentary panel suggests giving subsidies to farmers to keep non-milching livestock

संसदीय पैनल ने सुझाव दिया है कि किसानों को गैर-दूध देने वाले पशुओं को रखने के लिए सब्सिडी दी जाए

Parliamentary Standing Committee Recommends Subsidies for Farmers to Manage Stray Cattle

संसदीय स्थायी समिति ने stray मवेशियों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए किसानों के लिए सब्सिडी की सिफारिश की

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Agriculture, headed by former Punjab Chief Minister and

Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi, has recommended subsidies for farmers to



keep **non-milching animals** to manage the problem of **stray cattle**.

कृषि पर संसदीय स्थायी समिति (PSC), जिसकी अध्यक्षता पूर्व पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री और कांग्रेस सांसद चरणजीत सिंह चन्नी द्वारा की जा रही है, ने **stray मवेशियों** की समस्या को नियंत्रित करने के लिए किसानों को **गैर-दूध देने वाले जानवरों** को रखने के लिए **सब्सिडी** की सिफारिश की है।

- The committee has asked the Centre to increase the **allocation for insuring livestock**. समिति ने केंद्र से **पशुधन बीमा** के लिए **बजट आवंटन बढ़ाने** का अनुरोध किया है।
- Appreciating the efforts of the **Union Animal Husbandry Department** to control the birth of male bovine offspring using **sex-sorted semen techniques**, the panel said there is also a need to prevent the growth of **stray cattle** from the already existing livestock population of **193.46 million cattle** and **109.85 million buffaloes**.

संघ पशुपालन विभाग के उन प्रयासों की सराहना करते हुए, जो **लिंग-निर्धारित शुक्राणु तकनीक** का उपयोग कर नर **बैल** के जन्म को नियंत्रित कर रहे हैं, समिति ने कहा कि वर्तमान में मौजूद **193.46 मिलियन मवेशियों** और **109.85 मिलियन भैंसों** की **पशुधन आबादी** से **stray मवेशियों** की वृद्धि को रोकने की आवश्यकता है।

- The committee recommended providing some **incentive/subsidy** to farmers and farm laborers for taking care of **cattle and buffaloes** which are past their economic utility. समिति ने **किसानों और खेत मजदूरों** को **गैर-उत्पादक बैल और भैंसों** की देखभाल के लिए कुछ **प्रोत्साहन/सब्सिडी** देने की सिफारिश की है।
- The panel also recommended increasing fund allocation for the promotion of **Gaushalas** (cattle shelters) across the country, with farmers having the choice to either avail services of **Gaushalas** or avail government incentive/subsidy for taking care of their **non-productive bovine animals**.

समिति ने देशभर में **गोशालाओं** (गाय आश्रय) को बढ़ावा देने के लिए **फंड आवंटन बढ़ाने** की सिफारिश की है, जिससे किसानों को **गोशालाओं** की सेवाओं का लाभ उठाने या **गैर-उत्पादक मवेशियों** की देखभाल के लिए सरकार से **प्रोत्साहन/सब्सिडी** लेने का विकल्प मिल सके।

- The panel noted that the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** is covering only **1%** of the livestock population under the **Centrally sponsored National Livestock Mission** for livestock insurance due to insufficient budget provision.

समिति ने यह भी नोट किया कि **पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग** केवल **1%** पशुधन जनसंख्या को **केंद्रीय प्रायोजित राष्ट्रीय पशुधन मिशन** के तहत **पशुधन बीमा** में शामिल कर रहा है, जो कि **अपर्याप्त बजट प्रावधान** के कारण है।

- Looking towards the risk of more than **10 crore** people engaged in animal husbandry activities, the committee recommends that the Government should immediately initiate a **massive livestock insurance scheme** to bring **53.5 crore livestock population** under the ambit of this scheme.

समिति ने कहा कि **10 करोड़** से अधिक लोग **पशुपालन गतिविधियों** में लगे हुए हैं, इसलिए सरकार को **तुरंत विशाल पशुधन बीमा योजना** शुरू करनी चाहिए, ताकि **53.5 करोड़ पशुधन जनसंख्या** को इस योजना के दायरे में लाया जा सके।



- The committee recommended that **higher allocation** be made available by the Government for the implementation of the **livestock insurance scheme**.
समिति ने पशुधन बीमा योजना के क्रियान्वयन के लिए सरकार द्वारा उच्च आवंटन करने की सिफारिश की है।
- The panel also asked the Centre to work for **self-sufficiency** in **cattle feed** and **fodder availability**.
समिति ने केंद्र से गाय चारा और घास की उपलब्धता में आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए काम करने का अनुरोध किया है।
- With increased availability of **green fodder**, the cost incurred by farmers on **milk production** will be decreased, and **dependence** of farmers on cattle feed will also be reduced.
हरे चारे की बढ़ी हुई उपलब्धता से, किसानों पर दूध उत्पादन के खर्च में कमी आएगी, और पशु चारे पर किसानों की निर्भरता भी कम होगी।
- This will increase **profit margins** of dairy farmers.
इससे डेयरी किसानों के मुनाफे के मार्जिन में वृद्धि होगी।

GS Paper II: GI Tag

Railway stations in Bengal promote GI-tagged products

The Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway is promoting West Bengal's unique local products with the Geographical Identification (GI) tag through its "one station, one product" (OSOP) stalls. One OSOP store in Sealdah station is selling Joynagar Moa, a traditional sweet made from palm jaggery and puffed rice. The unique product, which is prepared at Joynagar in South 24 Parganas district was granted the GI tag in 2015. At the Phulia station in Nadia district, an OSOP stall is selling traditional Santipuri saris. At the Krishnanagar station, another railway station in Nadia district, an OSOP stall is promoting traditional clay idols.

पूर्वी रेलवे की सीलदह डिवीजन अपने "एक स्टेशन, एक उत्पाद" (OSOP) स्टॉल्स के माध्यम से पश्चिम बंगाल के अद्वितीय स्थानीय उत्पादों को भौगोलिक संकेत (GI) टैग के साथ बढ़ावा दे रहा है।

- One **OSOP store** in **Sealdah station** is selling **Joynagar Moa**, a traditional sweet made from **palm jaggery** and **puffed rice**.
सीलदह स्टेशन में एक **OSOP स्टोर** जॉयनगर मोआ बेच रहा है, जो ताड़ के गुड़ और पफ्ड चावल से बनी एक पारंपरिक मिठाई है।

Railway stations in Bengal promote GI-tagged products

बंगाल में रेलवे स्टेशनों पर जीआई-टैग उत्पादों को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा

Sealdah Division Promotes West Bengal's Unique Local Products

सीलदह डिवीजन पश्चिम बंगाल के अद्वितीय स्थानीय उत्पादों को बढ़ावा दे रहा है

- The **Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway** is promoting **West Bengal's unique local products** with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** through its "**one station, one product**" (OSOP) stalls.



- The unique product, prepared at **Joynagar** in **South 24 Parganas district**, was granted the **GI tag** in **2015**.
यह अद्वितीय उत्पाद, जो जॉयनगर में दक्षिण 24 परगना जिले में तैयार किया जाता है, को 2015 में GI टैग दिया गया था।
- At the **Phulia station** in **Nadia district**, an **OSOP stall** is selling traditional **Santipuri saris**.
नादिया जिले के फुलिया स्टेशन पर एक OSOP स्टॉल पारंपरिक सांतिपुरी साड़ियाँ बेच रहा है।
- At the **Krishnanagar station**, another railway station in **Nadia district**, an **OSOP stall** is promoting traditional **clay idols**.
कृष्णानगर स्टेशन, जो नादिया जिले का एक और रेलवे स्टेशन है, पर एक OSOP स्टॉल पारंपरिक मिट्टी की मूर्तियों को बढ़ावा दे रहा है।

GS Paper I: Art & Culture

Row over whitewashing of century-old murals in Kolkata

The 170-year-old Government College of Art & Craft, Kolkata (GCAC), has found itself at the centre of a controversy over the whitewashing of the century-old Rajasthani murals on the college building. The Rajasthani motifs – painted in a repetitive, matrix formation on the arches of three floors – are believed to have been commissioned in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when Ernest Binfield Havell and Abanindranath Tagore were heading the institution. However, the whitewashing of the murals has led to widespread protests in West Bengal's artist fraternity, including among renowned names of the GCAC alumni.

Row over whitewashing of century-old murals in Kolkata

कोलकाता में सौ साल पुराने भित्तिचित्रों की सफेदी को लेकर विवाद

Controversy Over Whitewashing of Rajasthani Murals at Government College of Art & Craft, Kolkata
कोलकाता के गवर्नमेंट कॉलेज ऑफ आर्ट एंड क्राफ्ट में राजस्थानी भित्ति चित्रों के सफेदी को लेकर विवाद

- The 170-year-old Government College of Art & Craft (GCAC), Kolkata, has found itself at the center of a controversy over the whitewashing of century-old

Rajasthani murals on the college building.

170 वर्ष पुराना गवर्नमेंट कॉलेज ऑफ आर्ट एंड क्राफ्ट (GCAC), कोलकाता कॉलेज भवन पर सदी पुरानी राजस्थानी भित्ति चित्रों के सफेदी को लेकर विवाद के केंद्र में आ गया है।

- The **Rajasthani motifs** — painted in a repetitive, matrix formation on the **arches of three floors** — are believed to have been commissioned in the **late 19th and early 20th centuries** when **Ernest Binfield Havell** and **Abanindranath Tagore** were heading the institution.

राजस्थानी रूपांकन — जो तीन मंजिलों के मेहराबों पर दोहराए गए मैट्रिक्स रूप में चित्रित हैं — का विश्वास किया जाता है कि इन्हें 19वीं सदी के अंत और 20वीं सदी की शुरुआत में एर्नेस्ट बिनफील्ड हैवेल और अबानिंद्रनाथ ठाकुर के नेतृत्व में कॉलेज में आयोजित किया गया था।

- However, the **whitewashing** of the murals has led to widespread protests in **West Bengal's artist fraternity**, including among **renowned names of the GCAC alumni**.



हालांकि, भिति चित्रों की सफेदी ने पश्चिम बंगाल के कलाकार समुदाय में व्यापक विरोध शुरू कर दिया है, जिसमें GCAC के प्रसिद्ध पूर्व छात्रों के नाम भी शामिल हैं।

GS Paper I: Pashmina Shawls

Will ensure Pashmina shawls don't attract high GST: Omar

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said his government will ensure that the famed Pashmina shawls are not considered in the higher slabs of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and warned that such a move would be life-threatening to the Pashmina shawl industry. Mr. Abdullah, who attended the 55th meeting of the GST Council in Rajasthan, said there were some things that were agreed on, and some things were deferred during the meeting. "There had been a lot of speculation that GST on shawls, particularly Pashmina shawls, will be hiked, so we had come prepared to ensure that wouldn't happen," Mr. Abdullah said.

Will ensure Pashmina shawls don't attract high GST: Omar

हम यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि पश्मीना शॉल पर अधिक जीएसटी न लगे: उमर

Jammu & Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah's Stand on Pashmina Shawls and GST

जम्मू और कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला का पश्मिना शॉल और जीएसटी पर रुख

• Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah on Saturday said his government will ensure that the famed Pashmina shawls are not considered in the higher slabs of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). जम्मू और कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला ने शनिवार को कहा कि उनकी सरकार यह सुनिश्चित करेगी कि प्रसिद्ध पश्मिना शॉल को माल और सेवा कर (GST) के उच्च स्लैब में न रखा जाए।

- He also warned that such a move would be life-threatening to the Pashmina shawl industry.

उन्होंने यह भी चेतावनी दी कि इस प्रकार का कदम पश्मिना शॉल उद्योग के लिए जानलेवा साबित हो सकता है।

- Mr. Abdullah, who attended the 55th meeting of the GST Council in Rajasthan, said there were some things that were agreed on, and some things were deferred during the meeting.

श्री अब्दुल्ला, जो राजस्थान में GST काउंसिल की 55वीं बैठक में शामिल हुए थे, ने कहा कि बैठक में कुछ बिंदुओं पर सहमति बनी और कुछ को टाल दिया गया।

- "There had been a lot of speculation that GST on shawls, particularly Pashmina shawls, will be hiked, so we had come prepared to ensure that wouldn't happen," Mr. Abdullah said.

"इस बात को लेकर बहुत अफवाहें थीं कि शॉल पर GST, विशेष रूप से पश्मिना शॉल पर, बढ़ाई जाएगी, इसलिए हम यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए तैयार होकर आए थे कि ऐसा न हो," श्री अब्दुल्ला ने कहा।



Phase I of Maritime Museum in Gujarat to open next year

Sarbananda Sonowal says the project is anticipated to have a daily footfall of up to 25,000 and will create a total of 22,000 jobs; Phase 1A of the project has achieved 65% progress currently

PCS

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The first phase of the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat, will be completed and opened for the public from September 2025, Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has said.

"While the entire project, which would be the largest maritime museum in the world, is expected to be completed by 2029, the Phase I would be open to people from September 2025," Mr. Sonowal said in an interview to *The Hindu*.

He said that international collaborations with more than 20 countries has been proposed for development of the complex. These collaborations will bring in Joint Maritime Research Activities, Preservation of Maritime Heritage, Exchange of Information, Artefacts, Technical know-how among other things.

"This (NMHC) would be



Engineering marvel: A Sea Harrier 609 fighter jet, which will be on display at the maritime museum in Lothal. PTI

centre for learning and study and research globally on maritime issues," he said. The Minister said that the project is anticipated to have a daily footfall of up to 25,000 and would create 22,000 jobs. "At present, 65% physical progress for the Phase 1A of the project has been achieved."

Excavations have revealed the world's oldest known artificial dock,

which was connected to an old course of the Sabarmati river in Lothal, located 80 km from Ahmedabad. The site has been nominated to be enlisted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Archaeologists believe that the city was a part of a major river system on the ancient trade route from Sindh to Saurashtra in Gujarat, according to the Gujarat Tourism website.

The Union Minister said

that the discovery of the dry dock has proved that India used to be one of the largest shipbuilders and also had world-class ship repair facilities. "The high-quality ships were being built in India and as a result Indian ships were able to complete successful voyages across the world. And this has not only integrated the world community through trade and commerce but also through cultural exchanges and pilgrimages."

The Union Cabinet in October gave its nod to the project. It also accorded in-principle approval for Phases 1B and 2 of the project, as per the master plan, by raising funds through voluntary resources or contributions. It mandated that a separate society will be set up for development of future phases, to be administered by a Governing Council headed by the Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Phase I of Maritime Museum in Gujarat to open next year

गुजरात में समुद्री संग्रहालय का पहला चरण अगले साल खुलेगा

Sarbananda Sonowal says the project is anticipated to have a daily footfall of up to 25,000 and will create a total of 22,000 jobs; Phase 1A of the project has achieved 65%

progress currently

सर्बानंद सोनोवाल ने कहा कि इस परियोजना से प्रतिदिन 25,000 लोगों के आने का अनुमान है और इससे कुल 22,000 नौकरियां पैदा होंगी; परियोजना के चरण 1ए ने वर्तमान में 65% प्रगति हासिल कर ली है

National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal
लोथल में राष्ट्रीय समुद्री धरोहर परिसर (NMHC)

- The first phase of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat will be completed and opened for the public from September 2025, according to Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

लोथल, गुजरात में राष्ट्रीय समुद्री धरोहर परिसर (NMHC) का पहला चरण सितंबर 2025 से जनता



के लिए खोला जाएगा, जैसा कि केंद्रीय बंदरगाह, शिपिंग और जलमार्ग मंत्री सरबानंद सोनोवाल ने कहा।

- The entire project, which will be the **largest maritime museum in the world**, is expected to be completed by **2029**, while **Phase I** will be open to the public from **September 2025**.

पूरा प्रोजेक्ट, जो दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा समुद्री संग्रहालय होगा, का पूरा होना 2029 तक अपेक्षित है, जबकि चरण I सितंबर 2025 से जनता के लिए खोला जाएगा।

- **International collaborations** with over **20 countries** are being proposed for the development of the complex, which will include **Joint Maritime Research Activities, Preservation of Maritime Heritage, Exchange of Information, Artefacts, and Technical knowhow**.

परिसर के विकास के लिए 20 से अधिक देशों के साथ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग प्रस्तावित किया जा रहा है, जिसमें संयुक्त समुद्री अनुसंधान गतिविधियाँ, समुद्री धरोहर का संरक्षण, सूचना का आदान-प्रदान, वस्तुएं और तकनीकी ज्ञान शामिल हैं।

- The complex will be a **centre for learning, study, and research globally** on maritime issues.

यह परिसर समुद्री मुद्दों पर वैश्विक स्तर पर अध्ययन, शोध और शिक्षा का केंद्र होगा।

- The project is anticipated to have a **daily footfall of up to 25,000** visitors and will create **22,000 jobs**.

इस प्रोजेक्ट से 25,000 तक दैनिक आगंतुकों की संख्या और 22,000 नौकरियों का सृजन होने की उम्मीद है।

- **65% physical progress** has been achieved for **Phase 1A** of the project.

परियोजना के चरण 1A के लिए 65% शारीरिक प्रगति प्राप्त हो चुकी है।

- **Excavations** at the site have revealed the **world's oldest known artificial dock**, which was connected to an old course of the **Sabarmati river** in **Lothal, 80 km from Ahmedabad**.

साइट पर की गई खुदाई ने दुनिया का सबसे पुराना ज्ञात कृत्रिम डॉक उजागर किया है, जो लौथल में साबरमती नदी के पुराने मार्ग से जुड़ा था, जो अहमदाबाद से 80 किमी दूर है।

- The site has been nominated for listing as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

इस स्थल को यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल के रूप में सूचीबद्ध किए जाने के लिए नामांकित किया गया है।

- The city of **Lothal** was part of a major river system on the ancient trade route from **Sindh to Saurashtra in Gujarat**.

लौथल का शहर सिंध से लेकर सौराष्ट्र, गुजरात तक के प्राचीन व्यापार मार्ग पर एक महत्वपूर्ण नदी प्रणाली का हिस्सा था।

- The **discovery of the dry dock** has proven that India was one of the largest **shipbuilders** and had world-class **ship repair facilities**.

सूखा डॉक का पता लगने से यह साबित हुआ है कि भारत जहाज बनाने वाला एक प्रमुख देश था और यहां विश्वस्तरीय जहाज मरम्मत सुविधाएं थीं।



- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the project in **October** and also granted in-principle approval for **Phases 1B and 2** of the project.

केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने अक्टूबर में इस प्रोजेक्ट को मंजूरी दी और चरण 1B और 2 के लिए भी प्रारंभिक मंजूरी दी।

- A separate society will be set up to manage the future phases of the project, which will be administered by a **Governing Council** headed by the **Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**, under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.

परियोजना के भविष्य के चरणों को प्रबंधित करने के लिए एक अलग समाज स्थापित किया जाएगा, जिसका संचालन बंदरगाह, शिपिंग और जलमार्ग मंत्री द्वारा किया जाएगा, और यह सोसायटी रजिस्ट्रेशन एक्ट, 1860 के तहत होगा।

Temple managements not implementing reservation rosters, says NCST member

Temple managements not implementing reservation rosters, says NCST member

एनसीएसटी सदस्य का कहना है कि मंदिर प्रबंधन आरक्षण रॉस्टर लागू नहीं कर रहा है

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) Review of Temple Management in Southern States

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (NCST) द्वारा दक्षिणी राज्यों में मंदिर प्रबंधन की समीक्षा

• Temple management executive officers in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha are working carelessly and many do not implement reservation rosters, leading to partiality against Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) employees in service matters, including promotions, as per Jatothu Hussain Nayak, member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा में मंदिर प्रबंधन अधिकारी लापरवाही से काम कर रहे हैं और कई आरक्षण रजिस्टर लागू नहीं करते, जिसके कारण सेवा मामलों में अनुसूचित जाति (SC) और अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) कर्मचारियों के साथ भेदभाव हो रहा है, जिसमें पदोन्नति भी शामिल है, जैसा कि जटोथु हुसेन नायक, राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (NCST) के सदस्य ने कहा।

• Jatothu Hussain Nayak, a BJP politician from Telangana, took charge in March 2024 and began working extensively in southern States after the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

जटोथु हुसेन नायक, जो तेलंगाना से भाजपा के राजनेता हैं, ने मार्च 2024 में कार्यभार

CS Paper I: Society
Aamir's Education
NEW DELHI

Across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha, temple management executive officers are working carelessly, many do not even implement the reservation rosters, and there is partiality against Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees in service matters, including promotions, says National Commission for Scheduled Tribes member Jatothu Hussain Nayak, who took charge in March and began working extensively in the States south of the Vindhyas just after the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

In an exclusive interaction over the phone with *The Hindu* this week, Mr. Nayak, a BJP politician from Telangana, spoke of the significance of having a member of the commission from a southern State, his experience of reviewing temple management Boards during official visits, and a focus on raising awareness of the commission's work, which he said had led to increased complaints now being filed with the NCST.

Common complaint
Mr. Nayak said he had conducted reviews of two States, 26 public sector undertakings, and 48 districts across the country in his time with the commission so far.

"In States I have visited such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala, the most common complaint poor people from ST communities have had is with regard to forest *pattas* and land issues, followed by service matters," Mr. Nayak said. But in his visits, Mr. Nayak has given special attention to checking whether temple managements across these States are following mandated rules on reservation and addressing complaints of ST employees working at various posts within the management structures.

He has already led reviews of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Sree Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam in Bhadrachalam, Srisailla De-

Nayak says there is partiality against SC and ST employees in service matters and promotions

vasthanam, and the Puri Jagannath Temple.

"In so many temples, they are not using rosters at all. Bhadrachalam predominantly has an ST population and it is located in the jungles. They have no regard for reservation. In Srisailla too, this is the case. This is also in the jungle area. There should be more right for STs of the area for their development. In Tirupati, the situation is very bad," Mr. Nayak said.

Referring to the situation at the TTD, Mr. Nayak said the NCST was informed about a host of issues relating to the welfare of SCs and STs there during a review in August. Among the list of complaints were demands to allow SCs and STs to be considered for religious posts in the temples, adequately inform SCs and STs about stipend scheme of the TTD for those studying the Vedas, lack of reservation in shop and hawkers licence allotments, and a near absence of a grievance redress mechanism for SC/ST staffers.

"When we took stock of the issues and called the EO to explain what is happening, they kept evading and then went to the High Court to get a stay order. We will fight it tooth and nail in the court. How can the court stay proceedings of a commission, which is itself exercising its Constitutional powers as a civil court?" Mr. Nayak said, adding, all temples he has reviewed have similar issues. Mr. Nayak told *The Hindu* that he has been able to use his position at the NCST to take the commission's services to more and more people in the southern States. "There have been many more commission members appointed from the North, so some work has been done there. But in the south, awareness about the NCST and what it can do for the people is relatively low," he said.



संभाला और 2024 लोकसभा चुनाव के बाद दक्षिणी राज्यों में व्यापक रूप से काम करना शुरू किया।

- In his official visit, Mr. Nayak reviewed **two States, 26 public sector undertakings, and 48 districts** across the country.

अपनी आधिकारिक यात्रा में, श्री नायक ने देश भर में दो राज्यों, 26 सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों और 48 जिलों की समीक्षा की।

- A common complaint he found among **ST communities** in **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Kerala** was related to **forest pattas and land issues**, followed by **service matters**.

महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटका, तेलंगाना, आंध्र प्रदेश, ओडिशा और केरल में ST समुदायों के बीच एक सामान्य शिकायत जंगल के पट्टों और भूमि मुद्दों से संबंधित थी, इसके बाद सेवा मामलों की शिकायतें थीं।

- During his visits, Mr. Nayak focused on ensuring that **temple managements** in these States were following **mandated rules on reservation** and addressing complaints of **ST employees** working in various temple management posts.

अपनी यात्राओं के दौरान, श्री नायक ने इन राज्यों में मंदिर प्रबंधन से यह सुनिश्चित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया कि वे आरक्षण के नियमों का पालन कर रहे हैं और विभिन्न मंदिर प्रबंधन पदों पर काम कर रहे ST कर्मचारियों की शिकायतों का समाधान कर रहे हैं।

- Mr. Nayak led reviews of major temples like **Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Bhadrachalam, Srisaila, and Puri Jagannath Temple**.

श्री नायक ने प्रमुख मंदिरों जैसे तिरुमाला तिरुपति देवस्थानम (TTD), भद्राचलम, श्रीसैलम और पुरी जगन्नाथ मंदिर की समीक्षा की।

- **Bhadrachalam**, a temple located in a predominantly **ST population area**, has no regard for **reservation**, and similar issues were observed in **Srisailem and Tirupati**.

भद्राचलम, जो एक ST जनसंख्या क्षेत्र में स्थित है, आरक्षण का कोई ध्यान नहीं रखता है, और श्रीसैलम और तिरुपति में भी ऐसे ही मुद्दे देखे गए हैं।

- At the **Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD)**, the **NCST** received multiple complaints including demands to allow **SCs and STs** to be considered for **religious posts**, the need to inform **SCs and STs** about the stipend scheme for Veda studies, and lack of **reservation in shop and hawker license allotments**.

तिरुमाला तिरुपति देवस्थानम (TTD) में, NCST को कई शिकायतें मिलीं, जिनमें SCs और STs को धार्मिक पदों के लिए पात्र बनाने की मांग, वेद अध्ययन के लिए SCs और STs को भत्ते योजना की जानकारी देने की आवश्यकता, और दुकान और ठेले लाइसेंस आवंटन में आरक्षण की कमी शामिल थी।

- Mr. Nayak emphasized that when the issues were raised with the **Executive Officer (EO)** at TTD, they evaded the situation and went to **High Court** to get a **stay order**.

श्री नायक ने यह भी बताया कि जब इन मुद्दों को कार्यकारी अधिकारी (EO) के साथ तिरुपति में उठाया गया, तो उन्होंने स्थिति से बचते हुए उच्च न्यायालय से स्टे आदेश प्राप्त करने के लिए कदम उठाए।



- He vowed to fight these issues in **court** as the **NCST** is exercising its **Constitutional powers** as a civil court.

उन्होंने इन मुद्दों को न्यायालय में लड़ने का संकल्प लिया, क्योंकि **NCST** संविधानिक शक्तियों का प्रयोग कर रहा है जैसा कि एक सिविल कोर्ट करता है।

- **Mr. Nayak** has utilized his position at **NCST** to take the commission's services to more people in southern states, where **awareness** about the commission's work is relatively low compared to the north.

श्री नायक ने **NCST** में अपनी स्थिति का उपयोग दक्षिणी राज्यों में आयोग की सेवाओं को अधिक लोगों तक पहुँचाने के लिए किया, जहाँ आयोग के काम के बारे में उत्तर की तुलना में जागरूकता कम है।

Moon was formed around 4.51 billion years ago, says study

GS paper I: Geography

The Hindu Bureau

Evidence to support an older age for the formation of the Moon, around 4.51 billion years ago, as per a paper published in the journal *Nature*.

This new analysis suggests that a 'remelting' of the Moon's surface around 4.35 billion years ago may have masked a far older

history.

The Moon is thought to have been formed through a collision between the early Earth and a Mars-sized protoplanet, the last giant impact in our planet's history.

The timing of this event has been estimated by dating lunar rock samples presumed to have crystallised from the lunar mag-

ma ocean that existed post-impact, placing the Moon's age at approximately 4.35 billion years old, as per a *Nature* release.

However, this age fails to account for several discrepancies with thermal models and other pieces of evidence, such as the number of craters on the Moon and the age of some zircon minerals on the Moon's

surface, which suggest that the Moon could be up to 4.51 billion years old.

Resetting formation

The researchers argue that the frequent occurrence of approximately 4.35-billion-year-old rocks may be indicative of a remelting event, driven by the Moon's orbital evolution, rather than the first solidification of

the lunar magma ocean. The authors use modelling to show that the Moon may have experienced sufficient tidal heating to cause this remelting approximately 4.35 billion years ago, which could 'reset' the apparent formation age of these lunar samples.

In addition, the remelting of the Moon would explain why there are fewer

lunar impact basins from early bombardment than might be expected, as they would have been erased during a heating event.

The authors posit that this explanation would suggest the formation of the Moon occurred between 4.43 and 4.53 billion years ago, at the upper limit of previous age estimates.

Moon was formed around 4.51 billion years ago, says study

अध्ययन के अनुसार चंद्रमा का निर्माण लगभग 4.51 अरब वर्ष पहले हुआ था

Evidence to support an older age for the formation of the Moon, around 4.51 billion years ago, as per a paper published in the journal *Nature*.

चंद्रमा के निर्माण की आयु के लिए 4.51 अरब वर्ष पुराना होने का समर्थन करने वाले प्रमाण, जैसे कि नेचरपत्रिका में प्रकाशित एक पेपर में बताया गया है।

- This new analysis suggests that a 'remelting' of the Moon's surface around **4.35 billion years ago** may have masked a far older history.

यह नई विश्लेषण यह सुझाव देती है कि **4.35 अरब साल पहले** चंद्रमा की सतह का 'पुनः पिघलना' एक बहुत पुराने इतिहास को छिपा सकता है।

- The Moon is thought to have been formed through a collision between the early Earth and a **Mars-sized protoplanet**, the last giant impact in our planet's history.



माना जाता है कि चंद्रमा का निर्माण प्रारंभिक पृथ्वी और एक मंगल-आकार के प्रोटोप्लानेट के बीच टक्कर के माध्यम से हुआ था, जो हमारी पृथ्वी के इतिहास में अंतिम विशाल टक्कर थी।

- The timing of this event has been estimated by dating lunar rock samples presumed to have crystallised from the lunar magma ocean that existed postimpact, placing the Moon's age at approximately **4.35 billion years old**, as per a *Nature* release.

इस घटना के समय का अनुमान चंद्रमा के शिल्प नमूनों की तारीखीकरण से लगाया गया है, जो यह माना जाता है कि टक्कर के बाद अस्तित्व में रहे चंद्रमा के मैग्मा महासागर से ठोस रूप में बने थे, और इस प्रकार चंद्रमा की आयु **4.35 अरब साल पुरानी** मानी गई है, जैसा कि *नेचर* के प्रकाशन में बताया गया है।

- However, this age fails to account for several discrepancies with **thermal models** and other pieces of evidence, such as the number of **craters** on the Moon and the age of some **zircon minerals** on the Moon's surface, which suggest that the Moon could be up to **4.51 billion years old**.

हालांकि, यह आयु कई विसंगतियों को नहीं समझा पाती, जैसे कि **तापीय मॉडलों** और अन्य प्रमाण, जैसे कि चंद्रमा पर मौजूद **गड्ढों** की संख्या और चंद्रमा की सतह पर कुछ **ज़िरकोन खनिजों** की आयु, जो यह संकेत देती हैं कि चंद्रमा की आयु **4.51 अरब साल तक** हो सकती है।

Resetting formation

रचनात्मक आयु का पुनः निर्धारण

- The researchers argue that the frequent occurrence of approximately **4.35-billion-year-old rocks** may be indicative of a **remelting event**, driven by the Moon's **orbital evolution**, rather than the first solidification of the lunar magma ocean.

शोधकर्ताओं का कहना है कि लगभग **4.35 अरब साल पुरानी चट्टानों** का बार-बार मिलना एक **पुनः पिघलने की घटना** का संकेत दे सकता है, जो चंद्रमा के **कक्षीय विकास** द्वारा प्रेरित हो, न कि चंद्रमा के मैग्मा महासागर के पहले ठोस रूप में ठोस होने के।

- The authors use **modelling** to show that the Moon may have experienced sufficient **tidal heating** to cause this remelting approximately **4.35 billion years ago**, which could 'reset' the apparent formation age of these lunar samples.

लेखक **मॉडलिंग** का उपयोग करते हैं यह दिखाने के लिए कि चंद्रमा को पर्याप्त **ज्वारीय हीटिंग** का सामना करना पड़ा हो सकता है, जिससे यह पुनः पिघलने की घटना **4.35 अरब साल पहले** हुई, जो इन चंद्रमा के नमूनों की रचनात्मक आयु को 'पुनः निर्धारित' कर सकता है।

- In addition, the remelting of the Moon would explain why there are **fewer lunar impact basins** from early bombardment than might be expected, as they would have been erased during a heating event.

इसके अतिरिक्त, चंद्रमा का पुनः पिघलना यह समझाने में मदद करेगा कि प्रारंभिक बमबारी से **चंद्रमा पर प्रभाव गड्ढे** अपेक्षाकृत कम क्यों हैं, क्योंकि वे एक हीटिंग घटना के दौरान मिट गए होंगे।



- The authors posit that this explanation would suggest the formation of the Moon occurred between **4.43 billion** and **4.53 billion years ago**, at the upper limit of previous age estimates.

लेखक यह अनुमान लगाते हैं कि यह व्याख्या यह सुझाव देती है कि चंद्रमा का निर्माण 4.43 अरब और 4.53 अरब साल पहले के बीच हुआ था, जो पिछले आयु अनुमानों की उच्च सीमा है।

GS paper III: S&T



Eco-friendly reactor converts air and water into ammonia

Taking inspiration from how nature produces ammonia, researchers have developed a reactor that produces the chemical commodity from nitrogen in the air and water, without any carbon footprint. The plasma-electrochemical reactor can sustain a high ammonia production rate of approximately 1 gram per day for over 1,000 hours at room temperature, and does so directly from air, which is a significant advance toward green ammonia synthesis at an industrially competitive production rate.

a high ammonia production rate of approximately **1 gram per day** for over **1,000 hours** at **room temperature**, and does so directly from air, which is a significant advance toward **green ammonia synthesis** at an **industrially competitive production rate**.

प्लाज्मा-इलेक्ट्रोकेमिकल रिएक्टर लगभग 1 ग्राम प्रति दिन की उच्च अमोनिया उत्पादन दर को 1,000 घंटे से अधिक समय तक कक्ष तापमान पर बनाए रख सकता है, और यह सीधे वायु से ऐसा करता है, जो हरी अमोनिया संश्लेषण की दिशा में औद्योगिक रूप से प्रतिस्पर्धी उत्पादन दर तक एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति है।

Eco-friendly reactor converts air and water into ammonia

पर्यावरण अनुकूल रिएक्टर हवा और पानी को अमोनिया में परिवर्तित करता है

Taking inspiration from how nature produces ammonia, researchers have developed a reactor that produces the chemical commodity from nitrogen in the air and water, without any carbon footprint.

प्रकृति द्वारा अमोनिया उत्पादन से प्रेरणा लेकर, शोधकर्ताओं ने एक रिएक्टर विकसित किया है जो वायु और पानी में नाइट्रोजन से रासायनिक वस्तु का उत्पादन करता है, बिना किसी कार्बन फुटप्रिंट के।

- The **plasma-electrochemical reactor** can sustain a high ammonia production rate of approximately **1 gram per day** for over **1,000 hours** at **room temperature**, and does so directly from air, which is a significant advance toward **green ammonia synthesis** at an **industrially competitive production rate**.



GS Paper I: World geography

Denali Fault tore apart ancient joining of landmasses

A study shows that three sites spread along the Denali Fault located in the southern half of Alaska were once a smaller united geologic feature indicative of the final joining of two land masses. That feature was then torn apart by millions of years of tectonic activity. Historical reconstruction of 483 km of horizontal movement on the Denali Fault found that the three locations at one time formed a terminal suture zone, which represents the final integration of tectonic plates into a larger mass.

Fault found that the three locations at one time formed a **terminal suture zone**, which represents the final integration of **tectonic plates** into a larger mass.

डेनाली फॉल्ट पर **483 किमी के क्षैतिज गति** का ऐतिहासिक पुनर्निर्माण इस बात का पता चलता है कि तीन स्थल कभी एक **टर्मिनल स्यूचर जोन** का हिस्सा थे, जो **टेक्टोनिक प्लेटों** के एक बड़े द्रव्यमान में अंतिम एकीकरण को दर्शाता है।

Denali Fault tore apart ancient joining of landmasses

डेनाली फॉल्ट ने भूभागों के प्राचीन जोड़ को तोड़ दिया

A study shows that three sites spread along the Denali Fault located in the southern half of Alaska were once a smaller united geologic feature indicative of the final joining of two land masses.

एक अध्ययन में दिखाया गया है कि अलास्का के दक्षिणी भाग में स्थित डेनाली फॉल्ट के साथ फैले तीन स्थल कभी एक छोटे से एकीकृत भूवैज्ञानिक विशेषता का हिस्सा थे, जो दो भूप्रदेशों के अंतिम मिलन का संकेत देते हैं।

- That feature was then torn apart by millions of years of **tectonic activity**. फिर वह विशेषता **लाखों वर्षों तक चले टेक्टोनिक गतिविधि** के कारण टूट गई।
- Historical reconstruction of **483 km of horizontal movement** on the Denali



Journal retracts the discredited hydroxychloroquine paper

GS Paper III: S&T

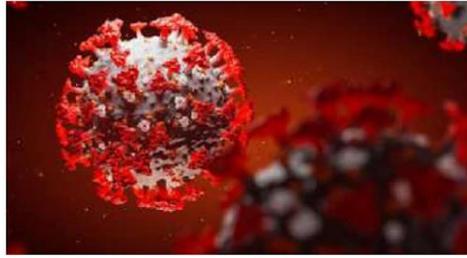
The Hindu Bureau

More than four-and-a-half years after the highly questionable "study" by a French researcher Didier Raoult and others claiming that hydroxychloroquine monotherapy and hydroxychloroquine in combination with azithromycin was "significantly associated with viral load reduction/disappearance in COVID-19 patients" was published on March 20, 2020, the paper was finally retracted on December 17 this year. The paper published in the *International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents* was withdrawn because of concerns about the ethical approval for the research. The paper that was submitted to the journal on March 16, 2020 was accepted for publication the very next day.

Three days after the paper was published, ICMR approved the use of

hydroxychloroquine as a prophylaxis by healthcare workers and those caring for COVID-19 patients. The drug was also granted an emergency use authorisation by the U.S. FDA on March 28, 2020, which was revoked about once-a-half months later. The publication of the paper and the FDA approval raised a lot of attention globally and contributed to a demand for the drug despite appropriate evidence of its benefit. The drug was also strongly backed by the then U.S. President Donald Trump.

On April 3, a fortnight after the paper was published, the journal publisher – the International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ISAC) – which co-owns the journal with Elsevier, expressed concerns saying that the "article does not meet the Society's expected standard". An independent re-



Tall claim: The authors claimed that hydroxychloroquine significantly reduced the SARS-CoV-2 viral load. GETTY IMAGES

view commissioned by the journal also concluded that the trial had "several major methodological issues, including the design, outcome measure and the statistical analyses". Yet, the journal did not retract the paper until a few days ago.

Addressing the concerns about the peer-reviewing process, the ISAC statement said that despite being the Editor-in-Chief of the journal and an author of the paper, "Jean-Marc Rolain had no involvement

in the peer review of the manuscript and has no access to information regarding its peer review".

The paper came under investigation again a few months ago when three authors of the paper contacted the journal saying that they had "concerns regarding the presentation and interpretation of results" and no longer wanted to be associated with the article, as per documents seen by *Retraction Watch*. Responding to *Re-*

traction Watch, a spokesperson for the journal said that the "journal was reopening the previously closed investigation after receiving the authors' requests".

Ethical approval for the study was granted on March 6 and as per the paper, the follow-up of the participants was supposed to last for 14 days. But with a "submission date of March 16, the timeline becomes seemingly impossible", Elisabeth M Bik, an independent research integrity researcher wrote on PubPeer in March 2020. In the retracted notice, the journal addresses this concern saying: "The journal has not been able to establish whether all patients could have entered into the study in time for the data to have been analysed and included in the manuscript prior to its submission on the 20th March 2020, nor whether all pa-

tients were enrolled in the study upon admission as opposed to having been hospitalised for some time before starting the treatment described in the article."

As per the details available in the EU clinical trials register, the secondary objective of the trial was to evaluate the "clinical effectiveness of treatment on time to apyrexia, normalisation of respiratory rate, and average length of hospital stay and mortality". The results of the secondary objective are not available in the paper. While the primary objective of the study was to shorten the period of virus carrying and thus contagion, the secondary endpoint is "very important for determining whether patients may have clinical benefit and not only a reduced risk of infecting others", a researcher wrote on PubPeer.

Journal retracts the discredited hydroxychloroquine paper

जर्नल ने हाइड्रोक्सीक्लोरोक्वीन पर विवादित पेपर वापस लिया

More than four-and-a-half years after the highly questionable "study" by a French researcher Didier Raoult and others claiming that hydroxychloroquine monotherapy and hydroxychloroquine in combination with azithromycin was "significantly associated with viral load reduction/disappearance in COVID-19 patients" was published on March 20, 2020, the paper was finally retracted on December 17 this year.

चार साल और छह महीने से अधिक समय बाद, फ्रांसीसी शोधकर्ता डिडियर राउल्ट और अन्य द्वारा किया गया अत्यधिक संदिग्ध "अध्ययन" जिसमें यह दावा किया गया था कि हाइड्रोक्सीक्लोरोक्वीन मोनोथेरेपी और हाइड्रोक्सीक्लोरोक्वीन के साथ एज़िथ्रोमाइसिन का संयोजन COVID-19 रोगियों में "वायरल लोड में कमी/गायब होने से महत्वपूर्ण रूप से जुड़ा था", 20 मार्च 2020 को प्रकाशित होने के बाद, यह पेपर 17 दिसंबर को इस वर्ष अंततः वापस लिया गया।



Website: patrioticias.in

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



- The paper published in the **International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents** was withdrawn because of concerns about the **ethical approval** for the research.
पेपर, जो अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एंटीमाइक्रोबियल एजेंट्स जर्नल में प्रकाशित हुआ था, को शोध के लिए नैतिक अनुमोदन की चिंताओं के कारण वापस लिया गया।
- The paper that was submitted to the journal on **March 16, 2020** was accepted for publication the very next day.
पेपर जो 16 मार्च 2020 को जर्नल में प्रस्तुत किया गया था, अगले ही दिन प्रकाशित के लिए स्वीकार कर लिया गया।
- Three days after the paper was published, **ICMR** approved the use of hydroxychloroquine as a **prophylaxis** by healthcare workers and those caring for COVID-19 patients.
पेपर प्रकाशित होने के तीन दिन बाद, **ICMR** ने COVID-19 रोगियों की देखभाल करने वाले स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों द्वारा हाइड्रोक्सी क्लोरोक्वीन के प्रोफिलैक्सिस के रूप में उपयोग की मंजूरी दी।
- The drug was also granted an **emergency use authorization** by the **U.S. FDA** on **March 28, 2020**, which was revoked about **one-and-a-half months** later.
इस दवा को 28 मार्च 2020 को यूएस FDA द्वारा आपातकालीन उपयोग प्राधिकरण भी दिया गया था, जिसे लगभग डेढ़ महीने बाद वापस ले लिया गया।
- The publication of the paper and the FDA approval raised a lot of attention globally and contributed to a demand for the drug despite appropriate evidence of its benefit.
पेपर का प्रकाशन और FDA की मंजूरी ने वैश्विक स्तर पर बहुत ध्यान आकर्षित किया और इसके लाभ के उपयुक्त प्रमाण होने के बावजूद इस दवा की मांग को बढ़ावा दिया।
- The drug was also strongly backed by the then **U.S. President Donald Trump**.
इस दवा का तत्कालीन अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प द्वारा भी जोरदार समर्थन किया गया था।
- On **April 3**, a fortnight after the paper was published, the journal publisher — the **International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ISAC)** — which co-owns the journal with Elsevier, expressed concerns saying that the “article does not meet the Society’s expected standard”.
3 अप्रैल को, पेपर के प्रकाशित होने के पंद्रह दिन बाद, जर्नल के प्रकाशक – अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एंटीमाइक्रोबियल केमोथेरेपी सोसाइटी (ISAC) — जिसने Elsevier के साथ मिलकर जर्नल का सहमालिक है, ने चिंता व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि “लेख समाज के अपेक्षित मानक को पूरा नहीं करता।”
- An **independent review** commissioned by the journal also concluded that the trial had “several major methodological issues, including the design, outcome measure and the statistical analyses”.
जर्नल द्वारा नियुक्त स्वतंत्र समीक्षा ने भी निष्कर्ष निकाला कि इस परीक्षण में “कई प्रमुख विधिवादी समस्याएं थीं, जिनमें डिज़ाइन, परिणाम माप और सांख्यिकीय विश्लेषण शामिल थे।”
- Yet, the journal did not retract the paper until a few days ago.
फिर भी, जर्नल ने कुछ दिनों पहले तक पेपर को वापस नहीं लिया।
- Addressing the concerns about the **peer-reviewing process**, the ISAC statement said that despite being the **Editor-in-Chief** of the journal and an author of the paper, “Jean-

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Marc Rolain had no involvement in the peer review of the manuscript and has no access to information regarding its peer review”.

पीयर-रिव्यू प्रक्रिया के बारे में चिंताओं का समाधान करते हुए, ISAC के बयान में कहा गया कि जर्नल के एडिटर-इन-चीफ और पेपर के लेखक होने के बावजूद, “जीन-मार्क रोलिन ने मैन्सूस्क्रिप्ट के पीयर-रिव्यू में कोई भागीदारी नहीं की और उनके पास इसके पीयर-रिव्यू से संबंधित जानकारी तक पहुंच नहीं है।”

- The paper came under investigation again a few months ago when three authors of the paper contacted the journal saying that they had “concerns regarding the presentation and interpretation of results” and no longer wanted to be associated with the article, as per documents seen by **Retraction Watch**.

पेपर को फिर से कुछ महीने पहले जांच के तहत लाया गया जब पेपर के तीन लेखकों ने जर्नल से संपर्क किया और कहा कि उन्हें “परिणामों की प्रस्तुति और व्याख्या के बारे में चिंताएं थीं” और अब वे लेख से जुड़ा नहीं रहना चाहते थे, जैसा कि **Retraction Watch** द्वारा देखे गए दस्तावेजों में उल्लेख किया गया है।

- Responding to Retraction Watch, a spokesperson for the journal said that the “journal was reopening the previously closed investigation after receiving the authors’ requests”.

Retraction Watch को प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए, जर्नल के एक प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि “जर्नल ने लेखकों की मांगों के बाद पहले बंद की गई जांच को फिर से खोल दिया है।”

- **Ethical approval** for the study was granted on **March 6** and as per the paper, the follow-up of the participants was supposed to last for **14 days**.

अध्ययन के लिए **नैतिक अनुमोदन 6 मार्च** को दिया गया था और पेपर के अनुसार, प्रतिभागियों का फॉलो-अप **14 दिन** तक चलना था।

- But with a **submission date of March 16**, the timeline becomes seemingly impossible, **Elisabeth M Bik**, an independent research integrity researcher wrote on **PubPeer** in **March 2020**.

लेकिन **16 मार्च** की **सामग्री जमा करने की तारीख** के साथ, समय सीमा स्पष्ट रूप से असंभव हो जाती है, जैसा कि **Elisabeth M Bik**, एक स्वतंत्र शोध आस्थिता शोधकर्ता ने **मार्च 2020** में **PubPeer** पर लिखा।

- In the retracted notice, the journal addresses this concern saying: “The journal has not been able to establish whether all patients could have entered into the study in time for the data to have been analysed and included in the manuscript prior to its submission on the **20th March 2020**, nor whether all patients were enrolled in the study upon admission as opposed to having been hospitalized for some time before starting the treatment described in the article.”

वापस लिए गए नोटिस में, जर्नल इस चिंता को संबोधित करता है कहता है: “जर्नल यह स्थापित करने में सक्षम नहीं है कि क्या सभी मरीजों को अध्ययन में शामिल किया जा सकता था ताकि डेटा को समय रहते विश्लेषणित किया जा सके और **20 मार्च 2020** को उसके प्रस्तुतिकरण से पहले उसे मैन्सूस्क्रिप्ट में शामिल किया जा सके, न ही क्या सभी मरीजों को अस्पताल में भर्ती



होने पर अध्ययन में नामांकित किया गया था, बजाय इसके कि उन्हें इलाज शुरू करने से पहले कुछ समय के लिए अस्पताल में भर्ती किया गया था।”

- As per the details available in the **EU clinical trials register**, the secondary objective of the trial was to evaluate the “clinical effectiveness of treatment on time to **apyrexia**, normalisation of respiratory rate, and average length of hospital stay and mortality”.

EU क्लिनिकल ट्रायल रजिस्टर में उपलब्ध विवरण के अनुसार, परीक्षण का द्वितीयक उद्देश्य

“इलाज की **एपीरेक्सिया** पर समय, श्वसन दर का सामान्यीकरण, और औसत अस्पताल में भर्ती की अवधि और मृत्यु दर” पर चिकित्सीय प्रभावकारिता का मूल्यांकन करना था।

- The results of the secondary objective are not available in the paper.
द्वितीयक उद्देश्य के परिणाम पेपर में उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।
- While the primary objective of the study was to shorten the period of virus carrying and thus contagion, the secondary endpoint is “very important for determining whether patients may have clinical benefit and not only a reduced risk of infecting others”, a researcher wrote on **PubPeer**.

जबकि अध्ययन का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य वायरस के संचरण की अवधि को छोटा करना और इस प्रकार संक्रमण को कम करना था, द्वितीयक समाप्ति बिंदु “यह निर्धारित करने के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है कि क्या मरीजों को केवल दूसरों को संक्रमित करने के जोखिम को कम करने के बजाय चिकित्सीय लाभ हो सकता है”, जैसा कि एक शोधकर्ता ने **PubPeer** पर लिखा।



What are India's plans for a quantum satellite?

GS Paper III: S&T

What is its function? When is it expected to be launched? Which are the fields in which this communication device will help? What about security issues? What is quantum cryptography? What are the pros and cons of quantum key distribution?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

In December 13, Ajai Chowdhry, chairman of the Mission Governing Board of the National Quantum Mission, said India plans to launch a quantum satellite in “2-3 years for quantum communications”.

What is the National Quantum Mission?

The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is a Department of Science & Technology programme to accelerate the use of quantum physics to develop advanced communications and sensing systems.

The development of computers changed the course of human history from the mid-20th century onwards. Advances in this sector gave humankind satellites, telecommunications, weather forecasts, drug-discovery programmes, etc.

But these advances are reaching a saturation point because the physics phenomena on which they are based, called classical physics, are hitting a performance upper-limit. So scientists around the world are developing new technologies to solve the same problems but using phenomena of quantum physics. Because the rules of quantum physics allow for the outcomes of classical physics as well as new ‘bonus’ ones, the new devices are expected to be more versatile problem-solvers.

The Union Cabinet approved the NQM in April 2023 at ₹6,000 crore, to be implemented from 2023 to 2031. The planned quantum satellite is part of this package.

What is a quantum satellite?

A quantum satellite is a term for a

Quantum physics has paved the way for new forms of data protection, and quantum satellites are expected to facilitate them

communications satellite that uses quantum physics to secure its signals.

Communications is a broad term that refers to technologies that send and receive signals. An important part of these technologies is security: preventing bad actors from intercepting a message being transmitted across large distances, through multiple networks.

The advent of quantum computers threatens the technologies currently being used to secure messages. Fortunately, quantum physics has also paved the way for new forms of protection, and quantum satellites are expected to facilitate them.

How are messages secured?

Say two people, Anil and Selvi, are standing at two ends of a playground and wish to speak to each other. They could shout or wave their hands. However, Anil composes his message, encrypts it, and writes the encrypted text on a piece of paper. He ties it to the foot of a messenger pigeon and sends it to Selvi. If Selvi knows how Anil encrypted the message, she can decrypt it to access the original text.

Encryption is the task of concealing information. The manner is called the cipher. A simple example is the Caesar cipher, where the letters of the alphabet are offset by a fixed number. If the number is 5, the words BIRDS FLY AWAY become GNWIX KQD FBFD.

Say there is a third person, Kaushik, standing in the middle of the ground and trying to eavesdrop on the conversation. If he intercepts the pigeon, he can't crack the text unless he knows the manner of encryption.

This security paradigm is called cryptographic security. It works by hiding the secret code, or key, behind an extremely difficult mathematical problem. A bad actor like Kaushik can solve the problem with a powerful computer to reveal the code – but the harder the problem, the more time (and/or more computing resources) he will need.

Even the most powerful supercomputers have difficulty cracking the best Advanced Encryption Standard ciphers in use today – but quantum computers may be able to do better.

How can quantum physics protect messages?

Quantum cryptography uses the tenets of quantum physics to secure messages. Its most famous type is quantum key distribution (QKD).

In the example before, Anil used a key to encrypt his message and Selvi, who knew the key, used it to decrypt the message. QKD is concerned with sharing this key with both Anil and Selvi such that if Kaushik is eavesdropping on the transmission, everyone will find out and

the sharing will be aborted.

Quantum physics can protect against eavesdropping in different ways. One is quantum measurement – the act of measuring the properties of a quantum system, like a photon (the particle of light). According to the rules of quantum physics, a quantum measurement changes the state of the system. If information about the key is encoded in a stream of photons and Kaushik traps and measures them to look for it, the state of the photons will change and Anil and Selvi will know the key has been compromised.

Another way is to use quantum entanglement: when two photons are entangled, any change to one particle will instantaneously change the other. (This is a simplistic description.)

Has QKD been implemented?

Ravindra Pratap Singh of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, wrote in 2023 that standards for different QKD implementations are still a decade away. This said, China currently operates the world's largest QKD network with three quantum satellites and four ground stations.

Experts are also trying to implement QKD across longer distances. Since the early 1990s, the distance of reliable transmissions has increased to several hundred kilometres, either through fibre-optic cables or free space.

In an October 2024 study, researchers at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, reported the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh, offers the best atmospheric conditions through which to transmit data for a satellite-based QKD system. The paper's lead author Satya Ranjan Behera said the beam distance would be 500 km.

Does QKD have drawbacks?

QKD on paper can be different from that in the real-world. This is why the U.S. National Security Agency has recommended the use of post-quantum cryptography rather than quantum cryptography. Its criticism is focused on five technical limitations: “QKD does not provide a means to authenticate the QKD transmission source”; “since QKD is hardware-based”, QKD networks can't be upgraded or patched easily; “QKD increases infrastructure costs and insider threat risks” that “eliminate many use cases from consideration”; “the actual security provided by a QKD system is not the theoretical unconditional security from the laws of physics... but rather the more limited security that can be achieved by hardware and engineering designs”; and since eavesdroppers can cause a transmission to stop, they can deny the use of a transmission by its intended users (a.k.a. a denial-of-service attack).

The no-cloning theorem of quantum physics also disallows quantum information from being amplified to compensate for losses during transmission.



GETTY IMAGES



What are India's plans for a quantum satellite? क्वांटम उपग्रह के लिए भारत की क्या योजनाएं हैं?

What is its function? When is it expected to be launched? Which are the fields in which this communication device will help? What about security issues? What is quantum cryptography? What are the pros and cons of quantum key distribution?

इसका कार्य क्या है? इसे कब लॉन्च किए जाने की उम्मीद है? वे कौन से क्षेत्र हैं जिनमें यह संचार उपकरण मदद करेगा? सुरक्षा मुद्दों के बारे में क्या? क्वांटम क्रिप्टोग्राफी क्या है? क्वांटम कुंजी वितरण के पक्ष और विपक्ष क्या हैं?

National Quantum Mission and Quantum Satellite

राष्ट्रीय क्वांटम मिशन और क्वांटम उपग्रह

- On December 13, Ajai Chowdhry, chairman of the Mission Governing Board of the National Quantum Mission, said India plans to launch a quantum satellite in "2-3 years for quantum communications".
13 दिसंबर को, अजय चौधरी, राष्ट्रीय क्वांटम मिशन के मिशन गवर्निंग बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि भारत "2-3 वर्षों" में क्वांटम संचार के लिए क्वांटम उपग्रह लॉन्च करने की योजना बना रहा है।

What is the National Quantum Mission?

राष्ट्रीय क्वांटम मिशन क्या है?

- The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is a Department of Science & Technology program to accelerate the use of quantum physics to develop advanced communications and sensing systems.
राष्ट्रीय क्वांटम मिशन (NQM) एक विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग का कार्यक्रम है जिसका उद्देश्य क्वांटम भौतिकी का उपयोग करके उन्नत संचार और सेंसिंग सिस्टम विकसित करना है।
- The development of computers changed the course of human history from the mid-20th century onwards.
कंप्यूटरों का विकास 20वीं सदी के मध्य से मानव इतिहास की दिशा बदलने वाला था।
- Advances in this sector gave humankind satellites, telecommunications, weather forecasts, drug-discovery programs, etc.
इस क्षेत्र में प्रगति ने मानवता को सैटेलाइट, दूरसंचार, मौसम पूर्वानुमान, दवा-खोज कार्यक्रम आदि दिए।



- But these advances are reaching a saturation point because the **physics phenomena** on which they are based, called **classical physics**, are hitting a performance **upper-limit**.
लेकिन ये प्रगति एक सीमा तक पहुँच रही हैं क्योंकि जिस पर आधारित हैं, वह **भौतिकी की घटनाएँ**, जिसे **क्लासिकल भौतिकी** कहा जाता है, प्रदर्शन के **उच्चतम सीमा** पर पहुँच रही हैं।
- Scientists around the world are developing new technologies to solve the same problems but using phenomena of **quantum physics**.
दुनिया भर के वैज्ञानिक वही समस्याएँ हल करने के लिए नई प्रौद्योगिकियाँ विकसित कर रहे हैं लेकिन **क्वांटम भौतिकी** की घटनाओं का उपयोग करते हुए।
- Because the rules of **quantum physics** allow for the outcomes of classical physics as well as new 'bonus' ones, the new devices are expected to be more **versatile problem-solvers**.
क्योंकि **क्वांटम भौतिकी** के नियम **क्लासिकल भौतिकी** के परिणामों के साथ-साथ नए 'बोनस' परिणामों की भी अनुमति देते हैं, नए उपकरणों से **ज्यादा बहुमुखी समस्या-समाधानकर्ता** होने की उम्मीद है।
- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **NQM** in **April 2023** at **₹6,000 crore**, to be implemented from **2023 to 2031**. The planned quantum satellite is part of this package.
केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने **अप्रैल 2023** में **NQM** को **₹6,000 करोड़** में मंजूरी दी, जिसे **2023 से 2031** तक लागू किया जाएगा। योजनाबद्ध **क्वांटम उपग्रह** इस पैकेज का हिस्सा है।

What is a Quantum Satellite?

क्वांटम उपग्रह क्या है?

- A **quantum satellite** is a term for a **communications satellite** that uses **quantum physics** to secure its signals.
क्वांटम उपग्रह एक **संचार उपग्रह** है जो अपने संकेतों को सुरक्षित करने के लिए **क्वांटम भौतिकी** का उपयोग करता है।
- **Communications** is a broad term that refers to technologies that send and receive signals.
संचार एक व्यापक शब्द है जो उन प्रौद्योगिकियों को संदर्भित करता है जो संकेत भेजने और प्राप्त करने का काम करती हैं।
- An important part of these technologies is **security**: preventing bad actors from intercepting a message being transmitted across large distances, through multiple networks.
इन प्रौद्योगिकियों का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है **सुरक्षा**: संदेश को बड़े पैमाने पर, विभिन्न नेटवर्कों के माध्यम से प्रसारित होते हुए अवरुद्ध होने से रोकना।
- The advent of **quantum computers** threatens the technologies currently being used to secure messages.
क्वांटम कंप्यूटरों का आगमन उन प्रौद्योगिकियों को खतरे में डालता है जो वर्तमान में संदेशों की सुरक्षा के लिए उपयोग की जा रही हैं।



- Fortunately, **quantum physics** has also paved the way for new forms of protection, and **quantum satellites** are expected to facilitate them.
सौभाग्यवश, **क्वांटम भौतिकी** ने भी सुरक्षा के नए रूपों के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त किया है, और **क्वांटम उपग्रह** को उनकी सहायता करने की उम्मीद है।

How are Messages Secured?

संदेशों की सुरक्षा कैसे की जाती है?

- Say two people, **Anil** and **Selvi**, are standing at two ends of a playground and wish to speak to each other.
मान लीजिए कि दो लोग, **अनिल** और **सेल्वी**, एक खेल मैदान के दोनों छोर पर खड़े हैं और एक-दूसरे से बात करना चाहते हैं।
- They could shout or wave their hands. However, **Anil** composes his message, **encrypts** it, and writes the encrypted text on a piece of paper.
वे शोर मचा सकते हैं या हाथ हिला सकते हैं। हालांकि, **अनिल** अपना संदेश तैयार करता है, **एन्क्रिप्ट** करता है, और एन्क्रिप्टेड टेक्स्ट को एक कागज के टुकड़े पर लिखता है।
- He ties it to the foot of a messenger pigeon and sends it to **Selvi**.
वह इसे एक संदेश भेजने वाले कबूतर के पंखे से बांधता है और **सेल्वी** को भेजता है।
- If **Selvi** knows how **Anil** encrypted the message, she can **decrypt** it to access the original text.
यदि **सेल्वी** को पता है कि **अनिल** ने संदेश को कैसे एन्क्रिप्ट किया है, तो वह इसे **डिक्रिप्ट** करके मूल टेक्स्ट तक पहुंच सकती है।
- **Encryption** is the task of concealing information.
एन्क्रिप्शन सूचना को छिपाने का कार्य है।
- The manner is called the **cipher**. A simple example is the **Caesar cipher**, where the letters of the alphabet are offset by a fixed number.
इस तरीके को **साइफर** कहा जाता है। एक साधारण उदाहरण है **सीज़र साइफर**, जिसमें वर्णमाला के अक्षरों को एक निश्चित संख्या से स्थानांतरित किया जाता है।
- If the number is **5**, the words **BIRDS FLY AWAY** become **GNWIX KQD FBFD**.
यदि संख्या **5** है, तो शब्द **BIRDS FLY AWAY** बदलकर **GNWIX KQD FBFD** हो जाते हैं।
- Say there is a third person, **Kaushik**, standing in the middle of the ground and trying to eavesdrop on the conversation.
मान लीजिए कि एक तीसरा व्यक्ति, **कौशिक**, मैदान के बीच में खड़ा है और बातचीत की चोरी-छिपे सुनने की कोशिश कर रहा है।
- If he intercepts the pigeon, he can't crack the text unless he knows the manner of encryption.
यदि वह कबूतर को अवरुद्ध करता है, तो वह टेक्स्ट को क्रैक नहीं कर सकता जब तक कि वह एन्क्रिप्शन के तरीके को न जानता हो।



- This security paradigm is called **cryptographic security**.
इस सुरक्षा पैटर्न को **क्रिप्टोग्राफिक सुरक्षा** कहा जाता है।
- It works by hiding the secret code, or key, behind an extremely difficult **mathematical problem**.
यह एक अत्यधिक कठिन **गणितीय समस्या** के पीछे गुप्त कोड, या कुंजी, को छिपाकर काम करता है।
- A bad actor like **Kaushik** can solve the problem with a powerful computer to reveal the code — but the harder the problem, the more time (and/or more computing resources) he will need.
कौशिक जैसे बुरे अभिनेता समस्या को एक शक्तिशाली कंप्यूटर के साथ हल कर सकते हैं ताकि कोड को प्रकट किया जा सके – लेकिन जितनी कठिन समस्या होगी, उसे उतना ही अधिक समय (और/या अधिक कंप्यूटिंग संसाधन) चाहिए होंगे।
- Even the most powerful **supercomputers** have difficulty cracking the best **Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)** ciphers in use today — but **quantum computers** may be able to do better.
यहां तक कि सबसे शक्तिशाली **सुपरकंप्यूटर** भी आजकल इस्तेमाल हो रहे सर्वोत्तम **एडवांस्ड एन्क्रिप्शन स्टैंडर्ड (AES)** साइफर को क्रैक करने में कठिनाई का सामना करते हैं – लेकिन **क्वांटम कंप्यूटर** बेहतर कर सकते हैं।

How can quantum physics protect messages?

क्वांटम भौतिकी संदेशों की सुरक्षा कैसे कर सकती है?

- **Quantum cryptography** uses the tenets of **quantum physics** to secure messages. Its most famous type is **quantum key distribution (QKD)**.
क्वांटम क्रिप्टोग्राफी संदेशों को सुरक्षित करने के लिए **क्वांटम भौतिकी** के सिद्धांतों का उपयोग करती है। इसका सबसे प्रसिद्ध प्रकार है **क्वांटम की वितरण (QKD)**।
- In the example before, **Anil** used a **key** to encrypt his message and **Selvi**, who knew the key, used it to decrypt the message.
पहले के उदाहरण में, **अनिल** ने अपने संदेश को एन्क्रिप्ट करने के लिए एक **कुंजी** का उपयोग किया और **सेल्वी**, जो कुंजी जानती थी, ने उसका उपयोग करके संदेश को डिक्रिप्ट किया।
- **QKD** is concerned with sharing this **key** with both **Anil** and **Selvi** such that if **Kaushik** is eavesdropping on the transmission, everyone will find out and the sharing will be aborted.
QKD इस **कुंजी** को **अनिल** और **सेल्वी** के साथ साझा करने से संबंधित है ताकि यदि **कौशिक** ट्रांसमिशन पर चोरी से सुन रहा है, तो सभी को इसका पता चल जाएगा और साझेदारी को रद्द कर दिया जाएगा।

How can quantum physics prevent eavesdropping?

क्वांटम भौतिकी चोरी से सुनने को कैसे रोक सकती है?



- **Quantum physics** can protect against eavesdropping in different ways. One is **quantum measurement** — the act of measuring the properties of a quantum system, like a photon (the particle of light).
क्वांटम भौतिकी विभिन्न तरीकों से चोरी से सुनने से सुरक्षा कर सकती है। एक तरीका है **क्वांटम माप** — यह एक क्वांटम सिस्टम की विशेषताओं को मापने की क्रिया है, जैसे एक फोटॉन (प्रकाश कण)।
- According to the rules of **quantum physics**, a quantum measurement changes the state of the system.
क्वांटम भौतिकी के नियमों के अनुसार, एक क्वांटम माप सिस्टम की स्थिति को बदल देता है।
- If information about the key is encoded in a stream of photons and **Kaushik** traps and measures them to look for it, the state of the photons will change and **Anil** and **Selvi** will know the key has been compromised.
यदि कुंजी के बारे में जानकारी फोटॉन की धारा में एन्कोड की जाती है और **कौशिक** उन्हें फंसाता और मापता है, तो फोटॉनों की स्थिति बदल जाएगी और **अनिल** और **सेल्वी** को यह पता चल जाएगा कि कुंजी का उल्लंघन हो चुका है।
- Another way is to use **quantum entanglement**: when two photons are entangled, any change to one particle will instantaneously change the other. (This is a simplistic description.)
एक और तरीका है **क्वांटम उलझाव** का उपयोग करना: जब दो फोटॉन उलझे होते हैं, तो एक कण में कोई भी बदलाव तुरंत दूसरे को बदल देगा। (यह एक सरल विवरण है।)

Has QKD been implemented?

क्या QKD लागू किया गया है?

- **Ravindra Pratap Singh** of the **Physical Research Laboratory**, Ahmedabad, wrote in **2023** that standards for different **QKD** implementations are still a **decade away**.
रवींद्र प्रताप सिंह ने **2023** में **भौतिक अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला**, अहमदाबाद से लिखा कि विभिन्न **QKD** कार्यान्वयनों के लिए मानक अभी भी एक दशक दूर हैं।
- **China** currently operates the world's largest **QKD network** with **three quantum satellites** and **four ground stations**.
चीन वर्तमान में दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा **QKD नेटवर्क** संचालित करता है, जिसमें **तीन क्वांटम उपग्रह** और **चार ग्राउंड स्टेशन** हैं।
- Experts are also trying to implement **QKD** across **longer distances**. Since the early **1990s**, the distance of reliable transmissions has increased to several hundred kilometres, either through **fibre-optic cables** or **free space**.
विशेषज्ञ **QKD** को **लंबी दूरी** पर लागू करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। **1990 के दशक** की शुरुआत से, विश्वसनीय ट्रांसमिशन की दूरी बढ़कर सैकड़ों किलोमीटर हो गई है, चाहे वह **फाइबर-ऑप्टिक केबल** के माध्यम से हो या **फ्री स्पेस** के माध्यम से।
- In an **October 2024** study, researchers at the **Raman Research Institute**, Bengaluru, reported that the **Indian Astronomical Observatory** in **Hanle, Ladakh**, offers the best



atmospheric conditions through which to transmit data for a satellite-based QKD system.

अक्टूबर 2024 में एक अध्ययन में, रमन अनुसंधान संस्थान, बेंगलुरु के शोधकर्ताओं ने रिपोर्ट किया कि हॉल, लद्दाख में स्थित भारतीय खगोलशास्त्रीय वेधशाला क्वांटम उपग्रह आधारित QKD प्रणाली के लिए डेटा ट्रांसमिट करने के लिए सबसे अच्छे वायुमंडलीय परिस्थितियाँ प्रदान करती हैं।

- The paper's lead author **Satya Ranjan Behera** said the **beam distance** would be **500 km**.

इस पत्र के प्रमुख लेखक सत्य रंजन बहेरा ने कहा कि बीम की दूरी 500 किमी होगी।

Does QKD have drawbacks?

क्या QKD के कुछ नुकसान हैं?

- **QKD** on paper can be different from that in the **real-world**.
QKD कागज पर अलग हो सकता है और **वास्तविक दुनिया** में भिन्न हो सकता है।
- This is why the **U.S. National Security Agency** has recommended the use of **post-quantum cryptography** rather than quantum cryptography.
यही कारण है कि **यू.एस. नेशनल सिक्योरिटी एजेंसी** ने **क्वांटम क्रिप्टोग्राफी** के बजाय **पोस्ट-क्वांटम क्रिप्टोग्राफी** के उपयोग की सिफारिश की है।
- Its criticism is focused on five technical limitations:
इसकी आलोचना पांच तकनीकी सीमाओं पर केंद्रित है:
 - **“QKD does not provide a means to authenticate the QKD transmission source”**;
“**QKD** स्रोत की प्रमाणिकता प्रमाणित करने का कोई तरीका नहीं प्रदान करता है”;
 - **“Since QKD is hardware-based, QKD networks can't be upgraded or patched easily”**;
“चूंकि **QKD** **हार्डवेयर-आधारित** है, QKD नेटवर्क्स को आसानी से अपग्रेड या पैच नहीं किया जा सकता”;
 - **“QKD increases infrastructure costs and insider threat risks that eliminate many use cases from consideration”**;
“**QKD** **इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर लागत और आंतरिक खतरों** के जोखिमों को बढ़ाता है जो **कई उपयोग मामलों** को विचार से हटा देता है”;
 - **“The actual security provided by a QKD system is not the theoretical unconditional security from the laws of physics... but rather the more limited security that can be achieved by hardware and engineering designs”**;
“एक **QKD सिस्टम** द्वारा प्रदान की गई **वास्तविक सुरक्षा भौतिकी के कानूनों से प्राप्त सैद्धांतिक अपरिमित सुरक्षा नहीं है... बल्कि वह अधिक सीमित सुरक्षा है जिसे हार्डवेयर और इंजीनियरिंग डिज़ाइनों द्वारा प्राप्त किया जा सकता है**”;
 - And since **eavesdroppers** can cause a transmission to stop, they can deny the use of a transmission by its intended users (**a.k.a. a denial-of-service attack**).
और चूंकि **चोरी से सुनने वाले** एक ट्रांसमिशन को रोक सकते हैं, वे इसके इच्छित



उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा ट्रांसमिशन के उपयोग को नकार सकते हैं (उर्फ सेवा का इनकार हमला)।

- The **no-cloning theorem** of quantum physics also disallows quantum information from being amplified to compensate for losses during transmission.

क्वांटम भौतिकी का नो-क्लॉनिंग थियोरम भी क्वांटम जानकारी को ट्रांसमिशन के दौरान नुकसानों की भरपाई करने के लिए बढ़ाने से रोकता है।

Why have Manipur SITs made little progress?

What is the situation on the ground? What are the Supreme Court directions for the special investigation teams? When is the next hearing scheduled? What are the offences the SITs are looking into? Why is it difficult to hold trials in the State?

GS Paper III: Internal Security

The story so far:

A report accessed by *The Hindu* shows that the special investigation teams (SIT), set up by the Supreme Court to investigate cases of rape, sexual offences against women, murder, loot, and arson in ethnic violence-hit Manipur, have filed chargesheets only in a fraction of the cases.

When were the SITs set up?

On August 7, 2023, a Supreme Court bench led by former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud constituted 42 SITs to probe 6,523 first information reports (FIRs) pertaining to violent crimes, including sexual offences, which were reported in Manipur from May 3 to July 30, 2023. The cleaning of records brought down the number of FIRs to 3,023. Since people were displaced from their homes, many filed zero FIRs at police stations in Manipur or even outside the State as they could not travel to the concerned police station fearing for their safety. Zero FIRs are filed irrespective of jurisdiction and are later transferred to the police station.

The SIT submits a status report every month to the Supreme Court. On December 9, 2024, the court directed the Manipur government to provide details of buildings and properties which were burnt, partially burnt, looted and

There are concerns about holding the trial in the State due to the ongoing ethnic violence between the two communities

trespassed during the ethnic violence. The next date of hearing is January 20.

What does the status report say?

The Hindu accessed a status report of the SIT investigations dated November 20, 2024. It showed that the 42 SITs have filed chargesheets in only 6% of the total 3,023 registered cases. Chargesheets, the police summary of allegations, pertaining to various crimes have been filed only in 192 cases.

From August 2023, when the SITs were constituted, till November 20 this year, the teams arrested 384 persons, identified 742 suspects and examined 11,901 witnesses. As many as 574 accused persons have been chargesheeted so far. The report stated that the SIT is investigating 126 cases of murders and 2,888 cases of loot, arson and other property crimes. A closure report has been filed in 605 cases due to a lack of evidence and witnesses. The SIT has recovered 501 weapons, 13,464 ammunition, and 412 magazines among others so far. Overall, the Manipur Police have recovered around 1,800 looted weapons so far.

What is the composition of the SIT?

Based on the recommendation of the Manipur government, the Supreme Court said the cases should be bundled under three categories – FIRs related to murder and heinous crimes, sexual crimes against women, and other crimes such as loot, arson etc. The charter of the SITs was distributed accordingly, and the teams were further divided into six groups, one each to probe cases of murders, heinous crime and rape, and sexual offences against women, and four groups to probe cases of arson, looting and other crimes.

A Superintendent of Police-rank officer deputed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs was tasked with supervising three SITs each which comprise two inspectors, six sub-inspectors and 12 constables.

What did the court say?

On July 20, 2023, after a video of two tribal Kuki-Zo women being paraded naked by a mob surfaced on social media, the Supreme Court

called for reports indicating the steps taken by the government to hold the perpetrators accountable and ensure that such incidents are not repeated. Though the incident occurred on May 4, 2023, the case was filed in July, after the video went viral.

On August 1, 2023, the State informed the court that 11 FIRs involving cases of violence against women and children had been filed, though this was subject to further verification. Seven arrests were made in connection with these 11 FIRs, the State informed the court. The Centre said the State was willing to transfer the 11 cases to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The sexual violence case of the two women was transferred to the CBI along with other cases. Expressing dismay at the "tardy pace of investigation," the court constituted a three-member committee headed by Justice Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of the J&K High Court. The mandate of the committee is to enquire into the nature of violence against women that occurred in Manipur from May 4, 2023, from all available sources and the FIRs lodged as well as media reports.

The court also appointed Dattatray Padsalgikar, former Director General of Police, Maharashtra to supervise the investigation by the CBI into the FIRs transferred to it and the investigation into the remaining FIRs.

What are the challenges?

A senior government official says there are several logistical issues hampering the investigation. For recording the statement of a victim, language is a challenge as many officers heading the investigating teams are from outside the State. There have been instances when victims have changed their phone numbers. "Then, for an FIR registered in Imphal (valley), a victim who hails from the hill districts, will not want to speak to an officer from the valley – this causes delays. The same is true for cases registered in the hills when the victims are from the valley," said the official.

When will the cases go to trial?

The trial is yet to commence in any of the cases, as a direction from the Supreme Court is awaited. There are concerns about holding the trial in the State due to the ongoing ethnic violence. Even though the CBI filed a chargesheet last October in a CBI court in Guwahati in the sexual violence case of the two Kuki-Zo women, the trial is yet to begin.



Cry for justice: Women protesting in Guwahati in November 2024 against the killing of three women and three children in Manipur's Jiribam. PTI

Why have Manipur SITs made little progress?

मणिपुर एसआईटी ने इतनी कम प्रगति क्यों की है?



What is the situation on the ground? What are the Supreme Court directions for the special investigation teams? When is the next hearing scheduled? What are the offenses the SITs are looking into? Why is it difficult to hold trials in the State?

ज़मीनी स्तर पर स्थिति क्या है? विशेष जाँच दलों के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट के क्या निर्देश हैं? अगली सुनवाई कब तय है? एसआईटी किन मामलों की जाँच कर रही है? राज्य में मुक़दमे चलाना क्यों मुश्किल है?

Special Investigation Teams in Manipur

मणिपुर में विशेष जांच टीमों

- A report accessed by **The Hindu** shows that the special investigation teams (**SIT**), set up by the **Supreme Court** to investigate cases of **rape, sexual offences against women, murder, loot, and arson** in ethnic violence-hit **Manipur**, have filed chargesheets only in a **fraction of the cases**.

द हिंदू द्वारा प्राप्त एक रिपोर्ट से पता चलता है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा मणिपुर में जातीय हिंसा से प्रभावित बलात्कार, महिलाओं के खिलाफ यौन अपराध, हत्या, लूट और आगजनी के मामलों की जांच के लिए गठित विशेष जांच टीमों (**SIT**) ने केवल कुछ ही मामलों में चार्जशीट दायर की हैं।

When were the SITs set up?

SITs का गठन कब किया गया था?

- On **August 7, 2023**, a **Supreme Court** bench led by former **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** constituted **42 SITs** to probe **6,523 first information reports (FIRs)** pertaining to violent crimes, including **sexual offences**, which were reported in **Manipur** from **May 3 to July 30, 2023**.

7 अगस्त 2023 को, पूर्व भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़ द्वारा नेतृत्व किए गए सुप्रीम कोर्ट की पीठ ने 6,523 प्राथमिकी (**FIRs**) की जांच के लिए 42 **SITs** का गठन किया, जो मणिपुर में 3 मई से 30 जुलाई 2023 तक के बीच हुई हिंसक अपराधों, जिसमें यौन अपराध भी शामिल थे, से संबंधित थीं।

- The cleaning of records brought down the number of **FIRs** to **3,023**.
रिकॉर्ड की सफाई के बाद **FIRs** की संख्या 3,023 रह गई।
- Since people were displaced from their homes, many filed **zero FIRs** at police stations in **Manipur** or even outside the State as they could not travel to the concerned police station fearing for their safety.
चूंकि लोग अपने घरों से विस्थापित हो गए थे, इसलिए कई लोगों ने मणिपुर में पुलिस थानों या



Website: patrioticias.in

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



राज्य से बाहर ज़ीरो FIRs दर्ज करवाईं, क्योंकि वे अपनी सुरक्षा के डर से संबंधित पुलिस स्टेशन तक यात्रा नहीं कर पा रहे थे।

- **Zero FIRs** are filed irrespective of jurisdiction and are later transferred to the police station.

ज़ीरो FIRs न्यायक्षेत्र की परवाह किए बिना दर्ज की जाती हैं और बाद में संबंधित पुलिस स्टेशन को सौंप दी जाती हैं।

- The **SIT** submits a **status report** every month to the **Supreme Court**.

SIT हर महीने **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** को **स्थिति रिपोर्ट** सौंपती है।

- On **December 9, 2024**, the court directed the **Manipur government** to provide details of **buildings** and **properties** which were **burnt, partially burnt, looted, and trespassed** during the ethnic violence. The next date of hearing is **January 20**.

9 दिसंबर 2024 को अदालत ने **मणिपुर सरकार** को जातीय हिंसा के दौरान **जलाए गए, आंशिक रूप से जलाए गए, लूटे गए, और अतिक्रमित भवनों और संपत्तियों का विवरण प्रदान करने का निर्देश** दिया। अगली सुनवाई की तिथि **20 जनवरी** है।

What does the status report say?

स्थिति रिपोर्ट में क्या कहा गया है?

- The Hindu accessed a **status report** of the **SIT investigations** dated **November 20, 2024**.

द हिंदू ने **SIT जांचों की स्थिति रिपोर्ट** को **20 नवंबर 2024** की तारीख के साथ प्राप्त किया।

- It showed that the **42 SITs** have filed **chargesheets** in only **6%** of the total **3,023 registered cases**.

रिपोर्ट में दिखाया गया कि **42 SITs** ने कुल **3,023 पंजीकृत मामलों** में से केवल **6%** मामलों में **चार्जशीट** दायर की हैं।

- **Chargesheets**, the police summary of allegations, pertaining to various crimes have been filed only in **192 cases**.

विभिन्न अपराधों से संबंधित **चार्जशीट्स**, पुलिस द्वारा आरोपों का सारांश, केवल **192 मामलों** में दायर की गई हैं।

- From **August 2023**, when the **SITs** were constituted, till **November 20**, the teams arrested **384 persons**, identified **742 suspects**, and examined **11,901 witnesses**.

अगस्त 2023 से, जब **SITs** का गठन हुआ था, से लेकर **20 नवंबर** तक, टीमों ने **384 व्यक्तियों** को गिरफ्तार किया, **742 संदिग्धों** की पहचान की, और **11,901 गवाहों** की जांच की।

- As many as **574 accused persons** have been chargesheeted so far.

अब तक **574 आरोपित व्यक्तियों** को चार्जशीट किया जा चुका है।

- The report stated that the **SIT** is investigating **126 cases of murders** and **2,888 cases of loot, arson and other property crimes**.

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि **SIT** अभी तक **126 हत्याओं के मामलों** और **2,888 लूट, आगजनी और अन्य संपत्ति अपराधों** की जांच कर रही है।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



- A **closure report** has been filed in **605 cases** due to a lack of evidence and witnesses.
605 मामलों में क्लोजर रिपोर्ट दायर की गई है क्योंकि पर्याप्त साक्ष्य और गवाह नहीं थे।
- The **SIT** has recovered **501 weapons, 13,464 ammunition, and 412 magazines** among others so far.
अब तक **SIT** ने **501 हथियार, 13,464 गोलाबारी, और 412 मैगजीन** आदि बरामद किए हैं।
- Overall, the **Manipur Police** have recovered around **1,800 looted weapons** so far.
कुल मिलाकर, **मणिपुर पुलिस** अब तक लगभग **1,800 लूटी गई हथियारों** को बरामद कर चुकी है।

What is the composition of the SIT?

SIT का संरचना क्या है?

- Based on the recommendation of the **Manipur government**, the **Supreme Court** said the cases should be bundled under three categories — **FIRs related to murder and heinous crimes, sexual crimes against women, and other crimes** such as loot, arson, etc.
मणिपुर सरकार की सिफारिश पर, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने कहा कि मामलों को तीन श्रेणियों में बांटा जाए — **हत्या और घृणित अपराधों से संबंधित FIRs, महिलाओं के खिलाफ यौन अपराध, और अन्य अपराध** जैसे लूट, आगजनी आदि।
- The charter of the **SITs** was distributed accordingly, and the teams were further divided into **six groups**, one each to probe cases of **murders, heinous crime and rape, and sexual offences against women**, and four groups to probe cases of **arson, looting, and other crimes**.
SITs का चार्टर उसी अनुसार वितरित किया गया, और टीमों को **छह समूहों** में बांटा गया, जिनमें से प्रत्येक को **हत्या, घृणित अपराध और बलात्कार, और महिलाओं के खिलाफ यौन अपराध** के मामलों की जांच करने के लिए जिम्मेदार बनाया गया, और चार समूहों को **आगजनी, लूट, और अन्य अपराधों** की जांच करने के लिए नियुक्त किया गया।

Supervision of SITs

SITs की निगरानी

- A **Superintendent of Police**-rank officer deputed by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** was tasked with supervising **three SITs**, each comprising **two inspectors, six sub-inspectors, and 12 constables**.
केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा नियुक्त **पुलिस अधीक्षक-रैंक** के अधिकारी को **तीन SITs** की निगरानी करने का कार्य सौंपा गया था, जिनमें प्रत्येक टीम में **दो निरीक्षक, छह उप-निरीक्षक, और 12 कांस्टेबल** होते हैं।

What did the court say?

अदालत ने क्या कहा?



- On **July 20, 2023**, after a video of two tribal **Kuki-Zo women** being paraded naked by a mob surfaced on **social media**, the **Supreme Court** called for reports indicating the steps taken by the government to hold the perpetrators accountable and ensure that such incidents are not repeated.

20 जुलाई 2023 को, एक वीडियो सामने आने के बाद जिसमें दो आदिवासी **कुकी-जो महिलाएं** एक भीड़ द्वारा नग्न घुमाई जा रही थीं, और जो **सोशल मीडिया** पर वायरल हुआ, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने रिपोर्ट्स की मांग की, जिसमें सरकार द्वारा अपराधियों को जिम्मेदार ठहराने और यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों का विवरण हो कि ऐसी घटनाएँ फिर से न हों।

- Though the incident occurred on **May 4, 2023**, the case was filed in **July**, after the video went viral.

हालांकि यह घटना **4 मई 2023** को हुई थी, मामला **जुलाई** में दर्ज किया गया, जब वीडियो वायरल हुआ।

- On **August 1, 2023**, the **State** informed the court that **11 FIRs** involving cases of **violence against women and children** had been filed, though this was subject to further verification.

1 अगस्त 2023 को, **राज्य** ने अदालत को सूचित किया कि **महिलाओं और बच्चों** के खिलाफ हिंसा से संबंधित **11 FIRs** दायर की गई थीं, हालांकि इसकी आगे की सत्यापन प्रक्रिया चल रही थी।

- Seven arrests were made in connection with these **11 FIRs**, the State informed the court.

राज्य ने अदालत को सूचित किया कि इन **11 FIRs** के संबंध में सात गिरफ्तारियाँ की गईं।

- The **Centre** said the **State** was willing to transfer the **11 cases** to the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.

केंद्र ने कहा कि **राज्य 11 मामलों को केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो (CBI)** को स्थानांतरित करने के लिए तैयार था।

- The **sexual violence case** of the two women was transferred to the **CBI** along with other cases.

दोनों महिलाओं का **यौन हिंसा का मामला** अन्य मामलों के साथ **CBI** को स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया।

- Expressing dismay at the "**tardy pace of investigation**," the court constituted a **three-member committee** headed by **Justice Gita Mittal**, former Chief Justice of the **J&K High Court**.

जांच की धीमी गति पर निराशा व्यक्त करते हुए, अदालत ने **गिता मित्तल**, पूर्व **जम्मू और कश्मीर उच्च न्यायालय** की मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा नेतृत्व किए गए **तीन सदस्यीय समिति** का गठन किया।

- The mandate of the committee is to enquire into the nature of **violence against women** that occurred in **Manipur** from **May 4, 2023**, from all available sources and the FIRs lodged as well as media reports.

समिति का कार्य **मणिपुर** में **4 मई 2023** से शुरू होने वाली **महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा** के स्वभाव की जांच करना है, सभी उपलब्ध स्रोतों और दर्ज FIRs के साथ-साथ मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स से।



- The court also appointed **Dattatray Padsalgikar**, former **Director General of Police, Maharashtra** to supervise the investigation by the **CBI** into the **FIRs** transferred to it and the investigation into the remaining **FIRs**.

अदालत ने दत्तात्रय पद्सालगीकर, पूर्व महाराष्ट्र पुलिस महानिदेशक, को CBI द्वारा स्थानांतरित FIRs की जांच और बाकी FIRs की जांच की निगरानी करने के लिए नियुक्त किया।

What are the challenges?

चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं?

- A senior **government official** says there are several **logistical issues** hampering the investigation.
एक वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी ने कहा कि जांच में कई लॉजिस्टिक समस्याएं आ रही हैं।
- For recording the statement of a victim, **language** is a challenge as many officers heading the investigating teams are from **outside the State**.
एक पीड़िता का बयान दर्ज करने के लिए भाषा एक चुनौती है क्योंकि कई अधिकारी जो जांच टीमों का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं, वे राज्य के बाहर से हैं।
- There have been instances when victims have changed their **phone numbers**.
ऐसे उदाहरण भी हैं जब पीड़ितों ने अपने फोन नंबर बदल लिए हैं।
- "Then, for an **FIR registered in Imphal (valley)**, a victim who hails from the **hill districts**, will not want to speak to an officer from the valley — this causes delays. The same is true for cases registered in the hills when the victims are from the valley," said the official.
"फिर, एक इंफाल (घाटी) में दर्ज FIR के लिए, एक पीड़िता जो पहाड़ी जिलों से है, वह घाटी से किसी अधिकारी से बात नहीं करना चाहती - इससे देरी होती है। यही स्थिति पहाड़ी इलाकों में दर्ज मामलों के लिए है जब पीड़ित घाटी से होते हैं," अधिकारी ने कहा।

When will the cases go to trial?

मामले कब ट्रायल में जाएंगे?

- The trial is yet to commence in any of the cases, as a direction from the **Supreme Court** is awaited.
किसी भी मामले में ट्रायल अब तक शुरू नहीं हुआ है, क्योंकि सुप्रीम कोर्ट से निर्देश का इंतजार है।
- There are concerns about holding the trial in the **State** due to the ongoing **ethnic violence**.
राज्य में ट्रायल आयोजित करने को लेकर चल रही जातीय हिंसा के कारण चिंता जताई जा रही है।
- Even though the **CBI** filed a **chargesheet** last **October** in a **CBI court in Guwahati** in the **sexual violence case** of the two **Kuki-Zo women**, the trial is yet to begin.



हालांकि CBI ने अक्टूबर में गुवाहाटी में CBI कोर्ट में दोनों कुकी-जो महिलाओं के यौन हिंसा मामले में चार्जशीट दायर की थी, ट्रायल अब तक शुरू नहीं हुआ है।

Why are some packaged foods under a cloud?

What did the nutritional profiling of some convenience foods reveal? Are labelling regulations being flouted?

GS Paper II: Health Sector

The story so far:

A study of 432 convenience food products, in five categories – idli mixes, breakfast cereals, porridge mixes, beverage mixes, soup mixes – and extruded ('puffed' or 'expanded') snacks, has found that a majority of these ready-to-eat/packaged food products are high in carbohydrates.

Who conducted the study?

The study, 'Assessment of front and back of pack nutrition labels of selected convenience food products and snacks available in the Indian market' by Shobana Shanmugam *et al*, was published in *Plos One*. Researchers with Chennai-based Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition and the University of Reading, the U.K. were involved. It aimed to evaluate the nutritional profiles and claims of selected convenience food products and snacks in the Indian market and also measured their healthiness.

The nutritional profiling of the foods was conducted based on the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) claims regulations, after evaluating the nutritional information on the front and back of pack labels of the selected food items. Only the nutritional content claims related to protein, dietary fibre, fat, sugar and cholesterol were evaluated in this study. The healthiness was assessed using a nutritional traffic light system.

What did the study find?

In essence, the study found that while most of the products could fall under the 'healthy' or 'moderately healthy' categories, except extruded snacks, most of the products provided over 70% of the energy from carbohydrates, while extruded snacks provided over 47% of the energy from fat. The energy distribution from protein

Experts say warning labels must be specific. For instance, those with hypertension can avoid food labelled as 'high sodium,' while those with diabetes can avoid high sugar foods

was found to be less than 15%. All convenience food products that the study tested were rich in carbohydrate content. While beverage mixes had the highest carbohydrate

content (35.5g to 95g/100g), extruded snacks had the highest total fat content (mean 28.3±7.5 g/100g), and the highest saturated fatty acid (SFA) content (mean 11.0±4.5 g/100g). The beverage mixes were found to be high in sugar content. The soup mixes had high sodium levels with poor protein and dietary fibre content. The idli mixes had high protein content and were largely sugar free. The study also found that despite FSSAI's packaging and labelling regulations requiring products to display the minimum nutritional information for energy, protein, carbohydrate, sugar, and total fat as "per 100 g" or "100 ml" or "per serving" of the product on the label, only certain breakfast cereals and some beverages widely disclosed the concept of per-serving information. Further, some products that claimed to contain whole grains did not display them in the ingredient list and these claims may be misleading to the consumer, it noted.

What are the issues around food labelling?

For years, activists have been advocating for front-of-pack labelling that has warning labels indicating high fat, sugar and sodium. "We want the warning labels to be specific, so, for instance, a customer with hypertension can avoid food labelled as 'high sodium' or a customer with diabetes can avoid high sugar foods," said Vandana Prasad, a public health professional. Lead author of the paper and senior scientist at Madras Diabetes Research Foundation Dr. Shanmugam said the present labelling system was not uniform, and customers could find it hard to understand.

How are changing diet patterns affecting health?

As per the household consumption expenditure survey 2022-23, Indians are now spending more on processed food, beverages, and refreshments.

Experts have highlighted this changing diet is a huge contributing factor to the staggering burden of non-communicable diseases in the country. The Economic Survey of India this year, citing the Indian Council of Medical Research's dietary guidelines, noted that 56.4% of the total disease burden in India is due to unhealthy diets.

Not only do excessive carbohydrates in the diet place a strain on the pancreas, therefore increasing one's risk for type 2 diabetes, but other chemicals in processed food can increase the risk of ailments such as fatty liver as well, said Nihal Thomas, senior professor, Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Christian Medical College, Vellore. R.M. Anjana, managing director of Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, Chennai, who was part of the study, reiterated the importance of reading food labels and avoiding processed food as much as possible.



Why are some packaged foods under a cloud?

कुछ पैकेज्ड खाद्य पदार्थ संदेह के घरे में क्यों हैं?

What did the nutritional profiling of some convenience foods reveal?
Are labelling regulations being flouted?

Study of Convenience Food Products

सुविधाजनक खाद्य उत्पादों का अध्ययन

- A study of 432 convenience food products, in five categories — idli mixes, breakfast cereals, porridge mixes, beverage mixes, soup mixes — and extruded ('puffed' or 'expanded') snacks, found that a majority of these ready-to-eat/packaged food products are high in carbohydrates.

432 सुविधाजनक खाद्य उत्पादों का अध्ययन, पाँच श्रेणियों में — इडली मिक्स, ब्रेकफास्ट सीरियल्स, पोरिज मिक्स, बेवरेज मिक्स, सूप मिक्स — और एक्सट्रूडेड ('पफ्ड' या 'एक्सपैंडेड') स्नैक्स — ने पाया कि इन अधिकतर तैयार खाने योग्य/पैकेज्ड खाद्य उत्पादों में कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स की मात्रा अधिक है।

Who conducted the study?

अध्यान किसने किया?

- The study, 'Assessment of front and back of pack nutrition labels of selected convenience food products and snacks available in the Indian market' by Shobana Shanmugam et al, was published in Plos One.

अध्ययन, 'चयनित सुविधाजनक खाद्य उत्पादों और स्नैक्स के पैक के सामने और पीछे के पोषण लेबल का मूल्यांकन, जो भारतीय बाजार में उपलब्ध हैं', शोभना शन्मुगम और उनके सहकर्मियों द्वारा किया गया था, और यह Plos One में प्रकाशित हुआ।

- Researchers from Chennai-based Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition, and the University of Reading, U.K. were involved.

चेन्नई स्थित मद्रास डायबिटीज रिसर्च फाउंडेशन, भारतीय चिकित्सा अनुसंधान परिषद-राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान, और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ रीडिंग, यू.के. के शोधकर्ताओं ने इसमें भाग लिया।

- The study aimed to evaluate the nutritional profiles and claims of selected convenience food products and snacks in the Indian market and also measured their healthiness.

अध्ययन का उद्देश्य चयनित सुविधाजनक खाद्य उत्पादों और स्नैक्स के पोषण प्रोफाइल और दावों का मूल्यांकन करना था और साथ ही उनके स्वास्थ्यवर्धक होने का आकलन करना था।



- The **nutritional profiling** of the foods was conducted based on the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** claims regulations, after evaluating the **nutritional information** on the **front and back of pack labels** of the selected food items.

खाद्य उत्पादों का पोषण प्रोफाइलिंग भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण (FSSAI) के दावों के नियमों के आधार पर किया गया, जिसमें चयनित खाद्य आइटमों के पैक के सामने और पीछे के लेबल पर पोषण जानकारी का मूल्यांकन किया गया।

- Only the **nutritional content claims** related to **protein, dietary fibre, fat, sugar, and cholesterol** were evaluated in this study.
इस अध्ययन में केवल प्रोटीन, आहार फाइबर, वसा, चीनी, और कोलेस्ट्रॉल से संबंधित पोषण सामग्री के दावे का मूल्यांकन किया गया।
- The healthiness was assessed using a **nutritional traffic light system**.
स्वास्थ्यवर्धकता का मूल्यांकन पोषण ट्रैफिक लाइट सिस्टम का उपयोग करके किया गया।

What did the study find?

अध्ययन ने क्या पाया?

- The study found that while most of the products could fall under the **'healthy'** or **'moderately healthy'** categories, except **extruded snacks**, most of the products provided over **70%** of the **energy** from **carbohydrates**, while **extruded snacks** provided over **47%** of the energy from **fat**.
अध्ययन ने पाया कि जबकि अधिकांश उत्पाद 'स्वस्थ' या 'मध्यम स्वस्थ' श्रेणियों में आ सकते हैं, एक्सट्रूडेड स्नैक्स को छोड़कर, अधिकांश उत्पाद 70% से अधिक ऊर्जा कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स से प्राप्त करते हैं, जबकि एक्सट्रूडेड स्नैक्स 47% से अधिक ऊर्जा वसा से प्राप्त करते हैं।
- The energy distribution from **protein** was found to be **less than 15%**.
प्रोटीन से ऊर्जा का वितरण 15% से कम पाया गया।
- All **convenience food products** that the study tested were **rich in carbohydrate content**.
सभी सुविधाजनक खाद्य उत्पाद, जिन्हें अध्ययन में परखा गया था, कार्बोहाइड्रेट सामग्री में समृद्ध थे।
- While **beverage mixes** had the **highest carbohydrate content (35.5g to 95g/100g)**, **extruded snacks** had the **highest total fat content (mean 28.3±7.5 g/100g)**, and the **highest saturated fatty acid (SFA) content (mean 11.0±4.5 g/100g)**.
जबकि बेवरेज मिक्स में सबसे अधिक कार्बोहाइड्रेट सामग्री थी (35.5g से 95g/100g), एक्सट्रूडेड स्नैक्स में कुल वसा सामग्री सबसे अधिक थी (औसत 28.3±7.5 g/100g), और संतृप्त वसा अम्ल (SFA) सामग्री सबसे अधिक थी (औसत 11.0±4.5 g/100g)।
- The **beverage mixes** were found to be **high in sugar content**.
बेवरेज मिक्स में चीनी की मात्रा अधिक पाई गई।
- The **soup mixes** had high **sodium levels** with **poor protein and dietary fibre content**.
सूप मिक्स में सोडियम स्तर अधिक था और इसमें प्रोटीन और आहार फाइबर की मात्रा कम थी।



- The **idli mixes** had **high protein content** and were largely **sugar free**.
इडली मिक्स में प्रोटीन की उच्च मात्रा थी और यह अधिकांशतः चीनी मुक्त थे।
- Despite **FSSAI's packaging and labelling regulations** requiring products to display the **minimum nutritional information for energy, protein, carbohydrate, sugar, and total fat** as “per 100 g” or “100 ml” or “per serving” on the label, only certain **breakfast cereals** and some **beverages** widely disclosed the concept of **per-serving information**.
FSSAI के पैकेजिंग और लेबलिंग नियमों के बावजूद, जिनमें उत्पादों को ऊर्जा, प्रोटीन, कार्बोहाइड्रेट, चीनी, और कुल वसा की न्यूनतम पोषण जानकारी को लेबल पर “100g” या “100ml” या “प्रति सर्विंग” के रूप में दिखाने की आवश्यकता है, केवल कुछ ब्रेकफास्ट सीरियल्स और कुछ बेवरेजेस ने व्यापक रूप से प्रति सर्विंग जानकारी का उल्लेख किया।
- Further, some products that claimed to contain **whole grains** did not display them in the **ingredient list**, and these claims may be misleading to the consumer.
इसके अलावा, कुछ उत्पादों ने पूर्ण अनाज होने का दावा किया, लेकिन वे सामग्री सूची में इसे प्रदर्शित नहीं करते थे, और ये दावे उपभोक्ता को भ्रामक कर सकते हैं।

Issues around Food Labelling

खाद्य लेबलिंग से जुड़े मुद्दे

- For years, **activists** have been advocating for **front-of-pack labelling** that has **warning labels** indicating **high fat, sugar, and sodium**.
वर्षों से, कार्यकर्ता फ्रंट-ऑफ-पैक लेबलिंग का समर्थन कर रहे हैं, जिसमें चेतावनी लेबल होते हैं, जो अधिक वसा, चीनी, और सोडियम को इंगीत करते हैं।
- “We want the **warning labels** to be **specific**, so, for instance, a customer with **hypertension** can avoid food labelled as ‘**high sodium**’ or a customer with **diabetes** can avoid **high sugar** foods,” said **Vandana Prasad**, a public health professional.
“हम चाहते हैं कि चेतावनी लेबल विशिष्ट हों, ताकि, उदाहरण के लिए, हाइपरटेंशन वाले ग्राहक ‘उच्च सोडियम’ वाले खाद्य पदार्थों से बच सकें या मधुमेह वाले ग्राहक अधिक चीनी वाले खाद्य पदार्थों से बच सकें,” कहा वंदना प्रसाद ने, एक सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य पेशेवर ने।
- **Lead author** of the paper and **senior scientist** at Madras Diabetes Research Foundation **Dr. Shanmugam** said the present labelling system was not **uniform**, and customers could find it **hard to understand**.
पत्र के प्रमुख लेखक और मद्रास डायबिटीज रिसर्च फाउंडेशन के वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक डॉ. शन्मुगम ने कहा कि वर्तमान लेबलिंग प्रणाली समान नहीं है, और ग्राहक इसे समझने में कठिनाई महसूस कर सकते हैं।

How are changing diet patterns affecting health?

बदलती आहार आदतें स्वास्थ्य पर कैसे असर डाल रही हैं?

- As per the **household consumption expenditure survey 2022-23**, **Indians** are now spending more on **processed food, beverages, and refreshments**.



घरेलू उपभोग व्यय सर्वेक्षण 2022-23 के अनुसार, अब भारतीय अधिक खर्च कर रहे हैं प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थों, पेय पदार्थों, और पेयनों पर।

- Experts have highlighted that this changing diet is a huge contributing factor to the staggering burden of **non-communicable diseases** in the country.
विशेषज्ञों ने इस बदलते आहार को देश में गैर-संक्रामक बीमारियों के विशाल बोझ का एक बड़ा योगदानकर्ता बताया है।
- The **Economic Survey of India** this year, citing the **Indian Council of Medical Research's dietary guidelines**, noted that **56.4%** of the total **disease burden** in India is due to **unhealthy diets**.

इस साल की आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण में, भारतीय चिकित्सा अनुसंधान परिषद के आहार दिशानिर्देशों का हवाला देते हुए, यह उल्लेख किया गया कि भारत में कुल बीमारी का बोझ का 56.4% अस्वस्थ आहारों के कारण है।

- Not only do **excessive carbohydrates** in the diet place a strain on the **pancreas**, therefore increasing one's risk for **type 2 diabetes**, but other chemicals in **processed food** can increase the risk of ailments such as **fatty liver** as well, said **Nihal Thomas**, senior professor, Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, **Christian Medical College, Vellore**.

आहार में अत्यधिक कार्बोहाइड्रेट न केवल पैंक्रियास पर दबाव डालते हैं, जिससे टाइप 2 मधुमेह का जोखिम बढ़ता है, बल्कि प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थों में अन्य रासायनिक तत्व भी वसा युक्त जिगर जैसी बीमारियों के जोखिम को बढ़ा सकते हैं, जैसा कि निहाल थॉमस, वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर, एंडोक्रिनोलॉजी, डायबिटीज और मेटाबोलिज्म विभाग, क्रिश्चियन मेडिकल कॉलेज, वेल्लोर ने कहा।

- **R.M. Anjana**, managing director of **Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, Chennai**, who was part of the study, reiterated the importance of **reading food labels** and **avoiding processed food** as much as possible.

R.M. अंजना, डॉ. मोहन के डायबिटीज स्पेशलिटीज सेंटर, चेन्नई के प्रबंध निदेशक, जो अध्ययन का हिस्सा थे, ने खाद्य लेबल पढ़ने और जितना संभव हो सके प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थों से बचने के महत्व को दोहराया।



The spinner who shattered status-quo

Ravichandran Ashwin

After 537 Test wickets, a statistic that places him currently seventh in the all-time list, besides 3,503 runs and an ODI yield of 156 scalps, the 38-year-old cricketer called time on his international career

FCS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

To bowl spin is to pause, reflect, tease and torment. It is much akin to making a move in chess, but in cricket with its adrenaline streaks, the big moments are often vested with batters and fast bowlers. A massive six or cartwheeling stumps makes a striking impact and lends an impetus to commentators to raise their voice and heighten the hype. But there is beauty in spin too, a seductive one that strangles batters.

It is in this realm that Ravichandran Ashwin, ever the contrarian and one who is forever questioning the status-quo, made a mark as a great off-spinner. While his deliveries seemingly hung in the air for eternity and drew perplexed batters to their doom, time did fly and twilight wrapped his storied career. After 537 Test wickets, a statistic that places him currently seventh in the all-time list, besides 3,503 runs and an ODI yield of 156 scalps, the 38-year-old called time on his international career.

He made a quick announcement to the media at Brisbane's Gabba on Wednesday. "I didn't want to make this about myself," was his preamble before he said: "Today will be the last day for me as an international cricketer." Vacating the stage when he still had the spark would not have been easy but ageing limbs and a few young spinners snapping at his heels may have pushed him towards the exit door. Additionally, he was not an instant selection overseas when the team-management went for the extra seamer and preferred a lone spinner.

But like M.S. Dhoni, Ashwin is hoping to be a regular in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and fans will get to see him in action for a while, even if it will be in the yellow jersey of Chennai Super Kings, and not in Indian whites or the blue shade. When Ashwin emerged through the ranks, fine-tuning his craft in the tough TNCA league while also coping with excess analysis from a knowledgeable Tamil Nadu

cricketing fraternity, India still had Harbhajan Singh doing his bit in the slow art. Ashwin, however, caught the eye through the IPL. Soon, he was part of the Indian ODI squad and was a member of Dhoni's team, which claimed the 2011 World Cup at home.

Origin story

The origin story would not have been easy. For a State that is high on cricket, Tamil Nadu doesn't have as many Ranji Trophy titles as neighbouring Karnataka or more pedigreed players turning out for the national unit. If a historical ambiguity in making the final decisive step could be a bane, another hurdle was the constant desire to compare across eras.

At one point, the regular cliché about Indian cricketers was that they either could be wristy batters or beguiling spinners. When Ashwin surfaced at the highest level, he was stepping into a series of massive shoes. There was the famous spin-quartet of Bishan Singh Bedi, B.S. Chandrasekhar, Erapalli Prasanna and S. Venkataraghavan, the last named also hailing from Chennai, Ashwin's home-town. And then there were his immediate predecessors: Anil Kumble and Harbhajan.

These were legends with stirring achievements adorning their resumes. Comparisons were bound to occur and during a 2011 tour of England, a correspondent asked Ashwin if he felt he was ready to replace Harbhajan, who was in the concluding phase of his career. On that distant cold day at the Old Blighty, Ashwin handled a potential landmine with deft hands, doused the fires, mentioned that he was just beginning but had confidence in his skills and also reiterated his respect for Harbhajan.

It was just a matter of time before Ashwin became India's number one spinner. The signs of his talent and resilience were evident in the IPL when he would gladly bowl the opening over to the likes of Chris Gayle. This was a player who refused to take a step back. Most cricketers make a splash in their



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

debut year before losing their way as rival teams discover vulnerabilities and keep twisting their knives into these raw spots.

Ashwin, though, was made of steel. He constantly reinvented himself, adding new deliveries and also gifted a cult status to the *soduku* ball from Chennai's streets. Rechristened the carrom ball which involved the last-minute flick of the fingers at the

time of release, the ace spinner befuddled his rivals. At one point he was accused of doing too many experiments while not using his stock off-break often; he took this criticism on the chin and strove for balance.

A restless and eager presence in Indian team nets, Ashwin was never averse to experiment. You could catch him bowling some leg-spin and all this came in handy when he mimicked the

bowling action of others at times. Climbing through Chennai's club cricket with its undercurrent of corporate rivalries, Ashwin leant on the skills he had and the new ones he acquired. It was a philosophy that held him in good stead, be it playing in his school - St. Bede's, or as a boy in the bylanes of Mambalam.

During his more than a decade-long stint with the national team, only twice did India falter at home, once against the visiting Englishmen in 2012 and more recently against New Zealand. Else, India remained a fortress and one primary reason for this was the genius of Ashwin. Even on

spin-friendly surfaces, control and guile are important and he had these in ample measure.

With his engineering background, it was no surprise that Ashwin was deeply analytical. He knew the rules of the game and if a non-striker stepped out prematurely, Ashwin had no qualms in whipping off the balls. Even as the world lapsed into the 'spirit of the game' debate, the spinner was clear in his mind: if it is a legitimate dismissal then why are we even discussing this? Ashwin the spinner always overpowered Ashwin the batter in terms of the perception sweepstakes. But he was a fine batter and at times had the languid charms of a V.V.S. Laxman, and six Test hundreds is a testimony to his ability. Having started as an opener before turning to spin, that old talent remained intact within his tall frame.

Always curious, it seemed organic for Ashwin to step into the YouTube space. His videos ranging from cricket to movies, have struck a chord. One of cricket's greats is bound to have a second wind, be it as a commentator or coach. "To strive to be the best I can," has always been Ashwin's motto, and the coming years might reflect that all over again.

THE GIST

➤ Ashwin constantly reinvented himself, adding new deliveries and also gifted a cult status to the carrom ball from Chennai's streets

➤ During his more than a decade-long stint with the national team, only twice did India falter at home, once against the visiting Englishmen in 2012 and more recently against New Zealand

➤ Ashwin the spinner always overpowered Ashwin the batter in terms of the perception sweepstakes. But he was a fine batter, and six Test hundreds is a testimony to his ability

The spinner who shattered status-quo

स्पिनर जिसने यथास्थिति को तोड़ दिया

After 537 Test wickets, a statistic that places him currently seventh in the all-time list, besides 3,503 runs and an ODI yield of 156 scalps, the 38-year-old cricketer called time on his international career



537 टेस्ट विकेटों के बाद, एक ऐसा आंकड़ा जो उन्हें वर्तमान में सर्वकालिक सूची में सातवें स्थान पर रखता है, इसके अलावा 3,503 रन और 156 विकेटों की एकदिवसीय उपज के साथ, 38 वर्षीय क्रिकेटर ने अपने अंतरराष्ट्रीय करियर को विराम दे दिया

To Bowl Spin is to Pause

स्पिन गेंदबाजी करना यानी रुकना

- To bowl spin is to **pause**, reflect, tease, and torment.
स्पिन गेंदबाजी करना यानी **रुकना**, सोच विचार करना, चिढ़ाना और परेशान करना।
- It is much akin to making a move in **chess**, but in **cricket**, with its **adrenaline streaks**, the big moments are often vested with **batters** and **fast bowlers**.
यह बहुत हद तक शतरंज में एक चाल चलने जैसा है, लेकिन क्रिकेट में, जहां **एड्रेनालिन** की एक लहर होती है, बड़े पल अक्सर **बल्लेबाजों** और **फास्ट बॉलरों** के होते हैं।
- A **massive six** or **cartwheeling stumps** makes a striking impact and lends an impetus to commentators to raise their voice and heighten the hype.
एक **भारी छक्का** या **गिरते हुए स्टंप्स** एक प्रभावी असर डालते हैं और टिप्पणीकारों को अपनी आवाज़ उंची करने और उत्तेजना बढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित करते हैं।
- But there is **beauty** in spin too, a seductive one that **strangles batters**.
लेकिन स्पिन गेंदबाजी में भी एक **सौंदर्य** है, एक मोहक जो **बल्लेबाजों** को कस कर पकड़ता है।

Ravichandran Ashwin's Impact

रविचंद्रन अश्विन का प्रभाव

- Ravichandran **Ashwin**, ever the contrarian, made a mark as a great **off-spinner**.
रविचंद्रन **अश्विन**, जो हमेशा **विरोधी** रहे हैं, एक महान **ऑफ-स्पिनर** के रूप में पहचान बना चुके हैं।
- His deliveries seemingly hung in the air for **eternity** and drew perplexed batters to their doom.
उनकी गेंदें आकाश में **अनंतकाल** तक लटकती हुई प्रतीत होती थीं और उलझे हुए बल्लेबाजों को उनके नाश की ओर खींचती थीं।
- After **537 Test wickets**, placing him **seventh in the all-time list**, along with **3,503 runs** and an **ODI yield of 156 scalps**, the **38-year-old** called time on his **international career**.
537 टेस्ट विकेट के बाद, जो उन्हें **सभी समय की सूची** में सातवां स्थान दिलाता है, साथ ही **3503 रन** और **ODI में 156 विकेट**, 38 वर्षीय अश्विन ने अपने अंतरराष्ट्रीय करियर को समाप्त करने की घोषणा की।
- He made a quick announcement to the media at **Brisbane's Gabba** on **Wednesday**.
उन्होंने **ब्रीस्बेन के गाबा** में **बुधवार** को मीडिया के सामने जल्दी घोषणा की।



- "I didn't want to make this about myself," was his preamble before he said: "**Today will be the last day** for me as an **international cricketer**."

"मैं इसे अपने बारे में नहीं बनाना चाहता था," यह उनका प्रस्तावना था, इसके बाद उन्होंने कहा:

"आज मेरा आखिरी दिन है एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेटर के रूप में।"

- Vacating the stage when he still had the **spark** would not have been easy, but ageing limbs and young spinners snapping at his heels may have pushed him towards the **exit door**.

जब उनके पास अभी भी चमक थी, तब मंच छोड़ना आसान नहीं होता, लेकिन उम्र बढ़ते अंग और कुछ युवा स्पिनर्स के पीछे आने ने उन्हें प्रस्थान दरवाजे की ओर धकेल दिया।

- Additionally, he was not an **instant selection overseas** when the team-management went for the extra seamer and preferred a lone spinner.

इसके अलावा, जब टीम प्रबंधन अतिरिक्त सीमर के लिए गया और एक अकेले स्पिनर को प्राथमिकता दी, तो उन्हें विदेशों में तत्काल चयन नहीं मिला।

- Like **M.S. Dhoni**, Ashwin hopes to be a regular in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** and will continue to be seen in action for a while in the yellow jersey of **Chennai Super Kings**.

M.S. धोनी की तरह, अश्विन की उम्मीद है कि वह **इंडियन प्रीमियर लीग (IPL)** में नियमित खिलाड़ी बनेंगे और कुछ समय के लिए **चेन्नई सुपर किंग्स** की पीली जर्सी में मैदान पर दिखाई देंगे।

Origin Story

उत्पत्ति की कहानी

- Ashwin emerged through the ranks, fine-tuning his craft in the tough **TNCA league**, while coping with excess analysis from a knowledgeable **Tamil Nadu cricketing fraternity**.

अश्विन ने **टीएनसीए लीग** में अपनी कला को परिष्कृत करते हुए, एक जानकार **तमिलनाडु क्रिकेट बिरादरी** से अधिक विश्लेषण सहन करते हुए, रैंक के माध्यम से अपने रास्ते बनाए।

- When Ashwin surfaced at the highest level, India still had **Harbhajan Singh** doing his bit in the slow art.

जब अश्विन उच्चतम स्तर पर उभरे, भारत में अभी भी **हरभजन सिंह** धीमे गेंदबाजी कला में अपना योगदान दे रहे थे।

- Ashwin caught the eye through the **IPL** and was soon part of the **Indian ODI squad** and a member of **Dhoni's team** that claimed the **2011 World Cup** at home.

अश्विन ने **IPL** के माध्यम से ध्यान आकर्षित किया और जल्दी ही वह **भारतीय ODI टीम** का हिस्सा बने और **धोनी की टीम** के सदस्य रहे, जिसने **2011 वर्ल्ड कप** घर पर जीतने में सफलता प्राप्त की।

Struggles and Comparisons

संघर्ष और तुलनाएँ



- Tamil Nadu does not have as many **Ranji Trophy titles** as neighboring **Karnataka**, and fewer **pedigreed players** turning out for the national team.
तमिलनाडु के पास पड़ोसी **कर्नाटका** जितने **रणजी ट्रॉफी खिताब** नहीं हैं, और राष्ट्रीय टीम के लिए **कम पैतृक खिलाड़ी** खेलते हैं।
- One major hurdle was the constant desire to **compare across eras**.
एक प्रमुख बाधा थी **युगों के बीच तुलना** की निरंतर इच्छा।
- Ashwin stepped into massive shoes, following the legacy of the famous spin-quartet: **Bishan Singh Bedi, B.S. Chandrasekhar, Erapalli Prasanna, and S. Venkataraghavan** (also from Chennai).
अश्विन ने बड़े नामों के कदमों में कदम रखा, प्रसिद्ध स्पिन-चतुर्थक की विरासत का पालन किया: **बिशन सिंह बेदी, B.S. चंद्रशेखर, एरापल्ली प्रसन्ना, और S. वेंकटराघवन** (जो कि चेन्नई से थे)।
- There were also his immediate predecessors: **Anil Kumble and Harbhajan**.
उनके तत्कालीन पूर्ववर्ती थे: **अनिल कुंबले और हरभजन**।
- Comparisons were bound to occur, and during a **2011 tour of England**, a correspondent asked Ashwin if he felt ready to replace **Harbhajan**.
तुलनाएँ होना तय थीं, और **2011 इंग्लैंड दौरे** के दौरान, एक संवाददाता ने अश्विन से पूछा कि क्या वह **हरभजन** को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए तैयार महसूस करते हैं।
- Ashwin handled a potential landmine with deft hands, doused the fires, mentioned that he was just beginning but had **confidence in his skills** and also reiterated his respect for **Harbhajan**.
अश्विन ने इस संभावित संकट को कुशलता से संभाला, आग बुझाई, बताया कि वह अभी शुरुआत कर रहे थे लेकिन उन्हें अपनी **कौशलों पर विश्वास** था और उन्होंने **हरभजन** के प्रति अपनी **आदर** की पुनरावृत्ति की।

Ashwin's Journey to India's Number One Spinner

अश्विन का भारत के नंबर एक स्पिनर बनने का सफर

- It was just a matter of time before **Ashwin became India's number one spinner**.
यह समय की बात थी जब **अश्विन भारत के नंबर एक स्पिनर** बन गए।
- The signs of his **talent and resilience** were evident in the **IPL**, where he would gladly bowl the opening over to the likes of **Chris Gayle**.
उनके **प्रतिभा और सहनशीलता** के संकेत **IPL** में स्पष्ट थे, जहां वह खुशी से **क्रिस गेल** जैसे बल्लेबाजों को पहले ओवर में गेंदबाजी करते थे।
- This was a player who **refused to take a step back**.
यह एक खिलाड़ी था जो **पीछे हटने से इंकार** करता था।
- Most cricketers make a splash in their debut year before losing their way as rival teams discover **vulnerabilities** and exploit them.



- अधिकांश क्रिकेटर अपने डेब्यू साल में शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हैं, लेकिन बाद में उनका रास्ता भटक जाता है क्योंकि प्रतिद्वंद्वी टीमों उनकी **कमजोरियों** को ढूंढकर उनका फायदा उठाती हैं।
- Ashwin, though, was made of **steel**.
लेकिन अश्विन **स्टील** से बने थे।
 - He constantly **reinvented himself**, adding new deliveries and giving the **sodukku ball** from Chennai's streets a cult status.
उन्होंने लगातार **अपने आप को फिर से विकसित किया**, नई गेंदबाजी विधियों को अपनाया और चेन्नई की सड़कों से **सोडुकू बॉल** को एक **विशिष्ट स्थिति** दी।
 - The **carrom ball**, involving the last-minute flick of the fingers at the time of release, befuddled his rivals.
कैरोम बॉल, जिसमें रिलीज के समय अंगुलियों का आखिरी पल का फ्लिक होता है, ने उनके प्रतिद्वंद्वियों को उलझा दिया।
 - At one point, he was accused of doing **too many experiments** while not using his **stock off-break** often; he took this criticism on the chin and strove for balance.
एक समय पर, उन पर **अधिक प्रयोग करने** का आरोप लगाया गया जबकि वह अपनी **साधारण ऑफ-ब्रेक** का अक्सर उपयोग नहीं करते थे; उन्होंने इस आलोचना को सहा और **संतुलन** की ओर बढ़े।

Restless Experimenter and Learner

बेचैन प्रयोगकर्ता और सीखने वाला

- A **restless** and eager presence in Indian team nets, Ashwin was never averse to experiment.
भारतीय टीम के नेट्स में एक **बेचैन** और उत्साही उपस्थिति, अश्विन कभी भी प्रयोग करने से कतराए नहीं।
- You could catch him bowling some **leg-spin**, and all this came in handy when he mimicked the bowling action of others at times.
आप उन्हें **लेग-स्पिन** गेंदबाजी करते हुए देख सकते थे, और यह सभी कौशल कभी-कभी जब उन्होंने दूसरों की गेंदबाजी की नकल की तो बेहद काम आए।
- Climbing through Chennai's **club cricket**, with its undercurrent of corporate rivalries, Ashwin leaned on the skills he had and the new ones he acquired.
चेन्नई की **क्लब क्रिकेट** में, जिसमें **कॉर्पोरेट प्रतिस्पर्धाएं** भी थीं, अश्विन ने अपने पास मौजूद कौशल और नए कौशलों पर निर्भर किया।
- This philosophy held him in good stead, be it playing in his **school – St. Bede's**, or as a boy in the bylanes of **Mambalam**.
यह दर्शन उन्हें अच्छे परिणाम दिलाने में मददगार साबित हुआ, चाहे वह अपने **स्कूल - सेंट बीड्स** में खेलते हों, या **मंबलम** की गलियों में एक लड़के के रूप में।

Ashwin's Impact on Indian Cricket



अश्विन का भारतीय क्रिकेट पर प्रभाव

- During his more than a decade-long stint with the national team, only twice did India falter at home: once against **England** in 2012 and more recently against **New Zealand**.
राष्ट्रीय टीम के साथ अपने दस साल से अधिक के करियर में, भारत ने केवल दो बार घरेलू मैदान पर असफलता का सामना किया: एक बार 2012 में इंग्लैंड के खिलाफ और हाल ही में न्यूजीलैंड के खिलाफ।
- Else, **India remained a fortress**, and one primary reason for this was the genius of Ashwin.
अन्यथा, भारत एक दुर्ग बना रहा, और इसके मुख्य कारणों में से एक था अश्विन का प्रतिभा।
- Even on spin-friendly surfaces, **control** and **guile** are important, and Ashwin had these in **ample measure**.
यहां तक कि स्पिन-फ्रेंडली सतहों पर भी, नियंत्रण और चतुराई महत्वपूर्ण हैं, और अश्विन के पास ये पर्याप्त मात्रा में थीं।
- With his **engineering background**, it was no surprise that Ashwin was deeply **analytical**.
अपने इंजीनियरिंग पृष्ठभूमि के साथ, यह कोई आश्चर्य की बात नहीं थी कि अश्विन गहरे विश्लेषणात्मक थे।
- He knew the rules of the game, and if a **non-striker** stepped out prematurely, Ashwin had no qualms in whipping off the bails.
वह खेल के नियमों को जानते थे, और यदि कोई नॉन-स्ट्राइकर जल्दी बाहर निकलता, तो अश्विन को bails हटाने में कोई संकोच नहीं था।
- Even as the world lapsed into the '**spirit of the game**' debate, the spinner was clear in his mind: if it is a **legitimate dismissal**, then why are we even discussing this?
जबकि दुनिया 'खेल की भावना' पर बहस कर रही थी, स्पिनर के मन में स्पष्ट था: यदि यह एक वैध आउट है, तो हम इस पर चर्चा क्यों कर रहे हैं?

Ashwin the All-Rounder

अश्विन: ऑल-राउंडर

- Ashwin the **spinner** always overpowered Ashwin the **batter** in terms of the **perception sweepstakes**.
स्पिनर के रूप में अश्विन हमेशा बल्लेबाज के रूप में अश्विन से बेहतर रहे, खासकर धारणा के हिसाब से।
- But he was a fine batter and at times had the **languid charms** of a **V.V.S. Laxman**, with **six Test hundreds** to his name.
लेकिन वह एक शानदार बल्लेबाज थे और कभी-कभी उनके पास V.V.S. लक्ष्मण की नम्र आकर्षण थी, और उनके नाम पर छह टेस्ट शतक थे।
- Having started as an **opener** before turning to spin, that old talent remained intact within his tall frame.



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स्पिन गेंदबाजी में आने से पहले एक **ओपनर** के रूप में शुरुआत करने के बाद, वह पुरानी प्रतिभा उनके लंबी कद-काठी में बनी रही।

Ashwin's Curiosity and Future

अश्विन की जिज्ञासा और भविष्य

- Always curious, it seemed organic for Ashwin to step into the **YouTube space**. हमेशा जिज्ञासु, अश्विन के लिए **यूट्यूब स्पेस** में कदम रखना स्वाभाविक प्रतीत हुआ।
- His videos, ranging from **cricket** to **movies**, have struck a chord. उनके वीडियो, जो **क्रिकेट** से लेकर **फिल्मों** तक के विषय पर होते हैं, ने लोगों का दिल जीता।
- One of cricket's greats is bound to have a second wind, be it as a **commentator** or **coach**. क्रिकेट के महान खिलाड़ियों में से एक को एक नया अवसर मिलने की संभावना है, चाहे वह **टेलीविज़न पर कमेंटेटर** के रूप में हो या **कोच** के रूप में।
- "To strive to be the best I can," has always been Ashwin's motto, and the coming years might reflect that all over again. "मैं जो कर सकता हूँ, उसे सर्वश्रेष्ठ बनने की कोशिश करना," हमेशा अश्विन का आदर्श रहा है, और आने वाले सालों में यह फिर से दिखाई दे सकता है।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Rebels with a cause

Syrian Democratic Forces

The Kurdish militia of Syria's northeast is caught between an Islamist regime in Damascus and a hostile Turkey across the border

GS Paper II: West Asia

Stanly Johny

When civil war broke out in Syria in 2011, one of the first things Bashar al-Assad's regime did was to pull back troops from the country's north-east so that they could defend the heartland against militias. This gave an opportunity to Syria's Kurds, the country's largest ethnic minority who make up some 10% of its population, to establish a de facto autonomous government in the region. In 2012, they established the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, also known as Rojava. In late 2015, the new administration formally established an armed wing called the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). In the subsequent years, the SDF would emerge as a highly effective ground force in the war against the Islamic State (IS) in the region.

After Mr. Assad crushed most of his enemies by 2016-17, with help from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah, his government entered into a detente with the Rojava. The SDF did not directly challenge Mr. Assad's authority. Mr. Assad's regime did not recognise the autonomous government, but stopped short of attacking the SDF. There was tense stability.

Mr. Assad's government collapsed on December 8. The Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), formerly al-Qaeda's Syria branch, has now cap-



PHOTO: AFP

tured Damascus. The HTS is backed by Türkiye, which sees the SDF as a terrorist entity. The Kurds are now caught between a pro-Turkish Islamist group that's in power in Damascus and a hostile Türkiye across the border.

Kurds are often referred to as "a people without a state". They are divided among four countries – Türkiye, Iraq, Syria and Iran. In Iraq, they have enjoyed autonomy ever since the first Gulf war. In Türkiye, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) has been fighting a bloody civil war against the state for decades. When the Syrian Kurds established their own autonomous government and militia, Türkiye got alarmed because it thought the empowerment of Syrian Kurds would invariably strengthen the Turkish Kurds.

The main political party among Syrian Kurds was the Democratic Union Party (PYD). The People's Protection Units (YPG) was its armed wing. Türkiye considered both the PYD and the YPG as extended arms of the PKK and designated

all of them as terrorist organisations.

Battle against IS

The YPG assumed regional prominence when the Islamic State, which seized eastern Syria's Raqqa and Deir Ezour, turned to Kobane, a Kurdish town on the Turkish-Syrian border.

The YPG, backed by U.S. air power, defeated the IS in Kobane in 2015, which marked the beginning of the downfall of the IS's 'Caliphate', established across Syria and Iraq. Türkiye, a NATO ally of the U.S., strongly opposed America's support for the YPG.

Later in 2015, the SDF was created, with the YPG being its core. Other smaller Arab militias, who were also threatened by the IS, also signed up for the SDF. Ever since, the SDF has acted as the official military wing of the Rojava.

In its battle against the Islamic State, the SDF continued to get support from the U.S. America still has less than 1,000 troops in Syria, in the name of fighting terrorism, and they coordinate with the SDF. In 2018 and 2019, Türkiye car-

ried out limited military incursions into Syria, aimed at capturing SDF-held territories and creating a buffer on the border. Tensions flared up recently when the HTS-led Islamist militants were advancing towards Damascus. The Syrian National Army (SNA), a Turkish proxy and an ally of the HTS, attacked the SDF in the border region and captured more territories.

As Syria changes, the SDF's focus is on protecting Kurdish autonomy. Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, Syria's new ruler, has promised to respect the country's diversity but said nothing about Kurdish autonomy. Türkiye, whose hands have been strengthened by the fall of Mr. Assad's regime, has demanded demobilising the SDF.

Türkiye has also mobilised troops along its border, triggering fears that it was planning to launch another incursion. The SDF, caught between an uncertain future and a challenging present, says the threat from Türkiye is weakening its counter-terror operations. "The danger of an Islamic State resurgence has doubled ever since Assad has fallen," says General Mazloum Abdi, an SDF commander who led battles against the jihadists in the past. "Daesh (IS) has captured weapons from retreating Syrian government troops in recent weeks. Their activity has increased significantly," he adds.



Rebels with a cause

एक उद्देश्य के साथ विद्रोही

The Kurdish militia of Syria's northeast is caught between an Islamist regime in Damascus and a hostile Turkey across the border

सीरिया के पूर्वोत्तर का कुर्द मिलिशिया दमिश्क में इस्लामी शासन और सीमा पार शत्रुतापूर्ण तुर्की के बीच फंस गया है

Syria's Civil War and Kurdish Autonomy

सीरिया का गृह युद्ध और कुर्दों की स्वायत्तता

- When civil war broke out in **Syria in 2011**, Bashar al-Assad's regime pulled back troops from the **north-east** to defend the **heartland** against militias.
2011 में जब सीरिया में गृह युद्ध शुरू हुआ, तो बशर अल-असद की सरकार ने मिलिशिया से बचाव के लिए उत्तर-पूर्व से अपनी सेना को वापस खींच लिया।
- This gave an opportunity to **Syria's Kurds**, who make up some **10%** of the population, to establish a de facto autonomous government in the region.
इससे सीरिया के कुर्दों को, जो देश की जनसंख्या का लगभग **10%** हैं, इस क्षेत्र में वास्तविक स्वायत्त सरकार स्थापित करने का मौका मिला।
- In **2012**, they established the **Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria**, also known as **Rojava**.
2012 में उन्होंने उत्तर और पूर्वी सीरिया की स्वायत्त प्रशासन स्थापित की, जिसे रोजावा भी कहा जाता है।
- In **late 2015**, the administration formed an armed wing called the **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)**.
देर 2015 में, इस प्रशासन ने सीरियाई लोकतांत्रिक बल (SDF) नामक एक सशस्त्र विंग बनाई।
- The SDF emerged as a highly effective ground force in the war against **Islamic State (IS)** in the region.
SDF क्षेत्र में इस्लामिक स्टेट (IS) के खिलाफ युद्ध में एक प्रभावी जमीनी बल के रूप में उभरा।
- After Mr. Assad crushed most of his enemies by **2016-17**, with help from **Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah**, his government entered into a détente with the Rojava.
2016-17 तक श्री असद ने अपने अधिकांश शत्रुओं को, **रूस, ईरान और हिज़बुल्लाह** की मदद से, परास्त कर दिया था और उनकी सरकार ने रोज़ावा के साथ समझौता किया।
- The **SDF** did not directly challenge Mr. Assad's authority, but there was tense stability between the two sides.
SDF ने सीधे तौर पर श्री असद के अधिकार को चुनौती नहीं दी, लेकिन दोनों पक्षों के बीच तनावपूर्ण स्थिरता थी।



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- Mr. Assad's regime collapsed on **December 8**, with **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**, formerly **al-Qaeda's** Syria branch, capturing **Damascus**.
8 दिसंबर को श्री असद की सरकार ढह गई, और **हयात तहरीर अल-शाम (HTS)**, जो पहले **अल-कायदा** की सीरिया शाखा थी, ने **दमिश्क** पर कब्जा कर लिया।
- **HTS** is backed by **Türkiye**, which sees the **SDF** as a **terrorist entity**.
HTS को **तुर्की** द्वारा समर्थन प्राप्त है, जो **SDF** को एक **आतंकी संगठन** मानता है।
- The Kurds are now caught between a pro-Turkish Islamist group in **Damascus** and a hostile **Türkiye** across the border.
कुर्द अब **दमिश्क** में तुर्की समर्थक इस्लामी समूह और सीमा पर शत्रुतापूर्ण **तुर्की** के बीच फंसे हुए हैं।
- Kurds are often referred to as "a people without a state." They are divided among **four countries** — **Türkiye, Iraq, Syria, and Iran**.
कुर्दों को अक्सर "राज्यविहीन लोग" कहा जाता है। वे **चार देशों** में विभाजित हैं — **तुर्की, इराक, सीरिया और ईरान**।
- In **Iraq**, they have enjoyed autonomy since the first **Gulf War**.
इराक में, उन्हें पहले **गुल्फ युद्ध** के बाद से स्वायत्तता मिली हुई है।
- In **Türkiye**, the **Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)** has been fighting a bloody civil war against the state for decades.
तुर्की में, **कुर्दिस्तान वर्कर्स पार्टी (PKK)** दशकों से राज्य के खिलाफ खूनी गृह युद्ध लड़ रही है।
- When the Syrian Kurds established their autonomous government and militia, **Türkiye** got alarmed, fearing the empowerment of Syrian Kurds would strengthen the Turkish Kurds.
जब सीरियाई कुर्दों ने अपनी स्वायत्त सरकार और मिलिशिया स्थापित की, तो **तुर्की** चिंतित हो गया, क्योंकि उसे डर था कि सीरियाई कुर्दों की शक्ति बढ़ने से तुर्की कुर्दों को भी ताकत मिल सकती है।
- The main political party among Syrian Kurds was the **Democratic Union Party (PYD)**, with the **People's Protection Units (YPG)** as its armed wing.
सीरियाई कुर्दों में मुख्य राजनीतिक दल **डेमोक्रेटिक यूनियन पार्टी (PYD)** था, और उसका सशस्त्र विंग **पीपल्स प्रोटेक्शन यूनिट्स (YPG)** था।
- **Türkiye** considered both the **PYD** and the **YPG** as extended arms of the **PKK** and designated all of them as **terrorist organisations**.
तुर्की ने **PYD** और **YPG** दोनों को **PKK** की विस्तारित शाखाएँ माना और इन सभी को **आतंकी संगठन** घोषित किया।

Battle against IS

IS के खिलाफ युद्ध

- The **YPG** rose to prominence when **Islamic State** turned towards **Kobane**, a Kurdish town on the Turkish-Syrian border.

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



YPG ने प्रमुखता प्राप्त की जब **इस्लामिक स्टेट** तुर्की-सीरिया सीमा पर स्थित एक कुर्द शहर **कोबानी** की ओर बढ़ा।

- The **YPG**, backed by **U.S. air power**, defeated the **IS** in **Kobane** in **2015**, marking the beginning of the IS's downfall.

YPG, को **अमेरिकी वायु सेना** द्वारा समर्थन प्राप्त था, ने **2015** में **कोबानी** में **IS** को हराया, जो **IS** के पतन की शुरुआत थी।

- **Türkiye**, a **NATO** ally of the U.S., strongly opposed America's support for the **YPG**. **तुर्की**, जो अमेरिका का **NATO** सहयोगी है, ने **YPG** के लिए अमेरिका के समर्थन का कड़ा विरोध किया।

- Later in **2015**, the **SDF** was created, with the **YPG** at its core.

2015 के अंत में, **SDF** का गठन हुआ, जिसमें **YPG** इसका मुख्य भाग था।

- The **SDF** included other smaller Arab militias, also threatened by the **IS**.

SDF में अन्य छोटे अरब मिलिशियाओं को भी शामिल किया गया, जिन्हें **IS** से भी खतरा था।

- Since then, the **SDF** has acted as the official military wing of **Rojava**.

तब से, **SDF** ने **रोझावा** के आधिकारिक सैन्य विंग के रूप में कार्य किया।

- In its battle against the Islamic State, the **SDF** continued to receive support from the **U.S.**, with fewer than **1,000** U.S. troops remaining in Syria.

इस्लामिक स्टेट के खिलाफ अपने युद्ध में, **SDF** को **अमेरिका** से समर्थन प्राप्त होता रहा, जबकि **सीरिया** में **1,000** से कम अमेरिकी सैनिक बने हुए हैं।

- **Türkiye** conducted military incursions into Syria in **2018** and **2019**, aiming at capturing **SDF**-held territories.

तुर्की ने **2018** और **2019** में सीरिया में सैन्य आक्रमण किए, जिनका उद्देश्य **SDF**-नियंत्रित क्षेत्रों पर कब्जा करना था।

- Tensions flared up recently when **HTS-led Islamist militants** advanced towards **Damascus**.

हाल ही में तनाव उस समय बढ़े जब **HTS-नेतृत्व वाले इस्लामिक उग्रवादियों** ने **दमिश्क** की ओर बढ़ना शुरू किया।

- The **Syrian National Army (SNA)**, a **Turkish proxy** and an ally of **HTS**, attacked the **SDF** in the border region and captured more territories.

सीरियाई राष्ट्रीय सेना (SNA), जो **तुर्की** का **प्रॉक्सी** और **HTS** का सहयोगी है, ने सीमा क्षेत्र में

SDF पर हमला किया और अधिक क्षेत्रों पर कब्जा कर लिया।

- As Syria changes, the **SDF's** focus is on protecting Kurdish autonomy.

जैसा कि सीरिया बदल रहा है, **SDF** का ध्यान कुर्द स्वायत्तता की रक्षा पर है।

- **Abu Mohammed al-Jolani**, Syria's new ruler, promised to respect the country's diversity but did not address Kurdish autonomy.

अबू मोहम्मद अल-जोलानी, सीरिया के नए शासक, ने देश की विविधता का सम्मान करने का वादा किया, लेकिन कुर्द स्वायत्तता के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा।

- **Türkiye**, whose hands have been strengthened by the fall of Mr. Assad's regime, has demanded demobilizing the **SDF**.



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तुर्की, जिसकी स्थिति श्री असद की सरकार के गिरने से मजबूत हुई है, ने **SDF** को निष्क्रिय करने की मांग की है।

- **Türkiye** has mobilized troops along its border, triggering fears that it may launch another incursion.

तुर्की ने अपनी सीमा के साथ सैनिकों को तैनात किया है, जिससे यह डर पैदा हुआ है कि वह एक और आक्रमण शुरू कर सकता है।

- The **SDF** says that the threat from **Türkiye** is weakening its counter-terror operations. **SDF** का कहना है कि तुर्की से खतरा उसकी आतंकवाद-रोधी कार्रवाइयों को कमजोर कर रहा है।
- General **Mazloun Abdi**, an SDF commander, stated: "The danger of an **Islamic State resurgence** has doubled since Assad's fall."

जनरल **माजलूम अबदी**, एक SDF कमांडर, ने कहा: "असद के गिरने के बाद **इस्लामिक स्टेट** की पुनरुद्धार का खतरा दोगुना हो गया है।"

- The **IS** has captured weapons from retreating Syrian government troops in recent weeks.

हाल ही में **IS** ने भागते हुए सीरियाई सरकार के सैनिकों से हथियारों पर कब्जा कर लिया है।

- Their activity has increased significantly.

उनकी गतिविधि में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि हुई है।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Revolving door PM

Francois Bayrou

The MoDem leader, a centrist ally of President Macron, faces huge challenges in running a minority government amid political divisions and economic woes

GS paper II: France

Adithya Narayan

The Prime Minister-ship of France, currently caught in a revolving door situation, has its fourth entrant of the year in Francois Bayrou. The 73-year-old centrist leader of the Democratic Movement (MoDem) party acceded to the role on December 12 after Michel Barnier was ousted in a no-confidence vote – the first since 1962. Mr. Barnier's stint had lasted three months.

Gabriel Attal, who had fulfilled the duties before Mr. Barnier, served for nine months until September before his government was dissolved in June by President Emmanuel Macron, who sought a fresh mandate following the EU parliamentary polls. Elections to the 27-member bloc had delivered a shocker to the 46-year-old President whose party could not poll even half as many votes as Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally.

Mr. Bayrou calls the challenges ahead of him 'Himalayan'.

But the start of his tenure has belied the political acumen usually associated with a seasoned leader active since the 1980s. For when the French territory of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean was languishing in the aftermath of Cyclone Chido on December 14, the Prime Minister chose to fly off to attend a council meeting in Pau, a small city in South-



ILLUSTRATION: SAAI

western France, whose mayorship he retains.

Not helping the administration's cause was visiting President Macron who lost his temper when taking stock. "If it wasn't for France, you'd be 10,000 times deeper in shit," the President was caught on camera saying and swearing when residents complained of water and other aid not reaching them despite it being the seventh day since the cyclone struck. While the official death toll stands at 31, thousands are feared dead in France's poorest territory.

For Mr. Macron, Mr. Bayrou's appointment is not just a way of addressing the political instability precipitated by his reckless actions, but the two go back a long way. The MoDem leader, who had thrice run for President unsuccessfully in the past, stepped aside in 2017 and lent support to an emerging Mr. Macron. The debt may have been repaid by appointing My. Bayrou as Justice Minister the same year, but the fruits were short-lived as he had to

step down over a party funding scandal in just over a month.

It is reported that the President was mulling other candidates such as outgoing Armed Forces Minister Sébastien Lecornu and former Industry Minister Roland Lescure for the post of Prime Minister. However, Mr. Bayrou is believed to have strong-armed Mr. Macron into naming him to the position.

Born to wealthy farmers in Borderes, Mr. Bayrou worked as a teacher of Greek and Latin before embarking on a political career in the 1980s. First elected to the National Assembly in 1986, he was Education Minister between 1993 and 1997 and went on to become a member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2002.

Presidential bids

Mr. Bayrou's first shot for President came in 2002 but proved futile. He ran again in 2007 by presenting himself as the third way between the Left and the Right, with the campaign earning him the moniker

of the 'third man' of French politics. Despite tripling his vote share to 18.6% compared to the previous time, Mr. Bayrou wound up third in an election that was ultimately won by the Republican Party's Nicolas Sarkozy. Mr. Bayrou contested once more unsuccessfully in 2012.

A fallout with Mr. Sarkozy notwithstanding, Mr. Bayrou is pally with far-right's Ms. Le Pen, whom the MoDem leader helped garner sponsors to run for President. The fact that he also lent support to Socialist candidates Francois Hollande and Ségolène Royal in the past makes him palatable to the Left too.

However, the snap polls called My. Macron to arrest the surge of the far-right saw the leftwing securing a maximum number of 182 seats, while falling short of the 289 majority in the 577-strong National Assembly. Mr. Macron's Ensemble came second with 168 seats while Le Pen's National Rally came close with 143.

This has spawned a National Assembly where none of the blocs have a majority.

My. Bayrou overcame a stutter in his childhood to scale the heights of politics. The Centrist leader's challenge now lies in tackling a parliament whose composition leaves him with little teeth to present a Budget that can address France's ballooning economic woes.

Revolving door PM

घूमने वाला दरवाज़ा पी.एम.

The MoDem leader, a centrist ally of President Macron, faces huge challenges in running a minority government amid political divisions and economic woes

राष्ट्रपति मैक्रॉ के मध्यमार्गी सहयोगी मोडेम नेता को राजनीतिक विभाजन और आर्थिक संकट के बीच अल्पमत सरकार चलाने में बड़ी चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है

Prime Ministership of France फ्रांस का प्रधानमंत्री पद

• The Prime Ministership of France is currently caught in a revolving door situation, with its fourth entrant of the year in Francois Bayrou.

फ्रांस का प्रधानमंत्री पद वर्तमान में एक घूर्णन दरवाजे की स्थिति में है, जिसमें इस वर्ष का चौथा प्रवेशक फ्रांकोइस बैरू है।

- The 73-year-old centrist leader of the Democratic Movement (MoDem) party assumed the role on December 12 after Michel Barnier was ousted in a no-confidence vote—the first since 1962.

Democratic Movement (MoDem) पार्टी के 73 वर्षीय केंद्रीय नेता ने 12 दिसंबर को भूमिका ग्रहण की, जब मिशेल बर्नियर को नो-कॉन्फिडेंस वोट में हटा दिया गया – यह 1962 के बाद पहली बार था।



- **Mr. Barnier's** tenure lasted only **three months**.
मिशेल बर्नियर का कार्यकाल केवल **तीन महीने** चला।
- **Gabriel Attal**, who had fulfilled the duties before Mr. Barnier, served for **nine months** until **September**, before his government was dissolved in **June** by President **Emmanuel Macron**, following the EU parliamentary polls.
गैब्रियल अत्तल, जिन्होंने बर्नियर से पहले कर्तव्यों का पालन किया, **सितंबर तक नौ महीने तक** सेवा में रहे, उसके बाद उनका सरकार **जून** में राष्ट्रपति **इमैनुएल मैक्रोन** द्वारा **EU संसदीय चुनावों** के बाद भंग कर दिया गया।
- The **EU parliamentary elections** were a shock to the **46-year-old President**, as his party could not poll even half as many votes as **Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally**.
EU संसदीय चुनाव ने **46 वर्षीय राष्ट्रपति** को झटका दिया, क्योंकि उनकी पार्टी ने **मारीन ले पेन के दूर-दराज़ राष्ट्रीय रैली** से आधे भी वोट नहीं प्राप्त किए।
- **Mr. Bayrou** calls the challenges ahead of him '**Himalayan**'.
मि. बैरू ने अपनी चुनौती को '**हिमालयी**' कहा है।
- The start of his tenure has belied the political acumen usually associated with a seasoned leader active since the **1980s**.
उनके कार्यकाल की शुरुआत ने उस राजनीतिक सूझबूझ को खारिज कर दिया है, जो आमतौर पर एक अनुभवी नेता से जुड़ी होती है जो **1980** के दशक से सक्रिय है।
- On **December 14**, when the French territory of **Mayotte** was reeling from Cyclone Chido, the **Prime Minister** flew off to attend a council meeting in **Pau**, a small city in southwestern France.
14 दिसंबर को, जब फ्रांस का क्षेत्र **मायोटे साइक्लोन चिदो** के बाद संकट में था, **प्रधानमंत्री** एक **काउंसिल मीटिंग** में भाग लेने के लिए **पौ** (दक्षिण-पश्चिमी फ्रांस का एक छोटा शहर) उड़ गए।
- **Macron**, visiting Mayotte, lost his temper when residents complained that aid, including water, hadn't reached them even after **seven days**.
मैक्रों, जो मायोटे का दौरा कर रहे थे, गुस्से में आ गए जब निवासियों ने शिकायत की कि **सात दिन** बाद भी पानी सहित सहायता नहीं पहुंची।
- The official **death toll stands at 31**, but thousands are feared dead in France's poorest territory.
आधिकारिक मृतक संख्या 31 है, लेकिन फ्रांस के सबसे गरीब क्षेत्र में हजारों लोग मारे जाने का डर है।
- **Mr. Macron's** appointment of **Mr. Bayrou** addresses the political instability caused by his reckless actions, but the two leaders go back a long way.
मैक्रों का **बैरू** को नियुक्त करना उनके अविचारपूर्ण कृत्यों द्वारा उत्पन्न राजनीतिक अस्थिरता को संबोधित करता है, लेकिन ये दोनों नेता लंबे समय से एक-दूसरे के परिचित हैं।
- **Mr. Bayrou**, who had **thrice run for President unsuccessfully** in the past, stepped aside in **2017** to support **Emmanuel Macron**.
मि. बैरू, जिन्होंने पहले **तीन बार** राष्ट्रपति के लिए **चुनाव लड़ा** था, **2017** में **एम्मानुएल मैक्रोन** का समर्थन करने के लिए कदम पीछे हटाया।



- He was appointed **Justice Minister** in **2017**, but had to step down within a **month** over a party funding scandal.
उन्हें **2017** में **न्याय मंत्री** नियुक्त किया गया था, लेकिन एक पार्टी फंडिंग घोटाले के कारण उन्हें **एक महीने** में इस्तीफा देना पड़ा।
- Reports suggest **Mr. Macron** considered other candidates like **Sébastien Lecornu**, the outgoing **Armed Forces Minister**, and **Roland Lescure**, the former **Industry Minister** for the post of Prime Minister.
रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार **मैक्रॉन** ने प्रधानमंत्री पद के लिए **सेबास्टियन लेकोर्नु**, जो **सशस्त्र बल मंत्री** के रूप में कार्यरत थे, और **रोलां लेस्क्योर**, जो **पूर्व उद्योग मंत्री** थे, जैसे अन्य उम्मीदवारों पर विचार किया।
- **Mr. Bayrou** is believed to have pressured **Mr. Macron** into naming him as Prime Minister.
मि. बैरू पर विश्वास किया जाता है कि उन्होंने **मैक्रॉन** पर दबाव डाला था कि उन्हें प्रधानमंत्री नियुक्त किया जाए।
- Born to wealthy farmers in **Borderes**, **Mr. Bayrou** worked as a teacher of **Greek and Latin** before entering politics in the **1980s**.
बॉर्डेरिस में समृद्ध किसान परिवार में जन्मे, **मि. बैरू** ने **ग्रीक और लैटिन** के शिक्षक के रूप में काम किया, इसके बाद उन्होंने **1980** के दशक में राजनीति में कदम रखा।
- He was first elected to the **National Assembly** in **1986**, served as **Education Minister** from **1993 to 1997**, and became a member of the **European Parliament** from **1999 to 2002**.
उन्हें **1986** में **राष्ट्रीय विधानसभा** के लिए पहली बार चुना गया, उन्होंने **1993 से 1997** तक **शिक्षा मंत्री** के रूप में कार्य किया, और **1999 से 2002** तक **यूरोपीय संसद** के सदस्य बने।

Presidential Bids

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव की कोशिशें

- **Mr. Bayrou's first presidential bid** came in **2002**, but it was unsuccessful.
मि. बैरू का पहला **राष्ट्रपति चुनाव 2002** में था, लेकिन वह असफल रहे।
- He ran again in **2007**, positioning himself as the **third way** between the Left and Right, earning the nickname '**third man**' of French politics.
उन्होंने **2007** में फिर से चुनाव लड़ा, खुद को वामपंथ और दाहिने के बीच **तीसरा रास्ता** प्रस्तुत करते हुए, और उन्हें फ्रांस की राजनीति का '**तीसरा आदमी**' उपनाम मिला।
- Despite tripling his vote share to **18.6%**, **Mr. Bayrou** finished third in an election that was ultimately won by **Nicolas Sarkozy**.
अपनी वोट हिस्सेदारी को **18.6%** तक तिगुना करने के बावजूद, **मि. बैरू** तीसरे स्थान पर रहे, और चुनाव में **निकोलस सरकोजी** ने जीत हासिल की।
- He contested again in **2012**, but was unsuccessful.
उन्होंने **2012** में फिर से चुनाव लड़ा, लेकिन वह भी असफल रहे।



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- Despite a fallout with **Nicolas Sarkozy**, **Mr. Bayrou** remains friendly with far-right **Marine Le Pen**, whom he helped garner sponsors for her **presidential bid**.
निकोलस सरकोजी से विवाद के बावजूद, मि. बैरू दूर-दराज़ की मारीन ले पेन के साथ मित्रवत संबंध रखते हैं, जिन्हें उन्होंने उनकी राष्ट्रपति चुनावी कोशिश के लिए प्रायोजकों को जुटाने में मदद की।
- **Mr. Bayrou** has also supported **Francois Hollande** and **Ségolène Royal**, making him palatable to the Left.
मि. बैरू ने फ्रांकोइस होलांद और सेगोलिन रॉयल का भी समर्थन किया, जिससे वह वामपंथियों के लिए स्वीकार्य हो गए।
- The snap polls called by **Mr. Macron** saw the left-wing securing a maximum of **182 seats**, falling short of the majority of **289 seats** in the **577-strong National Assembly**.
मैक्रॉ द्वारा बुलाए गए तात्कालिक चुनावों में वामपंथियों ने अधिकतम **182 सीटें** प्राप्त कीं, जबकि **577 सदस्यीय राष्ट्रीय विधानसभा** में बहुमत के लिए उन्हें **289 सीटों** की आवश्यकता थी।
- This resulted in a **National Assembly** where none of the blocs have a majority.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप एक **राष्ट्रीय विधानसभा** बनी, जहां कोई भी ब्लॉक बहुमत में नहीं था।
- **Mr. Bayrou** overcame a childhood stutter to reach the heights of politics.
मि. बैरू ने अपने बचपन में **हकलाने** की समस्या को पार करके राजनीति के उच्च शिखरों तक पहुंचने में सफलता पाई।
- The centrist leader's current challenge lies in tackling a **parliament** with a fragmented composition, leaving him little room to present a **Budget** to address **France's ballooning economic woes**.
केंद्रीय नेता की वर्तमान चुनौती एक ऐसे **संसद** से निपटने में है, जिसकी संरचना खंडित है, जिससे उन्हें **फ्रांस की बढ़ती आर्थिक समस्याओं** को हल करने के लिए **बजट** प्रस्तुत करने की बहुत कम गुंजाइश मिल रही है।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



U.S. authorises military sales of more than \$5 billion to Egypt, \$295 million to Taiwan

GS Paper II: Global Politics

WASHINGTON

The U.S. government on Friday authorised the sale of more than \$5 billion in military equipment to Egypt, which has become an increasingly close partner in mediating the Gaza crisis despite serious human rights concerns.

The State Department informed U.S. Congress that it had approved the sale of \$4.69 billion in equipment for 555 U.S.-made M1A1 Abrams tanks operated by Egypt, \$630 million in 2,183 Hellfire air-to-surface missiles and \$30 million in precision-guided



Helping hand: The U.S. also authorised the sale of military equipment to Greece and Morocco. REUTERS

munitions for Cairo.

The sale “will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to im-

prove the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally country that continues to be an important strategic partner in the Middle East

[West Asia],” according to a statement.

In addition to the sales to Egypt, the State Department also authorised \$295 million in equipment for Taiwan, \$170 million in bombs and missiles for Morocco, and \$130 million in uncrewed aircraft systems and armored vehicles to Greece.

The Taiwan authorisations were announced shortly after U.S. President Joe Biden announced \$571.3 million in new military aid to the self-ruled island, which China claims as part of its territory and has vowed to retake – by force, if necessary.

U.S. authorises military sales of more than \$5 billion to Egypt, \$295 million to Taiwan

अमेरिका ने मिस्र को 5 बिलियन डॉलर से अधिक और ताइवान को 295 मिलियन डॉलर से अधिक की सैन्य बिक्री को मंजूरी दी

U.S. Military Equipment Sale to Egypt

फ्रांस को सैन्य उपकरणों की बिक्री

- On **Friday**, the U.S. government authorised the sale of more than **\$5 billion** in military equipment to **Egypt**, which has become an increasingly close partner in mediating the Gaza crisis despite serious human rights concerns.

शुक्रवार को, अमेरिकी सरकार ने 5 अरब डॉलर से अधिक के सैन्य उपकरणों की बिक्री मिस्र को अधिकृत की, जो गज़ा संकट को सुलझाने में एक बढ़ता हुआ करीबी साझेदार बन गया है, हालांकि मानवाधिकारों को लेकर गंभीर चिंताएँ हैं।

- The **State Department** informed U.S. **Congress** that it had approved the sale of **\$4.69 billion** in equipment for **555 U.S.-made M1A1 Abrams tanks** operated by **Egypt**, **\$630 million** in **2,183 Hellfire air-to-surface missiles**, and **\$30 million** in precision-guided



munitions for **Cairo**.

विदेश मंत्रालय ने अमेरिकी कांग्रेस को सूचित किया कि उसने 4.69 अरब डॉलर मूल्य के उपकरणों की बिक्री को मंजूरी दी, जिसमें मिस्र द्वारा संचालित 555 अमेरिकी निर्मित M1A1 अब्राम टैंक, 630 मिलियन डॉलर के 2,183 हेलफायर एयर-टू-सर्फेस मिसाइल, और 30 मिलियन डॉलर के सटीक मार्गदर्शित अस्तबल शामिल हैं।

- The sale "will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a **Major Non-NATO Ally** country that continues to be an important strategic partner in the **Middle East [West Asia]**," according to a statement.

इस बिक्री से "अमेरिका की विदेश नीति और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का समर्थन होगा, क्योंकि यह एक महत्वपूर्ण गैर-नाटो सहयोगी देश की सुरक्षा में सुधार करने में मदद करेगा, जो मध्य पूर्व [पश्चिम एशिया] में एक महत्वपूर्ण रणनीतिक साझेदार बना हुआ है," एक बयान के अनुसार।

- In addition to the sales to **Egypt**, the State Department also authorised **\$295 million** in equipment for **Taiwan**, **\$170 million** in bombs and missiles for **Morocco**, and **\$130 million** in uncrewed aircraft systems and armored vehicles for **Greece**.

मिस्र को की गई बिक्री के अतिरिक्त, विदेश मंत्रालय ने ताइवान के लिए 295 मिलियन डॉलर मूल्य के उपकरणों, मोरक्को के लिए 170 मिलियन डॉलर के बम और मिसाइल, और ग्रीस के लिए 130 मिलियन डॉलर के बिना चालक विमान प्रणालियों और बख्तरबंद वाहनों की बिक्री भी मंजूरी दी।

- The **Taiwan authorisations** were announced shortly after U.S. President **Joe Biden** announced **\$571.3 million** in new military aid to the self-ruled island, which **China** claims as part of its territory and has vowed to retake — by force, if necessary.

ताइवान के लिए अनुमति राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन द्वारा 571.3 मिलियन डॉलर की नई सैन्य सहायता की घोषणा के तुरंत बाद दी गई, जिसे चीन अपनी भूमि का हिस्सा मानता है और इसे पुनः प्राप्त करने की धमकी दी है – अगर जरूरी हुआ तो बल के द्वारा।

Greens power

The Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Vegetable Market Yard in Hyderabad is mastering sustainability with a system that uses organic waste to generate power, bringing substantial savings in electricity bills



Nagara Gopal
nagara.gopal@thehindu.co.in

GS Paper III: Sustainable Development

Hyderabad's Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Vegetable Market Yard, or Bowenpally market, has always been a hive of activity. But recently, the buzz was not just about the arrival of a variety of vegetables from near and far. The noise and bustle of customers and tractors moving goods blends with the whirring motors of a waste-to-power plant located within the market.

The anaerobic gas lift reactor-based plant was developed by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), the State Department of Marketing, and Ahuja Engineering Services at a cost of ₹3 crore.

It has a capacity to produce up to 800-1,000 units of electricity a day using 10 tonnes of waste.

The market produces three or four tonnes of organic waste every day. This waste is first placed on conveyor belts which carry it to shredders.

After shredding, the waste is converted into a slurry and is put into large containers or pits. These are high-rate biomethanation technology-based reactors.

The reactors start the process of anaerobic digestion, where organic waste is converted into biogas. The fuel is then put into biogas generators that convert it into electricity.

The electricity generated from the plant powers more than 100 streetlights, 170 stalls, an administrative building, and the market's water supply network – giving the market committee substantial savings in power bills.

The plant produces biogas, which is being used to replace LPG cylinders in canteens. Biomethane generated is sold separately as organic fertilizer.

Currently, the plant produces 300 units of power and 60 kg of biogas every day.



Nothing goes waste: Workers remove leaves from vegetables to be sold at the Bowenpally market.



Greens power

ग्रीन्स पावर

The Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Vegetable Market Yard in Hyderabad is mastering sustainability with a system that uses organic waste to generate power, bringing substantial savings in electricity bills

हैदराबाद में डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर सब्जी मार्केट यार्ड एक ऐसी प्रणाली के साथ स्थिरता में महारत हासिल कर रहा है जो जैविक कचरे का उपयोग करके बिजली पैदा करती है, जिससे बिजली के बिलों में पर्याप्त बचत होती है

Hyderabad's Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Vegetable Market Yard
हैदराबाद के डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर वेजिटेबल मार्केट यार्ड

- Hyderabad's Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Vegetable Market Yard, or Bowenpally market, has always been a hive of activity.
हैदराबाद का डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर वेजिटेबल मार्केट यार्ड, या बोवेनपल्ली बाजार, हमेशा एक सक्रिय स्थान रहा है।
- Recently, the buzz was not just about the arrival of a variety of vegetables from near and far, but also about the **waste-to-power plant** located within the market.
हाल ही में, यहाँ की हलचल केवल पास और दूर से विभिन्न प्रकार की सब्जियों के आगमन के बारे में नहीं थी, बल्कि बाजार के भीतर स्थित कचरे से ऊर्जा संयंत्र के बारे में भी थी।
- The **anaerobic gas lift reactor-based plant** was developed by the **CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT)**, the **State Department of Marketing**, and **Ahuja Engineering Services** at a cost of **₹3 crore**.
एरोबिक गैस लिफ्ट रिएक्टर आधारित संयंत्र का विकास सीएसआईआर-भारतीय रासायनिक प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (IICT), राज्य विपणन विभाग, और आहुजा इंजीनियरिंग सर्विसेस द्वारा ₹3 करोड़ की लागत से किया गया था।
- The plant has a capacity to produce up to **800-1,000 units of electricity** a day using **10 tonnes of waste**.
संयंत्र में 10 टन कचरे का उपयोग करके प्रति दिन 800-1,000 यूनिट बिजली उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता है।
- The market produces **three or four tonnes of organic waste** every day.
बाजार में प्रति दिन तीन या चार टन जैविक कचरा उत्पन्न होता है।
- This waste is first placed on conveyor belts, which carry it to **shredders**.
इस कचरे को पहले कन्वेयर बेल्टों पर रखा जाता है, जो इसे श्रेडर्स तक पहुँचाते हैं।



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- After shredding, the waste is converted into a slurry and is put into large containers or pits, which are high-rate **biomethanation technology-based reactors**.
श्रेडिंग के बाद, कचरे को एक सस्पेंशन में बदला जाता है और बड़े कंटेनरों या गड्ढों में डाला जाता है, जो उच्च-गति **जैव-मीथेनशन प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित रिएक्टर** होते हैं।
- The reactors start the process of **anaerobic digestion**, where organic waste is converted into **biofuel**.
रिएक्टर **एरोबिक पाचन** की प्रक्रिया शुरू करते हैं, जिसमें जैविक कचरा **जैव ईंधन** में परिवर्तित होता है।
- The **biofuel** is then put into **biogas generators** that convert it into **electricity**.
इसके बाद, **जैव ईंधन** को **बायोगैस जनरेटर** में डाला जाता है, जो इसे **बिजली** में परिवर्तित करता है।
- The electricity generated from the plant powers more than **100 streetlights, 170 stalls, an administrative building, and the market's water supply network**, giving the market committee substantial savings in power bills.
संयंत्र से उत्पन्न बिजली **100 से अधिक स्ट्रीटलाइट्स, 170 स्टालों, एक प्रशासनिक भवन, और बाजार के जल आपूर्ति नेटवर्क** को बिजली प्रदान करती है, जिससे बाजार समिति को बिजली बिलों में महत्वपूर्ण बचत होती है।
- The plant produces **biogas**, which is being used to replace **LPG cylinders** in canteens.
संयंत्र **बायोगैस** उत्पन्न करता है, जिसका उपयोग कैटीनों में **एलपीजी सिलेंडरों** को बदलने के लिए किया जा रहा है।
- **Biomanure** generated is sold separately as **organic fertilizer**.
जो **जैव उर्वरक** उत्पन्न होता है, उसे अलग से **जैविक उर्वरक** के रूप में बेचा जाता है।
- Currently, the plant produces **300 units of power** and **60 kg of biogas** every day.
वर्तमान में, संयंत्र **300 यूनिट बिजली** और **60 किलोग्राम बायोगैस** प्रति दिन उत्पन्न करता है।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in