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08_01_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

1. **Delhi votes on Feb. 5 in crucial Assembly polls** / दिल्ली में 5 फरवरी को महत्वपूर्ण विधानसभा चुनाव होंगे (GS Paper-II: Elections)

2. **GDP growth projected to fall to four-year low at 6.4%** / जीडीपी वृद्धि दर चार साल के निचले स्तर 6.4% पर आने का अनुमान (GS Paper-III: National Accounting)

3. **Bharatpol to help get fugitives back to India: Shah** / भारतपोल भगोड़ों को भारत वापस लाने में मदद करेगा: शाह (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)

4. **126 killed, 188 injured as earthquake hits Tibet** / तिब्बत में भूकंप से 126 लोगों की मौत, 188 घायल (GS Paper-I: Geography)

5. **Search on for nine trapped coal miners in Assam** / असम में फंसे नौ कोयला खनिकों की तलाश जारी (GS Paper-III: DM)

6. **Aadujeevitham among eligible picks for Academy Awards** / अकादमी पुरस्कार के लिए पात्र चयनों में आदुजीविथम भी शामिल (PCS)

7. **EC to write to Cabinet Secretary to ensure no Delhi-specific sops in Union Budget** / केंद्रीय बजट में दिल्ली के लिए कोई विशेष छूट न हो, यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए चुनाव आयोग कैबिनेट सचिव को पत्र लिखेगा (GS Paper-II: Model Code of Conduct)

8. **Dal Khalsa opposes Congress, Akali Dal requests for Sikh honours to Manmohan Singh** / दल खालसा ने कांग्रेस का विरोध

किया, अकाली दल ने मनमोहन सिंह को सिख सम्मान देने का अनुरोध किया (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)

9. **This police station housed Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru in 1920s** / इस पुलिस स्टेशन में 1920 के दशक में सुखदेव, भगत सिंह, राजगुरु को रखा गया था (GS Paper-I: History)

10. **Karnataka HC strikes down Centre's Electricity Rules** / कर्नाटक हाईकोर्ट ने केंद्र के बिजली नियमों को खारिज किया (GS Paper-II: Center State Relations)

11. **Implement criminal laws in 7 commissionerates by March 31: Shah to Yogi** / 31 मार्च तक 7 कमिश्नरेट में आपराधिक कानून लागू करें: शाह ने योगी से कहा (Interview)

12. **The rebounding of Pakistan's Afghan strategy** / पाकिस्तान की अफ़गान रणनीति का फिर से उभरना (GS Paper-II: India-Pakistan)

13. **Strong setback** / तगड़ा झटका (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)

14. **Wayward liberal** / वायवर्ड लिबरल (GS Paper-II: Canada)

15. **More flexibility, but also greater challenges** / अधिक लचीलापन, लेकिन अधिक चुनौतियां भी (GS Paper-II: Education Sector)

16. **Maoist strongholds are shrinking, but deadly threats persist** / माओवादियों का गढ़ सिकुड़ रहा है, लेकिन जानलेवा खतरा बरकरार (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)

17. **Why is there a drop in school enrolments?** / स्कूल नामांकन में गिरावट क्यों आई है? (GS Paper-II: Education Sector)

18. **Why the location of China's earthquake matters** / चीन के भूकंप का स्थान क्यों मायने रखता है (GS Paper-I: Earthquake)

19. **India, U.S. to jointly manufacture interoperable sonobuoys for Navy** / भारत और अमेरिका नौसेना के लिए संयुक्त रूप से इंटरऑपरेबल सोनोबॉय का निर्माण करेंगे (GS Paper-III: Internal Security / GS Paper-II: India-US)

20. **Research and development has no relevance if it does not meet timelines: IAF chief** / अनुसंधान और विकास का कोई महत्व नहीं है अगर यह समयसीमा के भीतर पूरा न हो: वायुसेना प्रमुख (GS Paper-III: Defence)

21. **Bharatpol to aid in nabbing fugitive criminals 'wherever they hide': Home Minister** / भारत पुलिस भगोड़े अपराधियों को 'जहाँ भी वे छिपे हों' पकड़ने में मदद करेगी: गृह मंत्री (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)

22. **Court dismisses plea against judge's impeachment motion** / न्यायालय ने न्यायाधीश के महाभियोग प्रस्ताव के खिलाफ याचिका खारिज कर दी (GS Paper-II: PIL)

23. **SC to hear same-sex marriage review pleas** / समलैंगिक विवाह समीक्षा याचिकाओं पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट करेगा सुनवाई (GS Paper-I: Society)

24. **Centre allots site at Rajghat for Pranab's memorial** / केंद्र ने प्रणब के स्मारक के लिए राजघाट पर जगह आवंटित की (PCS)

25. **Ahead of Delhi polls, CEC clarifies on electoral rolls** / दिल्ली चुनाव से पहले मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ने मतदाता सूची पर स्पष्टीकरण दिया (GS Paper-II: Electoral Reform)

26. **Top court slams delay in appointing Information Commissioners** / शीर्ष अदालत ने सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति में देरी की आलोचना की (GS Paper-II: CIC)

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Delhi votes on Feb. 5 in crucial Assembly polls

Voting will be held in a single phase in national capital; bypolls in the Assembly constituencies of Erode (East) in T.N. and Milkipur in U.P. will be held the same day; counting will be held on Feb. 8

GS Paper II: Elections

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Voting for the 70-member Delhi Assembly will be held in a single phase on February 5, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday.

Byelections to the Assembly constituencies of Erode (East) in Tamil Nadu and Milkipur in Uttar Pradesh will be held on the same date.

Counting of votes will take place on February 8.

While the last date for filing nominations is January 17, the scrutiny of nominations will be completed by January 18. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is January 20. The entire poll process will be completed by February 10.

The term of the current

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and the Election Commissioners announcing the poll schedule. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Assembly in the national capital ends on February 23.

Choice of date
Announcing the dates at a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the polling date had been deliberately placed on a Wednesday (weekday) as in Maharashtra so that more people could vote.

According to the final electoral rolls published on Monday, Delhi has a total of 1.55 crore voters, of which 83.49 lakh are men, 71.74 lakh women, and 1,261 transgender people. There are 25.89 lakh young

voters, 2.08 lakh first-time voters, and 830 above 100 years of age.

Intense battle
An intense battle is on the cards as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, is seeking a third term in office. In the 2020 Assembly polls, the AAP won 62 seats, BJP eight, and the Congress nil.

The byelection was necessitated in Milkipur as Awadhesh Prasad of the Samajwadi Party quit the seat after being elected to the Lok Sabha from Ayodhya, and in Erode (East), due to the death of Congress MLA E.V.K.S. Elangovan.

Delhi Votes on February 5 in Crucial Assembly Polls

दिल्ली 5 फरवरी को महत्वपूर्ण विधानसभा चुनाव के लिए मतदान करेगी

Voting for the **70-member Delhi Assembly** will be held in a **single phase on February 5**, as announced by the Election Commission on Tuesday.

70-सदस्यीय दिल्ली विधानसभा के लिए मतदान 5 फरवरी को एक चरण में होगा, इसकी घोषणा चुनाव आयोग ने मंगलवार को की।

- **Byelections** to the Assembly constituencies of **Erode (East) in Tamil Nadu** and **Milkipur in Uttar Pradesh** will be held on the **same date**.
  तमिलनाडु के इरोड (ईस्ट) और **उत्तर प्रदेश के मिल्कीपुर** विधानसभा क्षेत्रों में **उपचुनाव** भी **इसी दिन** होंगे।

- **Counting of votes** will take place on **February 8**.
  मतगणना **8 फरवरी** को होगी।

- The **last date for filing nominations** is **January 17**, and **scrutiny of nominations** will be completed by **January 18**.
  नामांकन दाखिल करने की अंतिम तिथि 17 जनवरी है, और **नामांकन की जांच 18 जनवरी** तक पूरी हो जाएगी।

- The **last date for withdrawal of nominations** is **January 20**, and the **entire poll process** will be completed by **February 10**.

नामांकन वापस लेने की अंतिम तिथि 20 जनवरी है, और पूरी चुनाव प्रक्रिया 10 फरवरी तक पूरी हो जाएगी।

Choice of Date
मतदान की तिथि का चयन

- Chief Election Commissioner **Rajiv Kumar** said the **polling date was deliberately placed on a Wednesday (weekday)** to ensure **higher voter turnout**.
  मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त **राजीव कुमार** ने कहा कि **मतदान की तिथि बुधवार (वर्किंग डे)** को इसलिए रखी गई ताकि **अधिक से अधिक लोग मतदान कर सकें।**
- As per the **final electoral rolls published on January 8**, Delhi has **1.55 crore voters**, including **83.49 lakh men**, **71.74 lakh women**, and **1,261 transgender persons**.
  8 जनवरी को जारी **अंतिम मतदाता सूची** के अनुसार, दिल्ली में **1.55 करोड़ मतदाता** हैं, जिनमें **83.49 लाख पुरुष**, **71.74 लाख महिलाएं**, और **1,261 ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्ति** शामिल हैं।
- There are **25.89 lakh young voters**, **2.08 lakh first-time voters**, and **830 voters above 100 years of age** in Delhi.
  दिल्ली में **25.89 लाख युवा मतदाता**, **2.08 लाख प्रथम बार मतदाता**, और **830 मतदाता 100 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के** हैं।

Intense Battle
कड़ा मुकाबला

- The **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**, led by **Arvind Kejriwal**, is seeking a **third term in office**.
  अरविंद केजरीवाल की **आम आदमी पार्टी (AAP) तीसरी बार सरकार बनाने** की कोशिश कर रही है।
- In the **2020 Assembly polls**, **AAP won 62 seats**, **BJP won 8 seats**, and the **Congress failed to win any seat**.
  2020 के विधानसभा चुनावों में AAP ने 62 सीटें, BJP ने 8 सीटें जीतीं, और **कांग्रेस कोई भी सीट नहीं जीत पाई।**

Byelections in Milkipur and Erode (East)
मिल्कीपुर और इरोड (ईस्ट) में उपचुनाव

- The **byelection** in **Milkipur (Uttar Pradesh)** was necessitated after **Awadhesh Prasad of the Samajwadi Party** resigned from the seat to become an **MP from Ayodhya**.
  मिल्कीपुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) में उपचुनाव की आवश्यकता **समाजवादी पार्टी के अवधेश प्रसाद** के **अयोध्या से सांसद बनने** के बाद हुई।
- The **Erode (East)** bypoll was necessitated due to the **death of Congress MLA E.V.K.S. Elangovan**.

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इरोड (ईस्ट) उपचुनाव की आवश्यकता **कांग्रेस विधायक ई.वी.के.एस. इलंगोवन के निधन** के बाद हुई।

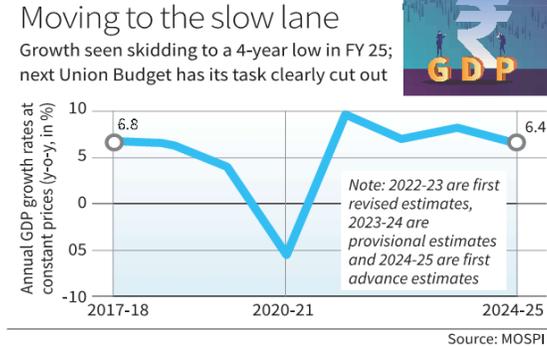# GDP growth projected to fall to four-year low at 6.4%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to rise at a four-year low pace of 6.4% in this financial year, down from 8.2% in 2023-24, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said on Tuesday in its first advance estimates of GDP for 2024-25.

This implies that the country's economy, that grew 6% in the first half of this financial year, is expected to rebound with a 6.8% surge in the second half.

The real Gross Value Added (GVA) in the Indian economy is reckoned to rise 6.4% as well, relative to a 7.2% uptick in 2023-24. Just two of eight broad economic sectors are seen to be clocking a higher growth than last year – Agriculture that is expected to rise 3.8% from 1.4% last year, and Public Administration, Defence and

Moving to the slow lane

Growth seen skidding to a 4-year low in FY 25; next Union Budget has its task clearly cut out

Note: 2022-23 are first revised estimates, 2023-24 are provisional estimates and 2024-25 are first advance estimates

Source: MOSPI

Other Services, seen growing 9.1% from a 7.8% increase recorded in 2023-24.

Manufacturing GVA growth is expected to nearly halve from 9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3% this year, while GVA in Mining and Quarrying is estimated to rise just 2.9% from 7.1% a year ago.

Investment growth
A broader worry is the NSO's projection that gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), an indicator of

fresh investments in the economy, is expected to grow at a pace of just 6.4% compared with a 9% rise in 2023-24.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹184.88 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25, against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2023-24 of ₹173.82 lakh crore," the NSO said.

GDP Growth Projected to Fall to Four-Year Low at 6.4%

जीडीपी वृद्धि दर चार साल के निचले स्तर पर 6.4% तक गिरने का अनुमान

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to rise at a four-year low pace of 6.4% in this financial year, down from 8.2% in 2023-24, as per the **National Statistics Office (NSO).**

भारत का वास्तविक सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP) इस वित्तीय वर्ष में 6.4% की वृद्धि दर के साथ चार साल के निचले स्तर पर पहुंचने की संभावना है, जो कि 2023-24 में 8.2% थी, यह जानकारी राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) ने दी है।

- The economy, which grew at **6% in the first half** of the financial year, is expected to **rebound with 6.8% growth in the second half**.
  देश की अर्थव्यवस्था ने वित्तीय वर्ष के **पहले छमाही में 6%** की वृद्धि की, जबकि **दूसरी छमाही में 6.8%** की वृद्धि की उम्मीद है।

GVA Growth Projections
जीवीए वृद्धि का अनुमान

- The **real Gross Value Added (GVA)** in the Indian economy is expected to rise by **6.4%,** compared to **7.2% in 2023-24**.
  भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था में **वास्तविक सकल मूल्य वर्धित (GVA)** में **6.4%** की वृद्धि होने का अनुमान है, जो कि **2023-24 में 7.2%** थी।

- Out of the eight broad economic sectors, **only two sectors are expected to show higher growth than last year**:
  आठ व्यापक आर्थिक क्षेत्रों में से **केवल दो क्षेत्रों** में पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में अधिक वृद्धि होने की संभावना है:

  - **Agriculture**: Expected to rise **3.8%**, up from **1.4%** last year.
    कृषि क्षेत्र: इस वर्ष **3.8%** की वृद्धि की संभावना है, जो पिछले वर्ष **1.4%** थी।

  - **Public Administration, Defence, and Other Services**: Projected to grow by **9.1%**, compared to **7.8% in 2023-24**.
    लोक प्रशासन, रक्षा और अन्य सेवाएं: इस क्षेत्र में **9.1%** की वृद्धि का अनुमान है, जो **2023-24 में 7.8%** थी।

Manufacturing and Mining Projections
निर्माण और खनन क्षेत्र का अनुमान

- **Manufacturing GVA** growth is expected to **nearly halve** from **9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3%** this year.
  निर्माण क्षेत्र (GVA) की वृद्धि दर इस वर्ष घटकर **5.3%** हो सकती है, जो **2023-24 में 9.9%** थी।

- **Mining and Quarrying** GVA is expected to grow by only **2.9%**, down from **7.1%** in the previous year.
  खनन और उत्खनन क्षेत्र में वृद्धि दर घटकर **2.9%** रह सकती है, जो पिछले वर्ष **7.1%** थी।

Investment Growth Concerns
निवेश वृद्धि को लेकर चिंता

- The **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)**, an indicator of fresh investments, is expected to **grow at 6.4%**, down from **9% in 2023-24**.
  सकल स्थिर पूंजी निर्माण (GFCF), जो नए निवेश का संकेतक है, इस वर्ष **6.4%** की दर से बढ़ने का अनुमान है, जबकि **2023-24 में यह 9%** थी।

Real GDP Estimates for 2024-25
2024-25 के लिए वास्तविक जीडीपी का अनुमान

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- The **Real GDP (at Constant Prices)** is expected to reach **₹184.88 lakh crore** in the financial year **2024-25**, compared to **₹173.82 lakh crore** in 2023-24.
  वास्तविक जीडीपी (स्थिर कीमतों पर) वित्तीय वर्ष **2024-25** में **₹184.88 लाख करोड़** तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है, जबकि **2023-24** में यह **₹173.82 लाख करोड़** था।

126 killed, 188 injured as earthquake hits Tibet

GS Paper I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

A devastating earthquake in China's remote Tibet region killed at least 126 people on Tuesday, state media reported, with tremors also felt in neighbouring Nepal's capital Kathmandu and parts of India.

Around 188 people were injured as the earthquake struck the rural, high-altitude Tingri county, about 80 km north of Mount Everest, near China's border with Nepal.

The China Earthquake Networks Center measured the quake's magnitude as 6.8, while the U.S. Geological Survey reported it as 7.1.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 14

126 Killed, 188 Injured as Earthquake Hits Tibet
तिब्बत में भूकंप से 126 की मौत, 188 घायल

A devastating earthquake hit China's remote Tibet region on Tuesday, killing at least 126 people, as reported by state media.
चीन के दूरस्थ तिब्बत क्षेत्र में मंगलवार को आए विनाशकारी भूकंप में कम से कम 126 लोगों की मौत हो गई, राज्य मीडिया ने बताया।

- **Tremors** from the earthquake were **felt in neighbouring Nepal's capital Kathmandu** and **parts of India**.
  इस भूकंप के **झटके नेपाल की राजधानी काठमांडू** और **भारत के कुछ हिस्सों** में भी महसूस किए गए।
- Around **188 people were injured** when the earthquake struck **Tingri county**, a **high-altitude rural area** about **80 km north of Mount Everest**, near **China's border with Nepal**.
  भूकंप के कारण लगभग **188 लोग घायल** हो गए। यह **माउंट एवरेस्ट के उत्तर में 80 किमी दूर**, **चीन-नेपाल सीमा** के पास **टिंगरी काउंटी** में आया, जो **ऊंचाई वाला ग्रामीण इलाका** है।
- The **China Earthquake Networks Center** recorded the **magnitude** of the earthquake as **6.8**, whereas the **U.S. Geological Survey** reported it as **7.1**.
  चाइना अर्थक्वेक नेटवर्क्स सेंटर ने भूकंप की **तीव्रता 6.8** दर्ज की, जबकि **अमेरिकी भूगर्भीय सर्वेक्षण** (U.S. Geological Survey) ने इसे **7.1** बताया।

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Search on for nine trapped coal miners in Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Deep divers from the Navy on Tuesday joined the operations to rescue nine miners trapped in a water-filled coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district since Monday morning.

One person, Punish Nunisa, was arrested in connection with the incident.

The district administration said three bodies were seen from the ground. "The bodies are yet to be recovered. Dewatering has been stopped for the time being," the administration said in a statement.

"The Navy team is now spearheading the rescue efforts," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X.

Assam's Special Director-General of Police, Harmeet Singh, told journalists that the Navy team came along with deep diving equipment. "There are tunnels inside the mine and more equipment will be required to go there," he said.

Mr. Sarma said the mine, *prima facie*, appeared to be illegal.

Efforts under way to rescue the trapped miners in Dima Hasao of Assam on Tuesday. PTI

Search on for Nine Trapped Coal Miners in Assam

असम में फंसे नौ कोयला खनिकों की तलाश जारी

- **Deep divers from the Navy** joined the rescue operations on **Tuesday** to save **nine miners** trapped in a **water-filled coal mine** in **Dima Hasao district, Assam**, since **Monday morning**.

नौसेना के गहरे पानी में गोता लगाने वाले गोताखोरों ने मंगलवार को असम के दीमा हसाओ जिले में पानी से भरी कोयला खदान में सोमवार सुबह से फंसे नौ खनिकों को बचाने के अभियान में शामिल हुए।

- **One person, Punish Nunisa**, has been **arrested** in connection with the incident.

इस घटना के सिलसिले में **पुनीष नुनिसा** नामक एक व्यक्ति को **गिरफ्तार** किया गया है।

- The **district administration** said that **three bodies** were seen from the ground but are **yet to be recovered**.

जिला प्रशासन ने बताया कि तीन शव जमीन से देखे गए हैं, लेकिन उन्हें अब तक निकाला नहीं गया है।

- **Dewatering operations** have been **stopped for the time being**, as per the administration's statement.

प्रशासन के बयान के अनुसार, **पानी निकालने का काम** फिलहाल **रोक दिया गया** है।

- **Assam's Chief Minister**, Himanta Biswa Sarma, posted on **X** that the **Navy team is leading the rescue efforts**.

असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने **X** पर पोस्ट किया कि नौसेना की टीम बचाव कार्य का नेतृत्व कर रही है।

- **Special Director-General of Police**, Harmeet Singh, stated that the **Navy team** brought **deep diving equipment** for the rescue operations.

विशेष पुलिस महानिदेशक हरमीत सिंह ने कहा कि **नौसेना की टीम** बचाव अभियान के लिए **गहरे पानी में गोता लगाने वाले उपकरण** लेकर आई है।

- He added that **more equipment** would be required to explore **the tunnels inside the mine**.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि **खदान के अंदर की सुरंगों** तक पहुंचने के लिए **अधिक उपकरणों** की आवश्यकता होगी।

- **Chief Minister Sarma** stated that the **mine appears to be illegal**, based on **prima facie evidence**.

  मुख्यमंत्री सरमा ने कहा कि **प्रथम दृष्ट्या** यह **खदान अवैध** प्रतीत होती है।

INBRIEF

PCS

Aadujeevitham among eligible picks for Academy Awards

Malayalam film *Aadujeevitham*, directed by national award-winning filmmaker Blessy, has been shortlisted among 207 feature films eligible for best picture nomination at the Academy Awards. "We are excited to share that *Aadujeevitham* (*The Goat Life*) has been officially selected for consideration in the Best Picture category at the 97th Academy Awards. The nominations voting period will take place from January 8 to January 12," read a release issued on Tuesday. It has also been nominated for sound editing and foley artistry in the "Feature International" category at the 72nd Annual MPSE Golden Reel Awards.

Aadujeevitham Among Eligible Picks for Academy Awards
ऑस्कर पुरस्कारों के लिए योग्य फिल्मों में "आडुजीविथम" शामिल

- The **Malayalam film "Aadujeevitham"**, directed by **national award-winning filmmaker Blessy**, has been **shortlisted among 207 feature films** eligible for **Best Picture nomination** at the **Academy Awards**.

  राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार विजेता निर्देशक **ब्लेसी** द्वारा निर्देशित **मलयालम फिल्म "आडुजीविथम"** को **207 फीचर फिल्मों** में से **ऑस्कर पुरस्कारों** के लिए **सर्वश्रेष्ठ फिल्म नामांकन** की **सूची में शामिल** किया गया है।

- The official release stated, **"Aadujeevitham (The Goat Life)"** has been **selected for consideration** in the **Best Picture category** at the **97th Academy Awards**.

  आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया कि **"आडुजीविथम (द गोट लाइफ)"** को **97वें ऑस्कर पुरस्कारों** में **सर्वश्रेष्ठ फिल्म श्रेणी** के लिए **विचार के लिए चुना गया** है।

- The **nominations voting period** will take place from **January 8 to January 12**.

  नामांकन मतदान अवधि **8 जनवरी से 12 जनवरी** तक चलेगी।

- The film has also been **nominated** for **Sound Editing** and **Foley Artistry** in the **"Feature International" category** at the **72nd Annual MPSE Golden Reel Awards**.

  इस फिल्म को **72वें वार्षिक एमपीएसई गोल्डन रील अवॉर्ड्स** में **"फीचर इंटरनेशनल" श्रेणी** के तहत **साउंड एडिटिंग** और **फॉली आर्टिस्ट्री** के लिए भी **नामांकित** किया गया है।

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EC to write to ==Cabinet Secretary== to ensure no ==Delhi-specific sops in Union Budget==

NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday said that the Election Commission of India (EC) will write to the Cabinet Secretary, informing that no Delhi-specific provision can be made in the Union Budget that can disturb the level playing field.

It made the decision taking into consideration the Union Budget that is scheduled days before the Delhi Assembly poll. While addressing a press conference to announce the schedule for the election, the CEC dismissed allegations of manipulation in electoral roll, saying no deletion can occur without thorough documentation, field verification, and giving the individual concerned an opportunity to be heard.

"Every step of the electoral roll process is rooted in transparency and ac-

The CEC said claims and objections are not only reviewed but also shared with all the political parties

countability. Deletion of names is not possible without adhering to strict protocols, and every party has the right to raise objections at various stages." Mr. Kumar said.

The remarks come against the backdrop of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) raising allegations that names of people who have been long-time residents are being deleted at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). AAP claimed it has submitted all the evidence to the EC for action.

Transparent process
The CEC asserted that claims and objections are not only reviewed but also

shared with all the political parties and made accessible online to ensure transparency. "Where every vote matters, raising doubts about deletion of thousands of names without evidence is misleading. The processes we follow leave no room for manipulation," he said.

Mr. Kumar also urged candidates and political party leaders to refrain from making remarks against women and involving children during poll campaigns.

He was responding to a question about a comment made by BJP candidate Ramesh Bidhuri on Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

"Any remarks against women should not be made. We have issued very strict guidelines... we condemn this but only when model code of conduct is in place," he said.

Hope EC will prevent vile campaigns: Mayawati

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

BSP supremo Mayawati on Tuesday expressed hope that the Election Commission would ensure that the Delhi polls were not tainted by the "misuse of government machinery, communalism, and vile propaganda". In a post on X, Ms. Mayawati said, "BSP...expects from the Election Commission...it will protect the elections from being contaminated by communalism and other disgusting propaganda along with misuse of government machinery," she said.

EC to Write to Cabinet Secretary to Ensure No Delhi-Specific Sops in Union Budget
दिल्ली-विशेष प्रावधानों को रोकने के लिए कैबिनेट सचिव को पत्र लिखेगा चुनाव आयोग

- **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar** ने मंगलवार को कहा कि **Election Commission of India (EC)** कैबिनेट सचिव को पत्र लिखेगा ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि **Union Budget** में दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले कोई **दिल्ली-विशेष प्रावधान** न हो जो **level playing field** को प्रभावित करे।

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) राजीव कुमार ने मंगलवार को कहा कि **भारतीय चुनाव आयोग (EC)** कैबिनेट सचिव को पत्र लिखेगा ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि **संघ बजट** में **दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव** से पहले कोई **दिल्ली-विशेष प्रावधान** न हो जो **समान अवसर** को प्रभावित करे।

- यह निर्णय इस तथ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए लिया गया है कि **Union Budget** का प्रस्तुतीकरण **दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव** से कुछ दिन पहले होना है।
  यह निर्णय इस तथ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए लिया गया है कि **संघ बजट** का प्रस्तुतीकरण **दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव** से कुछ दिन पहले होना है।

- CEC ने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस के दौरान कहा कि **electoral roll** में **manipulation** के आरोप बेबुनियाद हैं और **deletion** बिना पूरी **documentation** और **field verification** के नहीं हो सकता।
  CEC ने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस के दौरान कहा कि **मतदाता सूची** में **छेड़छाड़** के आरोप बेबुनियाद हैं और **नाम हटाने** की प्रक्रिया पूरी **दस्तावेजीकरण** और **जमीनी सत्यापन** के बिना नहीं हो सकती।

- उन्होंने कहा कि **हर व्यक्ति** को अपनी बात रखने का अवसर दिया जाता है।
  उन्होंने कहा कि **हर व्यक्ति** को अपनी बात रखने का अवसर दिया जाता है।

Transparent Process Ensured in Electoral Roll
मतदाता सूची में पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित

- CEC ने कहा कि **electoral roll process** पूरी तरह **transparency** और **accountability** पर आधारित है।
  CEC ने कहा कि **मतदाता सूची प्रक्रिया** पूरी तरह **पारदर्शिता** और **जवाबदेही** पर आधारित है।

- **Deletion of names** केवल **strict protocols** का पालन करते हुए और **सभी राजनीतिक दलों** के साथ **दावों और आपत्तियों की समीक्षा** करने के बाद ही हो सकता है।
  नाम हटाने की प्रक्रिया केवल **कड़े नियमों** का पालन करते हुए और **सभी राजनीतिक दलों** के साथ **दावों और आपत्तियों की समीक्षा** करने के बाद ही हो सकती है।

- **AAP (Aam Aadmi Party)** ने आरोप लगाया कि **long-time residents** के नाम **BJP** के कहने पर **electoral roll** से हटाए जा रहे हैं।
  आप (आम आदमी पार्टी) ने आरोप लगाया कि **लंबे समय से निवास करने वाले लोगों** के नाम **भाजपा** के कहने पर **मतदाता सूची** से हटाए जा रहे हैं।

- CEC ने कहा कि **हर वोट महत्वपूर्ण है**, और **बिना साक्ष्य के हजारों नाम हटाने** का आरोप **भ्रामक** है।
  CEC ने कहा कि **हर वोट महत्वपूर्ण है**, और **बिना साक्ष्य के हजारों नाम हटाने** का आरोप **भ्रामक** है।

Warning on Remarks Against Women and Children in Campaigns
चुनाव प्रचार में महिलाओं और बच्चों पर टिप्पणी को लेकर चेतावनी

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- **CEC Rajiv Kumar** ने **candidates** और **political party leaders** से कहा कि **poll campaigns** में **women** और **children** पर टिप्पणी करने से बचें।
  मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त राजीव कुमार ने **उम्मीदवारों** और **राजनीतिक दलों के नेताओं** से कहा कि **चुनाव प्रचार** में **महिलाओं** और **बच्चों** पर टिप्पणी करने से बचें।

- **BJP candidate Ramesh Bidhuri** द्वारा **Priyanka Gandhi Vadra** पर की गई टिप्पणी पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि **model code of conduct** लागू होने पर ऐसी **टिप्पणियों** की **निंदा** की जाएगी।
  भाजपा उम्मीदवार रमेश बिधूड़ी द्वारा **प्रियंका गांधी वाड्रा** पर की गई टिप्पणी पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि **आदर्श आचार संहिता** लागू होने पर ऐसी **टिप्पणियों** की **निंदा** की जाएगी।

Mayawati's Appeal to the EC
मायावती की चुनाव आयोग से अपील

- **BSP chief Mayawati** ने **Election Commission** से उम्मीद जताई कि **Delhi Assembly elections** में **government machinery**, **communalism**, और **vile propaganda** का **misuse** नहीं होगा।
  बसपा प्रमुख मायावती ने **चुनाव आयोग** से उम्मीद जताई कि **दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव** में **सरकारी मशीनरी**, **सांप्रदायिकता**, और **घृणित प्रचार** का **दुरुपयोग** नहीं होगा।

- उन्होंने **X (formerly Twitter)** पर लिखा कि चुनाव आयोग को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि **elections communalism** और **गंदे प्रचार** से **दूषित** न हों।
  उन्होंने **X (पूर्व में ट्विटर)** पर लिखा कि चुनाव आयोग को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि **चुनाव सांप्रदायिकता** और **गंदे प्रचार** से **दूषित** न हों।

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Dal Khalsa opposes Congress, Akali Dal requests for Sikh honours to Manmohan Singh

GS Paper III: IS

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa has strongly opposed Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring's appeal to Akal Takht – the highest Sikh temporal seat – to confer the 'Panth Rattan', a title of honour, on the late former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The outfit has also objected to the Shiromani Akali Dal's proposed plans to request the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to install Singh's portrait in the Sikh Museum at the Golden Temple complex.

'Did not serve Sikhs'
The Dal Khalsa insisted that the former PM had served the country but not the Sikh community. "We object and would oppose any move to confer the 'Panth

Congress supporters paying tribute to former PM Manmohan Singh, in Amritsar. FILE PHOTO

Rattan' title or installation of ex-PM Manmohan Singh's portrait in the Sikh museum. He hasn't served the Sikh community," Dal Khalsa spokesperson Kanwar Pal Singh told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

"We strongly object to the Congress seeking Panthic title for a person who hardly served the Sikh interests and identity while remaining at India's top executive post for 10 years," said Dal Khalsa working president Paramjit Singh

Mand. "If the Congress wants any title for Dr. Singh, it should approach Narendra Modi government and seek the Bharat Ratna for him," he added.

Title and portrait
The Punjab Congress president had written to Akal Takht *Jathedar* (chief priest) Giani Raghbir Singh, requesting that the 'Panth Rattan' title be bestowed on the former PM in recognition of his contributions to the nation and the Sikhs.

Asserting that the party values and respects the extraordinary services which the late Prime Minister rendered to the nation and the pride he brought to the Sikh *quom* (community) all over the world, Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal had recently said: "We will request the SGPC for the installation of his portrait in the Sikh Museum situated at Darbar Sahib complex."

Dal Khalsa opposes Congress, Akali Dal requests for Sikh honours to Manmohan Singh

दल खालसा ने कांग्रेस का विरोध किया, अकाली दल ने मनमोहन सिंह को सिख सम्मान देने की मांग की

Radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa has strongly opposed Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring's appeal to Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, to confer the 'Panth Rattan' title on former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

कट्टरपंथी सिख संगठन दल खालसा ने पंजाब कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष अमरिंदर सिंह राजा वड़िंग द्वारा अकाल तख्त से पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह को 'पंथ रत्न' की उपाधि देने की अपील का कड़ा विरोध किया है।

- The outfit also objected to **Shiromani Akali Dal's** proposal to request the **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)** to install **Manmohan Singh's portrait** in the **Sikh Museum** at the **Golden Temple** complex.
  इस संगठन ने **शिरोमणि अकाली दल** द्वारा **स्वर्ण मंदिर** के **सिख म्यूजियम** में मनमोहन सिंह का **चित्र** लगाने के प्रस्ताव का भी विरोध किया।

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'Did not serve Sikhs'
'सिखों की सेवा नहीं की'

- **Dal Khalsa** insisted that former PM **Manmohan Singh** served the country but not the Sikh community.

  दल खालसा का कहना है कि पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **मनमोहन सिंह** ने देश की सेवा की है, लेकिन **सिख समुदाय** की नहीं।

- The **Dal Khalsa spokesperson Kanwar Pal Singh** stated, "We object and oppose any move to confer the **'Panth Rattan'** title or installation of his portrait in the **Sikh Museum**. He hasn't served the Sikh community."

  दल खालसा के प्रवक्ता कंवर पाल सिंह ने कहा, "हम **'पंथ रत्न'** की उपाधि देने या उनके चित्र को **सिख म्यूजियम** में लगाने के किसी भी कदम का विरोध करते हैं। उन्होंने **सिख समुदाय** की सेवा नहीं की है।"

- **Dal Khalsa working president Paramjit Singh Mand** said, "We strongly object to the Congress seeking **Panthic title** for a person who hardly served **Sikh interests** during his **10 years** as **Prime Minister**."

  दल खालसा के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष परमजीत सिंह मंड ने कहा, "हम इस बात का कड़ा विरोध करते हैं कि कांग्रेस **पंथिक उपाधि** के लिए उस व्यक्ति की सिफारिश कर रही है जिसने **प्रधानमंत्री** के रूप में **10 साल** के कार्यकाल के दौरान **सिख हितों** की सेवा नहीं की।"

- He added, "If the Congress wants any title for **Dr. Singh**, it should approach the **Narendra Modi government** and seek the **Bharat Ratna** for him."

  उन्होंने कहा, "अगर कांग्रेस को **डॉ. सिंह** के लिए कोई उपाधि चाहिए तो वह **नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार** से **भारत रत्न** की मांग करे।"

Title and Portrait
उपाधि और चित्र

- **Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring** wrote to **Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh**, requesting to bestow the **'Panth Rattan'** title on **Manmohan Singh** for his contributions to the **nation** and **Sikh community**.

  पंजाब कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष अमरिंदर सिंह राजा वड़िंग ने **अकाल तख्त जत्थेदार ज्ञानी रघबीर सिंह** को पत्र लिखकर **मनमोहन सिंह** को **'पंथ रत्न'** उपाधि देने की मांग की, ताकि उनके **देश** और **सिख समुदाय** के लिए योगदान को सम्मानित किया जा सके।

- **Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal** stated, "We value and respect the **extraordinary services** rendered by the late **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** to the **nation** and **Sikh quom (community)**."

  अकाली दल प्रमुख सुखबीर सिंह बादल ने कहा, "हम दिवंगत **प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह** द्वारा **देश** और **सिख कौम** के लिए की गई **असाधारण सेवाओं** को महत्व और सम्मान देते हैं।"

- He added that the **Shiromani Akali Dal** will request the **SGPC** to install **Manmohan Singh's portrait** in the **Sikh Museum** at the **Darbar Sahib complex**.

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उन्होंने कहा कि **शिरोमणि अकाली दल एसजीपीसी** से **दरबार साहिब परिसर** के **सिख म्यूजियम** में **मनमोहन सिंह का चित्र** लगाने की सिफारिश करेगा।

This police station housed Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru in 1920s

GS Paper I: History

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

Inside the bustling lanes of north-east Delhi lies a police station with a storied past. It witnessed thick action during India's struggle for independence, with political prisoners like Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh, and Rajguru serving detention there at various times. The Shahdara police station completed 110 years of existence on Tuesday.

Founded on January 7, 1915 during the heyday of colonial rule, the police station has transitioned from its role as the occasional site for housing freedom fighters and a repository of historical memories to playing a vital role in law enforcement and crime prevention over the years.

The station was originally established with jurisdiction extending over the entire trans-Yamuna area of Delhi. Police records show that the first FIR was lodged in Urdu language on the very day of its establishment under Section 457 of the IPC regarding a break-in at the house of a person named Khazan Singh.

The complainant alleged that the accused, Sukhdev Mali, drilled a hole in the back of his residence along with an accomplice but ran away when the owner woke up. There was no loss reported.

Senior police officers said that in 1928, Sukhdev, a prominent member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), was arrested and lodged at the Shahdara police station in the aftermath of the assassination of British police officer John Saunders.

Sukhdev and Chandrashekhar Azad were involved in the plot while Bhagat Singh and Rajguru shot Saunders on December 17, 1927; Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were later hanged to death.

'Brutal interrogation'
"During his detention, Sukhdev, like many other political prisoners, faced brutal interrogation methods at the police station. His incarceration here was just one chapter in his long resistance against British repression. Eventually, he, Bhagat Singh, and Rajguru were transferred to other prisons and their trials became a focal point for the growing demand for independence," said DCP (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam.

The records at Shahdara police station attest to its role as a centre for intense interrogation of revolutionaries of the freedom struggle. Members of the HSRA were detained here after their involvement in the Kakori train robbery case of 1925, one of the most significant revolutionary acts against British rule. Others associated with the Chittagong uprising of 1930 and other resistance movements also spent time within its walls.

Modern building
The old structure that housed the who's who of freedom struggle made way for a modern building that was inaugurated in February 2022.

"The station became a symbol of the suffering endured by revolutionaries who had sacrificed their lives for the nation's freedom," said Mr. Gautam.

Then and now: The Shahdara police station in north-west Delhi completed 110 years of existence on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This Police Station Housed Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru in 1920s

इस पुलिस स्टेशन में 1920 के दशक में सुखदेव, भगत सिंह, राजगुरु को रखा गया था

Inside the bustling lanes of north-east Delhi, there is a Shahdara police station that has a storied past from India's struggle for independence.

उत्तर-पूर्व दिल्ली की व्यस्त गलियों में स्थित शाहदरा पुलिस स्टेशन का भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के इतिहास में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है।

- Political prisoners like **Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh**, and **Rajguru** were detained here during the **1920s**.
  सुखदेव, भगत सिंह और राजगुरु जैसे राजनीतिक कैदी यहां 1920 के दशक में बंद किए गए थे।
- The **Shahdara police station** completed **110 years of existence** on **January 7, 2025**.
  शाहदरा पुलिस स्टेशन ने 7 जनवरी 2025 को 110 साल पूरे किए।

Established During Colonial Rule
औपनिवेशिक शासन के दौरान स्थापित

- The **police station was founded** on **January 7, 1915**, during **British colonial rule**.
  यह **पुलिस स्टेशन 7 जनवरी 1915** को **ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक शासन** के दौरान स्थापित किया गया था।
- Initially, it had jurisdiction over the entire **trans-Yamuna area of Delhi**.
  शुरू में इसका अधिकार क्षेत्र **दिल्ली के यमुना पार क्षेत्र** तक फैला हुआ था।

First FIR Lodged in Urdu
पहला एफआईआर उर्दू में दर्ज किया गया

- The **first FIR** was registered in **Urdu language** on the station's opening day under **Section 457 of IPC**, regarding a **break-in** at Khazan Singh's house.
  स्टेशन के उद्घाटन के दिन **पहला एफआईआर उर्दू भाषा** में दर्ज किया गया था, **आईपीसी की धारा 457** के तहत, जो **खज़ान सिंह के घर में सेंधमारी** से जुड़ा था।
- The accused, **Sukhdev Mali**, and his accomplice **drilled a hole** in the house but ran away when the owner woke up.
  आरोपी **सुखदेव माली** ने अपने साथी के साथ **घर में छेद करके सेंधमारी** की, लेकिन मकान मालिक के जागने पर वे भाग गए।

Arrest of Sukhdev and HSRA Members
सुखदेव और एचएसआरए के सदस्यों की गिरफ्तारी

- In **1928**, **Sukhdev**, a prominent member of the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**, was **arrested** and **lodged** at the **Shahdara police station** after the **assassination of British police officer John Saunders**.
  1928 में **हिंदुस्तान सोशलिस्ट रिपब्लिकन एसोसिएशन (HSRA)** के प्रमुख सदस्य **सुखदेव** को **ब्रिटिश पुलिस अधिकारी जॉन सॉन्डर्स की हत्या** के बाद **शाहदरा पुलिस स्टेशन** में **कैद** किया गया।
- **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev**, and **Rajguru** were involved in the **December 17, 1927, assassination plot** and were **later hanged to death**.
  भगत सिंह, सुखदेव और **राजगुरु** ने **17 दिसंबर 1927** को **हत्या की साजिश** में भाग लिया था और बाद में उन्हें **फांसी** दी गई।

Brutal Interrogation of Revolutionaries
क्रांतिकारियों से कड़ी पूछताछ

- During detention, **Sukhdev** and other political prisoners faced **brutal interrogation methods** at the **Shahdara police station**.

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हिरासत के दौरान, **सुखदेव** और अन्य **राजनीतिक कैदियों** से **शाहदरा पुलिस स्टेशन** में **कड़ी पूछताछ** की गई।

- Members of the **HSRA** were detained here after the **Kakori train robbery case of 1925**.

  1925 के काकोरी ट्रेन डकैती कांड के बाद **एचएसआरए के सदस्यों** को यहां **हिरासत** में रखा गया था।

- Revolutionaries involved in the **Chittagong uprising of 1930** and other **resistance movements** were also held here.

  1930 के चटगांव विद्रोह और अन्य **प्रतिरोध आंदोलनों** से जुड़े **क्रांतिकारियों** को भी यहां **रखा गया** था।

Modern Police Station
आधुनिक पुलिस स्टेशन

- The **old structure** that housed prominent freedom fighters was **replaced by a modern building** inaugurated in **February 2022**.

  प्रसिद्ध स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को रखने वाली **पुरानी इमारत** को **फरवरी 2022** में **आधुनिक इमारत** से बदल दिया गया।

- The **station** became a **symbol of the suffering** endured by **revolutionaries** who **sacrificed their lives** for India's freedom.

  यह **पुलिस स्टेशन क्रांतिकारियों के बलिदान** का **प्रतीक** बन गया, जिन्होंने **भारत की स्वतंत्रता** के लिए **अपने प्राण त्यागे।**

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Karnataka HC strikes down Centre's Electricity Rules

Court says Centre lacks legislative competence to frame Green Energy Open Access Rules; they were framed in a bid to reach net-zero emission by 2070 as per international climate commitment

GS Paper II: Center State Relations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major setback to the Centre, the High Court of Karnataka has struck down the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, which were framed for promoting generation, purchase, and consumption of green energy, including the energy from waste-to-energy plants through open access in a bid to reach the goal of net-zero emission by 2070 as per international climate commitment.

The court said the Centre lacked the legislative competence under the Electricity Act, 2003,

to frame the rules (commonly known as the Green Energy Open Access [GEOA] Rules, 2022).

"Since the power to regulate the transmission, determination and, more specifically, all aspects relating to open access is conferred exclusively on the State Electricity Commission under Sections 42 (2) and 181 of the Act, it is obvious that all aspects of open access lie within the

> The power to regulate the transmission and all aspects relating to open access is conferred exclusively on the State Electricity Commission

KARNATAKA HIGH COURT

exclusive domain of the State Commission," the court said.

Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda passed the order while partly allowing the petitions filed by Brindavan Hyderopower Pvt. Ltd., and 12 other hydropower generating companies, who have subsisting agreements for wheeling and banking with electricity transmission and distribution companies.

The Centre, in the guise of exercising its residual power under Section 176 (2) of the Act, cannot contend that it can frame rules to carry out the provisions of the Act, the court said while also striking down the Karnataka Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access) Regulations, 2022, as it was framed on the basis of the GEOA Rules, 2022.

"Unless the Electricity Act is amended and the Central government is empowered to frame rules under the said amendment, the Union cannot use the commitment given by it to achieve net-zero emission to frame rules in transgression of an existing law," the court said.

Karnataka HC Strikes Down Centre's Electricity Rules
कर्नाटक हाई कोर्ट ने केंद्र के बिजली नियमों को रद्द किया

The High Court of Karnataka has struck down the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, which aimed at promoting the generation, purchase, and consumption of green energy, including energy from waste-to-energy plants, in line with the net-zero emission goal by 2070.

कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय ने ग्रीन एनर्जी ओपन एक्सेस (GEOA) नियम, 2022 को

रद्द कर दिया है, जिसका उद्देश्य हरित ऊर्जा के उत्पादन, खरीद और उपयोग को बढ़ावा देना था, जो 2070 तक शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन के लक्ष्य को पूरा करने के लिए बनाए गए थे।

- The court ruled that the **Centre lacked legislative competence** under the **Electricity Act, 2003**, to frame the Green Energy Open Access (**GEOA) Rules, 2022**.
  अदालत ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार के पास **बिजली अधिनियम, 2003** के तहत **GEOA नियम, 2022** बनाने का **कानूनी अधिकार नहीं** था।

- The **State Electricity Commission** has **exclusive power** under **Sections 42(2) and 181** of the Act to regulate **transmission** and all aspects of **open access**, the court observed.
  अदालत ने कहा कि **राज्य विद्युत आयोग** को **धारा 42(2) और 181** के तहत **ओपन एक्सेस** और **ट्रांसमिशन** को नियंत्रित करने का **विशेष अधिकार** है।

- **Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda** passed the order while partly allowing petitions filed by **Brindavan Hyderopower Pvt. Ltd.** and **12 other hydropower companies**.
  न्यायमूर्ति एन.एस. संजय गौड़ा ने **ब्रिंदावन हैड्रोपावर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड** और **12 अन्य हाइड्रोपावर कंपनियों** की याचिकाओं को आंशिक रूप से स्वीकार करते हुए यह आदेश दिया।

- The petitions were related to **wheeling and banking agreements** with **electricity transmission and distribution companies**.
  याचिकाएं **विद्युत ट्रांसमिशन और वितरण कंपनियों** के साथ किए गए **व्हीलिंग और बैंकिंग समझौतों** से संबंधित थीं।

- The court stated that the **Centre cannot use its residual power** under **Section 176(2)** of the **Electricity Act** to frame rules that **transgress existing laws**.
  अदालत ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार **धारा 176(2)** के तहत **बिजली अधिनियम** की **शेष शक्तियों** का उपयोग करके मौजूदा कानूनों का **उल्लंघन करने वाले नियम** नहीं बना सकती।

- The court also **struck down the Karnataka Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access) Regulations, 2022**, which were based on the **GEOA Rules, 2022**.
  अदालत ने **कर्नाटक नियामक आयोग (ग्रीन एनर्जी ओपन एक्सेस के लिए नियम और शर्तें) विनियम, 2022** को भी रद्द कर दिया, जो **GEOA नियम, 2022** पर आधारित थे।

- The court said that unless the **Electricity Act is amended** to empower the **Centre** to frame such rules, the **Union government** cannot frame rules citing **international climate commitments**.
  अदालत ने कहा कि जब तक **बिजली अधिनियम में संशोधन** नहीं किया जाता और केंद्र को ऐसे नियम बनाने का **अधिकार नहीं दिया जाता**, तब तक केंद्र सरकार **अंतरराष्ट्रीय जलवायु प्रतिबद्धताओं** का हवाला देकर नियम नहीं बना सकती।

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The rebounding of Pakistan's Afghan strategy

Vinay Kaura

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On December 27, 2024, the Director-General of Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that 383 officers and soldiers in the Pakistani security forces had lost their lives in counter-terrorism operations during 2024. He also claimed that 925 terrorists and Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists had been eliminated in approximately 60,000 intelligence-based operations. Giving a detailed account of Pakistan's generosity towards Afghanistan, he nonetheless asserted that Pakistan would not allow its citizens to be targeted by the TTP, which is alleged to enjoy safe haven in Afghanistan. It is, however, ironic given that Pakistan has itself, for long, provided logistical, military and moral support to the Afghan Taliban and Haqqani network, the two formerly insurgent-cum-terrorist groups now leading the outcaste regime in Kabul, during their fight against the West-backed Afghan government and American security forces.

Pakistan's special representative for Afghanistan Muhammad Sadiq Khan had visited Kabul in December 2024, where he had held parleys with top-ranking Taliban leaders to de-escalate the tensions between two countries. But this is likely to be a diplomatic failure as it was during his stay in Kabul that the Pakistan Air Force conducted air strikes against alleged TTP targets in eastern Paktika province on December 24. The Afghan authorities claimed that 46 people were killed in the air strikes which were apparently in response to the TTP's attack, on December 21, on a security post in South Waziristan, killing 16 Pakistani soldiers.

Getting into a deeper mess

The two countries seem to be locked in a dangerous stalemate. On December 28, Afghanistan's so-called Ministry of Defence claimed attacks on multiple locations inside Pakistan in retaliation for the air strikes. Interestingly, the ministry did not mention the fact that Pakistan's territory was targeted, but, instead, chose to highlight that the strikes were executed beyond the 'hypothetical line' – a term used by the Afghan government to refer to the Durand Line. These incidents serve to highlight the limits of Pakistan's ability to exercise its influence over its former proxy by virtue of either coercive methods or diplomatic persuasion.

Pakistan's Afghan strategy has now become a victim of its own success. Instead of evolving as a "strategic depth" for Pakistan, the return of the Taliban has made Afghanistan a "strategic ditch" for Pakistan's security establishment, which seems to be getting deeper and deeper with no sight of escape. The tit-for-tat killing frenzy has dangerous implications as Pakistan's already tense relationship with Afghanistan has plunged into a deep crisis.

Pakistan has been facing significant challenges from the TTP which shares many ideological

The return of the Taliban has made Afghanistan a 'strategic ditch' for Pakistan's security establishment

affinities with the Afghan Taliban, leading to a growing perception that both constitute the sides of the same coin. Against a backdrop of inflamed passions and growing suspicion, Pakistan has been under constant public pressure to demonstrate retaliatory action. But nothing could be more ironic and ridiculous than the entreaties from a section of the Pakistani government to Washington to come to its rescue. In response to the deadly attack on a military camp in Pakistan in December 2023, claimed by the Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), Balochistan's caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai, suggested the Pakistan government propose offering U.S. "drone bases to target militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan". Other measures included "special targeted operations, air strikes, border closure with Afghanistan, return of Afghan refugees, anti-TTA [Tehrik-e-Taliban Afghanistan] political opposition gathering in Islamabad." However, Mr. Achakzai later deleted this controversial tweet. When Pakistan's Army chief, General Asim Munir, had callously asserted in January 2024 that, "When it comes to the safety and security of every single Pakistani, the whole of Afghanistan can be damned", it merely fed the narrative that Pakistan's security establishment is largely ignorant of the subtleties required to persuade the Afghan Taliban by means other than firepower. It is another matter that in a conciliatory tone afterwards, Gen. Munir pleaded with Afghan rulers not to prioritise the TTP "over their long-standing and benevolent brother Islamic country".

When it comes to Afghanistan's messy political dynamics, Pakistan's ruling elite has been living in a fantasy land, ignoring Afghanistan's notoriety as a 'graveyard of empires'. Instead of trying to extract Pakistan from the Afghan conflict after 9/11, Rawalpindi overstretched its involvement, chasing a wild dream of unbreakable Pakistan-Afghan alliance against India. An explosion was bound to happen, but Pakistan was extremely slow to react to the gathering threats. Perhaps the only surprise is that this explosion came out of the Taliban-led Kabul, which was supposed to be a pliant regime. It is shocking that Pakistan got the Afghan Taliban-TTP nexus utterly wrong.

The creator of its own terror problem

The terrorism problem that Pakistan faces is one that is of its own making. It is Pakistan's Afghan policy and the unnecessary obsession about a threat from India which should be blamed for fuelling jihadist extremism and terrorism. Pakistan has been pursuing an ill-considered policy of supporting violent extremist groups that are seen capable of hurting India and keeping Kabul under its thumb. It is not that Pakistan's military was oblivious to Afghan Taliban's intransigence. Rather, it thought of it as an expedient chess piece in the great game against India. Imran Khan, Pakistan's former Prime

Minister, in prison for defying the powerful military, had compared the Taliban's triumphant return with Afghans having "broken the shackles of slavery". Now, the excitement heralding the Taliban's recapture of Kabul has been surpassed in intensity by the inexorable realpolitik, interspersed with the ideological rigidities of the Taliban movement. The unsurprising outcome is confusion and paralysis for those in Pakistan who are charged with understanding how the military and political aspects of their response should fit together.

A pushback

The tension in the Afghanistan-Pakistan relations goes well beyond cross-border terrorism. No Afghan regime has ever accepted the 1893 Durand Line as a legitimate border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. And, Kabul claims Pakistan's Pashtun territories near the border. The problem with international boundaries in conflict zones is that they are not red lines inscribed on stone. After all, it was Rawalpindi which was complicit with the mujahideen in violating the very sanctity of the Durand Line during the so-called Afghan jihad against the red army.

The Afghan Taliban's fierce opposition to border fencing has come as a shock to Pakistan which was hopeful that the return of the Taliban would also bury the demand for a 'greater Pashtunistan' – an idea of creating a Pashtun homeland by uniting the frontier region of Pakistan with Afghanistan. The Taliban have not done anything to suppress Pashtun nationalism with Islamist ideology, fuelling Pashtun nationalist sentiments against Pakistan. Of course, Islamabad's 'Pashtunistan' puzzle is not new, but given the vicious potential of the militants that Pakistani security forces are now facing, the stakes of resolving the puzzle are much higher. If not meant as an intentionally sarcastic snipe, the Afghan Taliban's disdainful refusal to treat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a Pakistani province is tantamount to calling for Pashtun unity, which is going to exacerbate Pakistan's fears about Afghan irredentism. The reality of confronting irredentism is often far messier. In all probability, the Afghan border security personnel will continue to challenge Pakistani attempts to fence the border.

Given the alarming rise in terrorism being blamed on the Afghan Taliban's inaction, Pakistan is reluctant to unilaterally recognise the new regime in Kabul as it had done previously in early 1990s. The magnitude of the challenge posed by the TTP to the legitimacy and authority of the Pakistani state, along with the utter disregard of the Afghan Taliban to Pakistan's persistent demands for credible action against the TTP, may have left Rawalpindi with diminishing options to create the terms for political engagement with the Taliban-led Afghanistan.

The rebounding of Pakistan's Afghan strategy
पाकिस्तान की अफगान रणनीति का पुनरुत्थान

- On **December 27, 2024**, the Director-General of Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported that **383 officers and soldiers** in the Pakistani security forces had lost their lives in counter-terrorism operations during **2024**.

  27 दिसंबर 2024 को पाकिस्तान के इंटर सर्विसेज पब्लिक रिलेशंस (ISPR) के डायरेक्टर-जनरल ने बताया कि **2024 में पाकिस्तान की सुरक्षा बलों के **383 अधिकारी और सैनिक** आतंकवाद विरोधी अभियानों में अपनी जान गंवा चुके थे।

- He also claimed that **925 terrorists and TTP terrorists** had been eliminated in approximately **60,000 intelligence-based operations**.

  उन्होंने यह भी दावा किया कि **925 आतंकवादी और टीटीपी आतंकवादी** लगभग **60,000 खुफिया आधारित अभियानों** में समाप्त कर दिए गए थे।

- Pakistan's generosity towards Afghanistan was highlighted, but he asserted that Pakistan would not allow its citizens to be targeted by the **TTP**, which allegedly enjoys a safe haven in Afghanistan.

  पाकिस्तान की अफगानिस्तान के प्रति उदारता को प्रमुखता दी गई, लेकिन उन्होंने यह दावा किया कि पाकिस्तान अपने नागरिकों को **टीटीपी** द्वारा लक्षित नहीं होने देगा, जिसे अफगानिस्तान में सुरक्षित शरण देने का आरोप है।

- Pakistan has provided logistical, military, and moral support to the **Afghan Taliban** and **Haqqani network**, which are now leading the regime in Kabul.

  पाकिस्तान ने **अफ़गान तालिबान** और **हक्कानी नेटवर्क** को लॉजिस्टिक, सैन्य और नैतिक समर्थन प्रदान किया है, जो अब काबुल में शासन चला रहे हैं।

- **Muhammad Sadiq Khan**, Pakistan's special representative for Afghanistan, visited Kabul in **December 2024** for talks with top Taliban leaders.

  मुहम्मद सादिक खान, पाकिस्तान के अफगानिस्तान के लिए विशेष प्रतिनिधि, **दिसंबर 2024** में काबुल में उच्च-स्तरीय तालिबान नेताओं से वार्ता करने के लिए गए थे।

- The visit came as Pakistan's Air Force conducted air strikes against alleged TTP targets in **eastern Paktika** province on **December 24, 2024**, killing **46 people**.

  यह यात्रा **24 दिसंबर 2024** को पाकिस्तान की वायुसेना द्वारा **पूर्वी पाकतिका** प्रांत में कथित टीटीपी लक्ष्य पर हवाई हमले करने के साथ आई, जिसमें **46 लोग** मारे गए थे।

- These air strikes were reportedly in response to a TTP attack on a Pakistani security post in **South Waziristan** on **December 21, 2024**, killing **16 Pakistani soldiers**.

  यह हवाई हमले कथित तौर पर **21 दिसंबर 2024** को **दक्षिण वज़ीरिस्तान** में एक पाकिस्तानी सुरक्षा चौकी पर टीटीपी के हमले के जवाब में किए गए थे, जिसमें **16 पाकिस्तानी सैनिक** मारे गए थे।

- On **December 28, 2024**, Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence claimed attacks on multiple locations in Pakistan, but avoided mentioning that Pakistan's territory was targeted.

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28 दिसंबर 2024 को अफगानिस्तान के रक्षा मंत्रालय ने पाकिस्तान में कई स्थानों पर हमलों का दावा किया, लेकिन यह उल्लेख करने से बचा कि पाकिस्तान की ज़मीन को निशाना बनाया गया था।

- Pakistan's Afghan strategy, originally considered "strategic depth," has now become a "strategic ditch" for Pakistan's security establishment.

  पाकिस्तान की अफगान रणनीति, जिसे मूल रूप से "स्ट्रैटेजिक डेप्थ" माना गया था, अब पाकिस्तान के सुरक्षा प्रतिष्ठान के लिए "स्ट्रैटेजिक डिच" बन गई है।

- Pakistan faces significant challenges from the **TTP**, which shares ideological affinities with the **Afghan Taliban**.

  पाकिस्तान को **टीटीपी** से महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जो **अफ़ग़ान तालिबान** के साथ वैचारिक समानताएँ साझा करता है।

- After a deadly **December 2023** attack by **Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan (TJP)**, **Balochistan's caretaker Information Minister**, **Jan Achakzai**, suggested offering U.S. drone bases to target militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

  दिसंबर 2023 में **तेहलीक-ए-जिहाद पाकिस्तान (TJP)** द्वारा किए गए एक घातक हमले के बाद, **बलूचिस्तान के अंतरिम सूचना मंत्री**, **जन आचकजाई**, ने अफगानिस्तान में मिलिटेंट शरणस्थलों को निशाना बनाने के लिए अमेरिकी ड्रोन ठिकानों की पेशकश का सुझाव दिया।

- The controversial tweet was later deleted, but it underscored Pakistan's desperate plea for U.S. intervention.

  विवादास्पद ट्वीट को बाद में हटा लिया गया, लेकिन इसने पाकिस्तान के अमेरिका से हस्तक्षेप की desperate याचना को उजागर किया।

- **General Asim Munir**, Pakistan's Army chief, stated in **January 2024** that when it comes to Pakistan's safety, the whole of Afghanistan "can be damned."

  जनरल असीम मुनीर, पाकिस्तान के सेना प्रमुख, ने **जनवरी 2024** में कहा कि पाकिस्तान की सुरक्षा की बात हो तो पूरा अफगानिस्तान "नर्क में जा सकता है।"

- Following this, General Munir later pleaded with Afghan rulers not to prioritize the TTP "over their long-standing and benevolent brother Islamic country."

  इसके बाद, जनरल मुनीर ने अफगान शासकों से यह अपील की कि वे टीटीपी को "अपने लंबे समय से मौजूद और भाई-भाई इस्लामिक देश" पर प्राथमिकता न दें।

Pakistan's Afghan Strategy: A Mistaken Path
पाकिस्तान की अफगान रणनीति: एक गलत रास्ता

- Pakistan's ruling elite has been living in a **fantasy land**, ignoring Afghanistan's reputation as a **'graveyard of empires'**.

  पाकिस्तान का शासक वर्ग एक **काल्पनिक दुनिया** में रह रहा है, जो अफगानिस्तान की **'साम्राज्यों के कब्रिस्तान'** की प्रतिष्ठा की अनदेखी करता है।

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- Instead of extracting Pakistan from the Afghan conflict post-9/11, Rawalpindi **overstretched** its involvement, chasing an **unbreakable Pakistan-Afghan alliance against India**.

  9/11 के बाद पाकिस्तान को अफगान संघर्ष से निकालने की बजाय, रावलपिंडी ने अपनी भागीदारी को **अत्यधिक बढ़ा दिया**, और **भारत के खिलाफ एक अडिग पाकिस्तान-अफगान गठबंधन** का सपना देखा।

- An explosion was bound to happen, and Pakistan was **extremely slow** to react to the **gathering threats**.

  एक विस्फोट होना तय था, और पाकिस्तान **संगठित खतरों** के प्रति **बहुत धीमा** प्रतिक्रिया देने में था।

- The only surprise is that this explosion came from **Taliban-led Kabul**, which was supposed to be a pliant regime.

  तालिबान-नेतृत्व वाले काबुल से यह विस्फोट हुआ, जो एक **नम शासन** होने वाला था, यह ही एकमात्र आश्चर्य है।

- Pakistan misjudged the **Afghan Taliban-TTP nexus** completely.

  पाकिस्तान ने **अफ़गान तालिबान-टीटीपी संबंध** को **पूरी तरह से गलत** समझा।

The Creator of its Own Terror Problem
अपनी ही आतंकवाद समस्या का स्रष्टा

- The **terrorism problem** Pakistan faces is of its own making, caused by its Afghan policy and obsession with a threat from **India**.

  पाकिस्तान के सामने जो **आतंकवाद समस्या** है, वह उसकी अपनी बनाई हुई है, जो उसकी अफगान नीति और **भारत** से खतरे के बारे में जुनून से उत्पन्न हुई है।

- Pakistan supported violent extremist groups that could hurt India and keep **Kabul** under its influence.

  पाकिस्तान ने हिंसक उग्रवादी समूहों का समर्थन किया जो भारत को चोट पहुँचा सकते थे और **काबुल** को अपने प्रभाव में रख सकते थे।

- Pakistan's military was aware of the Afghan Taliban's **intransigence** but viewed them as a **chess piece** against India.

  पाकिस्तान की सेना अफगान तालिबान की **हठधर्मिता** से अवगत थी, लेकिन उन्हें भारत के खिलाफ एक **शतरंज के मोहरे** के रूप में देखा गया था।

- Former Prime Minister **Imran Khan** compared the Taliban's return to Afghans having **"broken the shackles of slavery"**.

  पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **इमरान खान** ने तालिबान की वापसी की तुलना अफगानियों द्वारा **"गुलामी की बेड़ियाँ तोड़ने"** से की थी।

- The excitement about the Taliban's return was replaced by **realpolitik**, mixed with the Taliban's **ideological rigidities**, causing confusion in Pakistan.

तालिबान की वापसी को लेकर उत्साह को **वास्तविक राजनीति** ने बदल दिया, जिसमें तालिबान की **वैचारिक कठोरताएँ** मिलीं, जिससे पाकिस्तान में भ्रम उत्पन्न हुआ।

A Pushback
एक विरोध

- Afghanistan-Pakistan tensions go beyond **cross-border terrorism**.
  अफगानिस्तान-पाकिस्तान तनाव **सीमा पार आतंकवाद** से कहीं अधिक है।
- No Afghan regime has accepted the **1893 Durand Line** as a legitimate border, and Kabul claims Pakistan's **Pashtun territories**.
  कोई भी अफगान शासन **1893 ड्यूरंड रेखा** को वैध सीमा के रूप में स्वीकार नहीं करता, और काबुल पाकिस्तान के **पश्तून क्षेत्रों** का दावा करता है।
- The problem with international boundaries in conflict zones is that they are not **red lines inscribed on stone**.
  संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमाओं की समस्या यह है कि वे **पत्थर पर अंकित लाल रेखाएँ** नहीं होतीं।
- Pakistan was complicit with **mujahideen** in violating the sanctity of the Durand Line during the **Afghan jihad** against the Soviet army.
  पाकिस्तान **मुजाहिदीन** के साथ **सोवियत सेना के खिलाफ अफगान जिहाद** के दौरान ड्यूरंड रेखा की पवित्रता का उल्लंघन करने में सहायक था।
- The Afghan Taliban's fierce opposition to **border fencing** shocked Pakistan, which hoped the Taliban's return would end the **'greater Pashtunistan'** demand.
  सीमा पर बाड़बंदी के खिलाफ अफगान तालिबान का तीव्र विरोध पाकिस्तान को हैरान कर गया, जिसे उम्मीद थी कि तालिबान की वापसी से **'बड़ा पश्तूनिस्तान'** का दावा खत्म हो जाएगा।
- The Taliban's actions have fueled **Pashtun nationalism** against Pakistan.
  तालिबान की कार्रवाइयों ने पाकिस्तान के खिलाफ **पश्तून राष्ट्रीयतावाद** को हवा दी है।
- Pakistan's **Pashtunistan puzzle** is more significant due to the rise in **militant threats**.
  पाकिस्तान की **पश्तूनिस्तान पहेली** अब **उग्रवादी खतरों** में वृद्धि के कारण और भी महत्वपूर्ण हो गई है।
- The Afghan Taliban's refusal to treat **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** as part of Pakistan calls for **Pashtun unity**, exacerbating fears of **Afghan irredentism**.
  अफगान तालिबान का **खैबर पख्तूनख्वा** को पाकिस्तान का हिस्सा मानने से इनकार करना **पश्तून एकता** का आह्वान करता है, जो **अफगान पुनःक्षेत्रवाद** के डर को बढ़ाता है।
- Afghan border security personnel may continue to challenge Pakistan's **border fencing** attempts.
  अफगान सीमा सुरक्षा कर्मी पाकिस्तान के **सीमा बाड़बंदी** के प्रयासों को चुनौती देते रह सकते हैं।
- Due to increasing terrorism linked to Afghan Taliban's inaction, Pakistan is reluctant to **unilaterally recognize** the Taliban regime as it did in the **early 1990s**.
  अफगान तालिबान की निष्क्रियता से जुड़े बढ़ते आतंकवाद के कारण पाकिस्तान **तालिबान शासन**

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को एकतरफा मान्यता देने में हिचकिचा रहा है, जैसा कि उसने **90 के दशक के शुरुआत** में किया था।

- The TTP's challenge to Pakistan's legitimacy and the Afghan Taliban's disregard for credible action against the TTP has left Pakistan with **diminishing options** for engagement with the new regime in Kabul.

टीटीपी द्वारा पाकिस्तान की वैधता को चुनौती देने और अफगान तालिबान द्वारा टीटीपी के खिलाफ विश्वसनीय कार्रवाई की अनदेखी ने पाकिस्तान को काबुल में नए शासन के साथ **संपर्क बनाने के विकल्पों** में कमी छोड़ दी है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Strong setback

The IED blasts in Bijapur are the act of a flailing insurgency

When an insurgent organisation is faced with a **precipice**, it has two options – it can either go down with a fight and pull some of its adversaries across the cliff or it can see the futility of its aims and give up the fight for good. **Ideologically motivated insurgent organisations rarely choose the second option, especially those that are engaged in decades of conflict.** Even those organisations such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that gave up violent insurgency and entered into an armistice find it difficult to convince factions or cadres who are committed to the violence as a means of not just rebellion but also of their existence. Since the merger of various Naxalite currents into the party in the early 2000s, the Communist Party of India (Maoist) has rarely ventured to speak of peace and ending the violent conflict except for tactical reasons. Its ideology not just talks of the utilisation of violence for its aims but also makes it central to its existence. The dastardly killing of eight security personnel and a civilian driver in an improvised explosive device blast in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Monday might seem like a sign that the potency of the CPI(Maoist) in inflicting such acts remains, and, therefore, the Maoists are a dangerous insurgent force. While there is a grain of truth to that, especially in the Abujmarh jungles and adjoining areas of the Bastar region in the State, it is also accurate to suggest that these are acts of a flailing outfit struggling to retain what was the only bastion for the left extremist organisation.

The deaths of the security personnel, who belonged to the District Reserve Guard and Bastar Fighters of the Chhattisgarh Police, are certainly a setback to the anti-Maoist operations that have picked up pace and resulted in significant deaths of Maoist cadres and other tribal people caught in the conflict. In 2024, an estimated 296 insurgents died in the operations while security forces lost 24 people and there were 80 surrenders. To suffer eight casualties early in 2025 is a major blow and one of the severest losses for the security forces in recent years. The heavy use of explosives and the camouflaged nature of the planted IEDs suggest that the Maoists had planned this attack for a long time; the last such IED blast was in April 2023 in Dantewada. The knee-jerk reaction to this incident will be the security forces intensifying their operations to identify the culprits, potentially targeting innocent civilians. While stepping up the security campaign is inevitable considering the fact that the Maoists have refused to abjure violence, the security personnel and the government should not get carried away in retaliation and target civilians as this would play right into the hands of Maoist propaganda about state repression. As tempting as it is to wipe out the Maoist movement through military means, as the Union Home Minister has promised, it is still prudent to use civil society actors to work out a ceasefire agreement and utilise it to end the conflict.

Strong setback
मजबूत झटका

The IED blasts in Bijapur are the act of a failing insurgency.
बिजापुर में आईईडी धमाके एक विफल हो रही विद्रोह का कृत्य हैं।

- When an insurgent organisation is faced with a precipice, it has two options — it can either go down with a fight and pull some of its adversaries across the cliff or it can see the futility of its aims and give up the fight for good.

जब कोई उग्रवादी संगठन एक कगार पर होता है, तो उसके पास दो विकल्प होते हैं – वह संघर्ष के साथ नीचे जा सकता है और अपने कुछ विरोधियों को च cliff के पार खींच सकता है, या वह अपने उद्देश्य की निरर्थकता देख सकता है और हमेशा के लिए संघर्ष छोड़ सकता है।

- Ideologically motivated insurgent organisations rarely choose the second option, especially those that are engaged in decades of conflict.

विचारधारात्मक रूप से प्रेरित उग्रवादी संगठन शायद ही कभी दूसरा विकल्प चुनते हैं, खासकर वे जो दशकों से संघर्ष में लगे हुए हैं।

- Even those organisations such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that gave up violent insurgency and entered into an armistice find it difficult to convince factions or cadres who are committed to the violence as a means of not just rebellion but also of their existence.

यहां तक कि वे संगठन जैसे कि **कोलंबिया के क्रांतिकारी सशस्त्र बल (FARC)** जिन्होंने हिंसक विद्रोह छोड़ दिया और एक युद्धविराम में प्रवेश किया, यह समझाने में मुश्किल पाते हैं कि वे गुट या कार्यकर्ता जो हिंसा को न केवल विद्रोह के बल्कि अपने अस्तित्व के साधन के रूप में मानते हैं।

- Since the merger of various Naxalite currents into the party in the early 2000s, the **Communist Party of India (Maoist)** has rarely ventured to speak of peace and ending the violent conflict except for tactical reasons.

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2000 के दशक की शुरुआत में विभिन्न नक्सलवादी धाराओं के पार्टी में विलय के बाद, **भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी (माओवादी)** ने शांति और हिंसक संघर्ष को समाप्त करने की बात शायद ही कभी की है, सिवाय रणनीतिक कारणों के।

- Its ideology not just talks of the utilisation of violence for its aims but also makes it central to its existence.

इसका आदर्श न केवल अपने उद्देश्यों के लिए हिंसा के उपयोग की बात करता है, बल्कि इसे अपने अस्तित्व का केंद्रीय हिस्सा भी बनाता है।

- The dastardly killing of eight security personnel and a civilian driver in an improvised explosive device blast in **Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh** on Monday might seem like a sign that the potency of the **CPI (Maoist)** in inflicting such acts remains, and therefore, the Maoists are a dangerous insurgent force.

छत्तीसगढ़ के बिजापुर जिले में सोमवार को एक **इम्प्रॉवाइज्ड एक्सप्लोसिव डिवाइस** धमाके में आठ सुरक्षा कर्मियों और एक नागरिक ड्राइवर की क्रूर हत्या यह संकेत दे सकती है कि **CPI(Maoist)** द्वारा ऐसे कृत्य करने की क्षमता अभी भी बनी हुई है, और इसलिए माओवादी एक खतरनाक उग्रवादी ताकत हैं।

- While there is a grain of truth to that, especially in the **Abujmarh jungles** and adjoining areas of the **Bastar region** in the State, it is also accurate to suggest that these are acts of a **failing outfit** struggling to retain what was the only bastion for the left extremist organisation.

हालाँकि इसमें कुछ सचाई है, विशेषकर **अभुजमढ़ के जंगलों** और राज्य के **बस्तर क्षेत्र** के आस-पास, यह भी सही है कि ये एक **विफल संगठन** के कृत्य हैं जो उस एकमात्र गढ़ को बनाए रखने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है जो वामपंथी उग्रवादी संगठन का था।

- The deaths of the security personnel, who belonged to the **District Reserve Guard** and **Bastar Fighters** of the Chhattisgarh Police, are certainly a setback to the anti-Maoist operations that have picked up pace and resulted in significant deaths of Maoist cadres and other tribal people caught in the conflict.

सुरक्षा कर्मियों की मौत, जो **जिला रिजर्व गार्ड** और **बस्तर फाइटर्स** के थे, निश्चित रूप से माओवादी विरोधी अभियानों के लिए एक झटका है, जिनकी गति बढ़ी है और जिन्होंने माओवादी कार्यकर्ताओं और संघर्ष में फंसे अन्य आदिवासी लोगों की महत्वपूर्ण मौतों का कारण बना है।

- In **2024**, an estimated **296 insurgents** died in the operations while security forces lost **24 people** and there were **80 civilian deaths**.

2024 में, अनुमानित **296 उग्रवादी** ऑपरेशनों में मारे गए, जबकि सुरक्षा बलों ने **24 लोग** खो दिए और **80 नागरिकों** की मौत हुई।

- To suffer eight casualties early in **2025** is a major blow and one of the severest losses for the security forces in recent years.

2025 की शुरुआत में आठ हताहतों का सामना करना सुरक्षा बलों के लिए एक बड़ा झटका है और हाल के वर्षों में एक गंभीरतम नुकसान है।

- The heavy use of explosives and the camouflaged nature of the planted **IEDs** suggest that the Maoists had planned this attack for a long time; the last such **IED blast** was in **April 2023** in **Dantewada**.

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विस्फोटकों का भारी उपयोग और लगाए गए **आईईडी** की छिपी हुई प्रकृति यह संकेत देती है कि माओवादियों ने इस हमले की योजना लंबे समय से बनाई थी; ऐसी आखिरी **आईईडी धमाका अप्रैल 2023** में **दंतेवाड़ा** में हुआ था।

- The knee-jerk reaction to this incident will be the security forces intensifying their operations to identify the culprits, potentially targeting innocent civilians.

  इस घटना पर तत्काल प्रतिक्रिया सुरक्षा बलों द्वारा आरोपियों की पहचान करने के लिए अपने अभियानों को तेज करने की होगी, जिससे निर्दोष नागरिकों को निशाना बनाने का खतरा हो सकता है।

- While stepping up the security campaign is inevitable considering the fact that the Maoists have refused to **abjure violence**, the security personnel and the government should not get carried away in retaliation and target civilians as this would play right into the hands of Maoist propaganda about state repression.

  जबकि माओवादी हिंसा को **त्यागने** से इंकार कर चुके हैं, सुरक्षा अभियान को तेज करना अपरिहार्य है, सुरक्षा कर्मियों और सरकार को प्रतिशोध में बहकने और नागरिकों को निशाना बनाने से बचना चाहिए, क्योंकि इससे माओवादी प्रचार को राज्य दमन के रूप में फायदा होगा।

- As tempting as it is to wipe out the Maoist movement through military means, as the Union Home Minister has promised, it is still prudent to use **civil society actors** to work out a ceasefire agreement and utilise it to end the conflict.

  जितना भी आकर्षक है माओवादी आंदोलन को सैन्य उपायों के माध्यम से समाप्त करना, जैसा कि केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री ने वादा किया है, यह फिर भी समझदारी है कि **नागरिक समाज के कार्यकर्ताओं** का उपयोग करके युद्धविराम समझौता किया जाए और इसका उपयोग संघर्ष को समाप्त करने के लिए किया जाए।

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Wayward liberal

Justin Trudeau's exit comes at the end of a period of misguided politics

Justin Trudeau's rise and fall as a global progressive icon is representative of the crisis of liberalism in general. After being in power as Prime Minister of Canada for a nine-year tenure over three terms, Mr. Trudeau announced his resignation on January 6. He had risen as the central figure of Canadian politics in 2015, leading the Liberal Party to an impressive victory in the federal election but that turned out to be the peak of his popularity. Born a child of privilege and power – his father Pierre Elliott Trudeau was Prime Minister for 15 years – Mr. Trudeau had rhetoric that was music to the ears of the global liberal elite, but his sense of the country's public mood has been poor. As his unhinged liberalism translated into unchecked policies of the federal government, Canadians turned against him and the Liberal Party collapsed into a low point in its history, with its popularity now barely touching 15%. His fiscal policy riled conservatives and moderates, and the generous immigration policy that he approved created a spurt in the population, straining housing, health care, employment opportunities and wages. His cultural liberalism was far off the centre of Canadian politics. When signs of discontent began to manifest as public protest and criticism, he resorted to strong arm state measures and dismissed his critics.

Mr. Trudeau said he hoped his exit would arrest the decline of the Liberal Party but that sounds overly optimistic. But a post-Trudeau Canada may be able to mend its ties with key partners including the United States and India. It might be months before the Liberal Party manages to install his successor or its minority government falls and a fresh election is held. The Conservative Party led by Pierre Poilievre is on an upswing and appears headed for a landslide victory, whenever elections are held, unless there is yet another turnaround in public mood. Mr. Trudeau's successor may help rescue Canada-India ties. Mr. Trudeau's compulsions to pander to Sikh extremists in Canada led to bizarre situations during his tenure. By escalating tensions with India on suspicion of Indian agents being involved in the murder of a Khalistani activist in Canada, Mr. Trudeau showed poor statesmanship and diplomacy. In being publicly judgmental and dismissive of Donald Trump in the run-up to the elections in the United States, Mr. Trudeau acted unwisely. He was ushered in with wide fanfare in 2015, but nobody seems to cry over this exit.

Wayward Liberal
विचलित उदारवादी

Justin Trudeau's rise and fall as a global progressive icon is representative of the crisis of liberalism in general.

जस्टिन ट्रूडो का एक वैश्विक प्रगति के प्रतीक के रूप में उत्थान और पतन, सामान्य रूप से उदारवाद के संकट का प्रतीक है।

- After being in power as Prime Minister of Canada for a **nine-year** tenure over **three terms**, Mr. Trudeau announced his resignation on **January 6**.

तीन कार्यकालों में कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में **नौ वर्षों** तक सत्ता में रहने के बाद, श्री ट्रूडो ने **6 जनवरी** को अपने इस्तीफे की घोषणा की।

- He had risen as the central figure of Canadian politics in **2015**, leading the Liberal Party to an impressive victory in the federal election but that turned out to be the peak of his popularity.

वह **2015** में कनाडाई राजनीति के केंद्रीय व्यक्तित्व के रूप में उभरे, और **नेशनल चुनाव** में लिबरल पार्टी को प्रभावशाली जीत दिलाई, लेकिन वह उनकी लोकप्रियता का शिखर साबित हुआ।

- Born a child of privilege and power — his father **Pierre Elliott Trudeau** was Prime Minister for **15 years** — Mr. Trudeau had rhetoric that was music to the ears of the global liberal elite, but his sense of the country's public mood has been poor.

विशेषाधिकार और शक्ति के एक बच्चे के रूप में जन्मे – उनके पिता **पिएरे एलियट ट्रूडो 15 वर्षों** तक प्रधानमंत्री रहे – श्री ट्रूडो के पास ऐसी बयानबाजी थी जो वैश्विक उदारवादी अभिजात वर्ग को पसंद थी, लेकिन उनका देश की सार्वजनिक मानसिकता को समझने का तरीका कमजोर था।

- As his unhinged liberalism translated into unchecked policies of the federal government, Canadians turned against him and the Liberal Party collapsed into a low point in its history, with its popularity now barely touching **15%**.

जैसे-जैसे उनका उन्मुक्त उदारवाद संघीय सरकार की बिना नियंत्रण वाली नीतियों में तब्दील हुआ, कनाडाई उनके खिलाफ हो गए और

लिबरल पार्टी अपने इतिहास के निचले बिंदु पर पहुंच गई, जिसकी लोकप्रियता अब मुश्किल से **15%** तक पहुंच रही है।

- His fiscal policy riled conservatives and moderates, and the generous immigration policy that he approved created a spurt in the population, straining housing, health care, employment opportunities and wages.

  नीति और बजट योजनाओं से कंजरवेटिव्स और मध्यम वर्गीय लोगों में नाराजगी पैदा हुई, और उनकी स्वीकृत उदार आव्रजन नीति ने जनसंख्या में वृद्धि की, जिससे आवास, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल, रोजगार के अवसर और वेतन पर दबाव पड़ा।

- His cultural liberalism was far off the centre of Canadian politics.

  उनका सांस्कृतिक उदारवाद कनाडाई राजनीति के केंद्र से बहुत दूर था।

- When signs of discontent began to manifest as public protest and criticism, he resorted to strong arm state measures and dismissed his critics.

  जब असंतोष के संकेत सार्वजनिक विरोध और आलोचना के रूप में उभरे, तो उन्होंने सख्त राज्य उपायों का सहारा लिया और अपने आलोचकों को नकारा।

- Mr. Trudeau said he hoped his exit would arrest the decline of the Liberal Party but that sounds overly optimistic.

  श्री ट्रूडो ने कहा कि वह आशा करते हैं कि उनका इस्तीफा लिबरल पार्टी के पतन को रोक देगा, लेकिन यह अत्यधिक आशावादी लगता है।

- But a post-Trudeau Canada may be able to mend its ties with key partners including the **United States** and **India**.

  लेकिन ट्रूडो के बाद कनाडा अपने महत्वपूर्ण साझेदारों के साथ, जिनमें **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** और **भारत** शामिल हैं, अपने संबंधों को सुधार सकता है।

- It might be months before the Liberal Party manages to install his successor or its minority government falls and a fresh election is held.

  लिबरल पार्टी को उनके उत्तराधिकारी को स्थापित करने में या उसकी अल्पसंख्यक सरकार के गिरने और नए चुनाव होने में महीनों का समय लग सकता है।

- The Conservative Party led by **Pierre Poilievre** is on an upswing and appears headed for a landslide victory, whenever elections are held, unless there is yet another turnaround in public mood.

  पिएरे पोइलिवरे द्वारा नेतृत्व वाली कंजरवेटिव पार्टी की स्थिति बेहतर हो रही है और यह भारी जीत की ओर बढ़ती दिख रही है, जब भी चुनाव होते हैं, जब तक कि सार्वजनिक मानसिकता में कोई और बदलाव न हो।

- Mr. Trudeau's successor may help rescue Canada-India ties.

  श्री ट्रूडो के उत्तराधिकारी कनाडा-भारत संबंधों को बचाने में मदद कर सकते हैं।

- Mr. Trudeau's compulsions to pander to **Sikh extremists** in Canada led to bizarre situations during his tenure.

  कनाडा में **सिख चरमपंथियों** को तुष्ट करने की श्री ट्रूडो की मजबूरी ने उनके कार्यकाल के दौरान अजीब स्थितियाँ उत्पन्न कीं।

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- By escalating tensions with **India** on suspicion of Indian agents being involved in the murder of a **Khalistani** activist in Canada, Mr. Trudeau showed poor statesmanship and diplomacy.

  भारत के साथ **खालिस्तानी** कार्यकर्ता की हत्या में भारतीय एजेंटों की संलिप्तता की आशंका के कारण तनाव को बढ़ाकर, श्री ट्रूडो ने खराब राज्यmanship और कूटनीति का प्रदर्शन किया।

- In being publicly judgmental and dismissive of **Donald Trump** in the run-up to the elections in the **United States**, Mr. Trudeau acted unwisely.

  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में चुनावों के मद्देनजर **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** की सार्वजनिक रूप से आलोचना और अपमानित करने में, श्री ट्रूडो ने अति उत्साही निर्णय लिया।

- He was ushered in with wide fanfare in **2015**, but nobody seems to cry over this exit.

  उन्हें 2015 में बड़े धूमधाम से स्वागत किया गया था, लेकिन अब इस इस्तीफे पर कोई शोक नहीं प्रकट कर रहा है।

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More flexibility, but also greater challenges

GS Paper II: Education Sector

The latest guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC) herald a transformative shift in higher education in India. Among other reforms, the UGC has introduced an accelerated degree programme and an extended degree programme for undergraduate students, which will allow them to complete their degrees either earlier or later than the standard duration.

Advantages and challenges

This new paradigm aims to create a globally competitive educational framework that allows students greater autonomy and flexibility in charting out their academic trajectory. In a rigid education system such as India's, this is particularly revolutionary.

While an accelerated degree programme will be advantageous for students who are keen to join the workforce quickly or who wish to gain early professional experience or save money on tuition fees, the extended degree programme will allow students the leeway to explore a broader range of subjects, undertake internships, engage in research projects, travel and learn new skills, and balance academic pursuits with personal and professional commitments. As the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, advocates for a multidisciplinary approach to learning, this approach could produce graduates who are not only proficient in their chosen fields, but are also equipped with more soft skills, creative skills, and ideas for innovation.

In addition, by aligning the structure of undergraduate education with international standards, the reforms aim to create greater mobility for Indian students, both within India and abroad. The flexible credit system introduced under these reforms will allow students to progress at their own pace. They can tailor their academic experiences to their specific needs, interests, and future career goals. This autonomy is important for the

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The accelerated and extended degree programmes herald a transformative shift in Indian education but also raise many questions

students.

However, there are challenges. The accelerated format raises questions about the depth and rigour of the education provided to students. If students are taught the same curriculum within a shorter period of time, they may have a superficial understanding of key concepts; this could compromise educational outcomes. In contrast, students who opt for the extended degree programme may lack academic urgency. Some may take longer than necessary to complete their studies, which would diminish the value of the degree.

Adapting to the new structure

It is especially difficult for technical education to adapt to the new structure. Engineering programmes demand a deep understanding of both theory and practice. While the push for interdisciplinary education is beneficial for students, engineering programmes are traditionally structured to provide students with a specialised education that prepares them for specific career paths.

Accelerated engineering degrees could risk oversimplifying technical learning. Engineering degrees require an in-depth study of subjects such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, and advanced engineering principles. Compressing this content could reduce the time available for practical projects, lab work, tutorial sessions, and project work and internships, which are crucial for developing technical competencies required in the field. Engineering students are often required to solve real-world problems, and any pressure to finish their studies quickly may hinder their ability to master problem-solving techniques that are integral to their profession.

Conversely, while the extended degree option in engineering could provide students with more opportunities for specialisation, research, and practical experience, it may also be more of

a financial burden for students and could discourage those who already face economic constraints.

Practical issues

The transition to accelerated and extended degree formats requires substantial restructuring of curricula, teaching methods, and approval from competent bodies of universities and administrative systems. This could be daunting for universities that already face resource constraints. Further, the shift towards greater digitalisation in education, which is likely to accompany these reforms, could deepen the digital divide.

The introduction of accelerated and extended degrees necessitates robust systems for tracking student progress, evaluation, managing credit transfers, and ensuring the appropriate recognition of academic achievements. Institutions will need to develop sophisticated administrative frameworks to manage these complexities.

The equity implications of these reforms are also concerning. Students from underprivileged backgrounds may struggle to navigate the new system without adequate guidance and support and may even drop out if they are not able to catch up with the rest.

The adaptation of faculty to these new pedagogical models is another potential obstacle. Teachers will need to undergo professional development to adjust to the demands of flexible, interdisciplinary curricula. The success of these reforms hinges not only on the students' ability to navigate the new systems but also on the capacity of educators to support them effectively.

If these challenges are addressed with strategic planning, adequate investment, timely recruitment of faculty and staff, and a commitment to inclusivity, these reforms could lay the foundation for a more dynamic higher education system, which is better aligned to market needs, and would help India realise the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

More Flexibility, but Also Greater Challenges
अधिक लचीलापन, लेकिन अधिक चुनौतियाँ

The latest guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC) introduce a transformative shift in higher education in India.

यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन (UGC) के नवीनतम दिशानिर्देश उच्च शिक्षा में एक परिवर्तनकारी बदलाव का परिचय कराते हैं।

- UGC has introduced an **accelerated degree programme** and an **extended degree programme** for undergraduate students, allowing them to complete their degrees earlier or later than the standard duration.

  UGC ने स्नातक छात्रों के लिए **त्वरित डिग्री कार्यक्रम** और **विस्तारित डिग्री कार्यक्रम** पेश किया है, जो उन्हें मानक अवधि से पहले या बाद में अपनी डिग्रियां पूरी करने की अनुमति देते हैं।

Advantages and Challenges
फायदे और चुनौतियाँ

- The accelerated degree programme benefits students who want to join the workforce quickly or gain early professional experience.

  त्वरित डिग्री कार्यक्रम उन छात्रों के लिए फायदेमंद है जो जल्दी कामकाजी जीवन में शामिल होना चाहते हैं या शुरुआती पेशेवर अनुभव प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं।

- The extended degree programme allows students to explore more subjects, engage in research, internships, travel, and learn new skills while balancing academic and personal commitments.

  विस्तारित डिग्री कार्यक्रम छात्रों को अधिक विषयों का अन्वेषण करने, अनुसंधान, इंटर्नशिप, यात्रा करने और नई क्षमताएँ सीखने की अनुमति देता है, जबकि वे अकादमिक और व्यक्तिगत प्रतिबद्धताओं को संतुलित करते हैं।

- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates for a **multidisciplinary approach**, helping produce graduates proficient in their fields with soft skills, creative skills, and innovation.

  राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 **बहुविषयक दृष्टिकोण** की वकालत करती है, जो छात्रों को उनके क्षेत्रों में दक्ष बनाते हुए सॉफ़्ट स्किल्स, रचनात्मक कौशल और नवाचार में सक्षम बनाती है।

- The flexible credit system introduced will allow students to progress at their own pace, tailoring academic experiences to their needs, interests, and career goals.

  लचीला क्रेडिट सिस्टम छात्रों को अपनी गति से प्रगति करने की अनुमति देगा, जिससे वे अपनी शैक्षिक यात्रा को अपनी जरूरतों, रुचियों और करियर लक्ष्यों के अनुसार अनुकूलित कर सकते हैं।

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However, There Are Challenges
हालाँकि, चुनौतियाँ हैं

- The accelerated degree format may compromise the depth and rigour of education, as students may have a superficial understanding of key concepts.
  त्वरित डिग्री प्रारूप शैक्षिक गहराई और कठोरता से समझौता कर सकता है, क्योंकि छात्रों के पास प्रमुख अवधारणाओं की सतही समझ हो सकती है।
- Extended degrees may lead to a lack of academic urgency, with some students taking longer than necessary to complete their studies.
  विस्तारित डिग्री शैक्षिक तत्परता की कमी का कारण बन सकती है, कुछ छात्र अपनी पढ़ाई पूरी करने में अधिक समय ले सकते हैं।

Adapting to the New Structure
नई संरचना के साथ सामंजस्य बैठाना

- Technical education, such as engineering, may face challenges in adapting to the new system, as engineering degrees require an in-depth understanding of theory and practice.
  तकनीकी शिक्षा, जैसे इंजीनियरिंग, नई प्रणाली के साथ सामंजस्य बैठाने में चुनौतियों का सामना कर सकती है, क्योंकि इंजीनियरिंग डिग्रियाँ सिद्धांत और अभ्यास की गहरी समझ की मांग करती हैं।
- Accelerated engineering degrees may risk oversimplifying technical learning, reducing time for practical projects, lab work, and internships.
  त्वरित इंजीनियरिंग डिग्रियाँ तकनीकी शिक्षा को अधिक सरल बनाने का जोखिम उठा सकती हैं, जिससे व्यावहारिक परियोजनाओं, प्रयोगशाला कार्य और इंटर्नशिप के लिए समय कम हो सकता है।
- Extended engineering degrees could provide more specialization, research, and practical experience but may become a financial burden for some students.
  विस्तारित इंजीनियरिंग डिग्रियाँ अधिक विशेषज्ञता, शोध और व्यावहारिक अनुभव प्रदान कर सकती हैं, लेकिन कुछ छात्रों के लिए यह आर्थिक बोझ बन सकती हैं।

Practical Issues
व्यावहारिक समस्याएँ

- Transitioning to accelerated and extended degree formats requires restructuring curricula, teaching methods, and approval from university bodies.
  त्वरित और विस्तारित डिग्री प्रारूपों में संक्रमण के लिए पाठ्यक्रमों, शिक्षण विधियों और विश्वविद्यालय निकायों से अनुमोदन की आवश्यकता होती है।

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- The shift towards digitalization in education may deepen the digital divide.
  शिक्षा में डिजिटलीकरण की ओर बदलाव डिजिटल विभाजन को गहरा कर सकता है।

- Institutions will need robust systems for tracking student progress, credit transfers, and academic achievements.
  संस्थाओं को छात्र की प्रगति, क्रेडिट ट्रांसफर और शैक्षिक उपलब्धियों को ट्रैक करने के लिए मजबूत प्रणालियाँ स्थापित करनी होंगी।

- Equity concerns arise as students from underprivileged backgrounds may struggle without adequate guidance and support.
  समानता के मुद्दे उत्पन्न होते हैं क्योंकि वंचित पृष्ठभूमि से आने वाले छात्र उचित मार्गदर्शन और समर्थन के बिना संघर्ष कर सकते हैं।

- Faculty adaptation to flexible, interdisciplinary curricula is crucial for the success of these reforms.
  इन सुधारों की सफलता के लिए शिक्षकों का लचीले, बहुविषयक पाठ्यक्रमों के प्रति अनुकूलन आवश्यक है।

Conclusion
निष्कर्ष

- If challenges are addressed strategically, these reforms could lead to a dynamic higher education system, helping India achieve the goal of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.
  यदि इन चुनौतियों का रणनीतिक रूप से समाधान किया जाता है, तो ये सुधार एक गतिशील उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली की ओर ले जा सकते हैं, जो भारत को **2047 तक विकसित भारत** के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में मदद करेगा।

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Maoist strongholds are shrinking, but deadly threats persist

With nine security personnel killed in the first week of 2025, the toll has already surpassed a third of last year's total

GS Paper III: Internal Security

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Nitika Francis

On Monday, eight security personnel were killed when Maoists blew up their vehicle with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh. While the insurgents have faced a series of setbacks in recent years, and their geographical influence has sharply contracted over the last decade, the latest attack is a stark reminder that their firepower remains a threat in areas where they are still active.

While there have been isolated attacks that have claimed the lives of security forces in Chhattisgarh, no single incident in the past 600 days has claimed the lives of eight or more security personnel. The last deadly incident was in April 2023, when an IED blast in Dantewada killed 10 District Reserve Guard personnel and a civilian driver. The most devastating incident before that occurred in April 2021, when 22 personnel were killed in an encounter in Sukma.

Chart 1 shows the deaths of security personnel in individual incidents since 2000 in Chhattisgarh. The April 2010 attack in Dantewada, which claimed the lives of 74 Central Reserve Police Force personnel and two police officers, remains the deadliest single incident for security forces in their operation against the insurgents. The second biggest incident took place in March 2007 when hundreds of Maoists attacked a remote police station and killed over 50 security personnel. Individual incidents that saw massive casualties have significantly decreased over the past decade in the State. This is why the latest attack is significant.

In recent months, many left-wing extremists have been killed in "encounters", primarily in Chhattisgarh but also in other States, as paramilitary forces and State police have intensified their operations. Deaths among civilians and security forces have remained limited. **Chart 2** depicts fatalities among civilians, security forces, and insurgents over the years across all States in incidents involving Maoists. Last year was the third deadliest year for the Maoists since 2000 as 296 insurgents were killed. The deadliest year for the insurgents was 2006, when 343 were killed.

In contrast, 24 security personnel died in Maoist incidents last year, the second-lowest number since 2000. The year 2022 was the worst year for the forces, as 15 lives were lost. However, this year has already crossed one-third of last year's total, with nine personnel dead so far.

Most of the recent incidents were concentrated in south Chhattisgarh, particularly the Bastar region, possibly the Maoists' last stronghold. **Table 3** highlights the district-wise share of left-wing extremism-related deaths in Chhattisgarh over five-year periods. Nearly 30% of all such deaths between 2020 and 2025 occurred in Bijapur. Over 65% of the remaining fatalities were reported from other districts in the Bastar region, including Narayanpur, Sukma, Dantewada, Kanker, and Bastar.

Chart 4 displays State-wise left-wing extremism-related deaths since 2000. In 2024, nearly 80% of all fatalities occurred in Chhattisgarh. Incidents in the forested districts of Andhra Pradesh/Telangana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, and West Bengal saw a significant decline.

The geographical contraction of Maoist influence has been largely driven by tribal communities, who have increasingly distanced themselves from the cause. This shift is reflected in the sharp decline in NOTA (None of the Above) votes during the 2023 elections in Chhattisgarh, with only 1.3% opting for it. Historically, regions with higher NOTA vote shares have often had areas that were greatly affected by left-wing extremism.

A clear and present danger

The data for the charts were sourced from the South Asia Terrorism Portal

Chart 1: The chart illustrates the deaths of security personnel resulting from individual incidents since 2000 in Chhattisgarh

March 2007: Hundreds of Maoists attacked a remote police station and killed over 50 security personnel

April 2010: Attack in Dantewada claimed the lives of 74 CRPF personnel and two Chhattisgarh police officers. This was the deadliest incident for security forces

April 2023: Attack in Dantewada killed 10 personnel

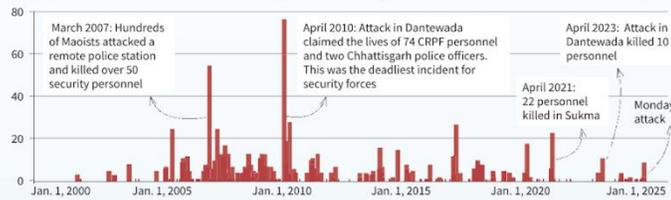April 2021: 22 personnel killed in Sukma

Monday's attack

Chart 2: The chart depicts fatalities among civilians, security forces, and insurgents over the years across all States in incidents involving Maoists
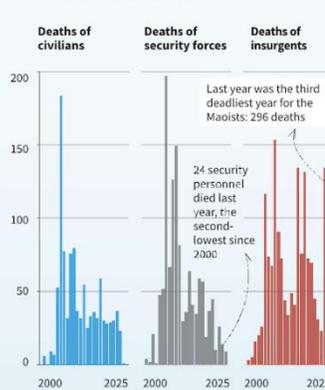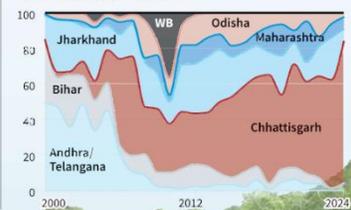

Deaths of civilians | Deaths of security forces | Deaths of insurgents

Last year was the third deadliest year for the Maoists: 296 deaths

24 security personnel died last year, the second-lowest since 2000

Table 3: District-wise share (%) of left-wing extremism-related deaths in Chhattisgarh over five-year periods

District	2000-04	2005-10	2011-14	2015-20	2021-25
Bijapur	4.1	24.1	28.6	24.3	29.2
Narayanpur	0.0	5.7	6.2	8.6	22.8
Sukma	0.0	0.0	23.8	33.9	18.8
Dantewada	56.0	50.5	19.7	12.7	13.3
Kanker	3.7	6.2	4.7	7.2	10.2
Bastar	21.6	4.8	8.0	3.9	1.2
Others	14.7	8.7	9.0	9.4	4.5

Chart 4: The chart shows left-wing extremism-related deaths, State-wise, between 2000 and 2024

Jharkhand | WB | Odisha | Maharashtra | Bihar | Chhattisgarh | Andhra/Telangana

Maoist strongholds are shrinking, but deadly threats persist

माओवादी गढ़ घट रहे हैं, लेकिन घातक खतरे कायम हैं

On Monday, eight security personnel were killed when Maoists blew up their vehicle with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.

सोमवार को, माओवादियों ने छत्तीसगढ़ के बिजापुर में अपनी गाड़ी को

इम्प्रोवाइज्ड एक्सप्लोसिव डिवाइस (IED) से उड़ा दिया, जिससे आठ सुरक्षा कर्मियों की मौत हो गई।

- The insurgents have faced a series of setbacks in recent years, and their geographical influence has sharply contracted over the last **decade**, but the latest attack is a stark reminder that their firepower remains a threat in areas where they are still active.

  आतंकवादियों को पिछले कुछ वर्षों में कई setbacks का सामना करना पड़ा है, और उनके भौगोलिक प्रभाव में पिछले दस वर्षों में भारी कमी आई है, लेकिन नवीनतम हमला यह स्पष्ट रूप से याद दिलाता है कि उनका अस्तित्व अब भी सक्रिय क्षेत्रों में खतरे के रूप में है।

- While there have been isolated attacks that have claimed the lives of security forces in **Chhattisgarh**, no single incident in the past **600 days** has claimed the lives of **eight or more security personnel**.

  हालांकि, छत्तीसगढ़ में सुरक्षा बलों की जान लेने वाले कुछ अलग-अलग हमले हुए हैं, पिछले 600 दिनों में कोई भी घटना आठ या उससे अधिक सुरक्षा कर्मियों की जान नहीं ले पाई।

- The last deadly incident was in **April 2023**, when an **IED blast** in **Dantewada** killed **10 District Reserve Guard personnel** and a civilian driver.

  पिछला घातक हादसा अप्रैल 2023 में हुआ, जब दंतेवाड़ा में एक IED विस्फोट में 10 जिला रिजर्व गार्ड के कर्मियों और एक नागरिक चालक की जान चली गई।

- The most devastating incident before that occurred in **April 2021**, when **22 personnel** were killed in an **encounter** in **Sukma**.

  उससे पहले का सबसे विनाशकारी हादसा अप्रैल 2021 में हुआ, जब 22 सुरक्षा कर्मी सुकमा में एक मुठभेड़ में मारे गए।

- The **April 2010** attack in **Dantewada**, which claimed the lives of **74 Central Reserve Police Force personnel** and **two police officers**, remains the deadliest single incident for security forces in their operation against the insurgents.

  दंतेवाड़ा में अप्रैल 2010 में हुआ हमला, जिसमें 74 केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल के कर्मी और दो पुलिस अधिकारी मारे गए थे, यह माओवादियों के खिलाफ सुरक्षा बलों की कार्यवाही में सबसे घातक घटना बनी हुई है।

- The second biggest incident took place in **March 2007** when hundreds of Maoists attacked a remote police station and killed **over 50 security personnel**.

  दूसरी सबसे बड़ी घटना मार्च 2007 में हुई, जब सैकड़ों माओवादियों ने एक दूरदराज पुलिस थाने पर हमला किया और 50 से अधिक सुरक्षा कर्मियों को मार डाला।

- Individual incidents that saw massive casualties have significantly decreased over the past **decade** in the State.

  पिछले दस वर्षों में राज्य में बड़े पैमाने पर हताहत होने वाली घटनाओं में काफी कमी आई है।

- In recent months, many left-wing extremists have been killed in **encounters**, primarily in **Chhattisgarh** but also in other States, as paramilitary forces and State police have intensified their operations.

  हाल के महीनों में, कई वामपंथी उग्रवादी सामना में मारे गए हैं, मुख्य रूप से छत्तीसगढ़ में,

लेकिन अन्य राज्यों में भी, क्योंकि अर्धसैनिक बलों और राज्य पुलिस ने अपनी कार्रवाई को तेज कर दिया है।

- Deaths among **civilians** and **security forces** have remained limited.
  नागरिकों और **सुरक्षा बलों** के बीच मौतें सीमित रही हैं।

- Last year was the **third deadliest year** for the Maoists since **2000** as **296 insurgents** were killed.
  पिछला वर्ष 2000 के बाद माओवादियों के लिए **तीसरा सबसे घातक वर्ष था, क्योंकि **296 उग्रवादी** मारे गए थे।

- The deadliest year for the insurgents was **2006**, when **343** were killed.
  2006 उग्रवादियों के लिए सबसे घातक वर्ष था, जब **343** मारे गए थे।

- In contrast, **24 security personnel** died in Maoist incidents last year, the **second-lowest number** since **2000**.
  इसके विपरीत, **पिछले वर्ष माओवादी घटनाओं** में **24 सुरक्षा कर्मी** मारे गए, जो **2000** के बाद **दूसरा सबसे कम संख्या** है।

- The year **2022** was the worst year for the forces, as **15 lives** were lost.
  2022 वर्ष बलों के लिए सबसे बुरा था, क्योंकि **15 जानें** चली गई थीं।

- This year has already crossed **one-third** of last year's total, with **nine personnel** dead so far.
  इस वर्ष अब तक **पिछले वर्ष की कुल संख्या का एक-तिहाई** पार कर चुका है, जिसमें अब तक **नौ कर्मियों** की मौत हो चुकी है।

- Most of the recent incidents were concentrated in **south Chhattisgarh**, particularly the **Bastar region**, possibly the Maoists' last stronghold.
  हाल की अधिकांश घटनाएँ दक्षिण छत्तीसगढ़ में, विशेष रूप से **बस्तर क्षेत्र में केंद्रित थीं, जो संभवतः माओवादियों का आखिरी गढ़ हो सकता है।

- Nearly **30%** of all such deaths between **2020** and **2025** occurred in **Bijapur**.
  2020 और **2025** के बीच सभी ऐसी मौतों का लगभग **30% बिजापुर** में हुआ।

- Over **65%** of the remaining fatalities were reported from other districts in the **Bastar region**, including **Narayanpur, Sukma, Dantewada, Kanker**, and **Bastar**.
  बाकी **65%** मौतें बस्तर क्षेत्र के अन्य जिलों से आईं, जिसमें **नारायणपुर, सुकमा, दंतेवाड़ा, कांकेर, और बस्तर** शामिल हैं।

- In **2024**, nearly **80%** of all fatalities occurred in **Chhattisgarh**.
  2024 में, **80%** से अधिक मौतें **छत्तीसगढ़** में हुईं।

- Incidents in the forested districts of **Andhra Pradesh/Telangana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, and West Bengal** saw a significant decline.
  आंध्र प्रदेश/तेलंगाना, झारखंड, महाराष्ट्र, ओडिशा, और पश्चिम बंगाल के जंगलों वाले जिलों में घटनाओं में महत्वपूर्ण कमी आई।

- The geographical contraction of Maoist influence has been largely driven by **tribal communities**, who have increasingly distanced themselves from the cause.

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माओवादी प्रभाव का भौगोलिक संकुचन मुख्य रूप से **आदिवासी समुदायों** द्वारा किया गया है, जिन्होंने धीरे-धीरे इस कारण से अपनी दूरी बना ली है।

- This shift is reflected in the sharp decline in **NOTA (None of the Above)** votes during the **2023 elections** in **Chhattisgarh**, with only **1.3%** opting for it.

  यह बदलाव **2023 के चुनावों** में **छत्तीसगढ़** में **NOTA (None of the Above)** वोटों में तेज गिरावट में दिखता है, जिसमें केवल **1.3%** ने इसे चुना।

- Historically, regions with higher **NOTA** vote shares have often had areas greatly affected by left-wing extremism.

  ऐतिहासिक रूप से, **NOTA** वोटों के उच्च हिस्से वाले क्षेत्र अक्सर वामपंथी उग्रवाद से प्रभावित होते हैं।

Why is there a drop in school enrolments?

What does the data from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus reports tell us about student dropouts and school reduction? Why has the Ministry of Education said that 2022-23, 2023-24 UDISE+ report data is not strictly comparable with the years before it?

GS Paper II: Education Sector

EXPLAINER

Maitri Porecha

The story so far:

The total enrolment of students in schools across India studying from grade 1-12, dropped by over a crore in 2023-24 as compared to 2018-19. After a gap of two years, the Ministry of Education (MoE) released the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) for 2022-23, 2023-24 on December 30, 2024.

What do the figures say?

Since 2012-13, when the MoE started maintaining UDISE+ data, it was believed that the total number of students studying in India were 26.3 crore. Till November 22, 2022 when the 2021-22 data was released, the number hovered around 26 crore, until last month, when the 2022-23 data reflected enrolment at 25.18 crore, which has further fallen to 24.8 crore in 2023-24 (a drop of 6% or 1.22 crore students) as compared to earlier years.

How did such a drop happen?

MoE officials in the UDISE+ reports have given a disclaimer that the UDISE+ reports of 2022-23 and 2023-24 are not strictly comparable to previous years reports because of a change in the 'methodology,' of data collection. However, former professor and HOD, Department of Educational Management Information System at Delhi-based NIEPA, Arun Mehta, said that the UDISE+ reports are silent on the sharp decline in total enrolment of students, and the dip in government schools. "The reports do not explain the reasons behind the dip. Only change in methodology of data collection is not reason enough," said Prof. Mehta, who has worked on UDISE reports for 15 years.

What is the change in methodology?

While the MoE claims that the exercise of individual data collection from each student, which includes their Aadhaar number, was implemented from 2022-23, Prof. Mehta said that a similar exercise was initiated in 2016-17 and went on for a year. "We had anticipated even back then that there was no way of verifying data that was sent by schools regarding the number of students studying in their facilities, and so for one year NIEPA had attempted to collect individual student data with consent from the MoE. However, over subsequent years this exercise was discontinued and restarted only in 2022-23."

Prof. Mehta explains that the enrolment decline since 2022-23 can be attributed to the elimination of duplicate enrolments (of students changing schools, but their records being maintained at two or more places), inflated enrolment figures and so on. "The new data collection system suggests that previous enrolment figures were overestimated by 5-6%. So what happened to these students who no longer reflect in UDISE data? Were they previously included for funding or incentive purpose like scholarships, free meals, text books and cash benefits? If so much how much funding was allocated to these students and was it effectively utilised?," he asks.

For instance, in 2022-23, ₹32,515 crore (actual) was incurred under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, during the time when enrolment dropped (the latest figure reveals). In the current financial year of 2024-25, the allocation under the scheme is higher at ₹37,010 crore.

How comparable is UDISE+ data of last years with 2022-23, 2023-24 data?

While the MoE cautions that UDISE 2022-23 and 2023-24 data is not comparable with previous years, upon reviewing the UDISE+ 2022-23 report, Prof. Mehta noted that efficiency indicators like dropout, transition, and retention rates of students were computed depending on UDISE+ 2021-22 data. "Despite differences in data collection methodology, indicators, rates, and ratios remain comparable as this reflects the situation at a specific point of time, regardless of the methodology used," he says. Even after revamped data collection methods were put in place, there has been a decline in the enrolment of students between 2022-23 and 2023-24 by 37 lakh. "The UDISE+ report is silent on this steep decline, nor is there an explanation for declining number of schools covered under UDISE+; whether this decline of schools is due to merging or closing down of schools is not clear," Prof. Mehta says. There is also a stark decrease in the number of schools covered under UDISE+. There was a drop in the number of schools covered – from 15, 58, 903 (2017-18) to 14,71,891 (2023-24), a decline of 87,012 schools. Most of these schools are government-run, with 76,883 lesser schools recorded in the latest 2023-24 data. "MoE must furnish reasons for the decline of schools. Was this due to the shutting down and merger of schools? and while shutting down schools, were the Right to Education norms of having one primary school within a kilometre followed?," Prof. Mehta said.

Which States are the most affected?

Jammu and Kashmir experienced the most decline in total schools, with a decline of 4,509 schools, while in Assam 4,229 schools reduced, and in Uttar Pradesh 2,967. Other affected States are Madhya Pradesh (2,170) and Maharashtra (1,368). "With the shutting down of schools, parents seek re-admission of their children to another nearby school. It is not an automatic transfer. Students drop out during this process, where parents are not comfortable seeking re-admission because of longer distances," said Prof. Mehta.

Low numbers: Students go for school during a cold morning in Srinagar in November 2024. IMRAN NISSAR

THE GIST

▼
MoE officials in the UDISE+ reports have given a disclaimer that the UDISE+ reports of 2022-23 and 2023-24 are not strictly comparable to previous years reports because of a change in the 'methodology,' of data collection.

▼
Till November 22, 2022 when the 2021-22 data was released, the number hovered around 26 crore, until last month, when the 2022-23 data reflected enrolment at 25.18 crore, which has further fallen to 24.8 crore in 2023-24.

▼
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Why is there a drop in school enrolments?

स्कूल नामांकन में गिरावट क्यों आई है?

What does the data from the Uni• ed District Information System for Education Plus reports tell us about student dropouts and school reduction? Why has the Ministry of Education said that 2022-23, 2023-24 UDISE+ report data is not strictly comparable with the years before it?

यूनीड डिस्ट्रिक्ट इंफॉर्मेशन सिस्टम फॉर एजुकेशन प्लस रिपोर्ट्स के डेटा से हमें छात्रों के स्कूल छोड़ने और स्कूल में कमी के बारे में क्या पता चलता है? शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने क्यों कहा है कि 2022-23, 2023-24 यूडीआईएसई+ रिपोर्ट डेटा पिछले वर्षों के साथ पूरी तरह से तुलनीय नहीं है?

Drop in Total Enrolment of Students in India (2023-24)
भारत में छात्रों के कुल नामांकन में गिरावट (2023-24)

- The total enrolment of students in schools across India studying from grade 1-12 dropped by over **1 crore** in **2023-24** as compared to **2018-19**.
  भारत में कक्षा 1-12 तक के स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले छात्रों का कुल नामांकन **2018-19** की तुलना में **2023-24** में **1 करोड़** से अधिक घट गया।
- The Ministry of Education (MoE) released the **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** for **2022-23, 2023-24** on **December 30, 2024**.
  शिक्षा मंत्रालय (MoE) ने **2022-23, 2023-24** के लिए **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** को **30 दिसंबर 2024** को जारी किया।

Data Overview
आंकड़ों का अवलोकन

- Since **2012-13**, when the MoE started maintaining UDISE+ data, it was believed that the total number of students studying in India was **26.3 crore**.
  2012-13 से, जब MoE ने UDISE+ डेटा संकलन शुरू किया था, तब माना जाता था कि भारत में पढ़ने वाले छात्रों की कुल संख्या **26.3 करोड़** थी।
- Till **November 22, 2022**, when the **2021-22** data was released, the number hovered around **26 crore**, until last month, when the **2022-23** data reflected enrolment at **25.18 crore**, which has further fallen to **24.8 crore** in **2023-24**. A drop of **6%** or **1.22 crore students** compared to earlier years.

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22 नवंबर 2022 तक, जब **2021-22** का डेटा जारी किया गया था, तब यह संख्या **26 करोड़** के आस-पास थी, जब तक कि पिछले महीने **2022-23** का डेटा नहीं आया, जिसमें **25.18 करोड़** छात्रों का नामांकन दर्शाया गया, जो **2023-24** में घटकर **24.8 करोड़** हो गया। यह पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में **6%** या **1.22 करोड़ छात्रों** की गिरावट है।

Reasons for the Drop
गिरावट के कारण

- MoE officials in the UDISE+ reports have given a disclaimer that the UDISE+ reports of **2022-23** and **2023-24** are not strictly comparable to previous years due to a change in the 'methodology' of data collection.
  MoE अधिकारियों ने UDISE+ रिपोर्ट्स में यह स्पष्ट किया है कि **2022-23** और **2023-24** की रिपोर्ट्स पिछले वर्षों से सख्ती से तुलना योग्य नहीं हैं क्योंकि डेटा संकलन की 'विधि' में बदलाव किया गया है।

- Former professor and HOD, Department of Educational Management Information System at NIEPA, Arun Mehta, said that the UDISE+ reports do not explain the sharp dip in total enrolment of students, and the dip in government schools.
  दिल्ली स्थित NIEPA के पूर्व प्रोफेसर और HOD, शैक्षिक प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली विभाग, अरुण मेहता ने कहा कि UDISE+ रिपोर्ट्स छात्रों के कुल नामांकन में तेज गिरावट और सरकारी स्कूलों में गिरावट के कारणों को नहीं बताती हैं।

Change in Methodology
विधि में बदलाव

- The MoE claims that the exercise of individual data collection from each student, including their **Aadhaar number**, was implemented from **2022-23**.
  MoE का दावा है कि **2022-23** से प्रत्येक छात्र से व्यक्तिगत डेटा संकलन का अभ्यास किया गया, जिसमें उनका **आधार नंबर** शामिल है।

- Prof. Mehta said that a similar exercise was initiated in **2016-17** but discontinued, and only restarted in **2022-23**.
  प्रोफेसर मेहता ने कहा कि एक समान अभ्यास **2016-17** में शुरू किया गया था, लेकिन इसे बंद कर दिया गया था और केवल **2022-23** में फिर से शुरू किया गया।

- The decline in enrolment since **2022-23** can be attributed to the elimination of duplicate enrolments (students changing schools but records maintained in two or more places).
  2022-23 से नामांकन में गिरावट को डुप्लिकेट नामांकन (छात्रों का स्कूल बदलना, लेकिन रिकॉर्ड दो या अधिक स्थानों पर बने रहना) के हटने से जोड़ा जा सकता है।

- The new data collection system suggests that previous enrolment figures were overestimated by **5-6%**.
  नया डेटा संकलन प्रणाली सुझाव देती है कि पिछले नामांकन आंकड़े **5-6%** अधिक अनुमानित थे।

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Funding Allocation and Utilization

वित्तीय आवंटन और उपयोग

- In **2022-23**, ₹**32,515 crore** was spent under the **Samagra Shiksha** scheme during the time when enrolment dropped.
  2022-23 में ₹**32,515 करोड़** का खर्च **समग्र शिक्षा** योजना के तहत हुआ, जब नामांकन में गिरावट आई।

- In the current financial year **2024-25**, the allocation under the scheme is higher at ₹**37,010 crore**.
  वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष **2024-25** में, योजना के तहत आवंटन बढ़कर ₹**37,010 करोड़** हो गया है।

Comparability of UDISE+ Data with Previous Years

UDISE+ डेटा का पिछले वर्षों से तुलना

- The MoE cautions that **2022-23** and **2023-24** UDISE+ data is not comparable to previous years.
  MoE चेतावनी देता है कि **2022-23** और **2023-24** के UDISE+ डेटा को पिछले वर्षों से तुलना नहीं किया जा सकता है।

- Prof. Mehta notes that despite changes in data collection methodology, efficiency indicators like **dropout**, **transition**, and **retention rates** remain comparable.
  प्रोफेसर मेहता का कहना है कि डेटा संकलन विधि में बदलाव के बावजूद, कार्यक्षमता संकेतक जैसे **ड्रॉपआउट**, **परिवर्तन** और **रिटेंशन दर** तुलनीय बने रहते हैं।

- Even after revamped data collection methods, enrolment declined by **37 lakh** students from **2022-23** to **2023-24**.
  नए डेटा संकलन तरीकों के बाद भी, **2022-23** से **2023-24** के बीच **37 लाख** छात्रों का नामांकन घटा है।

- The UDISE+ report is silent on this steep decline and does not explain the declining number of schools covered under UDISE+.
  UDISE+ रिपोर्ट इस तेज गिरावट पर चुप है और यह नहीं बताती कि UDISE+ के तहत कवर किए गए स्कूलों की संख्या में गिरावट क्यों आई है।

Decline in Number of Schools Covered by UDISE+

UDISE+ द्वारा कवर किए गए स्कूलों की संख्या में गिरावट

- There was a drop in the number of schools covered — from **15,58,903** (2017-18) to **14,71,891** (2023-24), a decline of **87,012 schools**.
  कवर किए गए स्कूलों की संख्या में गिरावट आई – **15,58,903** (2017-18) से घटकर **14,71,891** (2023-24) हो गई, जो **87,012 स्कूलों** की गिरावट है।

- Most of these schools are government-run, with **76,883 fewer schools** recorded in the latest **2023-24** data.

इनमें से अधिकांश सरकारी स्कूल हैं, और नवीनतम **2023-24** डेटा में **76,883** कम स्कूलों का रिकॉर्ड है।

Reasons for Decline in Schools
स्कूलों में गिरावट के कारण

- Prof. Mehta asks whether the decline in schools is due to the **shutting down** and **merging** of schools.
  प्रोफेसर मेहता पूछते हैं कि क्या स्कूलों में गिरावट स्कूलों के **बंद होने** और **विलय** होने के कारण है।
- While shutting down schools, were the **Right to Education norms** of having one primary school within a kilometre followed?
  स्कूल बंद करते समय, क्या **शिक्षा का अधिकार (RTE)** नियमों का पालन करते हुए एक किलोमीटर के भीतर एक प्राथमिक स्कूल होना सुनिश्चित किया गया था?

States Most Affected
सबसे अधिक प्रभावित राज्य

- **Jammu and Kashmir** saw the most decline in total schools, with a drop of **4,509 schools**.
  जम्मू और कश्मीर में कुल स्कूलों में सबसे अधिक गिरावट आई, **4,509 स्कूलों** की कमी आई।
- **Assam** lost **4,229 schools**, and **Uttar Pradesh** saw a reduction of **2,967 schools**.
  असम में **4,229 स्कूल** कम हुए, और **उत्तर प्रदेश** में **2,967 स्कूल** कम हुए।
- Other affected states include **Madhya Pradesh** (**2,170**) and **Maharashtra** (**1,368**).
  अन्य प्रभावित राज्य हैं **मध्य प्रदेश** (**2,170**) और **महाराष्ट्र** (**1,368**)।
- With the shutting down of schools, parents seek re-admission of their children to another nearby school, which leads to dropouts due to the distance.
  स्कूलों के बंद होने के कारण, माता-पिता अपने बच्चों को पास के किसी अन्य स्कूल में फिर से प्रवेश दिलवाने की कोशिश करते हैं, जिससे दूरी के कारण **ड्रॉपआउट** होते हैं।

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Why the location of China's earthquake matters

What is a terrane? Was China's construction of the world's largest hydroelectric-power dam near the area where the 7.1 quake happened? What is the significance of the location?

GS Paper I: Earthquake

The Hindu Bureau

The story so far:

At 6:35 am IST on January 7, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.1 struck Tibetan China and Nepal. The epicentre was located 10 km below a spot around 80 km north of Mt Everest. As of 7 pm, Chinese state media had reported 95 people dead, 130 injured, and hundreds of houses flattened on its side of the border. Updates on damage and casualties from other areas, including Nepal, are awaited. There have also been reports of the tremors being felt as far away as Kathmandu, Thimphu, and Kolkata.

Where did the quake occur?

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre, the point on the surface below which the epicentre lay was located in Tingry county in the Shigatse region of Tibet. This region lies 4-5 km above sea level on average and is home to some eight lakh people; the county itself is home to around 7,000 people.

The region's capital city is the seat of the important Panchen Lama of Tibetan Buddhism and thus bears considerable spiritual significance. The Dalai Lama issued a statement in which he said: "I offer my prayers for those who have lost their lives and extend my wishes for a swift recovery to all who have been injured." Tingry county is also a 'gateway' to Mt Everest and the surrounding terrain, which is a popular tourist destination. Local authorities have said however that the number of tourists is lower in winter. According to Xinhua, China has already closed tourists' access to the region since the earthquake struck.

Does the quake's location matter?

According to preliminary assessments, the quake's mainshock may have emerged in the Lhasa terrane. A terrane is a specific fragment of the crust.

The Lhasa terrane includes sites involved in China's construction of the world's largest hydroelectric-power dam. The Chinese government approved the project last month. Once completed, the project will straddle the Yarlung Tsangpo River and generate around 300 billion kWh per year.

The project has elicited expressions of concerns from India since the river subsequently flows into Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, where it becomes the Brahmaputra.

Experts have said the dam could affect the river's perennial status.

Second, the wider Himalayan region is considered to be the planet's 'third pole' for the amount of water it holds in its rivers, glaciers, and lakes and the effects their natural cycles have on the millions of people who depend on this water. Earthquakes have been known to force rivers to change course and to destabilise glaciers and lakes and increase the risk of flooding.

Third, the cause of the quake is also related to the significance of its location.

What caused the quake?

The tale of how the Himalayan mountains were created is well-known. Around 50 million years ago, the Indian plate collided with the Eurasian plate, causing rocks to fold and rise to create the mountains.

The tension between the two plates has continued to build as the Indian plate is still pushing in at around 60 mm/year. Earthquakes and tremors occur when the rock formations in the region shift ever so slightly as they adjust to the tension.

Since 1950, geologists have recorded more than 21 earthquakes of magnitude 6 or higher in the Lhasa terrane alone. The strongest of these occurred near Mainling in 2017 with a magnitude of 6.9, according to *Reuters*. Mainling is 960 km east of Tingry county.

To understand where the next quake might occur in the region and how powerful it might be, geologists need to understand the ancient plate collision in great detail, estimate how much tension is accumulating in different parts today, and how much of it has been released in past events.

THE GIST

▼ According to preliminary assessments, the quake's mainshock may have emerged in the Lhasa terrane. A terrane is a specific fragment of the crust.

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▼ The tension between the two plates has continued to build as the Indian plate is still pushing in at around 60 mm/year.

Why the location of China's earthquake matters

चीन के भूकंप का स्थान क्यों मायने रखता है

What is a terrane? Was China's construction of the world's largest hydroelectric-power dam near the area where the 7.1 quake happened? What is the significance of the location?

टेरेन क्या है? क्या चीन दुनिया के सबसे बड़े जलविद्युत-शक्ति बांध का निर्माण उस क्षेत्र के पास कर रहा था जहाँ 7.1 तीव्रता का भूकंप आया था? उस स्थान का महत्व क्या है?

Earthquake Strikes Tibetan China and Nepal
तिब्बती चीन और नेपाल में भूकंप

- At **6:35 am IST on January 7**, an earthquake with a magnitude of **7.1** struck **Tibetan China** and **Nepal**.
  7 जनवरी को सुबह 6:35 बजे IST, एक **7.1** तीव्रता का भूकंप **तिब्बती चीन** और **नेपाल** में आया।
- The epicentre was located **10 km below** a spot around **80 km north of Mt Everest**.
  भूकंप का केंद्र **10 किलोमीटर नीचे** था, जो **80 किलोमीटर उत्तर में माउंट एवरेस्ट** के पास था।
- As of **7 pm**, Chinese state media reported **95 people dead**, **130 injured**, and **hundreds of houses flattened** on its side of the border.

7 बजे शाम तक, चीनी राज्य मीडिया ने रिपोर्ट किया कि **95 लोग मरे**, **130 घायल** हुए और सीमा के उस पार **सैकड़ों घर ढह गए।**

- Updates on damage and casualties from other areas, including **Nepal**, are awaited.
  अन्य क्षेत्रों से, जिसमें **नेपाल** भी शामिल है, नुकसान और हताहतों पर अपडेट का इंतजार किया जा रहा है।

- Tremors were felt as far away as **Kathmandu**, **Thimphu**, and **Kolkata**.
  भूकंप के झटके **काठमांडू**, **ठिम्फू** और **कोलकाता** तक महसूस किए गए।

Where did the quake occur?
भूकंप कहां हुआ था?

- According to the **China Earthquake Networks Centre**, the point on the surface below which the epicentre lay was located in **Tingry county** in the **Shigatse region of Tibet**.
  चाइना अर्थक्वेक नेटवर्क्स सेंटर के अनुसार, भूकंप का केंद्र **तिंगरी काउंटी** में स्थित था, जो **शिगत्से क्षेत्र, तिब्बत** का हिस्सा है।

- This region lies **4-5 km above sea level** on average and is home to about **8 lakh people**; the county itself has around **7,000 people**.
  यह क्षेत्र औसतन **4-5 किलोमीटर समुद्रतल से ऊपर** स्थित है और यहाँ करीब **8 लाख लोग** रहते हैं; काउंटी में स्वयं **7,000 लोग** रहते हैं।

- The region's capital city is the seat of the important **Panchen Lama** of Tibetan Buddhism and bears considerable spiritual significance.
  क्षेत्र की राजधानी शहर तिब्बती बौद्ध धर्म के महत्वपूर्ण **पांचेन लामा** का केंद्र है और इसका आध्यात्मिक महत्व है।

- The **Dalai Lama** issued a statement offering prayers for the deceased and wishes for a swift recovery for the injured.
  दलाई लामा ने एक बयान जारी कर मृतकों के लिए प्रार्थना की और घायलों के शीघ्र स्वस्थ होने की कामना की।

- **Tingry county** is also a 'gateway' to **Mt Everest** and the surrounding terrain, which is a popular tourist destination.
  तिंगरी काउंटी माउंट एवरेस्ट और आस-पास के इलाकों के लिए एक 'गेटवे' है, जो एक लोकप्रिय पर्यटक स्थल है।

- Local authorities stated that the number of tourists is lower in **winter**.
  स्थानीय अधिकारियों ने कहा कि **सर्दी** में पर्यटकों की संख्या कम होती है।

- **China** has already closed tourists' access to the region since the earthquake struck.
  चीन ने भूकंप के बाद से इस क्षेत्र में पर्यटकों की पहुंच बंद कर दी है।

Does the quake's location matter?
क्या भूकंप का स्थान महत्वपूर्ण है?

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- According to preliminary assessments, the quake's **mainshock** may have originated in the **Lhasa terrane**. A **terrane** is a specific fragment of the earth's crust.

  प्रारंभिक आकलनों के अनुसार, भूकंप का **मुख्य झटका ल्हासा टेरेन** में उत्पन्न हो सकता है। **टेरेन** पृथ्वी की पपड़ी का एक विशिष्ट टुकड़ा होता है।

- The **Lhasa terrane** includes sites involved in China's construction of the **world's largest hydroelectric-power dam**.

  ल्हासा टेरेन उन स्थानों में शामिल है जहाँ चीन **दुनिया के सबसे बड़े जलविद्युत पावर डेम** का निर्माण कर रहा है।

- The Chinese government approved the project **last month**. Once completed, the project will generate around **300 billion kWh per year**.

  चीनी सरकार ने परियोजना को **पिछले महीने** मंजूरी दी। पूरी होने पर, यह परियोजना लगभग **300 अरब किलोवाट-घंटे प्रति वर्ष** ऊर्जा का उत्पादन करेगी।

- The project has elicited concerns from **India** as the river **flows into Arunachal Pradesh and Assam**, where it becomes the **Brahmaputra**.

  इस परियोजना ने **भारत** से चिंता व्यक्त की है क्योंकि यह नदी **अरुणाचल प्रदेश और असम** में बहती है, जहाँ यह **ब्रह्मपुत्र** बन जाती है।

- Experts have stated that the dam could affect the river's **perennial status**.

  विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि यह डेम नदी की **सर्वकालिक स्थिति** को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

- The wider **Himalayan region** is considered the planet's **'third pole'** due to the amount of water it holds in its **rivers, glaciers, and lakes**.

  व्यापक **हिमालयी क्षेत्र** को पृथ्वी के **'तीसरे ध्रुव'** के रूप में माना जाता है क्योंकि इसमें **नदियों, ग्लेशियरों और झीलों** में बहुत अधिक पानी है।

- The natural cycles of water in this region affect millions of people who depend on it.

  इस क्षेत्र में पानी के **प्राकृतिक** चक्र का प्रभाव उन **लाखों लोगों** पर पड़ता है जो इस पानी पर निर्भर हैं।

- Earthquakes have been known to change the course of rivers, destabilize glaciers, and increase the risk of flooding.

  भूकंप के कारण नदियों का मार्ग बदलना, ग्लेशियरों का अस्थिर होना और बाढ़ का खतरा बढ़ना जाना जाता है।

What caused the quake?
भूकंप का कारण क्या था?

- Around **50 million years ago**, the **Indian plate** collided with the **Eurasian plate**, causing rocks to fold and form the **Himalayan mountains**.

  करीब **50 मिलियन साल पहले**, **भारतीय प्लेट** ने **यूरेशियन प्लेट** से टक्कर ली, जिससे चट्टानें मुड़ीं और **हिमालय पर्वत** बने।

- The tension between the two plates has continued to build as the **Indian plate** is still pushing in at around **60 mm/year**.

दोनों प्लेटों के बीच तनाव लगातार बढ़ रहा है क्योंकि **भारतीय प्लेट** अब भी लगभग **60 मिमी/वर्ष** की दर से आगे बढ़ रही है।

- Earthquakes and tremors occur when rock formations shift slightly to adjust to this tension.

  भूकंप और झटके तब होते हैं जब चट्टानें इस तनाव को संतुलित करने के लिए थोड़ी सी हिलती हैं।

- Since **1950**, geologists have recorded over **21 earthquakes of magnitude 6 or higher** in the **Lhasa terrane** alone.

  1950 से, भूविज्ञानी केवल **ल्हासा टेरेन** में **6 या उससे अधिक तीव्रता वाले 21 से अधिक भूकंप** रिकॉर्ड कर चुके हैं।

- The strongest earthquake in the region occurred near **Mainling** in **2017** with a magnitude of **6.9**, according to **Reuters**.

  क्षेत्र में सबसे शक्तिशाली भूकंप **2017** में **Mainling** के पास हुआ था, जिसकी तीव्रता **6.9** थी, **Reuters** के अनुसार।

- To understand where the next quake might occur and how powerful it could be, geologists need to analyze the ancient plate collision, the tension accumulating today, and past events.

  यह समझने के लिए कि अगला भूकंप कहाँ हो सकता है और कितनी तीव्रता से होगा, भूविज्ञानी को प्राचीन प्लेट टक्कर, आज के समय में जमा हो रहा तनाव और पिछले घटनाओं का विश्लेषण करना होगा।

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India, U.S. to jointly manufacture interoperable sonobuoys for Navy

These undersea instruments are niche equipment effective in detecting submarines lurking deep in the oceans; both countries are cooperating on high-end technology amid rapid expansion of Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean

GS Paper II: India-US
GS Paper III: Internal Security

NEW DELHI

In a significant development, India and the United States announced cooperation on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys for undersea domain awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy, a high-end technology that allows tracking submarines in the deep seas and oceans.

This is the latest in a series of cooperation measures between the two countries as both grow wary of the rapid expansion of Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

"Welcoming the advancement of discussions between Ultra Maritime (UM) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to enhance undersea domain awareness through a first-of-its-kind partnership on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys in support of the U.S. and Indian defence industrial bases," said a fact sheet titled 'The U.S. and India committed to strengthening strategic technology partnership' issued on Tuesday at the end of U.S.

State of the art: Discussions are on between Ultra Maritime and Bharat Dynamics Ltd. on a partnership for the co-production of sonobuoys . WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan's visit to India on the aspect of deepening defence innovation and industrial cooperation.

Mr. Sullivan, on his final trip to the region as NSA, held a capstone meeting with his Indian counterpart, Ajit Doval.

"In line with the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) launched in May 2022, the Ultra Maritime and BDL teams will also pursue new sonobuoy technologies to optimise their acoustic performance in the unique environment of the Indian Ocean, enabling wide area search through bespoke multi-static active solutions," Ultra Maritime, a U.S.-based world leader in the design and production of undersea warfare capabilities, said in a statement.

They will jointly manufacture and supply sonobuoys for the Indian Navy as per U.S. Navy standards, with production split across the U.S. and India, in accordance with "Make in India" principles, it stated.

"The announcement today by NSA Jake Sullivan reflects Ultra Maritime's commitment to the Indian Navy in partnering with BDL for production and delivery of world-class sonobuoys, and our resolute commitment to continue to develop forward leaning solutions to unique undersea challenges," said Ultra Maritime CEO Carlo Zaffanella in the statement.

BDL Chairman Commodore A. Madhavarao (retd.) said BDL was completely aligned with the Indian Navy to meet the operational demand for 'Make in India' sonobuoys and committed to joint production with Ultra Maritime in Visakhapatnam.

Highlighting the aspect of interoperability, a key focus area, Rear Admiral Mark Kenny (retd.), senior vice-president at Ultra Maritime for strategy and business development, said: "The UM sonobuoys co-produced in India are interchangeable and interoperable between U.S. Navy, Indian Navy and allied P-8, MH-60R and the MQ-9B Sea Guardian aircraft."

Significant move

This is particularly significant as India has over the years acquired a series of military platforms from the U.S. that are also operated by other countries in the region, especially Australia and Japan, all four of which comprise the Quad grouping and also hold the Malabar naval exercise.

The Indian Navy operates the P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft, is inducting the MH-60R multi-role helicopters and has two MQ-9A armed High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems on lease and signed a $3.5 billion contract in October 2024 for 31 MQ-9B – 15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and 16 Sky Guardians, eight each for the Army and Air Force, with deliveries to begin from January 2029. After Maritime Domain Awareness, UDA has emerged as a key focus area for India and among the Quad.

India, U.S. to jointly manufacture interoperable sonobuoys for Navy

भारत और अमेरिका नौसेना के लिए संयुक्त रूप से इंटरऑपरेबल सोनोबॉय का निर्माण करेंगे

These undersea instruments are niche equipment effective in detecting submarines lurking deep in the oceans; both countries are

cooperating on high-end technology amid rapid expansion of Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean

ये समुद्री उपकरण समुद्र की गहराई में छिपी पनडुब्बियों का पता लगाने में प्रभावी हैं; दोनों देश हिंद महासागर में चीनी नौसेना की उपस्थिति के तेजी से विस्तार के बीच उच्च तकनीक पर सहयोग कर रहे हैं।

India-U.S. Cooperation on Sonobuoys for Indian Navy
भारतीय नौसेना के लिए सोनोबॉयज़ पर भारत-अमेरिका सहयोग

- India and the **United States** announced cooperation on the **co-production of U.S. sonobuoys** for **undersea domain awareness (UDA)** for the **Indian Navy**, a high-end technology that allows tracking submarines in deep seas and oceans.
  भारत और **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने **भारतीय नौसेना** के लिए **यू.एस. सोनोबॉयज़** के **को-प्रोडक्शन** पर सहयोग की घोषणा की, यह एक उच्च तकनीक है जो गहरे समुद्रों और महासागरों में पनडुब्बियों को ट्रैक करने की सुविधा प्रदान करती है।
- This cooperation is part of a series of measures between the two countries as both are wary of the rapid expansion of **Chinese naval presence** in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
  यह सहयोग दोनों देशों के बीच कई उपायों का हिस्सा है क्योंकि दोनों देशों को **भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र** में **चीन की नौसैनिक उपस्थिति** के तेज़ विस्तार की चिंता है।
- The announcement was made in a fact sheet titled **'The U.S. and India committed to strengthening strategic technology partnership'** issued at the end of U.S. **National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan's visit** to India.
  घोषणा एक तथ्य पत्र में की गई थी जिसका शीर्षक था **'यू.एस. और भारत रणनीतिक प्रौद्योगिकी साझेदारी को मजबूत करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध'**, जो यू.एस. राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार **जैक सलिवन** के भारत दौरे के अंत में जारी किया गया था।
- **Mr. Sullivan**, during his final trip as NSA, held a meeting with his Indian counterpart, **Ajit Doval**.
  श्री सलिवन, अपनी अंतिम यात्रा में, अपने भारतीय समकक्ष **अजीत डोभाल** के साथ बैठक की।

Co-production of Sonobuoys under iCET
iCET के तहत सोनोबॉयज़ का को-प्रोडक्शन

- In line with the **U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)** launched in **May 2022**, **Ultra Maritime** and **BDL** will pursue new sonobuoy technologies to optimise their acoustic performance in the Indian Ocean.
  यू.एस.-भारत महत्वपूर्ण और उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों (iCET) पहल के तहत, जो **मई 2022** में शुरू की गई थी, **अल्ट्रा मरीन** और **BDL** भारतीय महासागर में अपनी ध्वनिक प्रदर्शन को बेहतर बनाने के लिए नए सोनोबॉय प्रौद्योगिकियों का अनुसरण करेंगे।

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- The sonobuoys will enable **wide area search** through **bespoke multistatic active solutions**.
  सोनोबॉयज़ **विशिष्ट मल्टीस्टैटिक सक्रिय समाधान** के माध्यम से **व्यापक क्षेत्रीय खोज** की सुविधा प्रदान करेंगे।

- **Ultra Maritime**, a U.S.-based leader in undersea warfare technology, will co-produce sonobuoys for the **Indian Navy** as per **U.S. Navy standards**.
  अल्ट्रा मरीन, जो एक यू.एस.-आधारित संगठन है और समुद्र में युद्ध तकनीकी में अग्रणी है, **भारतीय नौसेना** के लिए **यू.एस. नौसेना मानकों** के अनुसार सोनोबॉयज़ का को-प्रोडक्शन करेगा।

- The production will be split across the **U.S.** and **India**, in alignment with **'Make in India'** principles.
  निर्माण **यू.एस.** और **भारत** के बीच बांटा जाएगा, **'मेक इन इंडिया'** सिद्धांतों के अनुसार।

Commitment to Joint Production
संयुक्त उत्पादन के लिए प्रतिबद्धता

- **Ultra Maritime CEO Carlo Zanella** emphasized their commitment to the Indian Navy in partnership with BDL for production and delivery of **world-class sonobuoys**.
  अल्ट्रा मरीन के सीईओ कार्लो ज़ानेला ने **विश्व स्तरीय सोनोबॉयज़** के उत्पादन और वितरण के लिए भारतीय नौसेना के साथ BDL के साझेदारी में प्रतिबद्धता जताई।

- **BDL Chairman Commodore A. Madhavarao** stated BDL is fully aligned with the **Indian Navy** to meet the operational demand for **'Make in India' sonobuoys**.
  BDL के अध्यक्ष कमोडोर ए. माधवराव ने कहा कि BDL **भारतीय नौसेना** के साथ पूरी तरह से संरेखित है और **'मेक इन इंडिया' सोनोबॉयज़** की संचालनात्मक मांग को पूरा करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

- BDL will also jointly produce the sonobuoys in **Visakhapatnam** with **Ultra Maritime**.
  BDL **विशाखापत्तनम** में **अल्ट्रा मरीन** के साथ मिलकर सोनोबॉयज़ का संयुक्त उत्पादन करेगा।

Interoperability of Sonobuoys
सोनोबॉयज़ की इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी

- **Rear Admiral Mark Kenny** of Ultra Maritime highlighted that the co-produced sonobuoys will be **interchangeable and interoperable** between the **U.S. Navy**, **Indian Navy**, and allied platforms like **P-8, MH-60R**, and **MQ-9B Sea Guardian aircraft**.
  अल्ट्रा मरीन के रियर एडमिरल मार्क केनी ने कहा कि को-प्रोड्यूस्ड सोनोबॉयज़ **यू.एस. नौसेना**, **भारतीय नौसेना** और सहयोगी प्लेटफार्म जैसे **P-8**, **MH-60R**, और **MQ-9B सी गार्डियन विमान** के बीच **परस्पर विनिमेय और इंटरऑपरेबल** होंगे।

Significance of the Move
इस कदम का महत्व

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- India has over the years acquired military platforms from the U.S. that are also operated by other countries in the region, such as **Australia** and **Japan**, forming the **Quad** grouping.

  भारत ने वर्षों में **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** से सैन्य प्लेटफार्म प्राप्त किए हैं, जो क्षेत्र में अन्य देशों जैसे **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** और **जापान** द्वारा भी संचालित होते हैं, और ये **क्वाड** समूह बनाते हैं।

- The **Indian Navy** operates the **P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft**, is inducting **MH-60R multi-role helicopters**, and has two **MQ-9A armed HALE RPAS** on lease.

  भारतीय नौसेना P-8I **लंबी दूरी के समुद्री गश्ती विमान** का संचालन करती है, **MH-60R मल्टी-रोल हेलीकॉप्टर** को शामिल कर रही है, और उसके पास दो **MQ-9A सशस्त्र HALE RPAS** लीज पर हैं।

- India signed a **$3.5 billion contract** in **October 2024** for **31 MQ-9B** Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and 16 Sky Guardians, with deliveries to begin from **January 2029**.

  भारत ने **अक्टूबर 2024** में **$3.5 बिलियन का अनुबंध** किया है जिसमें भारतीय नौसेना के लिए **31 MQ-9B** सी गार्डियन्स और 16 स्काई गार्डियन्स शामिल हैं, जिनकी आपूर्ति **जनवरी 2029** से शुरू होगी।

- After Maritime Domain Awareness, **UDA** has emerged as a key focus area for India and the Quad countries.

  समुद्री क्षेत्र की जागरूकता के बाद, **UDA** भारत और क्वाड देशों के लिए एक प्रमुख फोकस क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है।

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Research and development has no relevance if it does not meet timelines: IAF chief

GS Paper III: Defence

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Research and development loses relevance if it does not meet timelines, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh said on Tuesday, pointing out that the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was conceived in 1984 but today in 2025, the first 40 aircraft were still not available.

His comments come amid the crisis the IAF is facing, in terms of depleting strength in fighter jets and long delays in development and delivery of indigenous fighter aircraft.

"R&D loses its relevance in case it is not able to meet timelines. Technology delayed is technology denied. There has to be an increased aptitude for acceptance of risks involved and failures in R&D. There is an amount of risk inherent to R&D – and we should cater to absorb it [to] a certain

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh

degree," Air Chief Marshal Singh said while speaking at the 21st Subroto Mukerjee seminar organised by the Centre for Air Power Studies.

"*Atmanirbharta* will come at a cost and we should accept it – we may have to spend more and buy at a higher rate if required – amortising of the R&D part and limited numbers will push the cost up – but will give the much needed self-reliance."

"The world today is in a precarious position dominated by conflicts and contests. We have our own se-

curity concerns on the western and northern borders with increased militarisation by China and Pakistan. China is investing heavily in its air force – the recent unveiling of its new stealth aircraft is a case in point," he said.

Referring to the LCA programme that has seen development and manufacturing delays, he said: "Actually, we should go back to 1984 when we first conceived that aircraft. First aircraft flew in 2001 - 17 years. Then the induction started another 15 years later, in 2016. Today, we are in 2025, I do not have the first 40 aircraft also. This is the production capability." "We need to do something. I am very convinced that we need to get some private players in. We need to have competition, we need to have multiple sources available so that people are wary of losing orders... Otherwise, things will not change."

Research and development has no relevance if it does not meet timelines: IAF chief

अनुसंधान और विकास का कोई महत्व नहीं है अगर यह समयसीमा के भीतर पूरा न हो: वायुसेना प्रमुख

R&D Loses Relevance if It Doesn't Meet Timelines
यदि अनुसंधान और विकास समयसीमा को पूरा नहीं करता है, तो यह अपनी प्रासंगिकता खो देता है

- **Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh** stated that **R&D loses its relevance** if it does not meet timelines.
  भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) प्रमुख एयर चीफ मार्शल ए.पी. सिंह ने कहा कि यदि अनुसंधान और विकास समयसीमा को पूरा नहीं करता है, तो यह अपनी प्रासंगिकता खो देता है।
- He pointed out that the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** was conceived in **1984**, but as of **2025**, the first 40 aircraft are still not available.
  उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि **लाइट कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (LCA)** की परिकल्पना **1984** में की गई थी, लेकिन **2025** तक पहले 40 विमान अब तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाए हैं।

IAF Crisis Amid Depleting Fighter Jets and Delays
विमान की कमी और देरी के बीच IAF संकट

- The comments were made amidst a **crisis** the **IAF** is facing, particularly concerning the depleting strength of **fighter jets** and **delays** in the development and delivery of **indigenous fighter aircraft**.
  यह टिप्पणियाँ उस समय की गईं जब **IAF** एक **संकट** का सामना कर रहा है, खासकर **फाइटर जेट्स** की घटती संख्या और **स्वदेशी लड़ाकू विमानों** के विकास और आपूर्ति में हो रही **देरी** को लेकर।

Importance of Meeting Timelines in R&D
अनुसंधान और विकास में समयसीमा का पालन करने का महत्व

- Air Chief Marshal Singh emphasized that **delayed technology** becomes **denied technology**.
  एयर चीफ मार्शल सिंह ने जोर दिया कि **विलंबित प्रौद्योगिकी अस्वीकृत प्रौद्योगिकी** बन जाती है।
- He stated that there must be an increased aptitude for **acceptance of risks** and **failures** in **R&D**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **अनुसंधान और विकास** में **जोखिमों** और **विफलताओं** को स्वीकार करने के लिए क्षमता बढ़ानी चाहिए।

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- There is an inherent **risk** in **R&D**, and it should be accepted to a certain degree.
  अनुसंधान और विकास में एक अंतर्निहित **जोखिम** होता है, और इसे एक निश्चित हद तक स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिए।

Atmanirbharta Will Come at a Cost
आत्मनिर्भरता एक कीमत पर आएगी

- Air Chief Marshal Singh stated that **Atmanirbharta (self-reliance)** in defense will come at a cost, and India may have to **spend more** and **buy at a higher rate** if required.
  एयर चीफ मार्शल सिंह ने कहा कि रक्षा में **आत्मनिर्भरता** एक कीमत पर आएगी, और यदि आवश्यक हुआ, तो भारत को **अधिक खर्च** करना पड़ सकता है और **उच्च दर पर खरीदारी** करनी पड़ सकती है।
- He acknowledged that **amortising the R&D part** and producing **limited numbers** will **push the cost up**, but will provide the much-needed **self-reliance**.
  उन्होंने स्वीकार किया कि **R&D हिस्से को अमोर्टाइज करना** और **सीमित संख्या में उत्पादन** से **लागत बढ़ सकती है**, लेकिन यह आवश्यक **आत्मनिर्भरता** प्रदान करेगा।

Geopolitical Context of IAF's Concerns
IAF की चिंताओं का भू-राजनीतिक संदर्भ

- He pointed out that the world is in a **precarious position** dominated by **conflicts and contests**.
  उन्होंने बताया कि दुनिया आज एक **संगीन स्थिति** में है, जो **संघर्षों और प्रतिस्पर्धाओं** से घिरी हुई है।
- India has security concerns along the **western and northern borders** due to increased **militarisation by China and Pakistan**.
  भारत को **पश्चिमी और उत्तरी सीमाओं** पर सुरक्षा चिंताएं हैं, जो **चीन और पाकिस्तान द्वारा बढ़ती सैन्यीकरण** के कारण हैं।
- China is investing heavily in its **air force**, and its recent unveiling of a new **stealth aircraft** is a case in point.
  चीन अपनी **वायु सेना** में भारी निवेश कर रहा है, और उसका हाल ही में नया **स्टेल्थ एयरक्राफ्ट** का अनावरण इसका एक उदाहरण है।

Delays in LCA Development and Production
LCA के विकास और उत्पादन में देरी

- The **LCA programme** has faced significant **delays** in development and manufacturing.
  LCA कार्यक्रम में विकास और निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण **देरी** आई है।
- The **LCA** was conceived in **1984**, the first aircraft flew in **2001**, which was a **17-year delay**.

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LCA की परिकल्पना **1984** में की गई थी, और पहला विमान **2001** में उड़ा, जो कि **17 साल की देरी** थी।

- The **induction** of the aircraft started in **2016**, **15 years later**, and as of **2025**, the first 40 aircraft are still not available.
  विमान की **इंडक्शन 2016** में शुरू हुई, जो कि **15 साल बाद** था, और **2025** तक पहले 40 विमान अब तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाए हैं।

- Air Chief Marshal Singh stressed the need to improve the **production capability**.
  एयर चीफ मार्शल सिंह ने **उत्पादन क्षमता** को सुधारने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

Need for Private Players and Competition
निजी कंपनियों और प्रतिस्पर्धा की आवश्यकता

- Air Chief Marshal Singh strongly believes that India needs to **get private players** involved in the defense sector to enhance competition.
  एयर चीफ मार्शल सिंह का दृढ़ विश्वास है कि भारत को रक्षा क्षेत्र में **निजी कंपनियों** को शामिल करने की आवश्यकता है ताकि प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ सके।

- He emphasized the importance of having **multiple sources** of production, so that companies are aware of the risk of losing orders.
  उन्होंने उत्पादन के **कई स्रोतों** की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया, ताकि कंपनियां ऑर्डर खोने के जोखिम को महसूस करें।

- Without competition, he believes that things will not change.
  उनका मानना है कि बिना प्रतिस्पर्धा के चीजें नहीं बदलेंगी।

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Bharatpol to aid in nabbing fugitive criminals 'wherever they hide': Home Minister

GS Paper III: Internal Security

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday inaugurated the Bharatpol portal, which aims to provide police and security agencies in India with a seamless connect to Interpol, the international police organisation.

He said criminals committing crimes in India and fleeing to other countries had evaded the reach of Indian laws for years. However, with the implementation of modern systems such as Bharatpol, such criminals could now be brought within the ambit of justice.

Mr. Shah said the new criminal law enabled the prosecution of fugitive criminals through trials in absentia and, with the capabilities of Bharatpol, fugitives could be brought to justice "wherever they hide".

He said the new law

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with CBI Director Praveen Sood at the launch of the 'Bharatpol' portal in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

would simplify the process of extraditing convicted criminals to India.

He urged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take the lead in implementing Bharatpol and ensuring widespread training in its use at the grassroots level. The portal has been developed by the CBI.

The five key modules of Bharatpol – Connect, Interpol notices, References, Broadcast, and Resources – provide a technological platform to support all In-

dian law enforcement agencies, the Home Minister said.

He said that through Connect, all Indian law enforcement agencies would essentially function as an extension of Interpol's National Central Bureau (NCB-New Delhi). The system would ensure quick and structured transmission of requests for Interpol notices, enabling a scientific mechanism to swiftly locate criminals from India and across the globe.

Bharatpol to aid in nabbing fugitive criminals 'wherever they hide': Home Minister

भारत पुलिस भगोड़े अपराधियों को 'जहाँ भी वे छिपे हों' पकड़ने में मदद करेगी: गृह मंत्री

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Bharatpol portal**, which is aimed at providing **Indian police and security agencies** with a seamless connection to **Interpol**, the international police organisation.
  केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने भारतपोल पोर्टल का उद्घाटन किया, जिसका उद्देश्य **भारतीय पुलिस और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों** को इंटरपोल, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पुलिस संगठन से निर्बाध रूप से जोड़ना है।

- He emphasized that **criminals committing crimes in India** and fleeing to other countries had **evaded Indian laws** for years.
  उन्होंने जोर दिया कि **भारत में अपराध करने वाले अपराधी** और अन्य देशों में भागने वाले अपराधी **भारतीय कानूनों से वर्षों तक बचते रहे हैं।**

Bharatpol to Bring Criminals to Justice
भारतपोल अपराधियों को न्याय के दायरे में लाएगा

- With the implementation of **modern systems** like Bharatpol, such criminals could now be **brought to justice** regardless of where they hide.
  भारतपोल जैसे आधुनिक सिस्टम के कार्यान्वयन से ऐसे अपराधियों को अब **कहीं भी छिपे हों,** न्याय के दायरे में लाया जा सकता है।

- The new **criminal law** enables the **prosecution of fugitive criminals** through trials in absentia.
  नया **अपराधी कानून भगोड़े अपराधियों** को **अनुपस्थिति में मुकदमा चलाने** की सुविधा प्रदान करता है।

Simplification of Extradition Process
प्रत्यर्पण प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाना

- The new law would **simplify the process of extraditing convicted criminals** to India.
  नया कानून **दोषी अपराधियों के प्रत्यर्पण** की प्रक्रिया को **भारत लाने** में सरल बनाएगा।

Role of CBI in Bharatpol Implementation
भारतपोल के कार्यान्वयन में CBI की भूमिका

- Mr. Shah urged the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** to take the lead in implementing **Bharatpol** and ensure **widespread training** at the **grassroots level**.

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शाह ने **केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (CBI)** से आग्रह किया कि वह **भारतपोल** के कार्यान्वयन में **नेतृत्व** करें और **मूलभूत स्तर** पर इसके उपयोग के लिए **व्यापक प्रशिक्षण** सुनिश्चित करें।

- The **CBI** has developed the Bharatpol portal.
  CBI ने भारतपोल पोर्टल विकसित किया है।

Key Modules of Bharatpol Portal
भारतपोल पोर्टल के मुख्य मॉड्यूल

- Bharatpol has **five key modules**: **Connect, Interpol notices, References, Broadcast, and Resources**.
  भारतपोल में **पाँच मुख्य मॉड्यूल** हैं: **कनेक्ट, इंटरपोल नोटिस, संदर्भ, प्रसारण और संसाधन**।
- These modules provide a **technological platform** to support all **Indian law enforcement agencies**.
  ये मॉड्यूल सभी **भारतीय कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों** को समर्थन देने के लिए एक **तकनीकी मंच** प्रदान करते हैं।

Connect Module Enhances Coordination with Interpol
कनेक्ट मॉड्यूल इंटरपोल के साथ समन्वय बढ़ाता है

- Through **Connect**, all **Indian law enforcement agencies** will function as an extension of **Interpol's National Central Bureau (NCB-New Delhi)**.
  कनेक्ट के माध्यम से सभी **भारतीय कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियाँ** इंटरपोल के **नेशनल सेंट्रल ब्यूरो (NCB-नई दिल्ली)** का विस्तार बनकर काम करेंगी।
- The system ensures **quick and structured transmission** of requests for **Interpol notices**, allowing a **scientific mechanism** to quickly locate criminals from India and across the world.
  यह प्रणाली **इंटरपोल नोटिस** के लिए अनुरोधों का **त्वरित और संरचित प्रसारण** सुनिश्चित करती है, जिससे एक **वैज्ञानिक तंत्र** के माध्यम से भारत और दुनिया भर के अपराधियों को जल्दी से ढूँढ़ा जा सके।

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Court dismisses plea against judge's impeachment motion

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) petition against the impeachment motion submitted in the Upper House of Parliament over the communal speech delivered by Justice Shekhar Yadav at an event organised by the legal cell of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP).

A Bench of Justice Attau Rahman Masoodi and Justice Subhash Vidyarthi dismissed the petition filed by lawyer Ashok Pandey, stating that the cardinal principle within which a PIL plea is entertained is for representation of the cause of vulnerable sections of peo-

Justice Shekhar Yadav made several veiled attacks on Muslims in a speech last month

ple. "However, we do not see that the cause espoused in the present writ petition relates to any vulnerable section of people. Thus, on the touchstone of maintainability, the present PIL does not qualify the very test of initiation of proceedings on its threshold," the court noted.

Justice Yadav, in a speech delivered on December 8, made several veiled attacks on Muslims while talking about Uniform Civil Code. He said the country would run as

per the wishes of the 'majority'. Without referring to the Muslims, he asked how would their children be kind and tolerant when animals were being slaughtered in front of them.

Soon after the video of the speech went viral, the Supreme Court had asked for a detailed report on the matter by the Allahabad High Court.

The speech drew widespread criticism. Days after his speech, a six-member delegation of Opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha submitted a motion seeking impeachment of Justice Yadav. He was accused of engaging in "hate speech" and "incitement to communal disharmony" in violation of the Constitution.

Court dismisses plea against judge's impeachment motion

न्यायालय ने न्यायाधीश के महाभियोग प्रस्ताव के खिलाफ याचिका खारिज कर दी

Allahabad High Court Dismisses PIL Against Impeachment Motion
इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने महाभियोग प्रस्ताव के खिलाफ पीआईएल को खारिज किया

- **On Tuesday**, the **Allahabad High Court** dismissed a **public interest litigation (PIL)** petition filed against the **impeachment motion** submitted in the **Upper House of Parliament** over the **communal speech** delivered by **Justice Shekhar Yadav**.
  मंगलवार को, इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने लोकहित याचिका (पीआईएल) याचिका को खारिज कर दिया, जो राज्यसभा में महाभियोग प्रस्ताव के खिलाफ दायर की गई थी, जो न्यायमूर्ति शेखर यादव द्वारा दी गई संप्रदायिक भाषण पर आधारित था।

- The speech was delivered at an event organised by the **legal cell of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)**.
  यह भाषण विश्व हिंदू परिषद (VHP) के कानूनी प्रकोष्ठ द्वारा आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में दिया गया था।

Court Rejects PIL on Grounds of Maintainability
अदालत ने याचिका को स्वीकार्यता के आधार पर खारिज किया

- A **Bench of Justice Attau Rahman Masoodi and Justice Subhash Vidyarthi** dismissed the petition filed by lawyer **Ashok Pandey**, stating that a PIL is entertained for the **representation of vulnerable sections** of people.
  न्यायमूर्ति अत्ताउ रहमान मसूदी और न्यायमूर्ति शुभाष विद्यार्थी की बेंच ने वकील आशोक पांडे द्वारा दायर याचिका को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि एक पीआईएल अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग के लोगों के हितों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए स्वीकार की जाती है।

- The court found that the **cause in the present petition** does not relate to any **vulnerable section of people**, so the PIL did not qualify for initiation of proceedings.
  अदालत ने पाया कि वर्तमान याचिका में उठाए गए मुद्दे का किसी भी कमजोर वर्ग से संबंध नहीं है, इसलिये पीआईएल को प्रक्रियाएँ शुरू करने योग्य नहीं माना गया।

Justice Yadav's Speech and Controversy
न्यायमूर्ति यादव का भाषण और विवाद

- **Justice Yadav** delivered a speech on **December 8**, making several veiled attacks on **Muslims** while discussing the **Uniform Civil Code**.
  न्यायमूर्ति यादव ने 8 दिसंबर को एक भाषण दिया, जिसमें सार्वभौमिक नागरिक संहिता पर चर्चा करते हुए मुसलमानों पर कई कूटभाषी हमले किए।

- He said the country would run as per the **wishes of the 'majority'**, and without naming Muslims, he questioned how their children would be **kind and tolerant** when **animals** were being slaughtered in front of them.
  उन्होंने कहा कि देश 'बहुमत' की इच्छाओं के अनुसार चलेगा, और मुसलमानों का नाम लिए बिना, उन्होंने यह सवाल उठाया कि जब जानवरों की हत्या उनके सामने की जाती है, तो उनके बच्चों में दयालुता और सहनशीलता कैसे होगी।

Supreme Court's Involvement and Political Reactions
सुप्रीम कोर्ट की संलिप्तता और राजनीतिक प्रतिक्रियाएं

- After the video of the speech went viral, the **Supreme Court** had asked for a **detailed report** on the matter from the **Allahabad High Court**.
  जब भाषण का वीडियो वायरल हुआ, तो **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने **इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय** से इस मामले पर **विस्तृत रिपोर्ट** मांगी थी।
- The speech drew widespread **criticism**, and a **six-member delegation of Opposition MPs** in the **Rajya Sabha** submitted a motion seeking **impeachment of Justice Yadav**.
  इस भाषण को व्यापक **आलोचना** मिली और **राज्यसभा** में **विपक्षी सांसदों के छह सदस्यीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल** ने **न्यायमूर्ति यादव के महाभियोग प्रस्ताव** को पेश किया।
- Justice Yadav was accused of **hate speech** and **incitement to communal disharmony**, violating the **Constitution**.
  न्यायमूर्ति यादव पर **घृणा भाषण** और **संप्रदायिक असंतोष को बढ़ावा देने** का आरोप लगाया गया, जो **संविधान** का उल्लंघन था।

SC to hear same-sex marriage review pleas

GS Paper I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A new five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice B.R. Gavai is scheduled to hear on Thursday petitions seeking a review of an October 2023 judgment that refused to legalise same-sex marriage.

The other judges on the Bench comprise Justices Surya Kant, B.V. Nagarathna, P.S. Narasimha, and Dipankar Datta.

The hearing would be held in the chambers of the judges.

SC to hear same-sex marriage review pleas

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समलैंगिक विवाह समीक्षा याचिकाओं पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट करेगा सुनवाई

Supreme Court to Hear Review Petitions on Same-Sex Marriage Judgment
सुप्रीम कोर्ट समलैंगिक विवाह पर अक्टूबर 2023 के फैसले की समीक्षा याचिकाओं की सुनवाई करेगा

- A new **five-judge Bench** of the **Supreme Court**, headed by **Justice B.R. Gavai**, is scheduled to hear on **Thursday** petitions seeking a review of the **October 2023** judgment that refused to **legalise same-sex marriage**.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट का एक नया **पाँच न्यायाधीशों की बेंच**, जिसकी अध्यक्षता **न्यायमूर्ति बी.आर. गावई** करेंगे, **गुरुवार** को **अक्टूबर 2023** के उस फैसले की समीक्षा के लिए दायर याचिकाओं की सुनवाई करेगा, जिसमें **समलैंगिक विवाह** को वैध करने से इनकार किया गया था।

- The other judges on the Bench include **Justices Surya Kant, B.V. Nagarathna, P.S. Narasimha**, and **Dipankar Datta**.
  बेंच के अन्य न्यायाधीशों में **न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत, बी.वी. नागरथना, पी.एस. नरसिम्हा** और **दीपांकर दत्ता** शामिल हैं।

- The hearing will be held in the **chambers of the judges**.
  सुनवाई **न्यायाधीशों के कक्षों** में होगी।

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GS Paper I: Art and Culture

Pak. pilgrims arrive at Ajmer dargah to participate in *Urs*

A group of 89 pilgrims from Pakistan arrived in Ajmer early on Tuesday to participate in the ongoing 813th *Urs* at the dargah of Sufi mystic Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. Strict security arrangements were made for the pilgrims, who were taken to the Government Central Girls' Senior Secondary School at Purani Mandi for the stay. The pilgrims, accompanied by two officers of the Pakistan High Commission, travelled to Ajmer by train from New Delhi after crossing the border at Attari. They will offer a ceremonial *chadar* (sheet of cloth) at the 13th century shrine and are likely to stay in Ajmer till January 10.

Pak. pilgrims arrive at Ajmer dargah to participate in Urs

उर्स में भाग लेने के लिए पाक जायरीन अजमेर दरगाह पहुंचे

89 Pilgrims from Pakistan Arrive in Ajmer for 813th Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti

पाकिस्तान से 89 तीर्थयात्री अजमेर में 813वें उर्स में शामिल होने के लिए पहुंचे

- A group of **89 pilgrims** from **Pakistan** arrived in **Ajmer** early on **Tuesday** to participate in the ongoing **813th Urs** at the **dargah** of mystic **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti**.
  पाकिस्तान से **89 तीर्थयात्री मंगलवार** को **अजमेर** पहुंचे, जहां वे **ख्वाजा मोइनुद्दीन चिश्ती** की दरगाह में चल रहे **813वें उर्स** में शामिल होंगे।

- Strict **security arrangements** were made for the pilgrims, who were taken to the **Government Central Girls' Senior Secondary School** at **Purani Mandi** for their stay.
  तीर्थयात्रियों के लिए कड़ी **सुरक्षा व्यवस्थाएँ** की गईं, और उन्हें उनके ठहरने के लिए **पुरानी मंडी** स्थित **गवर्नमेंट सेंट्रल गर्ल्स सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्कूल** में भेजा गया।

- The pilgrims, accompanied by two officers of the **Pakistan High Commission**, travelled to **Ajmer** by **train** from **New Delhi** after crossing the border at **Attari**.
  तीर्थयात्री, जिनके साथ **पाकिस्तान उच्चायोग** के दो अधिकारी थे, **अटारी** सीमा पार करने के बाद **नई दिल्ली** से **ट्रेन** द्वारा **अजमेर** पहुंचे।

- They will offer a ceremonial **chadar** (sheet of cloth) at the **13th century shrine** and are likely to stay in **Ajmer** till **January 10**.
  वे **13वीं सदी** के **मकबरे** पर एक पारंपरिक **चादर** चढ़ाएंगे और **अजमेर** में **10 जनवरी** तक रहने की संभावना है।

Inter-ministerial committee is needed to strengthen AI governance: IndiaAI Mission

GS Paper III: S&T

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

In a recognition that artificial intelligence (AI) has impact on a wide range of fields, a Union government panel mandated to develop AI guidelines has recommended that an inter-ministerial committee be set up to enforce AI rules and ensure effective governance of the country's emerging AI ecosystem.

An advisory group of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's IndiaAI Mission, headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser, is seeking public feedback on a report released on Monday by its AI guidelines sub-committee.

The panel's report is notable as it is the most detailed articulation yet of the government's approach towards AI in India.

The IndiaAI Mission is seeking feedback on a report released on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

It appears that the Centre seeks to maximise gains from investments in AI, while having light regulatory frameworks to act as guardrails against any potential harm.

Apart from an inter-ministerial AI coordination committee or governance group to oversee AI in India, the panel recommended that the IT Ministry should house a "technical secretariat" to bring in officers on deputation from other departments and regulators. This would help to "pool together multi-disciplinary expertise", map stakeholders in the AI ecosystem, and assess risks, along with other research, it recommends.

The report outlines the following principles for AI governance: transparency of AI systems with "meaningful information on their development" and capabilities; accountability from developers and deployers of AI systems; safety, reliability and robustness of AI systems by design; privacy and security of AI systems; fairness and non-discrimination; human-centred values and "do no harm"; inclusive and sustainable innovation to "distribute the benefits of innovation equitably"; and "digital by design" governance to "leverage digital technologies" to operationalise these principles.

Inter-ministerial committee is needed to strengthen AI governance: IndiaAI Mission

एआई गवर्नेंस को मजबूत करने के लिए अंतर-मंत्रालयी समिति की जरूरत है: इंडियाएआई मिशन

- A Union government panel tasked with developing **AI guidelines** has recommended setting up an **inter-ministerial committee** to enforce **AI rules** and ensure **effective governance** of India's emerging **AI ecosystem**.
  केंद्र सरकार द्वारा ए.आई. गाइडलाइन्स विकसित करने के लिए गठित पैनल ने **ए.आई. नियमों** को लागू करने और भारत के उभरते हुए **ए.आई. पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** का प्रभावी **शासन** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक **अंतर-मंत्रालयी समिति** बनाने की सिफारिश की है।

- An advisory group of the **Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's IndiaAI Mission**, headed by the **Principal Scientific Adviser**, is seeking **public feedback** on a report released on **Monday** by its AI guidelines sub-committee.
  केंद्र सरकार के **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय की इंडिया ए.आई. मिशन** के एक सलाहकार समूह, जिसकी अध्यक्षता **प्रधान वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार** द्वारा की जा रही है, ने अपनी ए.आई. गाइडलाइन्स उप-समिति द्वारा सोमवार को जारी रिपोर्ट पर **सार्वजनिक प्रतिक्रिया** मांगी है।

- The panel's report is notable as it is the most detailed articulation yet of the **government's approach towards AI in India**.
  पैनल की रिपोर्ट महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह अब तक **भारत में ए.आई. के प्रति सरकार का दृष्टिकोण** का सबसे विस्तृत विवरण है।

- It appears the Centre seeks to **maximize gains from AI investments**, while having **light regulatory frameworks** to act as **guardrails** against any potential harm.
  ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि केंद्र **ए.आई. निवेशों से अधिकतम लाभ** प्राप्त करना चाहता है, जबकि किसी भी संभावित नुकसान से बचाव के लिए **हल्के नियामक ढांचे** रखना चाहता है।

- The panel recommended that the **IT Ministry** should house a "**technical secretariat**" to bring in officers on deputation from other departments and regulators.
  पैनल ने सिफारिश की कि **आईटी मंत्रालय** को एक "**तकनीकी सचिवालय**" रखना चाहिए, जिसमें अन्य विभागों और नियामकों से अधिकारियों को डिपुटेशन पर लाया जाए।

- This secretariat would help to **pool together multi-disciplinary expertise**, map stakeholders in the **AI ecosystem**, and assess **risks**, along with other research.
  यह सचिवालय **बहु-विषयक विशेषज्ञता** को एकत्र करने, **ए.आई. पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** में हितधारकों को मानचित्रित करने और **जोखिमों** का मूल्यांकन करने में मदद करेगा, साथ ही अन्य शोध भी करेगा।

- The report outlines the following **principles for AI governance**:
  रिपोर्ट में **ए.आई. शासन** के लिए निम्नलिखित **सिद्धांतों** की रूपरेखा दी गई है:

- **Transparency** of AI systems with "meaningful information on their development and capabilities."
  ए.आई. प्रणालियों की **पारदर्शिता** जिसमें उनके विकास और क्षमताओं पर "महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी" हो।

- **Accountability** from developers and deployers of AI systems.
  ए.आई. प्रणालियों के विकासकर्ताओं और तैनातीकर्ताओं से **उत्तरदायित्व**।

- **Safety**, **reliability**, and **robustness** of AI systems by design.
  ए.आई. प्रणालियों की **सुरक्षा**, **विश्वसनीयता** और **मजबूती** डिजाइन द्वारा।

- **Privacy** and **security** of AI systems.
  ए.आई. प्रणालियों की **गोपनीयता** और **सुरक्षा**।

- **Fairness** and **non-discrimination**.
  न्यायसंगतता और **भेदभाव से मुक्त** होना।

- **Human-centred values** and "**do no harm**."
  मानव-केंद्रित मूल्य और "**किसी को नुकसान न पहुँचाना**।"

- **Inclusive** and **sustainable innovation** to "**distribute the benefits of innovation equitably**."
  समावेशी और **सतत नवाचार** ताकि "**नवाचार के लाभों का समान रूप से वितरण** किया जा सके।"

- **"Digital by design" governance** to **leverage digital technologies** to operationalize these principles.
  "डिजिटल द्वारा डिज़ाइन" शासन ताकि इन सिद्धांतों को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए **डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकियों का लाभ** उठाया जा सके।

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V. Narayanan, spacecraft and rocket propulsion expert, appointed ISRO Chairman

PCS
GS Paper III: S&T

BENGALURU

V. Narayanan has been appointed the new Space Secretary. Dr. Narayanan, who is currently the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), will be the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (IS-RO), and he will take over from S. Somanath on January 14.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved appointment of V. Narayanan, Director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Valiamala, as Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, Space Commission for a period of two years with effect from 14.01.2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," stated an order from the Ministry of Personnel and Training.

V. Narayanan

Dr. Narayanan, who is a rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, joined the ISRO in 1984 and functioned in various capacities before becoming Director of the LPSC.

During the initial phase of his career he worked in the solid propulsion area of sounding rockets and Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). He has also contributed significantly for the ISRO's geosynchronous launch vehicles

He will take over from Somanath, who oversaw landmark missions such as Chandrayaan-3

namely GSLV Mk-II & GSLV Mk-III.

"As the Chairman of the National Expert Committee constituted to study the reasons for hardlanding of Chandrayaan-2 landership, contributed in pinpointing the reasons and corrective actions required to overcome the observations. Realised and delivered all the Propulsion Systems for Chandrayaan-3," Dr. Narayanan's profile says.

He will take over from Mr. Somanath, who oversaw landmark missions such as Chandrayaan-3, Aditya L1 and the first developmental flight of the Gaganyaan mission.

V. Narayanan, spacecraft and rocket propulsion expert, appointed ISRO Chairman

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अंतरिक्ष यान और रॉकेट प्रणोदन विशेषज्ञ वी. नारायणन को इसरो का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया

- **V. Narayanan** has been appointed as the new **Space Secretary**.
  वी. नारायणन को नए **अंतरिक्ष सचिव** के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है।

- Dr. Narayanan, who is currently the Director of **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**, will become the new **Chairman** of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, taking over from **S. Somanath** on **January 14, 2025**.
  डॉ. नारायणन, जो वर्तमान में **लिक्विड प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम्स सेंटर (LPSC)** के निदेशक हैं, नए **भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO)** के **अध्यक्ष** बनेंगे और **एस. सोमनाथ** से **14 जनवरी 2025** को पदभार ग्रहण करेंगे।

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved the appointment of Dr. Narayanan as **Secretary, Department of Space**, and **Chairman, Space Commission** for a period of two years starting **January 14, 2025**, or until further orders.
  कैबिनेट की नियुक्ति समिति ने डॉ. नारायणन को **अंतरिक्ष विभाग के सचिव** और **अंतरिक्ष आयोग के अध्यक्ष** के रूप में **14 जनवरी 2025** से दो वर्षों की अवधि के लिए या अगले आदेश तक नियुक्त करने की मंजूरी दी है।

- Dr. Narayanan is a **rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert** and joined **ISRO in 1984**, serving in various capacities before becoming the Director of **LPSC**.
  डॉ. नारायणन एक **रॉकेट और अंतरिक्ष यान प्रोपल्शन विशेषज्ञ** हैं और **ISRO में 1984** में शामिल हुए थे, जहाँ उन्होंने विभिन्न पदों पर कार्य किया और फिर **LPSC** के निदेशक बने।

- Early in his career, he worked in the **solid propulsion area** for **sounding rockets**, **ASLV** (Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle), and **PSLV** (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle).
  अपने करियर के प्रारंभ में, उन्होंने **सॉलिड प्रोपल्शन क्षेत्र** में **साउंडिंग रॉकेट्स**, **ASLV** (ऑगमेंटेड सैटेलाइट लॉन्च व्हीकल) और **PSLV** (पोलर सैटेलाइट लॉन्च व्हीकल) पर काम किया।

- He has made significant contributions to ISRO's **geosynchronous launch vehicles**, including **GSLV Mk-II** and **GSLV Mk-III**.
  उन्होंने **ISRO** के **जियोसिंक्रोनस लॉन्च व्हीकल्स**, जिसमें **GSLV Mk-II** और **GSLV Mk-III** शामिल हैं, में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है।

- Dr. Narayanan chaired the **National Expert Committee** to study the reasons for the **hard landing of Chandrayaan-2 lander**, contributing to identifying the causes and corrective actions.
  डॉ. नारायणन ने **चंद्रयान-2 लैंडर के हार्ड लैंडिंग** के कारणों का अध्ययन करने के लिए **राष्ट्रीय विशेषज्ञ समिति** की अध्यक्षता की, जिसमें उन्होंने कारणों की पहचान करने और सुधारात्मक उपायों में योगदान दिया।

- He also realized and delivered all the **Propulsion Systems for Chandrayaan-3**.
  उन्होंने **चंद्रयान-3** के लिए सभी **प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम्स** का निर्माण और आपूर्ति की।

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- Dr. Narayanan will take over from **Mr. Somanath**, who led landmark missions like **Chandrayaan-3**, **Aditya L1**, and the first developmental flight of the **Gaganyaan mission**.

डॉ. नारायणन **श्री सोमनाथ** से पदभार ग्रहण करेंगे, जिन्होंने **चंद्रयान-3**, **आदित्य L1** और **गगनयान मिशन** की पहली विकासात्मक उड़ान जैसी ऐतिहासिक मिशनों का नेतृत्व किया।

French far-right politician Jean-Marie Le Pen dies at 96

PCS

Associated Press

PARIS

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the founder of France's far-right National Front who was known for fiery rhetoric against immigration and multiculturalism that earned him both staunch supporters and widespread condemnation, died on Tuesday. He was 96.

A polarising figure in French politics, Le Pen was convicted numerous times of antisemitism, discrimination and inciting racial violence.

Le Pen was eventually estranged from his daughter, Marine Le Pen, who renamed his National Front party, kicked him out and transformed it into one of France's most powerful political forces while distancing herself from her father's extremist image.

Jean-Marie Le Pen

French far-right politician Jean-Marie Le Pen dies at 96

फ़्रांसीसी दक्षिणपंथी राजनीतिज्ञ जीन-मैरी ले पेन का 96 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

Jean-Marie Le Pen, Founder of France's National Front, Dies at 96
फ्रांस के नेशनल फ्रंट के संस्थापक जीन-मैरी ले पेन का 96 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- **Jean-Marie Le Pen**, the founder of **France's far-right National Front**, known for his fiery rhetoric against **immigration** and **multiculturalism**, passed away on **Tuesday** at the age of **96**.
  जीन-मैरी ले पेन, जो **फ्रांस के दक्षिणपंथी नेशनल फ्रंट** के संस्थापक थे और जिन्हें **आव्रजन** और **बहुसंस्कृतिवाद** के खिलाफ अपनी तीव्र बयानों के लिए जाना जाता था, **मंगलवार** को **96 वर्ष** की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- Le Pen was a **polarising figure** in French politics, convicted several times for **antisemitism**, **discrimination**, and **inciting racial violence**.
  ले पेन फ्रांसीसी राजनीति में एक **विवादास्पद व्यक्तित्व** थे, जिन्हें **एंटी-सेमिटिज़्म**, **भेदभाव**, और **नस्लीय हिंसा भड़काने** के लिए कई बार सजा मिली थी।

- Le Pen was eventually **estranged** from his daughter, **Marine Le Pen**, who renamed his **National Front** party, kicked him out, and transformed it into one of **France's most powerful political forces**.
  ले पेन आखिरकार अपनी बेटी **मरीन ले पेन** से **पराय** हो गए, जिन्होंने उनके **नेशनल फ्रंट** पार्टी का नाम बदला, उन्हें बाहर किया और इसे **फ्रांस की सबसे शक्तिशाली राजनीतिक ताकतों** में से एक में बदल दिया।

- Marine Le Pen distanced herself from her father's **extremist image** while taking over the party.
  मरीन ले पेन ने पार्टी की जिम्मेदारी लेते हुए अपने पिता की **उग्रवादी छवि** से खुद को अलग कर लिया।

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