



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



To watch an in-depth discussion on the topic, click on the YouTube link below: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

For regular updates on UPSC and PCS preparation, join our Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

14\_01\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

1. Inflation Falls to a 4-Month Low in December / दिसंबर में महंगाई दर 4 महीने के न्यूनतम स्तर पर पहुंची
2. Rupee Records Sharpest Slide in Two Years at 86.70 to \$ / रुपया 86.70 प्रति डॉलर पर पहुंचकर दो वर्षों में सबसे बड़ी गिरावट दर्ज करता है
3. PM Opens Z-Morh Tunnel in J&K; Silent on Statehood / प्रधानमंत्री ने जम्मू-कश्मीर में ज़-मोरह सुरंग का उद्घाटन किया; राज्य का दर्जा बहाल करने पर चुप्पी
4. 15 Kanniyakumari Fishermen Detained near Diego Garcia / डिएगो गार्सिया के पास 15 कन्याकुमारी के मछुआरों को हिरासत में लिया गया
5. 'Displeasing' Names of 11 Villages Changed by M.P. CM in Shajapur / M.P. मुख्यमंत्री ने शाजापुर में 11 गांवों के 'अप्रिय' नाम बदलने का ऐलान किया
6. Russia Ships Reactor Vessel to Kudankulam Sixth Unit / रूस ने कुदनकुलम छठे इकाई के लिए रिएक्टर वेसल भेजा
7. Puri Shankaracharya demands 'national' status for Gangasagar / पुरी शंकराचार्य ने गंगासागर को 'राष्ट्रीय' दर्जा देने की मांग की

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur  
Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)  
Contact Number : **9971932488**  
Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)



8. Pilgrims throng Sabarimala temple to witness Makaravilakku today / आज मकरविलक्कू का साक्षी बनने के लिए श्रद्धालु सबरीमाला मंदिर में उमड़े
9. Trump card, global politics and outcomes for India / ट्रम्प कार्ड, वैश्विक राजनीति और भारत के लिए परिणाम
10. Transforming 'men'-talities, redefining masculinity / 'पुरुष' मानसिकताओं को बदलना, पुरुषत्व को फिर से परिभाषित करना
11. Indians Abroad / विदेशों में भारतीय
12. Presidential reprieve / राष्ट्रपति की राहत
13. Resisting Transparency, Eroding Public Trust / पारदर्शिता का विरोध, जनविश्वास में गिरावट
14. The Way Forward for PM-KISAN / PM-KISAN के लिए आगे का रास्ता
15. What led to the Azerbaijan Airlines jet crash? / अजरबैजान एयरलाइंस जेट क्रैश का कारण क्या था?
16. Rat-hole mining: why the practice continues in spite of its hazards / रैट-होल खनन: इसके खतरों के बावजूद यह प्रथा क्यों जारी रहती है



# Inflation falls to a 4-month low in Dec.

Food inflation eased marginally to 8.4%, but some critical items reported sharper price rise; inflation of edible oils and fats hit a 33-month high

**GS Paper III: Inflation**

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

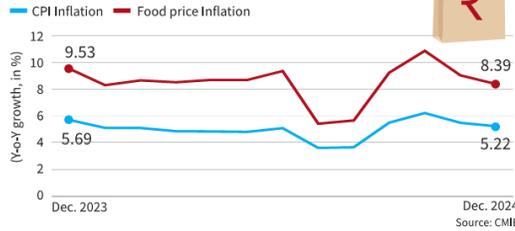
India's retail inflation eased a bit to a four-month low of 5.22% in December from 5.5% in November, with food inflation cooling marginally from 9.04% in November to 8.4% last month, the National Statistics Office said on Monday.

Overall consumer prices were 4.6% higher in December for urban residents compared with 4.9% in November, while rural consumers faced a steeper price rise of 5.8%, just marginally below the 5.95% recorded in November.

With December's inflation print, India's Consumer Price Inflation has averaged 5.63% in the third quarter of 2024-25, just a tad under the Reserve Bank of India projection of

## Subtle relief

Consumer price rise eased to a 4-month low of 5.22% in December 2024, on a marginal dip in food inflation



5.7%. While the RBI expects inflation to cool to 4.5% in this quarter, the latest uptick gives it little room to initiate interest rate cuts in its early February monetary policy review, even as the slowdown in growth has spurred sharp calls from government and industry to fast-track reductions.

While food inflation had also cooled to a four-

month low, marking the second month of deceleration from October's 15-month high of 10.9%, some critical food items reported faster upticks in prices, including edible oils and fats whose prices rose at a 33-month high pace of 14.6%, up from November's 13.3% rise.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12

## Inflation Falls to a 4-Month Low in December

दिसंबर में महंगाई दर 4 महीने के न्यूनतम स्तर पर पहुंची

India's retail inflation eased to a 4-month low of 5.22% in December from 5.5% in November, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

भारत की खुदरा महंगाई दर दिसंबर में 5.22% रही, जो नवंबर के 5.5% से घटकर 4 महीने के न्यूनतम स्तर पर पहुंच गई। यह जानकारी राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) ने दी है।

- Food inflation also declined slightly from 9.04% in November to 8.4% in December.

खाद्य महंगाई दर भी नवंबर में 9.04% से

घटकर दिसंबर में 8.4% हो गई।

- Urban consumers experienced an overall price rise of 4.6% in December, compared to 4.9% in November, while rural consumers faced higher inflation of 5.8%, slightly down from 5.95% in November.

शहरी उपभोक्ताओं के लिए दिसंबर में महंगाई दर 4.6% रही, जबकि नवंबर में यह 4.9% थी। वहीं, ग्रामीण उपभोक्ताओं के लिए यह 5.8% रही, जो नवंबर के 5.95% से थोड़ी कम है।

## Consumer Price Inflation and RBI Projections

### उपभोक्ता मूल्य महंगाई और RBI की भविष्यवाणी

- In the third quarter of 2024-25, India's Consumer Price Inflation averaged 5.63%, slightly below the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projection of 5.7%.

2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही में भारत की उपभोक्ता मूल्य महंगाई दर औसतन 5.63% रही, जो भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) की 5.7% की भविष्यवाणी से थोड़ा कम है।



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



- RBI aims to reduce inflation to **4.5% in the fourth quarter** of 2024-25, but the recent uptick leaves little scope for **interest rate cuts** in the upcoming **February monetary policy review**.

RBI का लक्ष्य 2024-25 की चौथी तिमाही में महंगाई को 4.5% तक लाना है, लेकिन हाल की महंगाई वृद्धि के कारण फरवरी की मौद्रिक नीति समीक्षा में ब्याज दरों में कटौती की संभावना कम है।

## Food Inflation Trends

### खाद्य महंगाई के रुझान

- **Food inflation** in December marked the **second consecutive month of decline**, falling from **October's 15-month high of 10.9%**.

दिसंबर में खाद्य महंगाई लगातार दूसरे महीने गिरी, जो अक्टूबर के 15 महीने के उच्चतम स्तर 10.9% से कम हो गई।

- Prices of some **critical food items**, like **edible oils and fats**, rose sharply. The **inflation rate for edible oils and fats hit a 33-month high of 14.6% in December**, up from **13.3% in November**.

कुछ महत्वपूर्ण खाद्य वस्तुओं की कीमतों में तेजी आई, जैसे खाद्य तेल और वसा। दिसंबर में खाद्य तेल और वसा की महंगाई दर 33 महीने के उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुंचकर 14.6% हो गई, जो नवंबर में 13.3% थी।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



## At 86.70 to \$, rupee records sharpest slide in two years

**GS Paper III: Currency**

**Lalatendu Mishra**

MUMBAI

In what proved to be a Manic Monday for India's financial markets, the rupee recorded its sharpest slide in almost two years, to close 66 paise down against the U.S. dollar at 86.70, while benchmark stock indices fell about 1.4%-1.5% to hit their lowest level in over seven months.

A strengthening U.S. dollar and rising crude oil prices in the global markets fuelled the downturn for India's currency and stocks, with small-cap and mid-cap indices also bleeding along with all sectoral gauges. The advance-decline ratio for shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange hit 0.15, the lowest since June 4, 2024.

तक गिर गया, जो कि 4 जून 2024 के बाद सबसे कम है।

## Rupee Records Sharpest Slide in Two Years at 86.70 to \$

### रुपया 86.70 प्रति डॉलर पर पहुंचकर दो वर्षों में सबसे बड़ी गिरावट दर्ज करता है

• On what turned out to be a **Manic Monday** for India's financial markets, the rupee recorded its sharpest slide in almost two years, closing 66 paise down against the U.S. dollar at 86.70.

भारत के वित्तीय बाजारों के लिए यह अशांत सोमवार साबित हुआ, जब रुपया लगभग दो वर्षों में सबसे बड़ी गिरावट दर्ज करते हुए 66 पैसे गिरकर 86.70 प्रति अमेरिकी डॉलर पर बंद हुआ।

• **Benchmark stock indices** fell by 1.4% to 1.5%, hitting their lowest level in over seven months.

बेंचमार्क स्टॉक इंडेक्स में 1.4% से 1.5% की गिरावट आई और यह सात महीनों में अपने सबसे निचले स्तर पर पहुंच गया।

• The downturn was driven by a **strengthening U.S. dollar** and **rising crude oil prices** in the global markets, which affected both India's currency and stocks.

यह गिरावट वैश्विक बाजारों में अमेरिकी डॉलर के मजबूत होने और कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी के कारण आई, जिससे भारत की मुद्रा और स्टॉक्स प्रभावित हुए।

• **Small-cap and mid-cap indices** also faced losses along with all sectoral gauges.

स्मॉल-कैप और मिड-कैप इंडेक्स को भी सभी सेक्टरल इंडेक्स के साथ नुकसान उठाना पड़ा।

• The **advance-decline ratio** for shares listed on the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** fell to 0.15, the lowest since June 4, 2024.

बॉम्बे स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (BSE) पर सूचीबद्ध शेयरों का एडवांस-डिक्लाइन अनुपात 0.15



# PM opens Z-Morh tunnel in J&K; silent on Statehood

**Peerzada Ashiq**

SONAMARG (GANDERBAL)

**GS Paper I: Geography**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who inaugurated the strategic Z-Morh tunnel in Sonamarg area of Ganderbal on Monday, remained non-committal on the timeline of restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the new network of roads and railway lines in the Union Territory has bridged the distance between Jammu and Kashmir and New Delhi.

In response to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's speech, where he referred to the Statehood demand, Mr. Modi remained silent on divulging any timeline. "When Modi makes a promise, he fulfils it. Every time has its right time. Right things will take place at the right time," he said.

Amid freezing conditions, Mr. Modi inaugurated the state-of-the-art 6.5-kilometre-long tunnel built at a cost of ₹2,700 crore. The



**Grand launch:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of a key tunnel in J&K on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

tunnel has made tourist hotspot Sonamarg a round-the-year destination.

Referring to the militant attack of October 20, 2024 that left seven workers dead at the construction site, Mr. Modi said, "I salute the dedication of workers who braved harsh weather conditions and even risked their lives to complete this project. Seven workers also laid down their lives but the incident did not deter us from our pledge. No worker returned home."

Mr. Modi said the Z-Morh tunnel and the upcoming

Zojila tunnel, connecting Kashmir with Ladakh, will ease the lives of the people in Kargil and Leh. "During snowfall, avalanches and landslides, the road would get closed, hospitals cut-off and essentials difficult to access. However, life will become easy now for locals living here. We started work on the tunnel in 2015 and it's satisfying to inaugurate it. The tunnel will give new wings to tourism in Sonamarg," he said.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12

## PM Opens Z-Morh Tunnel in J&K; Silent on Statehood

प्रधानमंत्री ने जम्मू-कश्मीर में ज़-मोरह सुरंग का उद्घाटन किया; राज्य का दर्जा बहाल करने पर चुप्पी

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **strategic Z-Morh tunnel in the Sonamarg area of Ganderbal** on Monday but did not commit to a timeline for the restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने सोमवार को गंदरबल के सोनमर्ग क्षेत्र में रणनीतिक ज़-मोरह सुरंग का उद्घाटन किया, लेकिन जम्मू-कश्मीर के राज्य का दर्जा बहाल करने की समय-सीमा पर कुछ नहीं कहा।

• He emphasized that the new network of roads and railway lines has bridged the distance between Jammu and Kashmir and New Delhi.

उन्होंने कहा कि सड़कों और रेलवे लाइनों का

नया नेटवर्क जम्मू-कश्मीर और नई दिल्ली के बीच की दूरी को कम कर रहा है।

- In response to **Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's speech**, where he raised the **Statehood demand**, Mr. Modi did not reveal any **timeline** for it.

मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला के राज्य का दर्जा बहाल करने की मांग वाले भाषण के जवाब में, मोदी ने इस पर कोई समय-सीमा नहीं बताई।

- **Mr. Modi** said, "When **Modi** makes a promise, he fulfills it. **Every time** has its right time. The **right things** will take place at the **right time**."

मोदी ने कहा, "जब मोदी कोई वादा करते हैं, तो वह उसे पूरा करते हैं। हर काम के लिए सही समय होता है। सही चीजें अपने सही समय पर होंगी।"

- Despite **freezing conditions**, Mr. Modi inaugurated the **state-of-the-art 6.5 km-long tunnel built at a cost of ₹2,700 crore**, making **Sonamarg** a year-round tourist destination.



कड़के की ठंड के बावजूद, मोदी ने ₹2,700 करोड़ की लागत से बनी 6.5 किमी लंबी अत्याधुनिक सुरंग का उद्घाटन किया, जिससे सोनमर्ग एक सालभर खुला रहने वाला पर्यटन स्थल बन गया है।

- Referring to the **militant attack of October 20, 2024**, in which **seven workers** were killed at the **construction site**, **Mr. Modi** saluted the **dedication of workers** who risked their lives to complete the project.

**20 अक्टूबर 2024** को निर्माण स्थल पर हुए आतंकी हमले, जिसमें सात मजदूर मारे गए थे, का जिक्र करते हुए मोदी ने उन मजदूरों की समर्पण भावना को सलाम किया, जिन्होंने इस परियोजना को पूरा करने के लिए अपनी जान जोखिम में डाली।

- **Mr. Modi** said that the **Z-Morh tunnel** and the **upcoming Zojila tunnel**, connecting **Kashmir with Ladakh**, will **ease the lives of people** in **Kargil and Leh**.

मोदी ने कहा कि ज़-मोरह सुरंग और आगामी ज़ोजिला सुरंग, जो कश्मीर को लद्दाख से जोड़ेगी, कारगिल और लेह के लोगों की जिंदगी आसान बनाएगी।

- He highlighted that **snowfall, avalanches, and landslides** used to close roads, cutting off **hospitals** and **essential services**, but now the **locals' lives will improve**.

उन्होंने बताया कि पहले बर्फबारी, हिमस्खलन, और भूस्खलन के कारण सड़कें बंद हो जाती थीं, जिससे अस्पताल और आवश्यक सेवाएं बाधित होती थीं, लेकिन अब स्थानीय लोगों की जिंदगी बेहतर होगी।

- Work on the **Z-Morh tunnel** began in **2015**, and **Mr. Modi** expressed satisfaction at **inaugurating** it, saying it will give **new wings to tourism** in **Sonamarg**.

ज़-मोरह सुरंग पर काम 2015 में शुरू हुआ था। मोदी ने इसका उद्घाटन करते हुए संतोष जताया और कहा कि यह सोनमर्ग के पर्यटन को नई उड़ान देगा।



## 15 Kanniyakumari fishermen detained near Diego Garcia

GS Paper I: Geography  
GS Paper II:  
Indian-Britain



The fishermen had put out to sea on December 29 from the Thengapattinam harbour on a mechanised boat.

Fifteen fishermen who had ventured into the sea from the Thengapattinam fishing harbour in Kanniyakumari district were reportedly detained near the Diego Garcia island, part of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), on January 9, for allegedly crossing the maritime boundary.

Sources said eight of the fishermen were from Thoothoor in Kanniyakumari, while the remaining were from other parts of the country.

They would usually go deep-sea fishing and return to the shore only after a long haul.

The fishermen had put out to sea on December 29, 2024, from Thengapattinam on a mechanised boat owned by J. Paul Surgen of Thoothoor.

The news of the detention left the families of the fishermen in a state of shock. They urged the district administration to intervene and secure the fishermen's release.

A Fisheries Department official said more details of the detained fishermen could be disclosed only when a formal communication was received from the department.

## 15 Kanniyakumari Fishermen Detained near Diego Garcia

### डिएगो गार्सिया के पास 15 कन्याकुमारी के मछुआरों को हिरासत में लिया गया

• Fifteen fishermen who had ventured into the sea from Thengapattinam fishing harbour in Kanniyakumari district were reportedly detained near the Diego Garcia island, part of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), on January 9, 2025, for allegedly crossing the maritime boundary.

कन्याकुमारी जिले के थेंगापत्तिनम मछली पकड़ने के बंदरगाह से समुद्र में गए 15 मछुआरों को कथित रूप से समुद्री सीमा पार करने के आरोप में 9 जनवरी 2025 को डिएगो गार्सिया द्वीप के पास, जो ब्रिटिश इंडियन ओशियन टेरिटरी (BIOT) का हिस्सा है, हिरासत में लिया गया।

• Sources said eight fishermen were from Thoothoor in Kanniyakumari, while the remaining were from other parts of the country.

सूत्रों ने बताया कि इनमें से आठ मछुआरे कन्याकुमारी के थूटूर से हैं, जबकि बाकी अन्य हिस्सों से हैं।

• They would usually go deep-sea fishing and return to the shore only after a long haul.

वे आमतौर पर गहरे समुद्र में मछली पकड़ने जाते हैं और लंबे समय बाद तट पर लौटते हैं।

• The fishermen had put out to sea on December 29, 2024, from Thengapattinam on a mechanised boat owned by J. Paul Surgen of Thoothoor.

मछुआरे 29 दिसंबर 2024 को थेंगापत्तिनम से यांत्रिक नाव पर समुद्र में गए थे, जो थूटूर के जे. पॉल सुरजन के स्वामित्व में है।

• The news of the detention left the families of the fishermen in a state of shock. मछुआरों की हिरासत की खबर ने उनके परिवारों को चौंका दिया।

• They urged the district administration to intervene and secure the fishermen's release.

उन्होंने जिला प्रशासन से हस्तक्षेप करने और मछुआरों की रिहाई सुनिश्चित करने की अपील की।

• A Fisheries Department official said more details of the detained fishermen could be disclosed only when a formal communication was received from the department.

मत्स्य विभाग के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि हिरासत में लिए गए मछुआरों की अधिक जानकारी तभी दी जा सकती है जब विभाग से औपचारिक सूचना प्राप्त हो।



## 'Displeasing' names of 11 villages changed by M.P. CM in Shajapur

GS Paper II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced name change of 11 villages in Shajapur district of the State.

The move comes just days after he changed the names of three villages in his home district of Ujjain.

At an event in Shajapur's Kalapipal tehsil on Sunday, Mr. Yadav changed names of villages: Mohammadpur Machhanai to Mohanpur; Dhabla Hussainpur to Dhabla Ram; Mohammadpur Pawadiya to Rampur Pawadiya; Khajuri Alahdad to Khajuri Ram; Hajipur to Hiranpur; Nipaniya Hisamuddin to Nipaniya Dev; Reechdi Muradabad to Ritchdi;

Khalilpur to Rampur; Ghatti Mukhtiyarpur to Ghatti; Unchhod to Unchavad; Sheikhpur Bongi to Avadhपुरi.

"When people raised concerns that certain names were displeasing, I felt it was my responsibility to address them. If there's no Mohammad in Mohammadpur Machhanai, then why retain such a name? If there are Muslim residents, they can keep their names. But if not, the names will be changed," Mr. Yadav said at the event.

Earlier on January 5, names of villages Maulana, Jahangirpur, and Gajnikheddi in Ujjain district were changed to Vikram Nagar, Jagdishpur, and Chamunda Mata, respectively.

- Khalilpur to Rampur;
- Ghatti Mukhtiyarpur to Ghatti;
- Unchhod to Unchavad;
- Sheikhpur Bongi to Avadhपुरi.

- When people raised concerns that certain names were displeasing, Mr. Yadav said, "I felt it was my responsibility to address them."

जब लोगों ने कुछ नामों को अप्रिय बताया, श्री यादव ने कहा, "मुझे लगा कि यह मेरी जिम्मेदारी है कि मैं इन मुद्दों को हल करूं।"

- "If there's no **Mohammad** in **Mohammadpur Machhanai**, then why retain such a name? If there are **Muslim residents**, they can keep their names. But if not, the names will be changed," Mr. Yadav added.

"अगर मोहमदपुर मच्छानाई में मोहमद नहीं है, तो ऐसा नाम क्यों रखा जाए? अगर वहां मुस्लिम निवासी हैं, तो वे अपने नाम रख सकते हैं। लेकिन अगर नहीं हैं, तो नाम बदल दिए जाएंगे," श्री यादव ने कहा।

## 'Displeasing' Names of 11 Villages Changed by M.P. CM in Shajapur M.P. मुख्यमंत्री ने शाजापुर में 11 गांवों के 'अप्रिय' नाम बदलने का ऐलान किया

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** has announced the name change of **11 villages** in **Shajapur district** of the state.

मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री मोहन यादव ने राज्य के शाजापुर जिले में 11 गांवों के नाम बदलने का ऐलान किया।

- The move comes just days after he changed the names of **three villages** in his **home district of Ujjain**. यह कदम उज्जैन जिले में अपने गृहनगर के तीन गांवों के नाम बदलने के कुछ दिन बाद उठाया गया।

- At an event in **Shajapur's Kalapipal tehsil on Sunday**, Mr. Yadav changed the names of villages: **रविवार को शाजापुर के कलापीपाल तहसील में एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान, श्री यादव ने गांवों के नाम बदले:**

- **Mohammadpur Machhanai to Mohanpur;**
- **Dhabla Hussainpur to Dhabla Ram;**
- **Mohammadpur Pawadiya to Rampur Pawadiya;**
- **Khajuri Alahdad to Khajuri Ram;**
- **Hajipur to Hiranpur;**
- **Nipaniya Hisamuddin to Nipaniya Dev;**
- **Reechdi Muradabad to Ritchdi;**



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



- Earlier on **January 5, 2025**, names of villages **Maulana, Jahangirpur, and Gajnikhedi** in **Ujjain district** were changed to **Vikram Nagar, Jagdishpur, and Chamunda Mata**, respectively.

पहले 5 जनवरी 2025 को उज्जैन जिले के गांवों मौलाना, जहीरपुर, और गजनिखेड़ी के नाम बदलकर विक्रम नगर, जगदीशपुर, और चामुंडा माता रखे गए थे।

PATRIOTIC IAS

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



# Russia ships reactor vessel to Kudankulam sixth unit

The 320-tonne equipment was made at the plant of Atomash, the mechanical engineering division of Rosatom State Corporation; four steam generators for the unit to be shipped this year

**GS Paper Energy**

**P. Sudhakar**

TIRUNELVELI

**T**he VVER 1,000-MWe reactor vessel for the sixth unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) is being transported to the construction site in Tirunelveli district. The 320-tonne equipment was made at the plant of Atomash, the mechanical engineering division of Rosatom State Corporation, and shipped on the eve of 2025. A set of four steam generators for the sixth unit will be shipped this year.

## Special transport

Before shipping the vessel, the equipment was delivered by special motor transport to the Atomash



Currently, four VVER 1,000-MWe reactors are being built at the KKNPP site. FILE PHOTO

plant's pier, where it was loaded onto a river vessel bound for the Novorossiysk seaport.

The reactor vessel was then placed in the hold of the ship for the 6,000-mile (9,656-km) journey to India.

Currently, four VVER 1,000-MWe reactors are being built at the KKNPP

site according to a Russian design. Two units with a similar capacity have been generating power since 2013 and 2016 respectively. The station is being designed, constructed, and supplied with the equipment subdivisions of Rosatom's engineering division. Rosatom supplies fuel to the KKNPP units throughout their life cycle.

The VVER 1,000-MWe reactors have been proving their reliability and efficiency for decades. Their operation in Russia and abroad has exceeded 2,000 reactor years. Installations of this type have the potential for long-term use. In particular, reactor installations of this type can form the basis of nuclear power plants

planned to be built in the Far East, according to an official statement.

"Despite the confident position we have achieved in the nuclear world, we are not standing still. We are developing and making our work more perfect both in terms of equipment design, ensuring an unprecedented level of safety, and in terms of the economic efficiency of our products. We are currently developing a reactor installation for a nuclear power plant with increased capacity, more modern operational properties, and improved technical and economic indicators for use in Russia and abroad," says OKB Gidropress general designer Valery Kryzhanovskiy.

## Russia Ships Reactor Vessel to Kudankulam Sixth Unit

रूस ने कुदनकुलम छठे इकाई के लिए रिएक्टर वेसल भेजा

The VVER 1,000-MWe reactor vessel for the sixth unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) is being transported to the construction site in Tirunelveli district.

कुदनकुलम न्यूक्लियर पावर प्रोजेक्ट (KKNPP) की छठी इकाई के लिए VVER



## 1,000-MWe रिएक्टर वेसल तिरुनेलवेली जिले में निर्माण स्थल पर भेजा जा रहा है।

- The **320-tonne equipment** was made at the plant of **Atomash**, the mechanical engineering division of **Rosatom State Corporation**, and shipped on the eve of **2025**.  
**320 टन का उपकरण रोसाटॉम राज्य निगम** के यांत्रिक इंजीनियरिंग डिवीजन **एटॉममाश** के संयंत्र में बनाया गया था और **2025** की पूर्व संध्या पर भेजा गया।
- A set of **four steam generators** for the sixth unit will be shipped this year.  
**छठी इकाई** के लिए **चार स्टीम जनरेटर** इस वर्ष भेजे जाएंगे।
- Before shipping, the equipment was delivered by special **motor transport** to the **Atomash plant's pier**, where it was loaded onto a river vessel bound for the **Novorossiysk seaport**.  
शिपिंग से पहले, उपकरण को विशेष **मोटर परिवहन** द्वारा **एटॉममाश संयंत्र** के **पियर** पर भेजा गया, जहां इसे **नवोरोस्सीय्स्क बंदरगाह** के लिए जाने वाली नदी जहाज में लोड किया गया।
- The reactor vessel was then placed in the hold of the ship for the **6,000-mile (9,656-km)** journey to **India**.  
इसके बाद रिएक्टर वेसल को जहाज के तहखाने में रखा गया और **भारत** की ओर **6,000 मील (9,656 किमी)** की यात्रा शुरू की गई।
- Currently, four **VVER 1,000-MWe reactors** are being built at the **KKNPP site** according to a **Russian design**.  
वर्तमान में, **KKNPP स्थल** पर **चार VVER 1,000-MWe रिएक्टर** एक **रूसी डिजाइन** के अनुसार बनाए जा रहे हैं।
- Two units with a similar capacity have been generating power since **2013** and **2016**, respectively.  
**2013** और **2016** से समान क्षमता वाले दो इकाइयां विद्युत उत्पादन कर रही हैं।
- The station is being designed, constructed, and supplied with equipment by subdivisions of **Rosatom's engineering division**.  
इस स्टेशन को **रोसाटॉम के इंजीनियरिंग डिवीजन** के उपखंडों द्वारा डिजाइन, निर्माण और उपकरणों की आपूर्ति की जा रही है।
- **Rosatom** supplies **fuel** to the KKNPP units throughout their **life cycle**.  
**रोसाटॉम** KKNPP इकाइयों को उनके **जीवन चक्र** के दौरान **ईंधन** आपूर्ति करता है।
- The **VVER 1,000-MWe reactors** have been proving their reliability and efficiency for decades.  
**VVER 1,000-MWe रिएक्टर** दशकों से अपनी विश्वसनीयता और दक्षता साबित कर रहे हैं।
- Their operation in **Russia** and abroad has exceeded **2,000 reactor years**.  
इनका संचालन **रूस** और विदेशों में **2,000 रिएक्टर वर्षों** से अधिक हो चुका है।
- Installations of this type have the potential for **long-term use**.  
इस प्रकार की **संस्थापनाओं** में **दीर्घकालिक उपयोग** की क्षमता है।
- Reactor installations of this type can form the basis of **nuclear power plants** planned to be built in the **Far East**, according to an official statement.



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



इस प्रकार के रिएक्टर इंस्टॉलेशन दूर पूर्व में बनने वाले न्यूक्लियर पावर प्लांट्स का आधार बन सकते हैं, जैसा कि एक आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया है।

- "Despite the confident position we have achieved in the **nuclear world**, we are not standing still. We are developing and making our work more perfect both in terms of **equipment design**, ensuring an **unprecedented level of safety**, and in terms of the **economic efficiency** of our products." says **OKB Hidropress** general designer **Valery Kryzhanovsky**.

"हालाँकि हम न्यूक्लियर दुनिया में सशक्त स्थिति में हैं, हम रुक नहीं रहे हैं। हम अपने काम को और अधिक परिपूर्ण बना रहे हैं, दोनों उपकरण डिजाइन के संदर्भ में, अद्वितीय सुरक्षा स्तर सुनिश्चित करने में और आर्थिक दक्षता के संदर्भ में," कहते हैं OKB गिद्रोप्रेस के सामान्य डिज़ाइनर वैलेरी क्रिज़ानोव्स्की।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



## Puri Shankaracharya demands 'national' status for Gangasagar

PCS

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
SAGAR (WEST BENGAL)



Puri's Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati.

Wading into political waters, Puri's Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, who visited the Gangasagar Mela on Monday, said the Union government will only grant 'national' status to the gathering on Sagar Island once the BJP comes to power in West Bengal.

Responding to questions on Gangasagar, the seer took to sarcasm and indicated that there are two ways that it can get 'national' status: either the people of West Bengal elect a BJP government or they declare it a 'national mela' by themselves.

"What can be more significant than a place where the Ganga meets the sea? I have been coming here for 30 years. In no way the significance of the mela is less than any national mela," the Shankaracharya said, referring to the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj.

He also added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be more accommodating and adopt a softer approach towards West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

### Modi and Mamata

"Modi does not have *mamata* (compassion/sympathy) towards Mamata," the Shankaracharya said when asked about the Centre not taking up measures to control erosion in Gangasagar and not cooperating in the construction of a bridge over the Murganga river connecting the

island with the mainland.

The Trinamool Congress government has been demanding 'national mela' status for Gangasagar and Ms. Banerjee had also written a letter to the Prime Minister in January 2024 demanding the status emphasising on uniqueness, significance, magnitude and spiritual significance of the Gangasagar Mela.

The State government has also announced construction of a ₹1,500-crore bridge connecting the island with the mainland, something they have been demanding Central assistance for. "The Centre gives thousands of crores of rupees for Kumbh Mela. The Centre does not give any money for Gangasagar Mela. They do not even look at Gangasagar. All the arrangements at Gangasagar are made by us," the CM had said on January 6.

The Shankaracharya of Puri, who had last year skipped the consecration ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, emphasised the religious significance of Ayodhya but said that the temple was inaugurated by Mr. Modi for political gains.

## Puri Shankaracharya demands 'national' status for Gangasagar

### पुरी शंकराचार्य ने गंगासागर को 'राष्ट्रीय' दर्जा देने की मांग की

- Puri's Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati visited the **Gangasagar Mela** on Monday and demanded the Union government grant '**national**' status to the gathering on **Sagar Island**.  
पुरी के शंकराचार्य स्वामी निश्चलानंद सरस्वती ने सोमवार को गंगासागर मेला का दौरा किया और केंद्र सरकार से सागर द्वीप पर इस समागम को 'राष्ट्रीय' दर्जा देने की मांग की।

- He said the **BJP** will have to come to power in **West Bengal** for the gathering to receive **national status**.

उन्होंने कहा कि इस समागम को **राष्ट्रीय दर्जा** मिलने के लिए **पश्चिम बंगाल** में **भा.ज.पा.** को सत्ता में आना होगा।

- The seer sarcastically suggested two ways for the status: either elect a **BJP government** in West Bengal or declare it a '**national mela**' by themselves.

शंकराचार्य ने व्यंग्य करते हुए कहा कि इस दर्जे के लिए दो रास्ते हैं: या तो पश्चिम बंगाल में **भा.ज.पा.** की सरकार चुनी जाए, या वे खुद इसे '**राष्ट्रीय मेला**' घोषित करें।

- He emphasized the significance of Gangasagar, stating, "**What can be more significant** than a place where the **Ganga** meets the **sea**?"  
उन्होंने गंगासागर के महत्व को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा, "गंगा और सागर के मिलन से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण क्या हो सकता है?"

- The Shankaracharya referred to his 30 years of visits to the **Gangasagar Mela** and said its significance is equal to that of the **Maha Kumbh** in Prayagraj.

शंकराचार्य ने गंगासागर मेला में अपने 30 वर्षों के यात्रा अनुभव का जिक्र किया और कहा कि इसका महत्व प्रयागराज के महाकुंभ के बराबर है।

- He also called for **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to adopt a **softer approach** towards **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee**.

उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी के प्रति एक नर्म रुख अपनाने की अपील की।

- In response to the **Centre's lack of action** on erosion in **Gangasagar** and the **bridge over Muriganga river**, the Shankaracharya claimed that **Modi does not have 'mamata' (compassion)** towards Mamata Banerjee.



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



गंगासागर में कटाव और मुरीगंगा नदी पर पुल निर्माण में केंद्र द्वारा की गई कोई कार्रवाई न होने पर शंकराचार्य ने कहा कि मोदी के पास ममता (करुणा) नहीं है।

- The **Trinamool Congress** government has been demanding '**national mela**' status for Gangasagar, and **Mamata Banerjee** wrote a letter to the **Prime Minister** in January 2024, emphasizing the **uniqueness, significance, magnitude, and spiritual importance** of the Mela.

तृणमूल कांग्रेस सरकार गंगासागर के लिए 'राष्ट्रीय मेला' दर्जा की मांग कर रही है, और ममता बनर्जी ने जनवरी 2024 में प्रधानमंत्री को एक पत्र लिखा, जिसमें मेला की विशिष्टता, महत्व, विशालता, और आध्यात्मिक महत्वपूर्णता पर जोर दिया।

- The State government has announced the construction of a **₹1,500-crore** bridge connecting **Gangasagar** with the mainland, for which they have demanded **Central assistance**.

राज्य सरकार ने गंगासागर को मुख्यभूमि से जोड़ने के लिए **₹1,500-करोड़** की लागत से पुल निर्माण की घोषणा की है, जिसके लिए उन्होंने **केंद्रीय सहायता** की मांग की है।

- **Mamata Banerjee** criticized the **Centre's approach**, saying it allocates **thousands of crores** for the **Kumbh Mela** but provides **no funds** for Gangasagar Mela.

ममता बनर्जी ने केंद्र के रुख की आलोचना करते हुए कहा कि यह **कुंभ मेला** के लिए **हजारों करोड़** आवंटित करता है, लेकिन **गंगासागर मेला** के लिए **कोई धनराशि** नहीं देता।

- The Shankaracharya, who had skipped the **Ram Temple consecration ceremony** in **Ayodhya**, emphasized the **religious significance** of the temple but claimed its **inauguration** by Modi was for **political gains**.

राम मंदिर प्रतिष्ठा समारोह में अयोध्या में हिस्सा न लेने वाले शंकराचार्य ने मंदिर के धार्मिक महत्व को रेखांकित किया, लेकिन यह दावा किया कि मोदी द्वारा इसका उद्घाटन राजनीतिक लाभ के लिए था।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



# Pilgrims throng Sabarimala temple to witness Makaravilakku today

GS Paper I: A&C

The Hindu Bureau

PATHANAMTHITTA

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) anticipates around 1.5 lakh pilgrims at the Sannidhanam for the Makaravilakku festival on Tuesday.

TDB president P.S. Prashanth said a final review of the arrangements for devotees was conducted on Monday.

## Cap on bookings

He said only 40,000 pilgrims would be allowed access to the hillock via the virtual queue system while spot bookings had been capped at 1,000.

The movement of Kerala



**For a holy glimpse:** Pilgrims gather at the Sabarimala temple on Monday ahead of the Makaravilakku festival. LEJU KAMAL

State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses from Nilackal to Pampa would be regulated starting 10 a.m. on Tuesday. Entry to the Sannidhanam

from Pampa would be prohibited after noon to allow the Thiruvabharanam (deity's jewellery) procession. Pilgrims arriving at Nilackal will be permitted to pro-

ceed to Pampa only after 6 a.m. on January 15. To facilitate the return journey after Makaravilakku, 800 KSRTC buses had been arranged. Of these, 150 would operate shuttle services between Pampa and Nilackal.

The Thiruvabharanam procession from the Pandalam Palace will receive a ceremonial welcome at Sarankuthi before proceeding to the Sannidhanam.

The reception at the Sannidhanam will be led by Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan and Tamil Nadu Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekar Babu.

## Pilgrims throng Sabarimala temple to witness Makaravilakku today

आज मकरविलक्कू का साक्षी बनने के लिए श्रद्धालु सबरीमाला मंदिर में उमड़े

- The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) anticipates around **1.5 lakh pilgrims** at the **Sannidhanam** for the **Makaravilakku** festival on **Tuesday**.  
त्रावणकोर देवस्वोम बोर्ड (TDB) ने मंगलवार को मकरविलक्कू महोत्सव के लिए सन्निधानम में लगभग **1.5 लाख श्रद्धालुओं** की उम्मीद जताई है।
- TDB president **P.S. Prashanth** said a final review of the arrangements for devotees was conducted on **Monday**.  
TDB के अध्यक्ष **P.S. प्रशांत** ने कहा कि श्रद्धालुओं के लिए व्यवस्थाओं की अंतिम समीक्षा **सोमवार** को की गई थी।
- He said only **40,000 pilgrims** would be allowed access to the hillock via the **virtual queue system**, while **spot bookings** had been capped at **1,000**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि केवल **40,000 श्रद्धालुओं** को **वर्चुअल क्यू सिस्टम** के माध्यम से पहाड़ी तक पहुंचने की अनुमति होगी, जबकि **स्पॉट बुकिंग** को **1,000** तक सीमित किया गया है।



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



- The movement of **Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** buses from **Nilackal** to **Pampa** would be regulated starting **10 a.m. on Tuesday**.  
केरल राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम (KSRTC) की बसों की आवाजाही निलक्कल से पंपा तक मंगलवार को 10 बजे से नियंत्रित की जाएगी।
- Entry to the **Sannidhanam** from **Pampa** would be prohibited after **noon** to allow the **Thiruvabharanam** (deity's jewellery) procession.  
पंपा से सन्निधानम में दोपहर के बाद प्रवेश प्रतिबंधित रहेगा ताकि थिरुवभारणम (देवता का आभूषण) यात्रा की अनुमति मिल सके।
- Pilgrims arriving at **Nilackal** will be permitted to proceed to **Pampa** only after **6 a.m. on January 15**.  
निलक्कल पहुंचने वाले श्रद्धालुओं को 15 जनवरी को 6 बजे के बाद ही पंपा जाने की अनुमति होगी।
- To facilitate the return journey after **Makaravilakku**, **800 KSRTC buses** had been arranged. Of these, **150** would operate shuttle services between **Pampa and Nilackal**.  
मकरविलक्कु के बाद वापसी यात्रा को सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए **800 KSRTC बसों** का इंतजाम किया गया था। इनमें से **150** बसें पंपा और निलक्कल के बीच शटल सेवाएं चलाएंगी।
- The **Thiruvabharanam** procession from the **Pandalam Palace** will receive a ceremonial welcome at **Saramkuthi** before proceeding to the **Sannidhanam**.  
पंडलम पैलेस से थिरुवभारणम यात्रा को सारमकुथी में एक शाही स्वागत प्राप्त होगा, उसके बाद यह सन्निधानम के लिए जारी रहेगी।
- The reception at the **Sannidhanam** will be led by **Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan** and **Tamil Nadu Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekar Babu**.  
सन्निधानम में स्वागत समारोह का नेतृत्व देवस्वोम मंत्री V.N. वासवन और तमिलनाडु के हिंदू धार्मिक और धर्मार्थ मामलों के मंत्री P.K. सेक्टर बाबू करेंगे।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



# The Trump card, global politics and outcomes for India

## GS Paper II: Global Political Order

**W** Trump? Dissecting the psychology of the next U.S. President is a popular pastime. His bold, disinhibited speaking style, his outspokenness, his focus on deal-making, his real estate background that defines his coercive leadership and politics, cast him very differently from his predecessors. He is a polarising figure, wading constantly into controversy, stubbornly resilient, a master of populist rhetoric, presenting himself as the voice of the “common people” arraigned against an out-of-touch political establishment.

### It's 'America first'

What is Mr. Trump's approach to the “rules-based international order”? We know from his first Presidency, that he expounds an “America First” doctrine. He debunks multilateralism in global politics, and he trashes international agreements that he believes do not favour the United States. He prefers bilateral agreements over multilateral ones: witness his approach to the Paris Climate Agreement (from which he withdrew and is likely to withdraw again) and to trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He is dismissive of international institutions like the United Nations and regional bodies such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, saying that these disproportionately benefit other nations at the expense of the U.S. To the delight of his acolytes, he places American sovereignty over global governance.

In the Trumpian worldview, strategy revolves around the bully pulpit, strong personal branding, a willingness to take risks, unconventional deal-making, winner-take-all in place of win-win. Practical outcomes rather than theoretical constructs are emphasised.

Donald Trump's transactionalism is legend. His MAGA (“Make America Great Again”) policy will have implications influencing global geopolitics. This will entail a rise of protectionism in global trade (free trade is an anachronism in this scheme of things), escalating tariffs and trade wars and increased economic uncertainty. Intensified competition with China where Beijing is clearly framed as an economic and ideological adversary will affect global stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.

Mr. Trump's scepticism about global institutions will inspire adventurism in global politics and nationalisms that override international law. Polarisation in global politics will be increasingly in evidence, and debates on



**Nirupama Rao**

a former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador of India

free trade, immigration and globalisation will become increasingly fractious. Climate policy and action will be downgraded. Instability in global markets will affect nations, whether developed or developing, across the board. The world is in for ‘interesting’ and tumultuous times.

American isolationism under MAGA (since Mr. Trump has clearly signalled opposition to U.S. direct involvement in external conflict), can encourage powers such as China and Russia already united in their opposition to the U.S.'s power and influence, to expand their global footprint, using both economic and military means. MAGA could be synonymous with disruption beyond American shores and power realignments.

### Ties with India, the line for New Delhi

The strategic outlook for India-U.S. relations under a second Trump Presidency is mixed. Relations between the two countries have witnessed a steady evolution and multi-faceted growth over the last two decades across partisan divides. That trend is expected to continue especially since Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Trump have a warm friendship. India has stressed constructive engagement with the U.S. as a key strategic partner. India's growing geopolitical clout and a mutual interest with the U.S. in countering China (particularly because of the over-assertive Chinese military posture and transgressions across the Line of Actual Control) provide a strong impetus for a growing strategic partnership. India-U.S. defence cooperation will continue to strengthen together with partnerships in critical technologies (provided the new administration does not use export controls as pressure points) and business. Trade frictions could, however, be a complicating factor.

The countering of Chinese influence in the region by the incoming U.S. administration suggests that groupings such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the Quad or the U.S., Australia, India, and Japan), where India is an important constituent, will be strengthened. The maintenance of the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific requires the continued involvement of the U.S., even though India is cautious about an over-reliance on America and seeks to ensure its very own strategic autonomy. India's Indo-Pacific vision stresses regional cooperation, multilateralism and multipolarity.

India would do well to continue to emphasise its own strategic priorities, as shaped by history,

geopolitics, national security, its economic interests and civilisational identity. Its border security, a strong defence posture, military modernisation, intensified counterterrorism efforts through strengthened intelligence, anti-radicalisation, and a continued focus on fighting cross-border terrorism, remain of central concern.

The compulsion of economic growth is central to its strategic outlook. India's energy security, diversification of energy sources, building renewable energy and the maintenance of stable relationships with key energy suppliers are vital. Peace and stability in South Asia are important, as also vigilance about containing and neutralising destabilising influences in the region, particularly from China and Pakistan. Security of the Indo-Pacific as a key maritime and economic passageway is a strategic priority. India's partnerships with Japan, Australia, with the European Union and with The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, apart from the U.S. are essential to the balancing of China's rise, to ensure India's access to key technologies, to defence preparedness, and for its trade and economic development.

Key for its strategic future are its digital transformation, space exploration, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity for its digital infrastructure and building resilience against cyber threats from hostile nations and non-state actors. India's priorities should incorporate a deployment of soft power in an emphasis on democratic and constitutional values, pluralism, humanitarian engagement and diaspora outreach. The relationship with Russia must continue to be in focus because of the complex and diversified nature of India's strategic partnership with that country, and because of the counterweight it provides to the growing Sino-Russian alignment in Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific.

### On Trump again

The reality of the second Trump Presidency, and Mr. Trump's victory in the elections, indicate that established patterns of history and geopolitics that served as guides to the future may no longer apply as the positioning system for a global order that will instead be disruptive, polarised and unstable. Global politics, all said, may never be the same. As the American analyst, Ian Bremmer, recently noted, a G-Zero world has arrived, and the law of the jungle may provide the new global playbook.

The world is in for ‘interesting’ and tumultuous times with the Trumpian worldview to take effect soon

## Trump card, global politics and outcomes for India

## ट्रम्प कार्ड, वैश्विक राजनीति और भारत के लिए परिणाम

Who is Donald Trump? Dissecting the psychology of the next U.S. President is a popular pastime.



## डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प कौन हैं? अगला अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति बनने की मानसिकता का विश्लेषण एक लोकप्रिय शगल है।

- His bold, disinhibited speaking style, his outspokenness, his focus on **deal-making**, his **real estate** background that defines his **coercive leadership** and politics, cast him very differently from his predecessors.  
उनकी साहसी, खुलकर बोलने की शैली, उनकी स्पष्टवादिता, **सौदेबाजी** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना, और **रियल एस्टेट** पृष्ठभूमि जो उनके **दबावपूर्ण नेतृत्व** और राजनीति को परिभाषित करती है, उन्हें उनके पूर्ववर्तियों से बहुत अलग बनाती है।
- He is a **polarising figure**, wading constantly into **controversy**, stubbornly **resilient**, a master of **populist rhetoric**, presenting himself as the voice of the **“common people”** arraigned against an out-of-touch political establishment.  
वह एक **विभाजनकारी व्यक्तित्व** हैं, जो लगातार **विवादों** में घिरे रहते हैं, **जिद्दी** और **लचीले** हैं, **जनप्रिय भाषण** के मास्टर हैं, और खुद को **“सामान्य लोगों”** की आवाज़ के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं, जो एक अप्रभावित राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के खिलाफ खड़े हैं।

### It's 'America first'

#### यह है 'अमेरिका पहले'

- What is Mr. Trump's approach to the “rules-based international order”? We know from his first Presidency, that he expounds an **“America First”** doctrine.  
श्री ट्रम्प का **“नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय आदेश”** के प्रति दृष्टिकोण क्या है? हम उनकी **पहली राष्ट्रपति पदवी** से जानते हैं कि वह **“अमेरिका पहले”** सिद्धांत का प्रचार करते हैं।
- He debunks **multilateralism** in global politics, and he trashes international agreements that he believes do not favour the United States.  
वह वैश्विक राजनीति में **बहुपक्षवाद** को नकारते हैं, और उन अंतरराष्ट्रीय समझौतों को खारिज करते हैं, जिन्हें वह मानते हैं कि वे **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के पक्ष में नहीं हैं।
- He prefers **bilateral agreements** over **multilateral ones**: witness his approach to the **Paris Climate Agreement** (from which he withdrew and is likely to withdraw again) and to trade agreements such as the **Trans-Pacific Partnership**.  
वह **बहुपक्षीय समझौतों** की तुलना में **द्विपक्षीय समझौतों** को प्राथमिकता देते हैं: उदाहरण के लिए **पेरिस जलवायु समझौते** के प्रति उनका दृष्टिकोण (जिससे वह बाहर हो गए थे और फिर से बाहर होने की संभावना है) और व्यापार समझौतों जैसे **ट्रांस-पैसिफिक पार्टनरशिप**।
- He is dismissive of international institutions like the **United Nations** and regional bodies such as the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**, saying that these disproportionately benefit other nations at the expense of the U.S.  
वह **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं और **नॉर्थ अटलांटिक ट्रीटी ऑर्गनाइजेशन** जैसे क्षेत्रीय निकायों को नकारते हैं, कहते हैं कि ये अन्य देशों को **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के खर्च पर असामान्य रूप से लाभ पहुंचाते हैं।



- To the delight of his acolytes, he places **American sovereignty** over global governance. अपने अनुयायियों की खुशी के लिए, वह वैश्विक शासन पर **अमेरिकी संप्रभुता** को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- In the Trumpian worldview, strategy revolves around the **bully pulpit**, strong personal branding, a willingness to take risks, unconventional deal-making, **winner-take-all** in place of win-win.  
ट्रंपियन दृष्टिकोण में, रणनीति **धमकाने वाले मंच**, मजबूत व्यक्तिगत ब्रांडिंग, जोखिम लेने की इच्छा, असामान्य सौदेबाजी, और जीतने के बजाय "**जीतने वाला सब कुछ ले जाता है**" के सिद्धांत पर आधारित होती है।
- Practical outcomes rather than theoretical constructs are emphasised.  
सैद्धांतिक निर्माणों की बजाय **व्यावहारिक परिणामों** पर जोर दिया जाता है।
- Donald Trump's **transactionalism** is legend. His **MAGA** ("Make America Great Again") policy will have implications influencing global geopolitics.  
डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प का **लेन-देनवाद** प्रसिद्ध है। उनकी **MAGA** ("Make America Great Again") नीति के वैश्विक भू-राजनीति पर प्रभाव होंगे।
- This will entail a rise of **protectionism** in global trade (**free trade** is an anachronism in this scheme of things), escalating tariffs and trade wars and increased economic uncertainty.  
इससे वैश्विक व्यापार में **संरक्षणवाद** का उभार होगा (**मुक्त व्यापार** इस योजना में एक अप्रचलित विचार है), **टैरिफ** और व्यापार युद्धों का बढ़ना, और बढ़ती आर्थिक **अनिश्चितता**।
- Intensified competition with **China** where **Beijing** is clearly framed as an economic and ideological adversary will affect global stability, particularly in the **Indo-Pacific**.  
**चीन** के साथ तीव्र प्रतिस्पर्धा, जहां **बीजिंग** को स्पष्ट रूप से एक आर्थिक और वैचारिक प्रतिद्वंद्वी के रूप में पेश किया गया है, वैश्विक स्थिरता को प्रभावित करेगी, विशेष रूप से **इंडो-पैसिफिक** में।
- Mr. Trump's scepticism about global institutions will inspire **adventurism** in global politics and **nationalisms** that override international law.  
श्री ट्रम्प का वैश्विक संस्थाओं के प्रति संदेह वैश्विक राजनीति में **साहसिकता** और **राष्ट्रीयताओं** को प्रेरित करेगा जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून को नजरअंदाज करेंगी।
- Polarisation in global politics will be increasingly in evidence, and debates on **free trade**, **immigration** and **globalisation** will become increasingly fractious.  
वैश्विक राजनीति में **धुवीकरण** स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देगा, और **मुक्त व्यापार**, **आव्रजन** और **वैश्वीकरण** पर बहसों अधिक विवादास्पद होती जाएंगी।
- **Climate policy** and action will be downgraded.  
**जलवायु नीति** और क्रियावली को कमतर किया जाएगा।
- Instability in global markets will affect nations, whether developed or developing, across the board.  
वैश्विक बाजारों में **अस्थिरता** सभी देशों को प्रभावित करेगी, चाहे वे **विकसित** हों या **विकासशील**।
- The world is in for '**interesting**' and tumultuous times.  
दुनिया '**रोचक**' और उथल-पुथल भरे समय के लिए तैयार है।



- **American isolationism under MAGA** (since Mr. Trump has clearly signalled opposition to U.S. direct involvement in external conflict), can encourage powers such as **China** and **Russia** already united in their opposition to the U.S.'s power and influence, to expand their global footprint, using both **economic** and **military means**.

**MAGA के तहत अमेरिकी अलगाववाद** (क्योंकि श्री ट्रम्प ने स्पष्ट रूप से अमेरिका के बाहरी संघर्षों में प्रत्यक्ष भागीदारी के खिलाफ संकेत दिया है), **चीन** और **रूस** जैसे शक्तियों को प्रोत्साहित कर सकता है, जो पहले से ही अमेरिका की **शक्ति** और **प्रभाव** के खिलाफ एकजुट हैं, अपने वैश्विक प्रभाव को बढ़ाने के लिए **आर्थिक** और **सैन्य** दोनों तरीकों का उपयोग कर सकते हैं।

- MAGA could be synonymous with disruption beyond American shores and **power realignments**.  
MAGA अमेरिकी तटों के बाहर व्यवधान और **शक्ति पुनर्संयोजन** के समानार्थी हो सकता है।

## Ties with India, the line for New Delhi

### भारत के साथ संबंध, नई दिल्ली के लिए रेखा

- **Strategic outlook for India-U.S. relations** under a second **Trump Presidency** is mixed.

दूसरे ट्रंप राष्ट्रपति पद के तहत भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों का सामरिक दृष्टिकोण मिश्रित है।

- Relations between the two countries have witnessed **steady evolution** and **multi-faceted growth** over the last **two decades**.

दोनों देशों के संबंधों में पिछले दो दशकों में **स्थिर विकास** और **बहु-आयामी वृद्धि** देखी गई है।

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Mr. Trump** have a **warm friendship**.

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** और **श्री ट्रंप** के बीच **गर्मजोशी से दोस्ती** है।

- India has stressed **constructive engagement** with the U.S. as a key strategic partner. भारत ने अमेरिका के साथ एक प्रमुख सामरिक साझेदार के रूप में **रचनात्मक सगाई** पर जोर दिया है।

- India's growing **geopolitical clout** and mutual interest with the U.S. in **countering China** provide a strong impetus for a growing strategic partnership.

भारत की बढ़ती **भू-राजनीतिक ताकत** और **चीन का मुकाबला** करने में अमेरिका के साथ आपसी रुचि बढ़ते सामरिक साझेदारी के लिए एक मजबूत प्रेरणा प्रदान करती है।

- India-U.S. **defence cooperation** will continue to strengthen, along with partnerships in **critical technologies**.

भारत-अमेरिका **रक्षा सहयोग** मजबूत होता रहेगा, साथ ही महत्वपूर्ण **प्रौद्योगिकियों** में साझेदारी भी बढ़ेगी।

- **Trade frictions** could, however, be a complicating factor.

हालांकि, **व्यापार विवाद** एक जटिल कारक हो सकते हैं।

- The countering of **Chinese influence** in the region by the incoming U.S. administration suggests that groupings like the **Quad** will be strengthened.

क्षेत्र में **चीन के प्रभाव** का मुकाबला करने के लिए आने वाली अमेरिकी प्रशासन की नीति से यह संकेत मिलता है कि **क्वाड** जैसे समूह मजबूत होंगे।



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



- India's **Indo-Pacific vision** stresses **regional cooperation, multilateralism, and multipolarity**.  
भारत का इंडो-पैसिफिक दृष्टिकोण क्षेत्रीय सहयोग, बहुपक्षीयता, और बहु-ध्रुवीयता पर जोर देता है।
- India seeks to ensure its own **strategic autonomy** while being involved in global security matters.  
भारत वैश्विक सुरक्षा मामलों में शामिल होते हुए अपनी रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता सुनिश्चित करने की कोशिश करता है।
- India's key concerns include **border security, military modernization, counterterrorism, anti-radicalization, and combating cross-border terrorism**.  
भारत की प्रमुख चिंताएँ सीमा सुरक्षा, सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण, आतंकवाद विरोधी अभियान, विरोधी उग्रवाद, और सीमा पार आतंकवाद से निपटना हैं।
- **Economic growth** is central to India's strategic outlook, including **energy security, diversification of energy sources, and renewable energy development**.  
आर्थिक विकास भारत के सामरिक दृष्टिकोण के लिए केंद्रीय है, जिसमें ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, ऊर्जा स्रोतों का विविधीकरण, और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा विकास शामिल हैं।
- **Peace and stability in South Asia** and vigilance against destabilizing influences from **China** and **Pakistan** are important for India.  
दक्षिण एशिया में शांति और स्थिरता और चीन तथा पाकिस्तान से अस्थिरता फैलाने वाले प्रभावों के प्रति सतर्कता भारत के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- **Security of the Indo-Pacific** as a maritime and economic passageway is a strategic priority for India.  
इंडो-पैसिफिक का समुद्री और आर्थिक मार्ग के रूप में सुरक्षा भारत के लिए सामरिक प्राथमिकता है।
- India's partnerships with **Japan, Australia, the EU, and ASEAN countries** are essential for balancing China's rise.  
जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, यूरोपीय संघ (EU) और ASEAN देशों के साथ भारत की साझेदारियाँ चीन के उदय को संतुलित करने के लिए आवश्यक हैं।
- Key areas for India's strategic future include **digital transformation, space exploration, AI, cybersecurity**, and resilience against cyber threats.  
भारत के सामरिक भविष्य के लिए प्रमुख क्षेत्र डिजिटल परिवर्तन, अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI), साइबर सुरक्षा और साइबर खतरों के प्रति लचीलापन हैं।
- India should continue deploying **soft power** focusing on **democratic values, pluralism, humanitarian engagement, and diaspora outreach**.  
भारत को लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों, बहुलवाद, मानवतावादी सगाई और प्रवासी संपर्क पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए अपनी सॉफ्ट पावर को जारी रखना चाहिए।
- India's relationship with **Russia** remains complex and diversified, providing a counterweight to the **Sino-Russian alignment**.  
भारत का रूस के साथ संबंध जटिल और विविधतापूर्ण है, जो चीन-रूस गठबंधन के मुकाबले एक संतुलन प्रदान करता है।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



- The reality of a second **Trump Presidency** suggests a **disruptive, polarised, and unstable global order**.  
दूसरे ट्रंप राष्ट्रपति पद की वास्तविकता एक विघटनकारी, धुवीकृत, और अस्थिर वैश्विक व्यवस्था का संकेत देती है।
- The new global playbook may follow the **law of the jungle**, according to analyst **Ian Bremmer**.  
विश्लेषक **इयान ब्रीमर** के अनुसार, नया वैश्विक खेल सिद्धांत जंगल के कानून के अनुसार हो सकता है।

## Transforming 'men'-talities, redefining masculinity

GS Paper I: Society

As another International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women passes by (November 25), we face a stark truth: despite decades of advocacy, nearly one in three women worldwide has endured violence at the hands of men. While men are often the perpetrators, they can also be key agents of change. Addressing violence against women requires addressing men's roles and questioning traditional notions of masculinities based on strength, aggression and control. These notions need to be replaced by a culture where equality, empathy, and non-violence define alternative notions of manhood.

Violence against women can be seen, somewhat paradoxically, as a quintessential "men's issue" – a societal issue that demands the active engagement of men. From early childhood, boys are influenced by norms that tell them strength is dominance, that emotions are a weakness, and that asserting control is the way to protect their status. These deeply entrenched ideas not only harm women but also limit men's lives and their relationships, trapping them in cycles of suppressed emotions and aggressive behaviours. Recognising and reshaping these norms is essential for creating healthier relationships and a safer world.

The subject of men and masculinities has become a prominent focus within the development sector. Over the past two decades, academic research and grass-root efforts have revealed the importance of engaging with men, highlighted strategies that work, and shown how men are increasingly stepping out to challenge traditional gender norms. This growing shift reflects a recognition among men of their role in advancing gender equality.

### An India report

UNESCO's Transforming MENTalities initiative has aimed to shift the way men engage with gender issues – not just as allies but as active participants in social transformation. This initiative challenges rigid and stereotyped ideas of masculinity and



**Tim Curtis**

Director, UNESCO  
South Asia Regional  
Office, part of Team  
UN in India



**Ravi Verma**

Executive Director,  
International Center  
for Research on  
Women (ICRW) Asia

A UNESCO initiative with the goal of changing the way men engage with gender issues is making progress

fosters positive, supportive roles for men, engaging them as champions for gender equality. As we inch closer to Agenda 2030 – working to create an inclusive and equal world – UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), is proud to present the report, "Engaging Men and Boys: A Report on Pathways to Gender Equality in India". This report documents 10 pioneering programmes across India that engage men and boys to address gender inequality.

### Some of the interventions

Through impactful initiatives, these programmes encourage critical dialogues that are aimed at questioning traditional gender norms, reshaping concepts of masculinity, and fostering inclusive attitudes. By emphasising education, open discussions, and community-driven actions, these programmes empower participants to become advocates for gender equity within their household and within communities and institutions they are part of.

For example, 'Mardon Wali Baat (A man's thing)', an initiative by The YP Foundation, uses storytelling and social media to foster conversations around positive masculinities with young men on campuses and in communities. This intervention helps young men critically examine the limiting narratives they have grown up with, empowering them to embrace values of respect and equality. Similarly, Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS), a collaboration between the ICRW and the Department of Education in the State of Rajasthan, uses interactive classroom activities to help adolescent boys see the harm in toxic masculinity and adopt more equitable gender attitudes. In one session, a boy reflected, "I used to think boys should only do outdoor chores. Now, I believe we should work alongside women at home." These moments of transformation create ripple effects that can reshape entire communities.

Initiatives such as 'Dekh Rekh (caring for each other)' and 'Hamari Shaadi (our marriage')

encourage men's active participation in family nutrition and planning, tackling gender bias through small, everyday actions. These interventions prove that when men and boys are invited to engage with gender equality as a part of their lives, rather than as an abstract idea, change becomes possible.

### The defining role of public figures

Change also becomes possible when men and boys have positive role models demonstrating equitable behaviours. These initiatives underscore the importance of role models who actively participate in household and care-giving responsibilities, reject violence as a solution, practise empathy, and embrace vulnerability. Public figures, in particular, can help normalise gender equality. For instance, a well-known Indian cricketer recently sparked a national conversation on shared parenting and responsibility by publicly committing to paternity leave. Actions such as these highlight how equitable relationships are rooted in care, respect, and partnership, redefining what it means to "be a man" in ways that uplift both individuals and communities.

The path to true equality is long, and the active participation of men is crucial in this journey. Beyond rejecting violence, men can challenge the stereotypes and cultural norms that perpetuate it. They must see themselves as essential contributors to change, helping dismantle toxic ideas of manhood. This requires a willingness to question the privileges that patriarchy grants the world and to explore ways to address the pressures and expectations that accompany these privileges. By reflecting on and reshaping their roles, men can play a transformative part in building a more equitable society for all.

In the new year, let us celebrate those men and boys who are "Transforming MEN'talities" and championing equality. Together, by redefining masculinity, we can create a world where every individual, regardless of gender, is free from violence and empowered to thrive.



## Transforming 'men'-talities, redefining masculinity

### 'पुरुष' मानसिकताओं को बदलना, पुरुषत्व को फिर से परिभाषित करना

- As another **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** passes by (**November 25**), nearly **one in three women worldwide** has endured violence at the hands of men.  
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला हिंसा उन्मूलन दिवस (25 नवम्बर) के अवसर पर, दुनिया भर में तीन में से एक महिला ने पुरुषों के हाथों हिंसा का सामना किया है।
- While men are often the perpetrators, they can also be key agents of change.  
पुरुष अक्सर अपराधी होते हैं, लेकिन वे परिवर्तन के महत्वपूर्ण एजेंट भी हो सकते हैं।
- Addressing violence against women requires addressing **men's roles** and questioning traditional notions of **masculinities** based on **strength, aggression, and control**.  
महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा को संबोधित करने के लिए पुरुषों की भूमिकाओं और पुरुषत्व की पारंपरिक धारणाओं को चुनौती देना आवश्यक है, जो ताकत, आक्रामकता और नियंत्रण पर आधारित हैं।
- These notions need to be replaced by a culture where **equality, empathy, and non-violence** define alternative notions of manhood.  
इन धारणाओं को एक ऐसी संस्कृति से बदलने की आवश्यकता है, जहां समानता, सहानुभूति और अहिंसा पुरुषत्व की वैकल्पिक धारणाओं को परिभाषित करें।
- Violence against women can be seen as a quintessential "**men's issue**" — a societal issue that demands **active engagement of men**.  
महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा को एक "पुरुषों का मुद्दा" के रूप में देखा जा सकता है – यह एक सामाजिक मुद्दा है जो पुरुषों की सक्रिय भागीदारी की मांग करता है।
- From early childhood, boys are influenced by norms that tell them **strength is dominance**, that **emotions are a weakness**, and that asserting **control** is the way to protect their status.  
बचपन से ही लड़कों को ऐसे मानदंडों से प्रभावित किया जाता है जो उन्हें बताते हैं कि ताकत प्रभुत्व है, भावनाएँ कमजोरी हैं, और नियंत्रण स्थापित करना उनकी स्थिति को बनाए रखने का तरीका है।
- These deeply entrenched ideas not only harm women but also limit men's lives and relationships, trapping them in cycles of **suppressed emotions** and **aggressive behaviors**.  
ये गहरे बसे हुए विचार न केवल महिलाओं को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं, बल्कि पुरुषों के जीवन और रिश्तों को भी सीमित करते हैं, उन्हें दबाए गए भावनाओं और आक्रामक व्यवहारों के चक्र में फंसा देते हैं।
- Recognising and reshaping these norms is essential for creating **healthier relationships** and a **safer world**.



इन मानदंडों को पहचानना और फिर से आकार देना स्वस्थ रिश्तों और एक सुरक्षित दुनिया बनाने के लिए आवश्यक है।

- The subject of **men and masculinities** has become a prominent focus within the **development sector**.

पुरुषों और पुरुषत्व का विषय विकास क्षेत्र में एक प्रमुख ध्यान बन गया है।

- Over the past **two decades**, academic research and grassroots efforts have revealed the importance of engaging with men, highlighted strategies that work, and shown how men are increasingly stepping out to challenge traditional gender norms.

पिछले दो दशकों में, अकादमिक शोध और सामुदायिक प्रयासों ने पुरुषों के साथ जुड़ने के महत्त्व को उजागर किया है और पारंपरिक लिंग मानदंडों को चुनौती देने के लिए पुरुषों के बढ़ते कदमों को दिखाया है।

- This growing shift reflects a recognition among men of their role in advancing **gender equality**.

यह बढ़ता हुआ परिवर्तन पुरुषों में लिंग समानता को बढ़ावा देने में अपनी भूमिका को पहचानने का संकेत है।

- **UNESCO's Transforming MENTalities initiative** aims to shift the way men engage with gender issues — not just as allies but as **active participants in social transformation**.

यूनेस्को की 'Transforming MENTalities' पहल का उद्देश्य पुरुषों को लिंग संबंधी मुद्दों से जुड़े तरीके को बदलना है, केवल सहयोगी के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक परिवर्तन में सक्रिय भागीदार के रूप में।

- This initiative challenges rigid and stereotyped ideas of masculinity and fosters positive, supportive roles for men, engaging them as **champions for gender equality**.

यह पहल पुरुषत्व के कठोर और स्टीरियोटाइप विचारों को चुनौती देती है और पुरुषों के लिए सकारात्मक, सहायक भूमिकाओं को बढ़ावा देती है, उन्हें लिंग समानता के चैंपियन के रूप में शामिल करती है।

- As we inch closer to **Agenda 2030** — working to create an inclusive and equal world — **UNESCO**, in collaboration with the **International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)**, presents the report “Engaging Men and Boys: A Report on Pathways to Gender Equality in India”.

जैसे-जैसे हम एजेंडा 2030 के करीब पहुँचते हैं, एक समावेशी और समान दुनिया बनाने के लिए काम करते हुए, यूनेस्को, महिला अनुसंधान के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय केंद्र (ICRW) के साथ सहयोग में, रिपोर्ट "Engaging Men and Boys: A Report on Pathways to Gender Equality in India" प्रस्तुत करता है।

- This report documents **10 pioneering programmes** across India that engage men and boys to address **gender inequality**.

यह रिपोर्ट भारत भर में 10 प्रमुख कार्यक्रमों का दस्तावेजीकरण करती है जो पुरुषों और लड़कों को लिंग असमानता को संबोधित करने के लिए जोड़ते हैं।



## Impactful Interventions to Encourage Gender Equality लिंग समानता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रभावशाली हस्तक्षेप

- Through impactful initiatives, these programmes encourage **critical dialogues** that aim at questioning traditional **gender norms**, reshaping concepts of **masculinity**, and fostering **inclusive attitudes**.

प्रभावशाली पहलों के माध्यम से, ये कार्यक्रम पारंपरिक लिंग मानदंडों को चुनौती देने, मर्दानगी के विचारों को नया रूप देने, और समावेशी मानसिकता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण संवाद को प्रोत्साहित करते हैं।

- By emphasizing **education**, open discussions, and **community-driven actions**, these programmes empower participants to become advocates for **gender equity** within their households and communities.

शिक्षा, खुले संवाद, और समुदाय-प्रेरित क्रियाओं पर जोर देते हुए, ये कार्यक्रम प्रतिभागियों को उनके घरों और समुदायों में लिंग समानता के पक्षधर बनने के लिए सशक्त बनाते हैं।

- Example: '**Mardon Wali Baat**' (A Man's Thing), an initiative by **The YP Foundation**, uses **storytelling** and **social media** to foster conversations around **positive masculinities** with young men on campuses and in communities.

उदाहरण: '**Mardon Wali Baat**' (A Man's Thing), **The YP Foundation** द्वारा एक पहल, कहानियां और सोशल मीडिया का उपयोग करके परिसरों और समुदायों में सकारात्मक मर्दानगी के बारे में युवा पुरुषों के साथ संवाद को बढ़ावा देती है।

- This intervention helps young men critically examine the limiting narratives they have grown up with, empowering them to embrace values of **respect** and **equality**.

यह हस्तक्षेप युवा पुरुषों को उनके द्वारा बड़े हुए सीमित कथनों का आलोचनात्मक रूप से मूल्यांकन करने में मदद करता है, जिससे वे सम्मान और समानता के मूल्यों को अपनाने के लिए सशक्त होते हैं।

- Similarly, **Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS)**, a collaboration between **ICRW** and the **Department of Education in Rajasthan**, uses interactive **classroom activities** to help adolescent boys see the harm in **toxic masculinity**.

इसी तरह, **Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS)**, जो **ICRW** और राजस्थान शिक्षा विभाग के बीच एक सहयोग है, इंटरएक्टिव कक्षा गतिविधियों का उपयोग करके किशोर लड़कों को विषैले मर्दानगी के हानिकारक प्रभाव को देखने में मदद करता है।

- In one session, a boy reflected, "I used to think boys should only do **outdoor chores**. Now, I believe we should work alongside women at home." These moments of transformation create **ripple effects** that can reshape entire communities.

एक सत्र में, एक लड़के ने कहा, "मैं सोचता था कि लड़कों को केवल बाहर के काम करने चाहिए। अब, मुझे लगता है कि हमें घर में महिलाओं के साथ काम करना चाहिए।" ये परिवर्तन के क्षण लहर प्रभाव उत्पन्न करते हैं जो पूरे समुदायों को फिर से आकार दे सकते हैं।

- Initiatives like '**Dekh Rekh**' (Caring for Each Other) and '**Hamari Shaadi**' (Our Marriage) encourage men's active participation in **family nutrition** and planning, tackling **gender**



**bias** through small, everyday actions.

ऐसी पहलें जैसे 'Dekh Rekh' (आपस में देखभाल) और 'Hamari Shaadi' (हमारी शादी) पुरुषों को **पारिवारिक पोषण** और योजना में सक्रिय भागीदारी करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती हैं, छोटे, रोज़मर्रा के क्रियाओं के माध्यम से **लिंग पक्षपाती** को चुनौती देती हैं।

- These interventions prove that when men and boys are invited to engage with gender equality as a part of their lives, rather than as an **abstract idea**, change becomes possible.

ये हस्तक्षेप यह साबित करते हैं कि जब पुरुषों और लड़कों को **लिंग समानता** से जुड़े होने के लिए आमंत्रित किया जाता है, तो यह सिर्फ एक **अवधारणा** नहीं, बल्कि उनके जीवन का हिस्सा बनता है, तो परिवर्तन संभव होता है।

## Role of Public Figures in Promoting Gender Equality लिंग समानता को बढ़ावा देने में सार्वजनिक हस्तियों की भूमिका

- Change also becomes possible when men and boys have **positive role models** demonstrating **equitable behaviours**.  
परिवर्तन तब भी संभव होता है जब पुरुषों और लड़कों के पास **सकारात्मक आदर्श** होते हैं जो **समान व्यवहार** का प्रदर्शन करते हैं।
- Public figures, in particular, can help **normalize gender equality**. For example, a well-known **Indian cricketer** recently sparked a **national conversation** on **shared parenting** and responsibility by publicly committing to **paternity leave**.  
विशेष रूप से सार्वजनिक हस्तियाँ **लिंग समानता** को **सामान्य** बनाने में मदद कर सकती हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, एक प्रसिद्ध **भारतीय क्रिकेटर** ने हाल ही में **पारिवारिक जिम्मेदारी** पर एक **राष्ट्रीय चर्चा** शुरू की, जिसमें उन्होंने **पितृत्व अवकाश** का सार्वजनिक रूप से समर्थन किया।
- Actions such as these highlight how **equitable relationships** are rooted in **care, respect, and partnership**, redefining what it means to “be a man” in ways that uplift both individuals and communities.  
इस तरह की क्रियाएं यह उजागर करती हैं कि **समान रिश्ते देखभाल, सम्मान और साझेदारी** में निहित होते हैं, जो "मर्द होने" के अर्थ को इस तरह से फिर से परिभाषित करती हैं कि यह व्यक्तियों और समुदायों दोनों को ऊपर उठाती हैं।

## Path to True Equality सच्ची समानता की दिशा

- The path to true equality is long, and the **active participation of men** is crucial in this journey.  
सच्ची समानता की दिशा लंबी है, और इस यात्रा में **पुरुषों की सक्रिय भागीदारी** बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Beyond rejecting **violence**, men can challenge the stereotypes and **cultural norms** that perpetuate it.



हिंसा को अस्वीकार करने के अलावा, पुरुष उन रूपकों और सांस्कृतिक मानदंडों को चुनौती दे सकते हैं जो इसे कायम रखते हैं।

- They must see themselves as **essential contributors** to change, helping dismantle **toxic ideas** of manhood.

उन्हें खुद को बदलाव में आवश्यक योगदानकर्ता के रूप में देखना चाहिए, जो विषैले पुरुषत्व के विचारों को समाप्त करने में मदद करते हैं।

- This requires a willingness to question the **privileges** that **patriarchy** grants and to explore ways to address the **pressures and expectations** that come with these privileges.

इसके लिए पितृसत्ता द्वारा दिए गए विशेषाधिकार पर सवाल उठाने की इच्छा और इन विशेषाधिकारों के साथ आने वाले दबावों और अपेक्षाओं को समझने के तरीके तलाशने की आवश्यकता है।

- By reflecting on and reshaping their roles, men can play a **transformative part** in building a more **equitable society** for all.

अपने भूमिकाओं पर विचार करके और उन्हें फिर से आकार देकर, पुरुष सभी के लिए एक अधिक समान समाज बनाने में एक परिवर्तनीय भूमिका निभा सकते हैं।

## Celebrating Men Transforming Mentalities in 2025 2025 में मानसिकता को बदलने वाले पुरुषों का उत्सव

- In the new year, let us celebrate those men and boys who are “**Transforming MEN’talities**” and championing **equality**.

नए साल में, आइए हम उन पुरुषों और लड़कों का उत्सव मनाएं जो “**Transforming MEN’talities**” (मानसिकता को बदलना) कर रहे हैं और **समानता** के पैरोकार हैं।

- Together, by **redefining masculinity**, we can create a world where every individual, regardless of gender, is free from **violence** and empowered to thrive.

साथ मिलकर, **मर्दानगी** को फिर से परिभाषित करके हम एक ऐसी दुनिया बना सकते हैं जहाँ प्रत्येक व्यक्ति, चाहे उनका लिंग कुछ भी हो, **हिंसा** से मुक्त हो और फलने-फूलने के लिए सशक्त हो।



GS Paper I: Society

## Indians abroad

Absence of opportunities remains  
the main driver of migration

At the inauguration of the 18th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the Indian diaspora as India's "ambassadors to the world", having "seamlessly assimilated" into the local society, served the community, and contributed to India's growth and prosperity. The strength of the India-origin community worldwide of over 35 million – about 15.85 million NRIs and 19.57 million PIOs, who are foreign nationals – is their ability to adapt and thrive in different fields, including in politics, where Indian-origin people have become leaders of more than 30 other countries. Where they retain their Indian passports, the diaspora is known for its distinguished services in many professional spheres. The PBD's purpose is to celebrate this success and discuss issues of importance; President Droupadi Murmu handed out about 27 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards. The event, which was first held in 2003, is organised around January 9, when Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915. The latest event, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, brought more than 3,000 delegates from across 70 countries, with much of the focus on how the diaspora can help in developing India (Viksit Bharat programme).

The achievements of the Indian diaspora are, no doubt, a matter of pride for all Indians, but it is important that the event is not limited to a simple self-congratulatory or laudatory exercise. The issues for the diaspora, particularly for those who are still Indian nationals, are more acute now. The increase in far-right populist governments, particularly in the West, is making visa and entry conditions for Indians more difficult, and it is important for the government to address such issues. Intractable global conflicts, especially in West Asia where more than nine million Indians live and work, are also putting lakhs of Indians in peril, and the PBD engagement would benefit from discussions between the community on how best to increase awareness and enhance safeguards for them. Given the broad spread of the diaspora, it is necessary to ensure that India's ties with its diaspora be inclusive, and non-partisan on political issues. Recent actions by the government to deny or revoke OCI cards for those perceived to be critical of the government bely this necessity. Above all, it is important to acknowledge that one of the biggest drivers of Indians migrating is the lack of economic opportunities within India. While there are no easy fixes for this, the loss to India of some of its most talented people must be counted, even as the country celebrates their incredible success and impact on the global stage.

## Indians Abroad विदेशों में भारतीय

At the inauguration of the 18th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the Indian diaspora as India's "ambassadors to the world," having "seamlessly assimilated" into local society.

18वीं Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) के उद्घाटन पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने भारतीय प्रवासी को भारत के "दुनिया में राजदूत" के रूप में वर्णित किया, जिन्होंने स्थानीय समाज में "संगठित रूप से समाहित" किया है।

• The strength of the India-origin community worldwide is over **35 million**, with **15.85 million NRIs** and **19.57 million PIOs**.

दुनिया भर में भारतवंशी समुदाय की ताकत 35 मिलियन से अधिक है, जिसमें 15.85 मिलियन NRI और 19.57 मिलियन PIO शामिल हैं।

• Indian-origin people have become **leaders in over 30 countries**. भारतीय मूल के लोग 30 देशों से अधिक में नेता बन गए हैं।

• The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is organized around **January 9**, when Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in **1915**. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 9 जनवरी को आयोजित किया जाता है, जब महात्मा गांधी 1915 में दक्षिण अफ्रीका से भारत लौटे थे।

• The latest event, held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, brought more than **3,000 delegates** from **70 countries**.

नवीनतम कार्यक्रम, जो भुवनेश्वर, ओडिशा में आयोजित हुआ, में 70 देशों से अधिक 3,000 प्रतिनिधि आए थे।

• The focus of the event was on how the diaspora can help in developing India through the **Viksit Bharat programme**.

कार्यक्रम का ध्यान इस पर था कि प्रवासी भारतीय विकसित भारत कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से भारत के विकास में कैसे मदद कर सकते हैं।

• The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards were handed out by **President Droupadi Murmu**, with **27 awards** presented.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू द्वारा 27 पुरस्कारों के साथ Pravasi Bharatiya Samman पुरस्कार वितरित किए गए।

• The event's purpose is to celebrate diaspora achievements, but issues affecting the diaspora, especially those still holding Indian nationality, need to be



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



addressed.

कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य प्रवासी की उपलब्धियों का उत्सव मनाना है, लेकिन प्रवासी, विशेष रूप से जो अभी भी भारतीय राष्ट्रियता रखते हैं, से जुड़ी समस्याओं को संबोधित किया जाना चाहिए।

- The rise of **far-right populist governments** in the West is making visa and entry conditions for Indians more difficult.

पश्चिम में **फार-राइट पॉपुलिस्ट सरकारों** का उदय भारतीयों के लिए वीजा और प्रवेश की शर्तों को और कठिन बना रहा है।

- **More than nine million Indians** live and work in **West Asia**, and they are increasingly at risk due to intractable global conflicts.

**नौ मिलियन से अधिक भारतीय पश्चिम एशिया** में रहते हैं और काम करते हैं, और वे जटिल वैश्विक संघर्षों के कारण बढ़ते जोखिम में हैं।

- The PBD engagement would benefit from discussions on how to increase awareness and enhance safeguards for the diaspora.

PBD संवाद को प्रवासी के लिए जागरूकता बढ़ाने और सुरक्षा बढ़ाने के तरीकों पर चर्चा से लाभ होगा।

- India's ties with its diaspora should be **inclusive and non-partisan**, particularly on political issues.

भारत के प्रवासी के साथ संबंध **समावेशी और निरपेक्ष** होने चाहिए, विशेष रूप से राजनीतिक मुद्दों पर।

- Recent actions by the government to deny or revoke **OCI cards** for those critical of the government contradict this necessity.

सरकार द्वारा **OCI कार्डों** को अस्वीकार या रद्द करने की हालिया कार्रवाई सरकार की आलोचना करने वालों के लिए इस आवश्यकता के विपरीत है।

- One of the biggest drivers of migration is the **lack of economic opportunities** within India.

प्रवास के सबसे बड़े कारणों में से एक भारत में **आर्थिक अवसरों की कमी** है।

- While there are no easy fixes, India must acknowledge the **loss of its most talented people**.

जबकि इसके हल आसान नहीं हैं, भारत को अपनी **सबसे प्रतिभाशाली लोगों** की हानि को स्वीकार करना चाहिए।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



## Presidential reprieve

Despite the discharge, the U.S. will have to deal with a polarised Trump era

President-elect Donald Trump was handed an "unconditional discharge" in a felony case in New York, where he was earlier found guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records to make \$1,30,000 in hush-money payments to an adult films star over an alleged affair. Following his conviction last May, one of four criminal indictments that he faced at the time, Mr. Trump went on to win the November 2024 election and will be sworn into office on January 20. In accordance with the legal immunity for official acts that is offered to the office of the President of the U.S., a position affirmed recently by the Supreme Court, three indictments that had not yet reached the stage of a conviction or acquittal were either dismissed or came to a halt owing to procedural complexities. His indictment for his role in instigating a mob attack on the U.S. Capitol in January 2021 and his indictment for mishandling classified documents discovered at his home in Florida, after his 2020 election defeat, were withdrawn by then Special Counsel Jack Smith because the Department of Justice "forbids the federal indictment and subsequent criminal prosecution of a sitting President". A state-level case in Georgia relating to allegations of tampering with the 2020 election's vote-counting process was paused pending a decision by an appeals court. In the New York case, following his appeal to delay the sentencing, the Supreme Court ruled that sentencing could proceed after the judge, Juan Merchan, said that he would hand down an unconditional discharge – implying no jail time, monetary fine, or probation – given that this would be "the most viable solution" in such unprecedented circumstances.

Other than facing the routine conditions of a ban on convicted felons owning guns and being required to provide the State of New York criminal database with a DNA sample, Mr. Trump has emerged unscathed from the legal quagmire prior to his 2024 victory. The deeper questions that America will wrestle with, however, transcend these legal minutiae – they relate to the fact that Mr. Trump, his 2024 campaign, and the MAGA movement more broadly, remain polarising and there is near-complete breakdown of bipartisanship within political circles as applicable to critical issues of social and economic policy, including the economy and jobs, reproductive rights, the criminal justice system and immigration reform. Liberal and progressive Americans must, understandably, be hoping, in the light of his comprehensive victory leading to a federal government trifecta, that Mr. Trump will strike a conciliatory note on Inauguration Day, and follow that up with a more bipartisan approach to policymaking in the four years ahead. The cost of not doing so appears to be high indeed.

## Presidential reprieve

राष्ट्रपति की राहत

President-elect Donald Trump was handed an "unconditional discharge" in a felony case in New York, where he was earlier found guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records to make \$1,30,000 in hush-money payments to an adult film star over an alleged affair.

राष्ट्रपति-निर्वाचित डोनाल्ड ट्रंप को न्यूयॉर्क में एक फेलनी मामले में "निर्विकृत रिहाई" दी गई, जहाँ उन्हें पहले 34 आरोपों में दोषी पाया गया था, जिसमें एक वयस्क फिल्म स्टार को \$1,30,000 की चुप्पी-रखने की राशि देने के लिए व्यापार रिकॉर्ड को गलत तरीके से बनाने का आरोप था।

• Following his conviction last May, one of four criminal indictments that he faced at the time, Mr. Trump went on to win the **November 2024 election** and will be sworn into office on **January 20**.

पिछले मई में उनकी सजा के बाद, जब उन्होंने उस समय के चार

आपराधिक आरोपों में से एक में दोषी ठहराया था, श्री ट्रंप ने नवंबर 2024 चुनाव जीतने के बाद 20 जनवरी को पद ग्रहण करेंगे।

• In accordance with the legal immunity for official acts that is offered to the office of the **President of the U.S.**, a position affirmed recently by the **Supreme Court**, three indictments that had not yet reached the stage of a conviction or acquittal were either dismissed or came to a halt owing to procedural complexities.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए आधिकारिक कृत्यों के लिए

कानूनी छूट के अनुसार, जिसे हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पुष्टि की, तीन

आरोप जो अभी तक सजा या बरी होने के स्तर तक नहीं पहुंचे थे, या तो

खारिज कर दिए गए या प्रक्रियात्मक जटिलताओं के कारण रुक गए।

• His indictment for his role in instigating a **mob attack** on the **U.S. Capitol** in **January 2021** and his indictment for mishandling classified documents discovered at his home in **Florida**, after his **2020 election defeat**, were withdrawn by then Special Counsel **Jack Smith** because the **Department of Justice** "forbids the federal indictment and subsequent criminal prosecution of a sitting President".

जनवरी 2021 में यू.एस. कैपिटल पर भीड़ द्वारा हमले को उकसाने में

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

Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)



उनकी भूमिका और फ्लोरिडा में उनके घर से प्राप्त गोपनीय दस्तावेज़ों के गलत तरीके से हैंडलिंग के लिए आरोप, उनके 2020 चुनाव पराजय के बाद, तत्कालीन विशेष सलाहकार जैक स्मिथ द्वारा वापस ले लिए गए क्योंकि न्याय विभाग "एक sitting राष्ट्रपति के खिलाफ संघीय आरोप और subsequent आपराधिक अभियोजन पर प्रतिबंध लगाता है"।

- A state-level case in **Georgia** relating to allegations of tampering with the **2020 election's vote-counting process** was paused pending a decision by an appeals court. **जॉर्जिया में 2020 चुनाव की मतगणना प्रक्रिया में छेड़छाड़ के आरोपों से संबंधित एक राज्य-स्तरीय मामला, अपील अदालत द्वारा निर्णय आने तक स्थगित कर दिया गया था।**
- In the **New York case**, following his appeal to delay the sentencing, the **Supreme Court** ruled that sentencing could proceed after the judge, **Juan Merchan**, said that he would hand down an unconditional discharge — implying no jail time, monetary fine, or probation — given that this would be "the most viable solution" in such unprecedented circumstances.

**न्यूयॉर्क मामले में, सजा की देरी के लिए उनके अपील के बाद, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फैसला दिया कि सजा उस समय के जज, जूआन मर्चन द्वारा दी गई शर्तों के तहत दी जा सकती है, जिन्होंने कहा कि वे बिना किसी कारावास, आर्थिक जुर्माना, या परिवीक्षा के बिना निर्विकृत रिहाई देंगे - क्योंकि यह "ऐसी अभूतपूर्व परिस्थितियों में सबसे प्रभावी समाधान होगा।"**

- Other than facing the routine conditions of a ban on convicted felons owning guns and being required to provide the **State of New York** criminal database with a **DNA sample**, Mr. Trump has emerged unscathed from the legal quagmire prior to his **2024 victory**. दोषी अपराधियों पर बंदूकें रखने पर पाबंदी और **न्यूयॉर्क राज्य** के आपराधिक डेटाबेस में **डीएनए नमूना देने की सामान्य शर्तों के अलावा, श्री ट्रंप 2024 विजय से पहले कानूनी झंझटों से अप्रभावित रहे हैं।**
- The deeper questions that America will wrestle with, however, transcend these legal minutiae — they relate to the fact that Mr. Trump, his **2024 campaign**, and the **MAGA movement** more broadly, remain polarizing and there is near-complete breakdown of bipartisanship within political circles as applicable to critical issues of social and economic policy, including the economy and jobs, reproductive rights, the criminal justice system and immigration reform.

हालाँकि, **अमेरिका** को जिन गहरे सवालों से जूझना पड़ेगा, वे इन कानूनी विवरणों से परे हैं - ये इस तथ्य से संबंधित हैं कि श्री ट्रंप, उनके **2024 अभियान**, और **MAGA आंदोलन** अधिक व्यापक रूप से, विभाजनकारी बने हुए हैं और राजनीतिक सर्कलों में सामाजिक और आर्थिक नीति के महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर द्विदलीय सहमति लगभग पूरी तरह से टूट गई है, जिसमें अर्थव्यवस्था और नौकरियां, प्रजनन अधिकार, आपराधिक न्याय व्यवस्था और आप्रवासन सुधार शामिल हैं।

- Liberal and progressive Americans must, understandably, be hoping, in the light of his comprehensive victory leading to a federal government trifecta, that Mr. Trump will strike a conciliatory note on **Inauguration Day**, and follow that up with a more bipartisan approach to policymaking in the four years ahead.

लिबरल और प्रोग्रेसिव अमेरिकी स्वाभाविक रूप से उम्मीद करेंगे, उनके व्यापक विजय के प्रकाश



में, जो एक संघीय सरकार की त्रिवेणी की ओर ले जाता है, कि श्री ट्रंप शपथ ग्रहण दिवस पर एक सुलहपूर्ण राग छेड़ेंगे, और उसके बाद आने वाले चार वर्षों में नीति निर्धारण में अधिक द्विदलीय दृष्टिकोण अपनाएंगे।

- The cost of not doing so appears to be high indeed.  
ऐसा न करने की कीमत वाकई में बहुत अधिक दिखाई देती है।

## Resisting transparency, eroding public trust

### GS Paper II: Elections

Last year, presiding officer Anil Masih was caught on CCTV camera manipulating votes in the Chandigarh mayor elections to help the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secure victory. The incident underlined the importance of infusing transparency in the electoral process to detect and prevent election fraud. It is ironic then that even before the year ended, the Central government brought an amendment to Rule 93(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to restrict public access to election-related records.

The amendment came days after the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to provide information under Rule 93(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules. Copies of Form 17C and CCTV footage of the Assembly elections in Haryana were among the records sought by the petitioner.

Rule 93 of the Conduct of Election Rules provides a framework for people to obtain information related to elections. Rule 93(2) originally stated that other than the records specifically exempt under Rule 93(1), all papers relating to elections shall be available for people to inspect and take copies of. The amendment to Rule 93(2) narrows the scope of people's right to information by adding a qualification that only "papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection". Records related to the electoral process, including Form 17C, video recordings and CCTV footage, will potentially get caught in the cross hairs of the new amendment.

#### Delays that led to doubts

The role of the ECI in the matter is particularly disconcerting. One of the safeguards in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to prevent the ruling party from arbitrarily misusing its power to frame rules is that the rules can be made only "after consulting the



**Anjali Bhardwaj**

Transparency activist associated with the Satark Nagrik Sangathan and the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information



**Amrita Johri**

Transparency activist associated with the Satark Nagrik Sangathan and the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information

The amendment to Rule 93(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to restrict public access to election-related records, has no place in a democracy

Election Commission". It is baffling why the institution vested with the responsibility of ensuring free and fair elections is opposed to transparency, especially at a time when serious questions have been raised about the sanctity of the electoral process.

In the general elections of 2024, the ECI did not put out voter turnout figures in absolute numbers after the completion of voting in the initial phases. This, coupled with an unusually high revision of 6% in voter turnout in some phases of the election, without any explanation, prompted a public demand for disclosure of Form 17C. Part I of this Form is filled by the Presiding Officer of each polling station at the close of voting and is submitted to the Returning Officer of the constituency. It contains information on the voter turnout and the number of votes recorded in the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). Part II is filled on the day of counting by noting the votes secured by each candidate as recorded in the EVMs. The documents reveal whether or not voter turnout tallies with the votes polled and counted.

Several political parties also sought copies of Form 17C after the general elections, claiming an abnormally large increase in voter turnout between the figures declared by the ECI at the close of polls on the day of voting and the final turnout declared a few days later. For instance, an ally of the BJP, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), claimed a massive increase between the two figures in some constituencies in Odisha, raising doubts about the integrity of the election process. In the Assembly elections held in Haryana and Maharashtra, similar concerns were raised and applications were again filed seeking copies of Form 17C and other election records.

#### Refusal to disclose information

Unfortunately, all these requests were stonewalled by the ECI. In a petition to the ECI, the BJD complained that even its

candidates were denied copies of Form 17C, despite making requests under the Representation of the People Act and the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Further, when the matter of proactive disclosure of Form 17C was agitated in the Supreme Court, the ECI opposed it on the specious grounds that there is no legal mandate to share Form 17C with anyone other than the candidates and political parties through their designated polling agents. In fact, it claimed that there is a "one-to-one relationship between each Form 17C and its possessor" and its unrestricted disclosure is amendable to mischief as people may morph the images. Further, it argued that there is no technical facility to scan the documents.

The ECI's reluctance to share copies of Form 17C is inexplicable. Copies of Part I of Form 17C are given to polling agents who are present at the booth and there is no prohibition on their further dissemination. In Digital India, the claim that Returning Officers don't have the technical facility to scan and upload a couple of thousand pages is scarcely credible.

On December 26, 2024, more than six months after the general elections, the ECI released a set of 42 statistical reports terming it a "Treasure Trove for stakeholders including academicians, researchers, election watchers worldwide". This too had no data from Form 17C, which would conclusively resolve the vexed issue of difference between votes polled and counted.

Transparency is key to ensure public trust and participation in the electoral process. In 2024, the Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme as being violative of a voter's fundamental right to information. A challenge to the new amendment has already reached the apex court. Rather than wait for the verdict of the judiciary, the ECI and the BJP would do well to realise that this amendment has no place in a democracy and withdraw it.



## Resisting Transparency, Eroding Public Trust पारदर्शिता का विरोध, जनविश्वास में गिरावट

Last year, presiding officer Anil Masih was caught on CCTV camera manipulating votes in the Chandigarh mayor elections to help the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secure victory. पिछले साल, अध्यक्ष अधिकारी अनिल मसिह को CCTV कैमरे में चंडीगढ़ मेयर चुनाव में वोटों की छेड़छाड़ करते हुए पकड़ा गया, जिससे भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP) को जीत दिलाने में मदद मिली।

- The incident underlined the importance of infusing transparency in the electoral process to detect and prevent election fraud. यह घटना चुनावी प्रक्रिया में पारदर्शिता को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता को उजागर करती है, ताकि चुनावी धोखाधड़ी का पता चल सके और उसे रोका जा सके।
- It is ironic then that even before the year ended, the **Central government** brought an amendment to **Rule 93(2)** of the **Conduct of Election Rules, 1961**, to restrict public access to election-related records. फिर यह विडंबना है कि साल खत्म होने से पहले ही **केंद्र सरकार** ने **चुनाव नियमावली, 1961** के **नियम 93(2)** में संशोधन किया, ताकि चुनावी संबंधित रिकॉर्ड्स तक जनता की पहुंच को सीमित किया जा सके।
- The amendment came days after the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** directed the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to provide information under **Rule 93(2)** of the **Conduct of Election Rules**. यह संशोधन **पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय** द्वारा **चुनाव आयोग (ECI)** को **चुनाव नियमावली के नियम 93(2)** के तहत सूचना प्रदान करने का आदेश देने के कुछ दिन बाद आया।
- Rule 93 of the **Conduct of Election Rules** provides a framework for people to obtain information related to elections. **चुनाव नियमावली के नियम 93** लोगों को चुनावों से संबंधित जानकारी प्राप्त करने का ढांचा प्रदान करता है।
- Rule 93(2) originally stated that other than the records specifically exempt under Rule 93(1), all papers relating to elections shall be available for people to inspect and take copies of. **नियम 93(2)** में पहले कहा गया था कि **नियम 93(1)** के तहत विशेष रूप से छूट प्राप्त रिकॉर्ड्स को छोड़कर, चुनावों से संबंधित सभी कागजात लोगों को निरीक्षण और नकल करने के लिए उपलब्ध होंगे।
- The amendment to Rule 93(2) narrows the scope of people's right to information by adding a qualification that only "papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection." **नियम 93(2)** में संशोधन ने लोगों के सूचना अधिकार की



सीमा को संकुचित कर दिया है, जिसमें यह जोड़ा गया कि केवल “इन नियमों में निर्दिष्ट कागजात जो चुनाव से संबंधित हैं, ही सार्वजनिक निरीक्षण के लिए उपलब्ध होंगे।”

- Records related to the electoral process, including **Form 17C**, video recordings, and **CCTV footage**, will potentially get caught in the crosshairs of the new amendment. चुनावी प्रक्रिया से संबंधित रिकॉर्ड्स, जिसमें **फॉर्म 17C**, वीडियो रिकॉर्डिंग्स, और **CCTV फुटेज** शामिल हैं, नए संशोधन के तहत समस्या का सामना कर सकते हैं।
- The role of the **ECI** in the matter is particularly disconcerting. मामले में **चुनाव आयोग (ECI)** की भूमिका विशेष रूप से चिंताजनक है।
- One of the safeguards in the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, to prevent the ruling party from arbitrarily misusing its power to frame rules is that the rules can be made only “after consulting the Election Commission.” **लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951** में एक सुरक्षा उपाय यह है कि सत्ता में पार्टी द्वारा नियमों का मनमाने तरीके से दुरुपयोग रोकने के लिए, नियम केवल “चुनाव आयोग से परामर्श करने के बाद” बनाए जा सकते हैं।
- It is baffling why the institution vested with the responsibility of ensuring free and fair elections is opposed to transparency, especially at a time when serious questions have been raised about the sanctity of the electoral process. यह समझ में नहीं आता कि वह संस्था, जिसे स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव सुनिश्चित करने की जिम्मेदारी दी गई है, पारदर्शिता का विरोध क्यों कर रही है, खासकर जब चुनावी प्रक्रिया की पवित्रता को लेकर गंभीर सवाल उठाए जा रहे हैं।
- In the **general elections of 2024**, the **ECI** did not put out **voter turnout figures** in absolute numbers after the completion of voting in the initial phases. **2024 के आम चुनावों** में, **चुनाव आयोग (ECI)** ने मतदान के प्रारंभिक चरणों के बाद **वोटर टर्नआउट आंकड़े** पूर्ण संख्याओं में जारी नहीं किए।
- This, coupled with an unusually high revision of **6%** in voter turnout in some phases of the election, without any explanation, prompted a public demand for disclosure of **Form 17C**. इससे, चुनाव के कुछ चरणों में **6%** के असामान्य रूप से उच्च मतदान संशोधन, बिना किसी स्पष्टीकरण के, **फॉर्म 17C** का प्रकटीकरण करने की सार्वजनिक मांग उठी।
- Several political parties also sought copies of **Form 17C** after the general elections, claiming an abnormally large increase between the two figures in some constituencies. कई राजनीतिक पार्टियों ने आम चुनावों के बाद **फॉर्म 17C** की कॉपियाँ मांगी, यह दावा करते हुए कि कुछ निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में दोनों आंकड़ों के बीच असामान्य वृद्धि हुई है।
- The **Biju Janata Dal (BJD)** claimed a massive increase between the two figures in some constituencies in **Odisha**, raising doubts about the integrity of the election process. **बीजु जनता दल (BJD)** ने **ओडिशा** के कुछ निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में दोनों आंकड़ों के बीच विशाल वृद्धि का दावा किया, जिससे चुनावी प्रक्रिया की सत्यनिष्ठा पर संदेह उठे।
- In the **Assembly elections** held in **Haryana** and **Maharashtra**, similar concerns were raised and applications were again filed seeking copies of **Form 17C** and other election records. **हरियाणा** और **महाराष्ट्र** में हुए **विधानसभा चुनावों** में भी इसी तरह की चिंताएं उठाई गईं



और फॉर्म 17C और अन्य चुनावी रिकॉर्ड्स की कॉपियाँ मांगने के लिए आवेदन फिर से दायर किए गए।

- Unfortunately, all these requests were stonewalled by the **ECI**. दुर्भाग्यवश, इन सभी अनुरोधों को चुनाव आयोग (ECI) द्वारा ठुकरा दिया गया।
- In a petition to the **ECI**, the **BJD** complained that even its candidates were denied copies of **Form 17C**, despite making requests under the **Representation of the People Act** and the **Right to Information Act, 2005**. चुनाव आयोग (ECI) को एक याचिका में, बीजू जनता दल (BJD) ने शिकायत की कि इसके उम्मीदवारों को भी फॉर्म 17C की कॉपियाँ नहीं दी गईं, जबकि लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम और सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के तहत आवेदन किए गए थे।
- Further, when the matter of proactive disclosure of **Form 17C** was agitated in the **Supreme Court**, the **ECI** opposed it on the specious grounds that there is no legal mandate to share **Form 17C** with anyone other than the candidates and political parties through their designated polling agents. इसके अलावा, जब फॉर्म 17C के सक्रिय प्रकटीकरण का मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में उठाया गया, तो चुनाव आयोग (ECI) ने यह विरोध किया कि फॉर्म 17C को उम्मीदवारों और राजनीतिक पार्टियों के अलावा किसी और को उनके निर्दिष्ट मतदान एजेंटों के माध्यम से साझा करने का कोई कानूनी आदेश नहीं है।
- The **ECI's** reluctance to share copies of **Form 17C** is inexplicable. चुनाव आयोग (ECI) का फॉर्म 17C की कॉपियाँ साझा करने में अनिच्छा समझ से परे है।
- Copies of **Part 1 of Form 17C** are given to polling agents who are present at the booth and there is no prohibition on their further dissemination. फॉर्म 17C के भाग 1 की कॉपियाँ मतदान केंद्र पर उपस्थित मतदान एजेंटों को दी जाती हैं और उनकी आगे प्रसार करने पर कोई रोक नहीं है।
- In **Digital India**, the claim that **Returning Officers** don't have the technical facility to scan and upload a couple of thousand pages is scarcely credible. डिजिटल इंडिया में, यह दावा कि रिटर्निंग अधिकारी के पास हजारों पृष्ठों को स्कैन और अपलोड करने की तकनीकी सुविधा नहीं है, कम से कम विश्वसनीय नहीं है।
- On **December 26, 2024**, more than six months after the general elections, the **ECI** released a set of **42 statistical reports**, terming it a "**Treasure Trove** for stakeholders including academicians, researchers, and election watchers worldwide". 26 दिसंबर 2024 को, सामान्य चुनावों के छह महीने बाद, चुनाव आयोग (ECI) ने 42 सांख्यिकीय रिपोर्टों का एक सेट जारी किया, जिसे "हितधारकों के लिए खजाना" कहा गया, जिसमें अकादमिक, शोधकर्ता और चुनाव पर्यवेक्षक शामिल थे।
- This too had no data from **Form 17C**, which would conclusively resolve the vexed issue of difference between votes polled and counted. इसमें भी फॉर्म 17C से कोई डेटा नहीं था, जो मतदान और गिने गए वोटों के बीच अंतर को स्पष्ट रूप से हल कर सकता था।



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



- Transparency is key to ensure public trust and participation in the electoral process. पारदर्शिता चुनावी प्रक्रिया में सार्वजनिक विश्वास और भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- In 2024, the **Supreme Court** struck down the **electoral bonds scheme** as being violative of a voter's **fundamental right to information**. 2024 में, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने **चुनावी बांड योजना** को एक मतदाता के **सूचना के मौलिक अधिकार** का उल्लंघन करार दिया।
- A challenge to the new amendment has already reached the **apex court**. नए संशोधन के खिलाफ एक चुनौती पहले ही **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** पहुंच चुकी है।
- Rather than wait for the verdict of the judiciary, the **ECI** and the **BJP** would do well to realise that this amendment has no place in a democracy and withdraw it. न्यायपालिका के निर्णय का इंतजार करने के बजाय, **चुनाव आयोग (ECI)** और **BJP** को यह समझना चाहिए कि यह संशोधन लोकतंत्र में कोई स्थान नहीं रखता और इसे वापस ले लेना चाहिए।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



# The way forward for PM-KISAN

The scheme, which started off strong, has been providing assistance to fluctuating numbers of farmers over the past six years

**GS Paper II:  
Government Scheme  
DATA POINT**

**T. Ramakrishnan**

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), which provides yearly income support of ₹6,000 to eligible farmer families in three instalments, has been through highs and lows both in terms of coverage and payout. It became operational from December 2018.

Originally intended for small and marginal farmers, the scheme, which was launched in February 2019, was later extended to all farmers who owned land when the National Democratic Alliance retained power in May 2019. The government made it clear in Parliament that there was no proposal to expand the scheme further to bring in tenant farmers under the fold. At the time of expansion in 2019, the scheme was expected to cost ₹87,217.5 crore to the public exchequer for 2019-20 with the total number of beneficiaries being around 14.5 crore. However, in the last six years, neither did the amount disbursed exceed ₹70,000 crore during any year, nor did the number of beneficiaries touch the 14.5-crore mark.

As **Table 1** shows, allocation for the scheme in the beginning of 2019-20 and 2020-21 was ₹75,000 crore each. But in both years, the expenditure on account of disbursement ranged from around ₹49,000 crore to ₹61,000 crore. The year-on-year growth rate for 2020-21 was close to 25% while it moderated to around 10% next year. However, it was in that year (2021-22) that the absolute figure of payout was the highest (around ₹67,150 crore). With the authorities tightening coverage of the scheme, the annual aggregate amount disbursed began going down and saw a 13% dip in 2022-23. Last year, the amount was ₹62,000 crore.

**Table 2** gives an account of the varying number of beneficiaries at the time of payment of instalment

at a given time. Since the scheme was inaugurated, the government has made payments 18 times. The last payment was made in October 2024. The number of beneficiaries started rising in the second year of implementation and this trend continued until the fourth year. Since then, governments, both at the Centre and in States, have been weeding out ineligible persons. At the same time, they have been taking steps to "saturate the scheme with all eligible farmers."

A "major saturation drive" commenced on November 15, 2023 to include more than 1 crore farmers. Another round was carried out from June 2024 and more than 25 lakh farmers were made beneficiaries. At the all-India level, the total number of beneficiaries, at the time of the release of the 18th payout, was approximately 9.59 crore. Of them, farmers from Scheduled Castes (SCs) accounted for 12% and those from Scheduled Tribes (STs) accounted for 9%. While women constituted a little more than 20% of SCs and others, their share among STs was around 29%. In December last year, the government informed the Lok Sabha that it did not maintain any separate data for Other Backward Classes, who were included in the category of "others."

A perusal of the data, as given in **Table 3**, on the year-wise distribution of funds in 10 States reveals that all of them have experienced ups and downs. For instance, Tamil Nadu, an important rice-producing State, had 44.6 lakh beneficiaries in 2020-21; now it has 21.9 lakh. The amount disbursed rose only to go down – from around ₹2,594 crore during 2020-21 to ₹1,439 crore during 2023-24. In Manipur, the number of beneficiaries decreased by about 70% between 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Farmers have been demanding a hike in the annual payout. While considering this, the government should incentivise those who efficiently use water, electricity, and other inputs during production.

## PM-KISAN: Highs and lows

The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha replies and Budget documents



**Table 1:** The table shows the allocation for the scheme and the amount transferred since 2018-19

Year	Allocation	Revised Estimate	Amount transferred
2018-19	0	20,000	6,005.5
2019-20	75,000	54,370.15	49,196.4
2020-21	75,000	65,000	60,989.9
2021-22	65,000	67,500	67,147.4
2022-23	68,000	60,000	58,253.8
2023-24	60,000	60,000	61,886.5
2024-25*	60,000	N.A.	41,687.3*

\*After the 18th instalment (Aug-Nov 2024)

**Table 2:** The table shows the number of beneficiaries at the time of select instalments of payment

Instalment	Number of beneficiaries
1st (Dec 2018-Mar 2019)	3,16,19,876
5th (April 2020 - July 2020)	9,26,93,619
9th (Aug 2021 - Nov 2021)	10,34,41,242
13th (Dec 2022 - Mar 2023)	8,12,34,383
16th (Dec 2023 - Mar 2024)	9,04,27,479
18th (Aug 2024 - Nov 2024)	9,58,97,635

**Table 3:** The table shows the year-wise distribution of funds in 10 States from different regions of the country. Since the scheme came into effect in December 2018, the table shows numbers from 2019 as it was the first full inaugural year

State	2019-20		2023-24	
	Number of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed	Number of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed
Andhra Pradesh	49,90,936	2,710.5	44,88,790	2,813.79
Assam	12,29,282	1,396.4	16,54,726	1,358.68
Bihar	62,03,177	2,921.7	80,59,752	4,891.74
Karnataka	50,68,281	2,789.8	51,66,182	2,963.36
Maharashtra	91,29,512	4,898.9	96,94,408	5,888.33
Manipur	2,74,496	86.7	1,06,768	74.63
Punjab	23,10,245	1,262.7	10,26,631	582.67
Rajasthan	55,76,237	3,382.8	70,19,074	4,103.84
Tamil Nadu	36,84,641	2,130.9	23,21,564	1,438.76
Uttar Pradesh	1,98,83,400	11,006.6	2,26,33,008	13,808.24

## The Way Forward for PM-KISAN PM-KISAN के लिए आगे का रास्ता



The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) provides yearly income support of ₹6,000 to eligible farmer families in three instalments.

प्रधान मंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि (PM-KISAN) पात्र किसान परिवारों को तीन किस्तों में प्रति वर्ष ₹6,000 की आय सहायता प्रदान करता है।

- The scheme became operational from **December 2018**.  
यह योजना **दिसंबर 2018** से सक्रिय हुई थी।
- Originally intended for **small and marginal farmers**, the scheme was later extended to all farmers who owned land when the **National Democratic Alliance** retained power in **May 2019**.  
मूल रूप से **छोटे और सीमांत किसानों** के लिए बनाई गई यह योजना बाद में उन सभी किसानों के लिए बढ़ा दी गई, जिनके पास ज़मीन थी, जब **राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन** ने **मई 2019** में सत्ता में वापसी की।
- The government made it clear in Parliament that there was no proposal to expand the scheme further to bring in tenant farmers.  
सरकार ने संसद में यह स्पष्ट किया कि योजना को आगे बढ़ाकर **किरायेदार किसानों** को शामिल करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।
- In **2019**, the scheme was expected to cost ₹87,217.5 crore for the year **2019-20** with the total number of beneficiaries being around **14.5 crore**.  
**2019** में योजना का अनुमानित खर्च **2019-20** के लिए ₹87,217.5 करोड़ था और लाभार्थियों की कुल संख्या लगभग **14.5 करोड़** थी।
- However, in the last six years, the amount disbursed never exceeded **₹70,000 crore** nor did the number of beneficiaries reach **14.5 crore**.  
हालांकि, पिछले छह वर्षों में, वितरण की राशि कभी भी **₹70,000 करोड़** से अधिक नहीं हुई और न ही लाभार्थियों की संख्या **14.5 करोड़** तक पहुंची।
- Allocation for the scheme in **2019-20** and **2020-21** was **₹75,000 crore** each.  
**2019-20** और **2020-21** में योजना के लिए आवंटन **₹75,000 करोड़** था।
- The expenditure on disbursement ranged from around **₹49,000 crore** to **₹61,000 crore** in both years.  
इन दोनों वर्षों में वितरण पर खर्च लगभग **₹49,000 करोड़** से **₹61,000 करोड़** के बीच था।
- The year-on-year growth rate for **2020-21** was close to **25%**, while it moderated to around **10%** in the next year.  
**2020-21** के लिए वार्षिक वृद्धि दर **25%** के करीब थी, जबकि अगले वर्ष में यह **10%** के आसपास हो गई।
- In **2021-22**, the payout amount was the highest at around **₹67,150 crore**.  
**2021-22** में, वितरण राशि सबसे अधिक थी, लगभग **₹67,150 करोड़**।
- The total amount disbursed began decreasing in **2022-23**, with a **13% dip**, and last year it was **₹62,000 crore**.



2022-23 में कुल राशि में कमी आई, जिसमें 13% की गिरावट आई, और पिछले वर्ष यह ₹62,000 करोड़ थी।

- The government has made payments **18 times**, with the last payment made in **October 2024**.

सरकार ने **18 बार** भुगतान किए हैं, और अंतिम भुगतान **अक्टूबर 2024** में किया गया था।

- The total number of beneficiaries was around **9.59 crore** during the release of the **18th payout**.

**18वें भुगतान** के समय लाभार्थियों की कुल संख्या लगभग **9.59 करोड़** थी।

- **12%** of beneficiaries were from **Scheduled Castes (SCs)**, and **9%** were from **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**.

लाभार्थियों में **12% अनुसूचित जातियों (SCs)** से थे, और **9% अनुसूचित जनजातियों (STs)** से थे।

- Women constituted a little more than **20%** of SCs and others, while their share among STs was around **29%**.

महिलाओं की **SCs** और अन्य में कुल हिस्सेदारी **20%** से थोड़ी अधिक थी, जबकि **STs** में उनका हिस्सा लगभग **29%** था।

- In **December 2023**, the government started a major **saturation drive** to include more than **1 crore farmers**, with another round in **June 2024** adding more than **25 lakh farmers**.

**दिसंबर 2023** में, सरकार ने **1 करोड़ किसानों** को शामिल करने के लिए एक बड़ा **संतृप्ति अभियान** शुरू किया, और **जून 2024** में एक और दौर में **25 लाख किसानों** को जोड़ा गया।

- In Tamil Nadu, the number of beneficiaries dropped from **44.6 lakh in 2020-21** to **21.9 lakh** in 2023-24.

तमिलनाडु में, लाभार्थियों की संख्या **2020-21** में **44.6 लाख** से घटकर **2023-24** में **21.9 लाख** हो गई।

- In Manipur, the number of beneficiaries decreased by about **70%** between **2022-23** and **2023-24**.

मणिपुर में, **2022-23** और **2023-24** के बीच लाभार्थियों की संख्या लगभग **70%** घट गई।

- Farmers have been demanding a **hike** in the annual payout.

किसान **वार्षिक भुगतान में वृद्धि** की मांग कर रहे हैं।

- The government is considering incentivizing those who efficiently use **water, electricity, and other inputs** during production.

सरकार उन किसानों को प्रोत्साहन देने पर विचार कर रही है जो उत्पादन के दौरान **पानी, बिजली और अन्य इनपुट** का कुशलतापूर्वक उपयोग करते हैं।



# What led to the Azerbaijan Airlines jet crash?

Why has the Azerbaijani President said that the airliner was shot down? What are the rules regarding aviation safety in conflict zones? What are the legal issues which come into play? Was international humanitarian law breached?

GS Paper II: Central Asia

## EXPLAINER

Murali N. Krishnaswamy

### The story so far:

**I**n December 25, 2024, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight, 4K-AZ65, en route from Baku in Azerbaijan to Grozny, the capital of Chechnya in Russia, with 67 passengers and crew, faced a series of serious technical difficulties. The weather appeared to have been a factor as the crew attempted to divert to Makhachkala in Russia. There was another diversion to Aktau in Kazakhstan by the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea, but the plane impacted the ground about three kilometres from Aktau's airport, and 38 passengers were killed. There are conflicting reports on the cause, linked to a series of holes in a part of the fuselage and a survivor passenger's video footage. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said "we can say with complete clarity that the plane was shot down... We are not saying that it was done intentionally, but it was done". Azerbaijan has said that the aircraft "was ordered" to fly across the Caspian Sea after it was denied landing at two Russian airports. Data from the black boxes have been decoded in Brazil, where the twin-engine aircraft, an Embraer ERJ-190AR, was manufactured.

### What are the other details?

The flight data site, FlightRadar24, has told *The Hindu* that "We can confirm that the flight was operating in an area affected by GPS jamming and spoofing, hence we did not see a large portion of the flight. The last portion of the flight was operated in an area of good coverage."

The website of Azerbaijan Airlines says the airline, which is a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), is in full compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. The airline has announced the suspension of flights to several cities in Russia on the directive of the Azerbaijan State Civil Aviation Authority following preliminary results from an investigation into the crash.

A report on the President of Russia's official website, titled "Telephone conversation with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, December 28, 2024", says: "The presidents had a detailed discussion of issues regarding the December 25 crash.... Vladimir Putin apologised for the fact that the incident happened in Russian airspace... It was noted during the conversation that the Azerbaijani passenger airliner was flying according to schedule and repeatedly tried to land at Grozny Airport. At that time, Ukrainian unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) attacked Grozny, Mzodok and Vladikavkaz, and Russian air defence systems were repelling these attacks. The Russian Investigative Committee initiated a criminal case under Article 263 of the Criminal Code (violation of the rules for traffic safety and operation of the air transportation systems). Initial investigation is underway..."

A media report says that the flight data have been analysed by the Aeronautical Accident Investigation and Prevention Center (CENIPA), Air Force Command, the central investigative body that is overseen by the Brazilian Air Force. Investigators from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Russia are also involved.

On January 3, 2025, the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, said 17 international experts including those from ICAO and the Interstate Aviation



**Gruesome crash:** Emergency specialists at the crash site of the Azerbaijan Airlines plane near the city of Aktau, Kazakhstan on December 25, 2024. REUTERS

Committee (IAC), the body representing some of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), were invited to ensure an "impartial and objective incident investigation".

### What does the accident highlight about conflict zones?

Dr. Hassan Shahidi, President and CEO, Flight Safety Foundation, Virginia, U.S., has told *The Hindu* that the operation of civilian flights in conflict zones is a complex issue that involves assessing the risks posed by ongoing hostilities. ICAO guidelines stress the importance of states providing up-to-date risk assessments and advisories to airlines about potential threats, including military activity, missile launches, or other hazards. Airlines, in turn, must conduct their own risk assessments. Under international law, specifically the Chicago Convention and its Annexes, the responsibility for ensuring the safety of civil aviation lies with states. If the crash is found to be caused by actions directly linked to Russia, whether intentional or negligent, questions of state responsibility and accountability under international law may arise, which may include legal actions and findings of criminal liability.

As the flight is said to have been subject to severe electronic and communication interference, Dr. Shahidi said, "spoofing (sending false signals) and jamming (blocking or disrupting signals) can have severe impacts on aviation safety, particularly on navigation and communication systems. These technologies could interfere with Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), for example, GPS, ADS-B and transponder signals and communication systems. Enhanced cybersecurity measures, alternative navigation systems, and robust incident reporting mechanisms are needed to mitigate these risks".

An ICAO spokesperson has told *The Hindu* that ICAO has readied itself to support this investigation in the interest of aviation safety and security, deputing an ICAO expert to be deployed onsite as an observer to the international investigation team. He said, "The

investigation, as prescribed by Annex 13, shall be conducted with the sole objective of preventing future accidents and incidents, through the collection and analysis of safety data and information. Annex 13 calls for a preliminary report to be produced within 30 days of the accident, with a final report to follow within 12 months."

Conflict zones, with state and non-state players, pose immense risks to civil aviation and countries are responding to this growing threat with several initiatives. Canada's Safer Skies initiative is one such example that was in response to the shooting down of a Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 in 2020 after take-off from Tehran.

After the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in 2014, the Dutch Safety Board's final report gave rise to the "Risk Assessment Manual for Civil Aircraft Operations Over or Near Conflict Zones (Doc 10084, Restricted)" by ICAO.

The IATA Tactical Operations Portal gives aviation subscribers real-time alerts related to airspace and airport operations. It operates based on a five-level alerting system. Another group is the Expert Group on Risk Information overflying Conflict Zones (EGRICZ), which is an informal international group that puts out information on airspace conflict zone risk assessments. There is also the Safer Skies Consultative Committee which is a formal international platform that examines conflict zone threats.

### Where are GPS interference hotspots?

FlightRadar24 says that the jamming of signals has been prevalent in the area around the Black Sea, while spoofing is common around Iraq, Ukraine, Russia, and also the eastern Mediterranean Sea. It says that flight crew are aware of GPS jamming and spoofing and are trained in advanced risk management.

### Have nation-states been involved in air accidents?

As the paper, "Navigating the Legal Horizon: Lawyering the MH17 Disaster" (2017), by Marieke de Hoon in the *Utrecht Journal of International and European Law*, points out, there have been about nine major cases. Some of them include the shooting down of a Cathay Pacific

airliner by China in 1954; Libyan Arab Airlines flight 114 by Israel in 1973; Korean Airlines flight 007 by the then-Soviet Union in 1983; Iran Air flight 655 by the United States in 1988; the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 by "Libyan agents" in 1988; Sibir Airlines flight 1812 by Ukraine in 2001; and MH17.

### What about the legal issues?

Dr. Mohammad Owais Farooqui, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Law, College of Law, University of Sharjah, UAE, has told *The Hindu* that the accident poses important legal questions with regard to jurisdiction under the principles of international law.

It has drawn attention to the absence, ownership, and management of responsibility and authority in international aviation regulation, compensation, and state responsibility. In the investigations, there should be focus on how the existing international legal works and the bases, for example, the Chicago Convention and the Montreal Convention, regulate such occurrences, he says.

The law applicable to the liability for damage in this context is the Montreal Convention. Azerbaijan Airlines may be financially responsible for making compensation payments, but things get complicated if state responsibility is engaged, more so in a missile strike scenario. If there is evidence that a state is involved, principles of state responsibility under the international law may prevail over the Montreal Convention and the responsible state may be under obligation to make reparation under customary international law.

Another area of law is international humanitarian law, he says. The Chicago Convention specifically bans the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight, and if a state is involved, its conduct may amount to a breach of this law, especially if not in accordance with the principles of necessity and proportionality.

The Azerbaijan case, he says, highlights the necessity for more authoritative and codified regulation of international civil aviation activity, the enhancement of liability regulation at the global level, and cooperation within the international legal framework.

## THE GIST

The website of Azerbaijan Airlines says the airline, which is a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), is in full compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said "we can say with complete clarity that the plane was shot down... We are not saying that it was done intentionally, but it was done". Azerbaijan has said that the aircraft "was ordered" to fly across the Caspian Sea after it was denied landing at two Russian airports.

Azerbaijan Airlines may be financially responsible for making compensation payments, but things get complicated if state responsibility is engaged, more so in a missile strike scenario.



## What led to the Azerbaijan Airlines jet crash? अजरबैजान एयरलाइंस जेट क्रैश का कारण क्या था?

On December 25, 2024, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight, 4K-AZ65, en route from Baku in Azerbaijan to Grozny, the capital of Chechnya in Russia, with 67 passengers and crew, faced a series of serious technical difficulties.

25 दिसंबर 2024 को, एक अजरबैजान एयरलाइंस की उड़ान, 4K-AZ65, जो बाकू (अजरबैजान) से ग़ोज़नी (चेचन्या, रूस) जा रही थी, जिसमें 67 यात्री और चालक दल थे, ने गंभीर तकनीकी समस्याओं का सामना किया।

- The weather appeared to have been a factor as the crew attempted to divert to **Makhachkala** in Russia.  
मौसम एक कारक प्रतीत हुआ क्योंकि चालक दल ने रूस के **माखाचकला** में डायवर्ट करने का प्रयास किया।
- There was another diversion to **Aktau** in **Kazakhstan** by the eastern shore of the **Caspian Sea**, but the plane impacted the ground about three kilometres from **Aktau's** airport, and **38 passengers** were killed.  
कैस्पियन सागर के पूर्वी किनारे पर **कजाखस्तान** के **अक्टाऊ** में एक और डायवर्ट किया गया, लेकिन विमान ने **अक्टाऊ** हवाई अड्डे से लगभग तीन किलोमीटर दूर ज़मीन से टक्कर मारी, जिसमें **38** यात्री मारे गए।
- There are conflicting reports on the cause, linked to a series of holes in a part of the fuselage and a survivor passenger's video footage.  
कारण पर विरोधाभासी रिपोर्टें हैं, जो धड़ के एक हिस्से में छेदों की श्रृंखला और एक जीवित यात्री के वीडियो फुटेज से जुड़ी हुई हैं।
- Azerbaijani President **Ilham Aliyev** said, "We can say with complete clarity that the plane was shot down... We are not saying that it was done intentionally, but it was done."  
अजरबैजान के राष्ट्रपति **इल्हाम अलीयेव** ने कहा, "हम यह स्पष्ट रूप से कह सकते हैं कि विमान को गोली मारी गई थी... हम यह नहीं कह रहे कि यह जानबूझकर किया गया, लेकिन यह किया गया।"
- Azerbaijan has said that the aircraft "**was ordered**" to fly across the **Caspian Sea** after it was denied landing at two **Russian airports**.  
अजरबैजान ने कहा है कि विमान को "आदेश दिया गया" था कि वह **कैस्पियन सागर** के ऊपर उड़ान भरे, क्योंकि उसे दो **रूस के हवाई अड्डों** पर लैंडिंग की अनुमति नहीं दी गई थी।
- Data from the **black boxes** have been decoded in **Brazil**, where the twin-engine aircraft, an **Embraer ERJ-190AR**, was manufactured.



ब्लैक बॉक्स से डेटा ब्राजील में डिकोड किया गया है, जहां ट्विन-इंजन विमान, एम्ब्रेयर ERJ-190AR, का निर्माण हुआ था।

## What are the other details?

### अन्य विवरण क्या हैं?

- The flight data site, **Flightradar24**, has told **The Hindu** that “We can confirm that the flight was operating in an area affected by **GPS jamming** and **spoofing**, hence we did not see a large portion of the flight. The last portion of the flight was operated in an area of good coverage.”

उड़ान डेटा साइट, **फ्लाइटराडार24**, ने **द हिंदू** से कहा कि "हम यह पुष्टि कर सकते हैं कि उड़ान **GPS जैमिंग** और **स्पूफिंग** से प्रभावित क्षेत्र में संचालित हो रही थी, इसलिए हमने उड़ान के एक बड़े हिस्से को नहीं देखा। उड़ान का आखिरी हिस्सा अच्छे कवरेज वाले क्षेत्र में संचालित किया गया।"

- The website of **Azerbaijan Airlines** says the airline, which is a member of the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, is in full compliance with **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** standards.

अजरबैजान एयरलाइंस की वेबसाइट कहती है कि यह एयरलाइन, जो इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (IATA) की सदस्य है, इंटरनेशनल सिविल एविएशन ऑर्गनाइजेशन (ICAO) के मानकों के पूरी तरह से अनुपालन में है।

- The airline has announced the suspension of flights to several cities in **Russia** on the directive of the **Azerbaijan State Civil Aviation Authority** following preliminary results from an investigation into the crash.

एयरलाइन ने **रूस** के कई शहरों के लिए उड़ानों की निलंबन की घोषणा की है, **अजरबैजान राज्य नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण** के निर्देश पर, दुर्घटना की प्रारंभिक जांच के परिणामों के बाद।

- A report on the **President of Russia's** official website, titled “Telephone conversation with President of Azerbaijan **Ilham Aliyev**, December 28, 2024”, says:

**रूस के राष्ट्रपति** की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट पर एक रिपोर्ट, जिसका शीर्षक है “राष्ट्रपति **इल्हाम अलीयेव** के साथ टेलीफोन बातचीत, 28 दिसंबर 2024”, कहता है:

- “The presidents had a detailed discussion of issues regarding the **December 25 crash...**

“राष्ट्रपतियों ने **25 दिसंबर की दुर्घटना** के बारे में विस्तृत चर्चा की...”

- **Vladimir Putin** apologized for the fact that the incident happened in **Russian airspace**.

**व्लादिमीर पुतिन** ने इस तथ्य के लिए माफी मांगी कि यह घटना **रूसी वायुक्षेत्र** में हुई।

- It was noted during the conversation that the Azerbaijani passenger airliner was flying according to schedule and repeatedly tried to land at **Grozny Airport**.

बातचीत के दौरान यह नोट किया गया कि अजरबैजान की यात्री एयरलाइंस निर्धारित



समय के अनुसार उड़ान भर रही थी और बार-बार ग़ोज़नी हवाई अड्डे पर लैंड करने की कोशिश कर रही थी।

- At that time, **Ukrainian unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs)** attacked **Grozny, Mozdok, and Vladikavkaz**, and **Russian air defence systems** were repelling these attacks.

उस समय, यूक्रेनी मानवरहित युद्धक विमान (UCAVs) ने ग़ोज़नी, मोज़डोक और व्लादिकावकाज पर हमले किए, और रूसी वायु रक्षा प्रणालियाँ इन हमलों को नाकाम कर रही थीं।

- The **Russian Investigative Committee** initiated a criminal case under **Article 263** of the **Criminal Code** (violation of the rules for traffic safety and operation of the air transportation systems).

रूसी जांच समिति ने आपराधिक संहिता के अनुच्छेद 263 के तहत एक आपराधिक मामला दर्ज किया (यातायात सुरक्षा और हवाई परिवहन प्रणालियों के संचालन के नियमों का उल्लंघन)।

- Initial investigation is underway.

प्रारंभिक जांच जारी है।

- A media report says that the flight data have been analyzed by the **Aeronautical Accident Investigation and Prevention Center (CENIPA)**, Air Force Command, the central investigative body that is overseen by the **Brazilian Air Force**.

एक मीडिया रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि उड़ान डेटा का विश्लेषण विमानन दुर्घटना जांच और रोकथाम केंद्र (CENIPA), वायु सेना कमांड, और केंद्रीय जांच निकाय द्वारा किया गया है, जिसे ब्राजील की वायु सेना द्वारा निगरानी की जाती है।

- Investigators from **Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Russia** are also involved.

कजाखस्तान, अजरबैजान और रूस के जांचकर्ता भी इसमें शामिल हैं।

- On **January 3, 2025**, the **President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**, said **17 international experts** including those from **ICAO** and the **Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC)**, the body representing some of the **Commonwealth of Independent States** (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), were invited to ensure an “impartial and objective incident investigation.”

3 जनवरी 2025 को, कजाखस्तान के राष्ट्रपति, कस्सम-जोमार्ट टोकायव ने कहा कि 17 अंतरराष्ट्रीय विशेषज्ञ, जिनमें ICAO और इंटरस्टेट एविएशन कमेटी (IAC) के विशेषज्ञ शामिल हैं, जो कुछ स्वतंत्र राष्ट्रों के समुदाय (CIS) का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं (अजरबैजान, आर्मेनिया, बेलारूस, कजाखस्तान, किर्गिस्तान, रूसी संघ, ताजिकिस्तान, तुर्कमेनिस्तान, उज़बेक

## The Accident and Conflict Zones

Dr. Hassan Shahidi, President and CEO of the **Flight Safety Foundation**, Virginia, U.S., emphasized the complexity of civilian flight operations in conflict zones.



- **ICAO guidelines** stress the importance of states providing up-to-date risk assessments and advisories to airlines about potential threats.
- **Risk assessments** should include military activity, missile launches, and other hazards.
- **International law** (Chicago Convention and its Annexes) places the responsibility for civil aviation safety on states.
- If the crash is linked to actions by **Russia**, questions regarding state responsibility and criminal liability could arise.
- **Electronic and communication interference** such as spoofing (sending false signals) and jamming (disrupting signals) can severely impact aviation safety.
- **Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)**, including **GPS, ADS-B, and transponder signals** can be affected by spoofing and jamming.
- Enhanced **cybersecurity measures**, alternative navigation systems, and robust incident reporting mechanisms are needed to mitigate these risks.

### दुर्घटना और संघर्ष क्षेत्रों के बारे में

- डॉ. हैसन शाहिदी, फ्लाइट सेफ्टी फाउंडेशन के अध्यक्ष और सीईओ, वर्जीनिया, यू.एस., ने संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में नागरिक उड़ान संचालन की जटिलता पर जोर दिया।
- **ICAO दिशानिर्देश** राज्यों से अद्यतन जोखिम आकलन और एयरलाइनों को संभावित खतरों के बारे में सलाह देने की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हैं।
- **जोखिम आकलन** में सैन्य गतिविधियाँ, मिसाइल हमले और अन्य खतरे शामिल होने चाहिए।
- **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून** (चीका सम्मेलन और इसके उपनियम) के अनुसार, नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी राज्यों पर होती है।
- यदि दुर्घटना **रूस** के कार्यों से जुड़ी होती है, तो राज्य की जिम्मेदारी और आपराधिक उत्तरदायित्व के बारे में सवाल उठ सकते हैं।
- **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक और संचार हस्तक्षेप**, जैसे कि स्पूफिंग (गलत सिग्नल भेजना) और जैमिंग (सिग्नल बाधित करना), नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
- **वैश्विक नेविगेशन सैटेलाइट सिस्टम (GNSS)**, जिसमें **GPS, ADS-B, और ट्रांसपोंडर सिग्नल** शामिल हैं, स्पूफिंग और जैमिंग से प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।
- इन जोखिमों को कम करने के लिए **साइबर सुरक्षा उपायों**, वैकल्पिक नेविगेशन प्रणालियों, और मजबूत घटना रिपोर्टिंग तंत्र की आवश्यकता है।

### ICAO and Investigation Support ICAO और जांच में समर्थन

- **ICAO** has pledged to support the investigation in the interest of **aviation safety and security**.
- An ICAO expert will be deployed as an **observer** to the international investigation team.
- The investigation aims to **prevent future accidents** through the collection and analysis of safety data.
- A **preliminary report** is expected within **30 days**, with a **final report** to follow within **12 months**.



## ICAO और जांच में समर्थन

- ICAO ने उड्डयन सुरक्षा और सुरक्षा के हित में जांच का समर्थन करने का वादा किया है।
- एक ICAO विशेषज्ञ को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जांच दल में साक्षी के रूप में तैनात किया जाएगा।
- जांच का उद्देश्य भविष्य की दुर्घटनाओं को रोकना है, सुरक्षा डेटा और जानकारी का संग्रहण और विश्लेषण करके।
- प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट की उम्मीद 30 दिनों के भीतर, और अंतिम रिपोर्ट की उम्मीद 12 महीनों में की जाती है।

## Risks in Conflict Zones for Civil Aviation संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में नागरिक उड्डयन के लिए खतरे

- Conflict zones with both **state and non-state** actors pose significant risks to civil aviation.
- **Canada's Safer Skies initiative** was launched in response to the shooting down of **Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752** in **2020**.
- After the downing of **Malaysia Airlines flight MH17** in **2014**, ICAO released the **Risk Assessment Manual for Civil Aircraft Operations** over or near conflict zones (Doc 10084).
- The **IATA Tactical Operations Portal** provides real-time alerts related to airspace and airport operations, using a **five-level alerting system**.
- The **Expert Group on Risk Information overflying Conflict Zones (EGRICZ)** provides information on airspace conflict zone risk assessments.
- The **Safer Skies Consultative Committee** examines conflict zone threats.

## संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में नागरिक उड्डयन के लिए खतरे

- संघर्ष क्षेत्र, जिसमें राज्य और गैर-राज्य दोनों अभिनेता होते हैं, नागरिक उड्डयन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण जोखिम उत्पन्न करते हैं।
- कनाडा की सेफर स्काईज़ पहल को यूक्रेन इंटरनेशनल एयरलाइंस फ्लाइट PS752 के 2020 में गिराए जाने की प्रतिक्रिया में शुरू किया गया था।
- मलेशिया एयरलाइंस फ्लाइट MH17 के 2014 में गिराए जाने के बाद, ICAO ने संघर्ष क्षेत्रों के ऊपर या पास से गुजरने वाली नागरिक विमानन संचालन के लिए जोखिम आकलन मैनुअल (डॉक 10084) जारी किया।
- IATA टैक्टिकल ऑपरेशन्स पोर्टल हवाई क्षेत्र और हवाई अड्डे के संचालन से संबंधित वास्तविक समय की चेतावनियाँ प्रदान करता है, और इसमें पाँच-स्तरीय चेतावनी प्रणाली का उपयोग किया जाता है।



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



- Expert Group on Risk Information overflying Conflict Zones (EGRICZ) संघर्ष क्षेत्र जोखिम आकलनों पर जानकारी प्रदान करता है।
- Safer Skies Consultative Committee संघर्ष क्षेत्र खतरों का मूल्यांकन करती है।

## GPS Interference Hotspots GPS हस्तक्षेप हॉटस्पॉट्स

- Flightradar24 reports frequent **signal jamming** around the **Black Sea**.
- **Spoofing** is common around **Iraq, Ukraine, Russia**, and the **eastern Mediterranean Sea**.
- Flight crews are trained in **advanced risk management** to handle GPS jamming and spoofing.

## GPS हस्तक्षेप हॉटस्पॉट्स

- Flightradar24 ने ब्लैक सी के आसपास अक्सर सिग्नल जैमिंग की रिपोर्ट दी है।
- स्पूफिंग इराक, यूक्रेन, रूस, और पूर्वी भूमध्य सागर के आसपास सामान्य है।
- उड़ान चालक दल को GPS जैमिंग और स्पूफिंग को संभालने के लिए उन्नत जोखिम प्रबंधन में प्रशिक्षित किया जाता है।

## State Involvement in Air Accidents वायु दुर्घटनाओं में राज्य की संलिप्तता

- The paper "**Navigating the Legal Horizon: Lawyering the MH17 Disaster**" (2017) mentions **nine major cases** involving state actors.
- Examples include the shooting down of **Cathay Pacific** airliner by **China** in **1954**, **Libyan Airlines flight 114** by **Israel** in **1973**, and **Korean Airlines flight 007** by the **Soviet Union** in **1983**.

## वायु दुर्घटनाओं में राज्य की संलिप्तता

- कागज "**Navigating the Legal Horizon: Lawyering the MH17 Disaster**" (2017) में राज्य अभिनेताओं द्वारा संलिप्त नौ प्रमुख मामलों का उल्लेख है।
- उदाहरणों में 1954 में चीन द्वारा **Cathay Pacific** एयरलाइनर को गिराना, 1973 में इज़राइल द्वारा **लिबियाई एयरलाइंस फ्लाइट 114** को गिराना, और 1983 में सोवियत संघ द्वारा **कोरियाई एयरलाइंस फ्लाइट 007** को गिराना शामिल हैं।

## Legal Issues and Responsibilities कानूनी मुद्दे और जिम्मेदारियाँ

- Dr. **Mohammad Owais Farooqui** highlighted legal questions about jurisdiction and state responsibility under **international law**.

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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



- **Montreal Convention** applies to liability for damage, but if state responsibility is engaged, it could supersede the convention.
- Under **international humanitarian law**, the **Chicago Convention** bans the use of weapons against civil aircraft.
- The Azerbaijan case raises the need for more **codified regulation** of international civil aviation activities.

## कानूनी मुद्दे और जिम्मेदारियाँ

- डॉ. मोहम्मद ओवेस फारूकी ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून के तहत क्षेत्राधिकार और राज्य जिम्मेदारी पर कानूनी प्रश्नों को उजागर किया।
- **मॉन्ट्रियल कन्वेंशन** क्षति के लिए जिम्मेदारी को लागू करता है, लेकिन यदि राज्य जिम्मेदारी जुड़ी होती है, तो यह कन्वेंशन को अधीन कर सकता है।
- अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानवतावादी कानून के तहत, **चीका सम्मेलन** नागरिक विमानों के खिलाफ हथियारों के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाता है।
- अज़रबैजान मामले में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन गतिविधियों के अधिक कोडिफाइड विनियमन की आवश्यकता को उजागर किया गया है।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**



# Rat-hole mining: why the practice continues in spite of its hazards

Labourers mainly from Assam, Nepal, and adjoining Bangladesh risk the hazards of rat-hole mining – asphyxiation because of poor ventilation, collapse of mines due to lack of structural support, and flooding – to earn thrice or four times as much as working in farms or construction sites

GS Paper III: Disaster Management

Rahul Karmakar

On January 6, 2025, nine workers were trapped in a flooded coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district. Bodies of four of the workers have been recovered, and rescue work is still ongoing. In this article, dated November 29, 2023, Rahul Karmakar explains the dangers of rat-hole mining.

The story so far:

**A**n oral question from the Supreme Court to the Union government continues to remain unanswered even as rescue workers recover bodies of workers who died trapped in a flood rat-hole coal mine at Dima Hasao district in Assam. On January 11, 2019, the top court had asked whether rat-hole mines could possibly operate in the northeast hills without the “connivance” of officials. “Lives are lost due to illegal mining. What about the officials who allowed this to happen?” the court had asked the government.

**What is rat-hole mining?**

Rat-hole mining, of two types, is so named as it involves digging tunnels 3-4 feet deep, barely allowing workers to crawl in and out. They have to squat while extracting coal with pickaxes. The side-cutting type of mining is usually done on hill slopes by following a coal seam – dark brown or black-banded coal deposited within layers of rock– visible from the outside. The second type called box-cutting entails digging a circular or

squarish pit at least 5 sq. metre in width up to a depth of 400 feet. Miners who drop down in makeshift cranes or using rope-and-bamboo ladders dig horizontally after finding the coal seam. The tunnels are dug in every direction from the edge of the pit, resembling the tentacles of an octopus. Some workers from Assam lost their lives in the coal mines of Meghalaya, dug using this crude method, before and after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned it in April 2014.

**Why is such mining banned?**

The government has little control over the land in Meghalaya, a Sixth Schedule State where the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act of 1973 does not apply. The landowners are thus also the owners of the minerals beneath. Coal mining boomed after Meghalaya attained statehood in January 1972. However, the terrain and expenses involved discouraged mine owners from employing advanced drilling machines. So, labourers mainly from Assam, Nepal, and adjoining Bangladesh risked the hazards of rat-hole mining – asphyxiation because of poor ventilation, collapse of mines due to lack of structural support, and flooding – to earn thrice or four times as much as working in farms or construction sites. Apart from issues of safety and health, unregulated mining led to land degradation, deforestation, and water with high concentrations of sulphates, iron, and toxic heavy metals,

low dissolved oxygen, and high biochemical oxygen demand. At least two rivers, Lukha and Myntdu, became too acidic to sustain aquatic life. These factors led to the NGT banning rat-hole mining in Meghalaya in 2014 while observing: “...there is umpteen number of cases where, by virtue of rat-hole mining, during the rainy season, water flooded into the mining areas resulting in the death of many...” Illegal mining and transportation of coal, as mentioned in the interim reports of a one-man committee appointed by the High Court of Meghalaya, has continued despite the ban and the loss of lives. At least 17 miners were drowned in an illegal mine in the East Jaintia Hills district's Ksan in December 2018 after water gushed in from a river.

**What led to the NGT ban?**

Environmentalists and human rights activists began flagging the hazards of rat-hole mining in Meghalaya two decades ago. The campaign intensified after Impulse, a Meghalaya-based NGO, began addressing the issue of human trafficking and child labour in such mines.

Three reports prepared by the NGO, first with the Nepal-based Esther Benjamin Trust in May 2010, the second with Aide et Action in December 2010, and the last with Human Rights Now in July 2011, estimated that about 70,000 children mostly from Bangladesh and Nepal were employed in these mines

because they were the right size to work in them. The State's Department of Mining and Geology refuted the claim but, under pressure from the National Human Rights Commission, admitted in June 2013 that 222 children were employed in rat-hole mines, specifically in the East Jaintia Hills district. The NGT ban came a year later.

**What is the way forward?**

Unlike in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, coal seams in Meghalaya are very thin. This, miners say, makes rat-hole mining more economically viable than opencast mining.

The State has an estimated reserve of 576.48 million tonnes of low-ash, high-sulphur coal belonging to the Eocene age (33-56 million years ago). The stakes for a section of locals have been so high that the State government has been under pressure to facilitate the resumption of mining legally.

In May 2023, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the Coal Ministry approved mining leases for four of the 17 prospective licence applicants. This would lead to the commencement of ‘scientific’ mining ensuring minimal environmental impact through sustainable and legally compliant extraction procedures. Anti-mining activists, who are assaulted by miners off and on, said that ‘scientific’ would eventually be a fancy tag in a State where profit has driven coal mining.

## Rat-hole mining: why the practice continues in spite of its hazards

रैट-होल खनन: इसके खतरों के बावजूद यह प्रथा क्यों जारी रहती है

Labourers mainly from Assam, Nepal, and adjoining Bangladesh risk the hazards of rat-hole mining – asphyxiation because of poor ventilation, collapse of mines due to lack of structural support, and flooding – to earn thrice or four times as much as working in farms or construction sites.

श्रमिक मुख्य रूप से असम, नेपाल और पड़ोसी बांग्लादेश से रैट-होल खनन के



खतरों का सामना करते हैं – खराब वेंटिलेशन के कारण सांस लेने में कठिनाई, खदानों का गिरना, और बाढ़ – खेतों या निर्माण स्थलों में काम करने के मुकाबले तीन से चार गुना ज्यादा कमाने के लिए।

- An oral question from the **Supreme Court** to the **Union government** continues to remain unanswered even as rescue workers recover bodies of workers who died trapped in a flood rat-hole coal mine at **Dima Hasao district** in **Assam**.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा केंद्र सरकार से एक मौखिक प्रश्न अनुत्तरित रहा है, जबकि बचावकर्मी असम के दीमा हसाओ जिले में एक बाढ़ में फंसी रैट-होल कोल खदान में फंसे मजदूरों की लाशें बरामद कर रहे हैं।
- On **January 11, 2019**, the top court had asked whether rat-hole mines could possibly operate in the northeast hills without the “connivance” of officials.  
**11 जनवरी 2019** को शीर्ष अदालत ने पूछा था कि क्या रैट-होल खनन उत्तर-पूर्वी पहाड़ियों में अधिकारियों की “सहमति” के बिना संचालित हो सकते हैं।
- “Lives are lost due to illegal mining. What about the officials who allowed this to happen?” the court had asked the government.  
“जीवन अवैध खनन के कारण नष्ट होते हैं। उस पर काबू रखने वाले अधिकारियों का क्या?” अदालत ने सरकार से पूछा था।
- **Rat-hole mining** involves digging tunnels **3-4 feet deep**, barely allowing workers to crawl in and out.  
रैट-होल खनन में सुरंगें **3-4 फीट गहरी** खोदी जाती हैं, जिससे श्रमिकों को अंदर और बाहर crawl करने की कठिनाई होती है।
- The **side-cutting type** of mining is usually done on hill slopes by following a coal seam — **dark brown or black-banded coal** deposited within layers of rock — visible from the outside.  
खनन के साइड-कटिंग प्रकार में आमतौर पर पहाड़ी ढलानों पर कोयला की परत का पालन करते हुए खनन किया जाता है, जो गहरे भूरे या काले बैंड वाले कोयले की परत में जमा होती है।
- The **second type** called **box-cutting** entails digging a circular or squarish pit at least **5 sq. metre** in width up to a depth of **400 feet**.  
दूसरा प्रकार जिसे बॉक्स-कटिंग कहा जाता है, में एक गोल या चौकोर गड्ढा कम से कम **5 वर्ग मीटर** चौड़ा खोदा जाता है, जिसकी गहराई **400 फीट** तक हो सकती है।



- The tunnels are dug in every direction from the edge of the pit, resembling the tentacles of an octopus.

गड्ढे के किनारे से सुरंगों को हर दिशा में खोदा जाता है, जो एक ऑक्टोपस की टेंटकल्स जैसी दिखती हैं।



**In vain:** Efforts underway to rescue the labourers trapped inside an illegal rat-hole coal mine, in Dima Hasao district, Assam, on January 9, 2025. PTI

- Some workers from Assam lost their lives in the coal mines of **Meghalaya**, dug using this crude method, before and after the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** banned it in **April 2014**.

कुछ श्रमिकों ने मेघालय की कोल खदानों में अपनी जान गंवा दी, जो इस कच्चे तरीके से खोदी गई थीं, इससे पहले और बाद में जब राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण (NGT) ने इसे अप्रैल 2014 में प्रतिबंधित कर दिया था।

- The government has little control over the land in **Meghalaya**, a **Sixth Schedule State** where the **Coal Mines Nationalisation Act of 1973** does not apply.

सरकार के पास मेघालय, एक छठे अनुसूचित राज्य में भूमि पर कम नियंत्रण है, जहाँ कोल माइंस नेशनलाइजेशन एक्ट 1973 लागू नहीं होता है।

- The **NGT** banned rat-hole mining in **2014** due to **safety**, **health** concerns, **land degradation**, **deforestation**, and **water contamination**.

एनजीटी ने 2014 में रैट-होल खनन पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया था, जो सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य संबंधी चिंताओं, भूमि क्षरण, वनों की कटाई, और जल प्रदूषण के कारण था।



- At least **two rivers**, **Lukha** and **Myntdu**, became too **acidic** to sustain aquatic life.  
कम से कम दो नदियाँ, लुखा और मायंटडू, इतनी अम्लीय हो गईं कि वे जल जीवन को सहन नहीं कर सकीं।
- At least **17 miners** were drowned in an illegal mine in the **East Jaintia Hills district's Ksan** in **December 2018** after water gushed in from a river.  
**17 खनिकों** की मौत एक अवैध खदान में **ईस्ट जयंतिया हिल्स जिले के कसन** में **दिसंबर 2018** में हुई, जब एक नदी से पानी घुस आया।
- The **NGT ban** came a year later after environmentalists and human rights activists began flagging the hazards of rat-hole mining in **Meghalaya** two decades ago.  
**एनजीटी प्रतिबंध** एक साल बाद आया, जब पर्यावरणविदों और मानवाधिकार कार्यकर्ताओं ने **मेघालय** में रैट-होल खनन के खतरों को दो दशकों पहले उठाया था।
- **Impulse**, a Meghalaya-based NGO, began addressing human trafficking and child labour in such mines.  
**इंपल्स**, एक मेघालय-आधारित एनजीओ, ने ऐसी खदानों में मानव तस्करी और बाल श्रम से निपटना शुरू किया।
- The **NGO** prepared three reports, first with the **Nepal-based Esther Benjamin Trust** in **May 2010**, second with **Aide et Action** in **December 2010**, and third with **Human Rights Now** in **July 2011**, estimating that about **70,000 children**, mostly from **Bangladesh** and **Nepal**, were employed in these mines.  
**एनजीओ** ने तीन रिपोर्टें तैयार कीं, पहली **नेपाल-आधारित एस्टर बेन्जामिन ट्रस्ट** के साथ **मई 2010** में, दूसरी **एड एट एक्शन** के साथ **दिसंबर 2010** में, और तीसरी **ह्यूमन राइट्स नाउ** के साथ **जुलाई 2011** में, जिसमें अनुमानित **70,000 बच्चे**, मुख्य रूप से **बांग्लादेश** और **नेपाल** से, इन खदानों में काम कर रहे थे।
- In **June 2013**, the **State's Department of Mining and Geology** admitted under pressure from the **National Human Rights Commission** that **222 children** were employed in rat-hole mines.  
**जून 2013** में, राज्य के खनन और भूविज्ञान विभाग ने राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के दबाव में स्वीकार किया कि **222 बच्चे** रैट-होल खदानों में काम कर रहे थे।
- In **May 2023**, **Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma** said the **Coal Ministry** approved mining leases for four of the **17 prospective license applicants**, leading to the commencement of '**scientific**' mining ensuring minimal environmental impact.  
**मई 2023** में, मेघालय के मुख्यमंत्री **कॉनराड के. संगमा** ने कहा कि कोल मंत्रालय ने **17 संभावित लाइसेंस आवेदकों** में से चार के लिए खनन पट्टे मंजूर किए हैं, जिससे '**वैज्ञानिक**' खनन की शुरुआत हुई है, जो पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव को न्यूनतम करेगा।
- Anti-mining activists, who are assaulted by miners off and on, said that '**scientific**' would eventually be a fancy tag in a State where **profit has driven coal mining**.  
खनन विरोधी कार्यकर्ताओं ने, जिन्हें खनिकों द्वारा समय-समय पर हमले किए जाते हैं, कहा कि '**वैज्ञानिक**' अंततः एक आकर्षक लेबल बन जाएगा, एक राज्य में जहाँ **लाभ ने कोयला खनन को प्रेरित किया है**।