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20_01_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)

1. **The historian must note that the past has many layers /** इतिहासकार को यह ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि अतीत में कई परतें होती हैं।

2. **Queen Sembiyan was the real founder of the Chola Empire, says Kanisetti /** रानी सेम्बियन चोल साम्राज्य की असली संस्थापक थीं, कनिसेट्टी कहते हैं

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The historian must note that the past has many layers

It is of course the historian's professional responsibility to bring knowledge of the past back to life academically for which a rigorous training in the norms and the methods of the discipline is imparted in institutions like universities. The discipline requires the historian to imbibe its basic premises: evidence is the primary basis of one's research; each statement must be supported by evidence which itself has to undergo a critical evaluation for its authenticity, its proximity to the event or phenomenon under review, and its context and compatibility with other bits of evidence which might be corroborative or contradictory. The inferences drawn from the evidence must conform to the test of reason rather than providence or any explanation outside the realm of reason.

Harbans Mukhia

taught history at the Jawaharlal Nehru University

The other layers
So far so good. But the past has other layers not susceptible to evidence from the archives, texts, manuscripts or archaeology. One such layer is memory not captured in texts, manuscripts, documents or on the dug up field. It survives in popular memories of events, persons and happenings, often at variance with the accounts given by professional history. The crucial difference is that while the historian has bestowed an image of a person, event or phenomenon meticulously sticking to the prescribed modes and methods of research, popular memory is not bound by any such constraints. It does not have to adduce empirical evidence or even follow it up with an inference that is subject to rational analysis. Yet, its power as an image of the past remains undiminished.

Let us take some examples. Have we not heard of Emperor Akbar's court adorned with the nine jewels (*Nav Ratnas*)? No one had in Akbar's time. The ones counted in the group of nine included some fake ones, but the notion of *Nav Ratnas* is a much later popular creation, perhaps not before

Today's historian must engage with the 'facts' as well as what has been habitually dismissed as 'fiction'

the 18th century. It does not alter history very much but lends some colour to the past. But some other memories do alter history as well, a little or drastically The story of Jodha Bai, for instance. One can shout oneself hoarse, as historians might, that there was no Jodha Bai in Akbar's harem and that Jahangir's mother was Harkha Bai, a princess of Amer, but Jodha Bai does not disappear from sight.

But these memories are mere colourful diversions from the rather dry narrative of historical 'facts'. There are others that have proven to be far more powerful than the historians' version. The Babari masjid case is an outstanding instance of this power.

The example of Ayodhya
Several historians, with help from archaeologists, had argued during the 1980s that there was no evidence of the existence of a Ram temple which was demolished to construct the Babri Masjid. Evidence from a large number of sources from the 16th century on was unearthed to strengthen the argument. The first authentic evidence of a link between Lord Ram and the construction of the masjid dates to 1822 in a Persian-language court document which mentions a small platform within the four walls surrounding the masjid as Ram Janmasthan; although no temple is mentioned but Sita Ki Rasoi is. A lot of accretion to this bare mention occurs during the 19th century – some violence is recorded as is the intervention of the Awadh state.

Clearly, some sort of the memory of the association of the site of the masjid with Lord Ram had begun to grow, perhaps a few decades before it got recorded in 1822, and a lot was added on to it – some by its own evolution and some by deliberate action.

In the end, the Supreme Court of India, in its final judgement of 2019, put its stamp on the historians' evidence that no Ram temple, indeed

no temple of any kind was demolished in 1528 to construct the masjid, and recorded the masjid's demolition on December 6, 1992 as a heinous crime and recommended prosecution of those guilty. Yet, going against its own finding, it gave away the small piece of land where the masjid stood for the construction of a Ram temple. In the end, memory proved far more decisive than 'history'.

On a holistic reconstruction
Historians have, in the pursuit of their reconstruction of the past, insulated the memory recorded in archives, texts documents and archaeological data, from popular memory and popular versions of history – which, in reality, extend to an age, besides persons and events. A holistic reconstruction of the past requires the historian to concern herself with popular memory as much as with archival data to investigate the social/cultural/political context of the origins of this memory, the process of its evolution, including its manipulation for given ends.

If history and social memory had been evolving through their own dynamics in the past, the present is a watershed moment when social media has created a massive space for, on the one hand, real common people's intervention in recollecting the past as well as for the grossest distortions of both the historian's version of the past and inflicting similarly distorted versions of memory.

Thus, today's historian, the professional custodian of the past, must engage with 'facts' as much as with what she has habitually dismissed as 'fiction' comprising the vast array of layers of the past. She must treat these as historical data: popular cultures of the past, gossip, conversations, silences, absences... History speaks most eloquently and consequentially only when it speaks in its entirety.

The Historian's Responsibility and Training
इतिहासकार की जिम्मेदारी और प्रशिक्षण

- It is the historian's professional responsibility to bring knowledge of the past back to life academically, for which rigorous training in the norms and methods of the discipline is imparted in institutions like universities.
  यह इतिहासकार की पेशेवर जिम्मेदारी है कि वह अतीत के ज्ञान को अकादमिक रूप से

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पुनर्जीवित करे, जिसके लिए विश्वविद्यालयों जैसी संस्थाओं में अनुशासन के मानदंडों और विधियों में कठोर प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है।

- The discipline requires the historian to imbibe its basic premises: **evidence** is the primary basis of one's research; each statement must be supported by **evidence**, which itself has to undergo a **critical evaluation** for its **authenticity**, its **proximity to the event**, and its **context and compatibility** with other evidence.

  इस अनुशासन की आवश्यकता है कि इतिहासकार इसके बुनियादी सिद्धांतों को आत्मसात करे: **साक्ष्य** एक के शोध का प्राथमिक आधार है; प्रत्येक बयान को **साक्ष्य** द्वारा समर्थित होना चाहिए, जिसे इसकी **प्रामाणिकता**, घटना से इसकी **निकटता**, और अन्य साक्ष्यों के साथ इसकी **संदर्भ और संगति** के लिए **समीक्षात्मक मूल्यांकन** से गुजरना चाहिए।

- The inferences drawn from the evidence must conform to the test of **reason** rather than **providence** or any explanation outside the realm of reason.

  साक्ष्य से खींचे गए निष्कर्षों को **बुद्धि** के परीक्षण से मेल खाना चाहिए, न कि **ईश्वरीय कृपा** या किसी अन्य समझ से जो बुद्धि के क्षेत्र से बाहर हो।

The Other Layers of the Past
अतीत की अन्य परतें

- The past has other layers not susceptible to evidence from archives, texts, manuscripts, or archaeology. One such layer is **memory**, not captured in texts, manuscripts, documents, or on dug up field.

  अतीत की अन्य परतें हैं जो अभिलेखागार, ग्रंथों, पांडुलिपियों या पुरातत्व से प्राप्त साक्ष्य से प्रभावित नहीं होतीं। ऐसी एक परत है **स्मृति**, जो ग्रंथों, पांडुलिपियों, दस्तावेजों या खुदाई से बाहर नहीं पकड़ी जाती।

- Memory survives in **popular memories** of events, persons, and happenings, often at variance with the accounts given by **professional history**.

  स्मृति **लोकप्रिय स्मृतियों** में जीवित रहती है, जो घटनाओं, व्यक्तियों और घटनाओं की होती हैं, जो अक्सर **पेशेवर इतिहास** द्वारा दिए गए विवरण से भिन्न होती हैं।

- The crucial difference is that while the historian has bestowed an image of a person, event, or phenomenon sticking to prescribed methods of research, **popular memory** is not bound by any such constraints.

  महत्वपूर्ण अंतर यह है कि जहां इतिहासकार ने एक व्यक्ति, घटना या घटना की छवि दी है, जो निर्धारित शोध विधियों के अनुसार होती है, वहीं **लोकप्रिय स्मृति** किसी ऐसी बाधाओं से मुक्त होती है।

- Popular memory does not have to adduce empirical evidence or follow it up with an inference subject to rational analysis.

  लोकप्रिय स्मृति को **साक्ष्य** प्रस्तुत करने या उसे बुद्धि-विश्लेषण से गुजरने के लिए बाध्य नहीं होना पड़ता।

- Yet, its power as an **image of the past** remains undiminished.

  फिर भी, अतीत की **छवि** के रूप में इसकी शक्ति अपरिवर्तित रहती है।

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Examples of Popular Memory
लोकप्रिय स्मृति के उदाहरण

- The **Nav Ratnas** (Nine Jewels) in **Emperor Akbar's court** is an example. No one in Akbar's time referred to such a group. It was a much later popular creation, possibly not before the **18th century**.
  सम्राट अकबर के दरबार में नौ रत्न का उदाहरण है। अकबर के समय में कोई भी ऐसे समूह का उल्लेख नहीं करता था। यह एक बहुत बाद की लोकप्रिय सृजन है, संभवतः **18वीं सदी** से पहले नहीं।

- The notion of **Nav Ratnas** does not alter history much but adds color to the past.
  नौ रत्नों का विचार इतिहास को ज्यादा बदलता नहीं है, लेकिन अतीत को रंग देता है।

- Another example is the story of **Jodha Bai**. Historians might shout that there was no **Jodha Bai** in Akbar's harem, but she does not disappear from popular memory.
  एक और उदाहरण है **जोधा बाई** की कहानी। इतिहासकार यह शोर मचा सकते हैं कि अकबर की हरम में कोई **जोधा बाई** नहीं थी, लेकिन वह लोकप्रिय स्मृति से गायब नहीं होती।

The Babri Masjid Case
बाबरी मस्जिद मामला

- The **Babri Masjid case** is an outstanding instance of the power of popular memory.
  बाबरी मस्जिद मामला लोकप्रिय स्मृति की शक्ति का एक प्रमुख उदाहरण है।

- Several historians, with help from archaeologists, argued in the 1980s that there was no evidence of the existence of a **Ram temple** demolished to construct the **Babri Masjid**.
  कई इतिहासकारों ने, पुरातत्वविदों की मदद से, 1980 के दशक में यह तर्क किया कि **राम मंदिर** के अस्तित्व का कोई साक्ष्य नहीं था, जिसे **बाबरी मस्जिद** बनाने के लिए ध्वस्त किया गया था।

- Evidence from a large number of sources from the **16th century** was unearthed to strengthen the argument.
  16वीं सदी के कई स्रोतों से साक्ष्य एकत्र किए गए थे, ताकि इस तर्क को मजबूती दी जा सके।

- The first authentic evidence of a link between **Lord Ram** and the construction of the **masjid** dates to 1822 in a **Persian-language court document**.
  भगवान राम और मस्जिद के निर्माण के बीच एक कड़ी का पहला प्रामाणिक साक्ष्य 1822 में एक **फ़ारसी भाषा के न्यायालय दस्तावेज** में मिलता है।

- The Supreme Court of India, in its final judgment of **2019**, agreed with historians' evidence that no Ram temple was demolished in **1528** to build the masjid.
  भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **2019** के अपने अंतिम फैसले में इतिहासकारों के साक्ष्य से सहमति व्यक्त की कि **1528** में कोई राम मंदिर ध्वस्त नहीं किया गया था, ताकि मस्जिद बनाई जा सके।

- The court also recorded the **masjid's demolition on December 6, 1992** as a heinous crime and recommended prosecution of those guilty.

अदालत ने **6 दिसंबर 1992 को मस्जिद के ध्वस्त होने** को एक घिनौना अपराध माना और दोषियों के खिलाफ अभियोजन की सिफारिश की।

- Despite its own finding, the court allowed the land where the masjid stood to be used for the construction of a **Ram temple**.
  अपनी जांच के बावजूद, अदालत ने मस्जिद के खंडहर पर **राम मंदिर** निर्माण के लिए जमीन का इस्तेमाल करने की अनुमति दी।

- In the end, **memory** proved far more decisive than 'history'.
  अंत में, **स्मृति** ने 'इतिहास' से कहीं अधिक निर्णायक साबित किया।

Holistic Reconstruction of the Past
अतीत का समग्र पुनर्निर्माण

- Historians have, in their pursuit of reconstructing the past, insulated the memory recorded in archives, texts, documents, and archaeological data, from popular memory and popular versions of history.
  इतिहासकारों ने, अतीत के पुनर्निर्माण की प्रक्रिया में, अभिलेखागार, ग्रंथों, दस्तावेजों और पुरातात्विक डेटा में दर्ज स्मृति को लोकप्रिय स्मृति और लोकप्रिय इतिहास के संस्करणों से अलग कर दिया है।

Holistic Reconstruction of the Past
अतीत का समग्र पुनर्निर्माण

- A holistic reconstruction of the past requires the historian to concern herself with **popular memory** as much as with **archival data** to investigate the **social**, **cultural**, and **political context** of the origins of this memory.
  अतीत का समग्र पुनर्निर्माण इतिहासकार से यह अपेक्ष करता है कि वह **लोकप्रिय स्मृति** के साथ-साथ **अभिलेखीय डेटा** पर ध्यान दे, ताकि इस स्मृति की उत्पत्ति के **सामाजिक**, **सांस्कृतिक**, और **राजनीतिक संदर्भ** की जांच की जा सके।

- The historian must also consider the **process of evolution** of the memory, including its manipulation for given ends.
  इतिहासकार को स्मृति के **विकास की प्रक्रिया** पर भी विचार करना चाहिए, जिसमें इसके निर्धारित उद्देश्यों के लिए हेर-फेर भी शामिल है।

Impact of Social Media
सामाजिक मीडिया का प्रभाव

- If history and social memory had been evolving through their own dynamics in the past, the **present** is a watershed moment when **social media** has created a massive space for, on one hand, real common people's **intervention** in recollecting the past and on the other hand, for the grossest distortions of both the historian's version of the past and inflicting similarly distorted versions of memory.

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यदि इतिहास और सामाजिक स्मृति अतीत में अपनी गतिशीलताओं के माध्यम से विकसित हो रही थीं, तो **वर्तमान** एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण है जब **सामाजिक मीडिया** ने एक विशाल स्थान बना दिया है, जहां एक ओर वास्तविक आम लोगों की **हस्तक्षेप** है अतीत को फिर से याद करने में और दूसरी ओर इतिहासकार के अतीत के संस्करण और स्मृति के विकृत संस्करणों को उत्पन्न करने के लिए सबसे बड़े विकृतियों के लिए भी जगह बनी है।

The Role of the Historian Today
आज के इतिहासकार की भूमिका

- Today's historian, the **professional custodian of the past**, must engage with **facts** as much as with what she has habitually dismissed as **fiction**, comprising the vast array of layers of the past.
  आज का इतिहासकार, जो **अतीत का पेशेवर संरक्षक** है, को **तथ्यों** के साथ-साथ उस चीज़ से भी जुड़ना होगा जिसे उसने सामान्यत: **कल्पना** के रूप में खारिज किया है, जो अतीत की परतों की विशाल श्रृंखला को शामिल करता है।

- She must treat these as **historical data**: **popular cultures** of the past, **gossip**, **conversations**, **silences**, and **absences**.
  उसे इन्हें **ऐतिहासिक डेटा** के रूप में मानना चाहिए: अतीत की **लोकप्रिय संस्कृतियां**, **गपशप**, **बातचीतें**, **मौन**, और **गैर-मौजूदगी**।

History Speaks Most Eloquently When It Speaks in Its Entirety
इतिहास सबसे प्रभावी तब बोलता है जब यह अपनी सम्पूर्णता में बोलता है

- History speaks most eloquently and consequentially only when it speaks in its **entirety**.
  इतिहास सबसे प्रभावी और परिणामकारी तब बोलता है जब यह अपनी **सम्पूर्णता** में बोलता है।

Queen Sembiyan was the real founder of the Chola Empire, says Kanisetti

GS Paper I: Medieval History

DCHENNAI

In his contentions on the components of the Chola Empire and the elements that made it great, public historian Anirudh Kanisetti argued that Chola queen Sembiyan Mahadevi, in many ways, was the "real founder" of the Chola Empire.

In a conversation with author Ashwitha Jayakumar during the session "The mighty Cholas" at the Lit for Life, Mr. Kanisetti said if not for the queen Sembiyan Mahadevi,

Royal musings: Anirudh Kanisetti, right, in conversation with Ashwitha Jayakumar at Lit For Life. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

"there would not have been the Chola Empire".

Elaborating on how she patronised temples and built popular support for the Chola Empire, Mr. Kanisetti said the queen clearly saw temple construction as a very important part of the public persona.

"I am willing to argue that Sembiyan Mahadevi, in many ways, is the real founder of the Chola Empire, as we know it, because she builds this popular support, she builds this tax base and that is what enables her grand nephew Rajaraja Chola to go out on these extraordinary campaigns of conquests," he said, pointing out from historical records on how one could notice that there were not any royals before her, especially in the Chola family.

Queen Sembiyan was the real founder of the Chola Empire, says Kanisetti
रानी सेम्बियन चोल साम्राज्य की असली संस्थापक थीं, कनिसेट्टी कहते हैं

Chola Empire and Queen Sembiyan Mahadevi
चोल साम्राज्य और रानी सेम्बीयन महादेवी

- Public historian **Anirudh Kanisetti** argued that **Chola queen Sembiyan Mahadevi** was, in many ways, the **"real founder"** of the **Chola Empire**.
  सार्वजनिक इतिहासकार **अनिरुद्ध कनीसेटी** ने तर्क किया कि **चोल साम्राज्य की रानी सेम्बीयन महादेवी** कई तरीकों से "**वास्तविक संस्थापक**" थीं।

- During a conversation with author **Ashwitha Jayakumar** in the session **"The mighty Cholas"** at the **Lit for Life**, Mr. Kanisetti stated that without **queen Sembiyan Mahadevi**, "there would not have been the **Chola Empire**."
  लेखिका **आश्विता जयकुमार** के साथ "**The mighty Cholas**" सत्र में **Lit for Life** में श्री कनीसेटी ने कहा कि **रानी सेम्बीयन महादेवी** के बिना, "**चोल साम्राज्य** नहीं होता।"

- He elaborated on how the queen **patronised temples** and **built popular support** for the **Chola Empire**.
  उन्होंने बताया कि रानी ने कैसे **मंदिरों को प्रायोजित किया** और **चोल साम्राज्य के लिए लोकप्रिय समर्थन** बनाया।

- Mr. Kanisetti emphasized that the queen clearly saw **temple construction** as a very important part of her **public persona**.
  श्री कनीसेटी ने जोर देकर कहा कि रानी ने **मंदिर निर्माण** को अपनी **सार्वजनिक छवि** का एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा माना।

- He argued that **Sembiyan Mahadevi** was, in many ways, the **real founder** of the Chola Empire because she built **popular support** and created a **tax base**, which enabled her grand nephew, **Rajaraja Chola**, to carry out extraordinary conquests.
  उन्होंने तर्क किया कि **सेम्बीयन महादेवी** कई तरीकों से चोल साम्राज्य की **वास्तविक संस्थापक** थीं क्योंकि उन्होंने **लोकप्रिय समर्थन** बनाया और **कर आधार** स्थापित किया, जिससे उनके पोते, **राजराजा चोल** को असाधारण विजय अभियानों को अंजाम देने में सक्षम बनाया।

- He pointed out from historical records that before her, there were no **royals**, especially in the **Chola family**.
  उन्होंने ऐतिहासिक अभिलेखों से यह संकेत दिया कि उनके पहले **राजा** नहीं थे, विशेष रूप से **चोल परिवार** में।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, and International Relations)

1. **A surge in radical governments, the hope of democracy / कट्टरपंथी सरकारों में उछाल, लोकतंत्र की आशा**

2. **Pyrrhic peace / पाइरिक शांति**

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3. **Recasting insolvency resolution** / दिवालियापन समाधान का पुनर्गठन

4. **What did the ILO report state about international migrants?** / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रवासियों के बारे में आईएलओ की रिपोर्ट में क्या कहा गया है?

5. **Liberalism and Hinduism are totally compatible, says Shashi Tharoor** / उदारवाद और हिंदू धर्म पूरी तरह से संगत हैं, शशि थरूर कहते हैं

6. **Evidence collection in Kaleshwaram probe in final phase** / कालेश्वरम जांच में साक्ष्य संकलन अंतिम चरण में

7. **Modi-Trump meet on Jaishankar's 5-point agenda** / जयशंकर के 5 सूत्री एजेंडे पर मोदी-ट्रंप की मुलाकात

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A surge in radical governments, the hope of democracy

One thing seems fairly certain now. If an Islamic radical group were to seize power by force, then the world will be willing to legitimise it and forgive its past deeds. But till the time such a group does not capture power, it will either be fought tooth and nail and/or treated like an enemy.

We had Afghanistan in 2021. We now have Syria in 2024.

When the Taliban captured power on August 15, 2021, 13 members of the United States troops were killed in an Islamic State (IS) suicide attack, and $7.1 billion worth of U.S. weaponry was left behind in Afghanistan. However, the U.S. and the West as well as China and Russia bent backwards to work with the Taliban. The West justified this by saying that this would wean the Taliban away from supporting terrorism and help in the protection of women's and minorities' rights. They talked about "inclusive government" but democracy was not uppermost in their minds. The then UN Special Representative to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, even told the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that the Taliban was 'misunderstood'.

Treated with kid gloves

The ultimate irony was how "*karma*" had come full circle. In the days preceding the Taliban's capture of Afghanistan, the "Troika Plus", of the U.S., China and Russia with Pakistan, had tried to coordinate their efforts in Afghanistan to keep India completely out and ignore our vital interests. In the UNSC, even an innocuous reference to the Heart of Asia Conference on Afghanistan was deleted from the draft statement because India was one of the countries attending it.

But when the events of August 2021 unfolded, India was the president of UNSC that month. Any text or resolution required India's concurrence. When UNSC Resolution 2593, after the Taliban takeover, was passed on August 30, India left its imprint particularly in the paragraph relating to Afghan soil not being used for terrorist activities. The express reference to terrorists and terrorist organisations in the UNSC Resolution 1267 sanctions list was inserted at India's behest, where it coordinated closely with the U.S. side. This was necessary to remove any ambiguity about Pakistani terrorist organisations associated with the ISIL (Daesh) and al-Qaeda, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed – listed in 1267 – from using Afghan soil to launch terrorist attacks on India.

In December 2021, the UNSC allowed the Taliban to get donor money directly into its coffers. With no political will among the P-5 or the West to demand accountability for implementing UNSCR 2593, the Taliban soon denied girls school education, imposed restrictions on women, and stopped all moves for an inclusive government. Now, the world looks the other way.

Now, Syria and Bangladesh

And now Syria in 2024. We have just witnessed a radical Islamic leader Abu Muhammad al-Jolani or Ahmed al-Shaara of the Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) seize power, culminating in the toppling of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Al-Jolani was earlier leader of the al Qaeda in the region, with links to international terror groups. His radical outfit, the HTS, which was earlier an al Qaeda wing in Syria called the Jabhat al-Nusra, still features in the U.S. State Department list of terror groups. Mirroring what they did with the Taliban, the U.S. and the West have lined up behind the HTS and its leader. The first move of the U.S. was to remove the bounty of $10 million on al-Jolani's head for his capture. Capturing power can help evade capture also.

This is wonderful news for Islamic terrorists and extremist groups gaining ground, especially in Africa such as in Mali, and adopting IS and al Qaeda techniques to topple governments. But the world is preoccupied with Ukraine and West Asia. Now, India has a situation brewing closer to home, in Bangladesh.

Even if the collapse of the elected government in Bangladesh has been largely due to an autocratic government stifling democratic forces and losing the plot, under the guise of supporting regime change, the U.S. clearly downplayed the interests of its "strategic" partner India. It is propping up the interim military-led government of Muhammad Yunus, which is seen as tolerating, even encouraging, Islamic radical groups in Bangladesh and is a threat to its minorities. The last thing India needs is the revival of Islamic radicalism in Bangladesh, where the last 16 years have seen the two countries and its peoples come closer in a variety of ways for mutual benefit.

When Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League came to power in 2008, it was seen as free and fair elections with a cleaned-up electoral list and the Bangladesh Army staying on the sidelines. The people overwhelmingly rejected the violent past of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Khaleda Zia and their Islamic radical partners such as the Jamaat-e-Islami. Just when one thought that the Jamaat-e-Islami stood discredited for siding with Pakistan in the 1971 war and rejected by the people of Bangladesh for causing mayhem and disrupting lives, the popular student protests of 2024 and the ensuing military coup have given them a fresh lease of life.

While there is no doubt that the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) – affiliated to the Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing, the Islami Chhatra Shibir, the Hefazat-e-Islam, the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP) have taken advantage of the situation, it is not as if the people of Bangladesh have embraced them wholeheartedly. Consequently, these radical groups have tried to shore up support for their extremist ideologies by attacking the minority communities, forcing the interim government to release Islamic extremists from prison (such as like Jashimuddin Rahmani, head of the ABT), and adopting shrill anti-India rhetoric, conflating the dismantling of Sheikh Hasina's legacy with attacks on India. India should be careful not to fall into this trap.

Religious hate has been on the rise around the world. It was when this writer was India's Permanent Representative to the UN that India brought up, for the first time, in 2021-2022, the rise of religiophobia against non-Abrahamic religions, including against Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists. India condemned all forms of religious hate, whether in the U.S. and the West or in Bangladesh and the neighbourhood. While India may have taken its eye off the ball when it came to the Sheikh Hasina government, it cannot ignore Islamic extremism again rearing its head in Bangladesh and posing renewed danger to India's national security – something which New Delhi successfully prevented over the last 16 years.

The larger picture

However, for both sides to view the unfolding events purely through a religious lens – be it an Islamic lens or Hindu lens – would be a mistake. This has been counterproductive before and will be so now. In fact, Islamic radicals are baiting India, and, unfortunately, so are the officials who have been appointed as advisers to Mr. Yunus, precisely to polarise forces within their own country. On the other hand, India has the larger perspective in mind to protect its bilateral relations from damage. It has reiterated its readiness to do business with the interim government. India has removed most irritants in its bilateral relations in the last two decades, except maybe for the sharing of Teesta river waters. What is forgotten is that when Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) revolted in February 2009, just after the first clean elections of Bangladesh in December 2008, it was India which gave its rock solid support to the newly-elected government and helped save democracy.

It is in Bangladesh's own interest that this military coup does not translate into an Islamic coup and goes the way of Syria or Afghanistan. The silver lining is that, having tasted the power of democracy in 2008, and now in 2024, it will be difficult to put the clock back.

T.S. Tirumurti

was Permanent Representative/ Ambassador of India to the United Nations (UN), New York (2021-22) and President of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for August 2021

The last thing India needs is the revival of Islamic radicalism in Bangladesh

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- One thing seems fairly certain now. If an Islamic radical group were to seize power by force, then the world will be willing to legitimise it and forgive its past deeds. But till the time such a group does not capture power, it will either be fought tooth and nail and/or treated like an enemy.

  एक बात अब काफी हद तक निश्चित प्रतीत होती है। यदि कोई **इस्लामिक उग्रवादी समूह** बल से सत्ता पर काबिज होता है, तो **दुनिया उसे वैधता देने** और **उसके अतीत के कृत्यों को माफ करने** को तैयार हो जाएगी। लेकिन जब तक ऐसा समूह सत्ता नहीं पकड़ता, तब तक उसे या **तो हर तरीके से लड़ा जाएगा** और/या **दुश्मन की तरह व्यवहार किया जाएगा।**

- We had Afghanistan in 2021. We now have Syria in 2024.

  हमारे पास **2021 में अफगानिस्तान** था। अब हमारे पास **2024 में सीरिया है।**

- When the Taliban captured power on August 15, 2021, 13 members of the United States troops were killed in an Islamic State (IS) suicide attack, and $7.1 billion worth of U.S. weaponry was left behind in Afghanistan. However, the U.S. and the West as well as China and Russia bent backwards to work with the Taliban.

  15 अगस्त 2021 को जब तालिबान ने सत्ता पर काबिज़ किया, तब **इस्लामिक स्टेट (IS)** के आत्मघाती हमले में **13 अमेरिकी सैनिक** मारे गए, और अफगानिस्तान में **7.1 बिलियन डॉलर** मूल्य का अमेरिकी हथियार छोड़ दिया गया। हालांकि, **अमेरिका** और **पश्चिम** के साथ-साथ **चीन** और **रूस** ने तालिबान के साथ काम करने के लिए हर संभव कोशिश की।

- The West justified this by saying that this would wean the Taliban away from supporting terrorism and help in the protection of women's and minorities' rights.

  पश्चिम ने इसका बचाव करते हुए कहा कि इससे तालिबान को **आतंकवाद** को समर्थन देने से दूर किया जाएगा और **महिलाओं और अल्पसंख्यकों के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा** में मदद मिलेगी।

- They talked about "inclusive government" but democracy was not uppermost in their minds.

  उन्होंने "**समावेशी सरकार**" की बात की, लेकिन **लोकतंत्र** उनके दिमाग में सबसे ऊपर नहीं था।

- The then UN Special Representative to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, even told the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that the Taliban was 'misunderstood'.

  तत्कालीन **संयुक्त राष्ट्र के विशेष प्रतिनिधि**, **डेबोरा लायन्स** ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) से यह तक कहा कि तालिबान को '**गलत समझा**' गया था।

- Treated with kid gloves

  नमता से व्यवहार किया गया

- In the days preceding the Taliban's capture of Afghanistan, the "Troika Plus", of the U.S., China and Russia with Pakistan, had tried to coordinate their efforts in Afghanistan to keep India completely out and ignore our vital interests.

  तालिबान के अफगानिस्तान पर कब्जा करने के दिनों में, **अमेरिका, चीन** और **रूस** के साथ **पाकिस्तान का "ट्रॉयका प्लस"** ने अफगानिस्तान में अपनी कोशिशें समन्वयित करने की कोशिश की थी ताकि **भारत को पूरी तरह बाहर रखा जाए** और हमारे महत्वपूर्ण हितों को नजरअंदाज किया जाए।

- In the UNSC, even an innocuous reference to the Heart of Asia Conference on Afghanistan was deleted from the draft statement because India was one of the

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countries attending it.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में, अफगानिस्तान पर "**हार्ट ऑफ एशिया सम्मेलन**" का एक निर्दोष उल्लेख तक मसौदा बयान से हटा दिया गया क्योंकि **भारत** उन देशों में से एक था जो इसमें शामिल हो रहे थे।

- But when the events of August 2021 unfolded, India was the president of UNSC that month.

  लेकिन जब **अगस्त 2021** की घटनाएँ सामने आईं, **भारत** उस महीने **UNSC का अध्यक्ष** था।

- Any text or resolution required India's concurrence.

  किसी भी पाठ या प्रस्ताव को **भारत की सहमति** की आवश्यकता थी।

- When UNSC Resolution 2593, after the Taliban takeover, was passed on August 30, India left its imprint particularly in the paragraph relating to Afghan soil not being used for terrorist activities.

  जब तालिबान के कब्जे के बाद **UNSC प्रस्ताव 2593**, **30 अगस्त** को पारित किया गया, तो **भारत** ने विशेष रूप से उस अनुच्छेद में अपनी छाप छोड़ी जिसमें **अफगान भूमि** का उपयोग आतंकवादी गतिविधियों के लिए न करने का उल्लेख था।

- The express reference to terrorists and terrorist organisations in the UNSC Resolution 1267 sanctions list was inserted at India's behest, where it coordinated closely with the U.S. side.

  UNSC प्रस्ताव 1267 में आतंकवादियों और आतंकवादी संगठनों का स्पष्ट उल्लेख **भारत की इच्छा** पर डाला गया, जहां उसने **अमेरिकी पक्ष** के साथ करीबी समन्वय किया।

- This was necessary to remove any ambiguity about Pakistani terrorist organisations associated with the ISIL (Daesh) and al-Qaeda, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed — listed in 1267 — from using Afghan soil to launch terrorist attacks on India.

  यह आवश्यक था ताकि **ISIL (दाएश)** और **अल-कायदा** से जुड़ी **पाकिस्तानी आतंकवादी संगठनों**, जिसमें **लश्कर-ए-तैयबा** और **जैश-ए-मोहम्मद** शामिल हैं – जो 1267 में सूचीबद्ध हैं – को **अफगान भूमि** का उपयोग करके **भारत** पर आतंकवादी हमले करने से रोका जा सके।

- In December 2021, the UNSC allowed the Taliban to get donor money directly into its coffers.

  दिसंबर 2021 में, **UNSC** ने तालिबान को सीधे अपनी **कोष** में दानकर्ताओं से धन प्राप्त करने की अनुमति दी।

- With no political will among the P-5 or the West to demand accountability for implementing UNSCR 2593, the Taliban soon denied girls school education, imposed restrictions on women, and stopped all moves for an inclusive government.

  P-5 या **पश्चिम** में UNSCR 2593 को लागू करने के लिए **जवाबदेही** मांगने की कोई राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति नहीं थी, और तालिबान ने जल्द ही **लड़कियों की स्कूल शिक्षा** को नकार दिया, **महिलाओं पर प्रतिबंध** लगाए, और **समावेशी सरकार** के लिए सभी कदमों को रोक दिया।

- Now, the world looks the other way

  अब, **दुनिया दूसरी तरफ देख रही है।**

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- **Now, Syria and Bangladesh**
  अब, सीरिया और बांग्लादेश

- **And now Syria in 2024.** We have just witnessed a radical Islamic leader **Abu Muhammad al-Jolani** or **Ahmed al-Shaara** of the **Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS)** seize power, culminating in the toppling of Syrian President **Bashar al-Assad**.
  अब 2024 में सीरिया। हमने अभी हाल ही में **अबू मुहम्मद अल-जोलेनी** या **अहमद अल-शारा** को हयात तहरीर अल-शाम (HTS) से सीरिया के राष्ट्रपति बशर अल-असद को गिराते हुए सत्ता पर कब्जा करते हुए देखा।

- **Al-Jolani was earlier leader of the al Qaeda in the region, with links to international terror groups.**
  अल-जोलेनी पहले इस क्षेत्र में अल-कायदा का नेता था, और अंतरराष्ट्रीय आतंकवादी समूहों से जुड़ा हुआ था।

- **His radical outfit, the HTS, which was earlier an al Qaeda wing in Syria called the Jabhat al-Nusra, still features in the U.S. State Department list of terror groups.**
  उसका उग्रवादी संगठन, HTS, जो पहले सीरिया में अल-कायदा की शाखा जबहत अल-नुसरा कहलाता था, अभी भी U.S. State Department की आतंकवादी समूहों की सूची में शामिल है।

- **Mirroring what they did with the Taliban, the U.S. and the West have lined up behind the HTS and its leader.**
  तालिबान के साथ जो किया गया था, वही कर रहे हुए, **अमेरिका** और **पश्चिम** ने **HTS** और उसके नेता के पीछे खड़ा हो गए हैं।

- **The first move of the U.S. was to remove the bounty of $10 million on al-Jolani's head for his capture.**
  अमेरिका का पहला कदम यह था कि **अल-जोलेनी** की पकड़ के लिए उसकी **10 मिलियन डॉलर** की ईनाम की राशि हटा दी।

- **Capturing power can help evade capture also.**
  सत्ता पर कब्जा करना **पकड़ से बचने** में भी मदद कर सकता है।

- **This is wonderful news for Islamic terrorists and extremist groups gaining ground, especially in Africa such as in Mali, and adopting IS and al Qaeda techniques to topple governments.**
  यह **इस्लामिक आतंकवादियों** और **उग्रवादी समूहों** के लिए शानदार खबर है जो **अफ्रीका में**, जैसे **माली** में, **IS** और **अल-कायदा** की तकनीकों को अपनाकर सरकारों को गिराने में कामयाब हो रहे हैं।

- **But the world is preoccupied with Ukraine and West Asia.**
  लेकिन दुनिया **यूक्रेन** और **पश्चिम एशिया** में व्यस्त है।

- **Now, India has a situation brewing closer to home, in Bangladesh.**
  अब, भारत के पास **बांग्लादेश** में एक स्थिति उभर रही है।

- **Even if the collapse of the elected government in Bangladesh has been largely due to an autocratic government stifling democratic forces and losing the plot, under the guise of supporting regime change, the U.S. clearly downplayed the interests of its "strategic" partner India.**
  भले ही बांग्लादेश में चुनी हुई सरकार का पतन मुख्य रूप से एक **तानाशाही सरकार** के कारण

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हुआ है जो लोकतांत्रिक ताकतों को कुचल रही थी और **संविधानिक ढांचे** को खो रही थी, फिर भी **अमेरिका** ने **राजनीतिक परिवर्तन** के समर्थन का बहाना बनाकर अपने **"रणनीतिक" साझेदार भारत** के हितों को स्पष्ट रूप से नजरअंदाज किया।

- **It is propping up the interim military-led government of Muhammad Yunus, which is seen as tolerating, even encouraging, Islamic radical groups in Bangladesh and is a threat to its minorities.**

  यह **मोहम्मद युनूस** के नेतृत्व वाली **अंतरिम सैन्य सरकार** का समर्थन कर रहा है, जिसे **बांगलादेश** में **इस्लामिक उग्रवादी समूहों** को सहन करने, और यहां तक कि उन्हें बढ़ावा देने के रूप में देखा जा रहा है, और यह **भारत के अल्पसंख्यकों** के लिए खतरा है।

- **The last thing India needs is the revival of Islamic radicalism in Bangladesh, where the last 16 years have seen the two countries and its peoples come closer in a variety of ways for mutual benefit.**

  भारत को **बांगलादेश** में **इस्लामिक उग्रवाद** के पुनरुत्थान से बचने की सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता है, जहां पिछले **16 सालों** में दोनों देशों और उनके लोगों ने आपस में **विविध तरीकों से निकटता** महसूस की है।

- **When Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League came to power in 2008, it was seen as free and fair elections with a cleaned-up electoral list and the Bangladesh Army staying on the sidelines.**

  जब **शेख हसीना** और **आवामी लीग** ने 2008 में सत्ता संभाली, तो इसे एक **स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव** के रूप में देखा गया, जिसमें **स्वच्छ मतदान सूची** और **बांगलादेश आर्मी** किनारे पर खड़ी रही।

- **The people overwhelmingly rejected the violent past of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Khaleda Zia and their Islamic radical partners such as the Jamaat-e-Islami.**

  लोगों ने **खालिदा ज़िया** की **बांगलादेश नेशनलिस्ट पार्टी (BNP)** और उनके **इस्लामिक उग्रवादी सहयोगियों** जैसे **जमात-ए-इस्लामी** के **हिंसक अतीत** को भारी बहुमत से नकार दिया।

- **Just when one thought that the Jamaat-e-Islami stood discredited for siding with Pakistan in the 1971 war and rejected by the people of Bangladesh for causing mayhem and disrupting lives, the popular student protests of 2024 and the ensuing military coup have given them a fresh lease of life.**

  जब कोई यह सोचता था कि **जमात-ए-इस्लामी** को **1971 के युद्ध में पाकिस्तान** का पक्ष लेने के कारण **निराधार** माना गया है और **बांगलादेश के लोगों** द्वारा **उद्विग्नता और जीवन के विघटन** के कारण खारिज कर दिया गया है, तो **2024 के लोकप्रिय छात्र प्रदर्शनों** और इसके बाद के **सैन्य तख्तापलट** ने उन्हें एक **नई ज़िंदगी** दे दी है।

Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) and Affiliated Groups
अंसारुल्लाह बंगला टीम (ABT) और संबद्ध समूह

- The **Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT)** is affiliated with multiple extremist organizations, including **Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS)**, **Jamaat-e-Islami**, **Islami Chhatra Shibir**, **Hefazat-e-Islam**, **Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB)**, and

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Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP).

अंसारुल्लाह बंगला टीम (ABT) कई उग्रवादी संगठनों से जुड़ी है, जिनमें **अल-कायदा इन द इंडियन सबकॉटिनेंट (AQIS)**, जमात-ए-इस्लामी, इस्लामी छात्रा शिबिर, हिफाजत-ए-इस्लाम, **जागरता मुस्लिम जनता बांग्लादेश (JMJB)** और **इस्लामिक स्टेट-खोरासन प्रांत (ISKP)** शामिल हैं।

- These groups are attempting to gain support for their **extremist ideologies** by targeting **minority communities**, pressuring the **interim government** to release **Islamic extremists** like **Jashimuddin Rahmani**, the head of ABT, and using **anti-India rhetoric**.
  ये समूह अपनी **उग्रवादी विचारधाराओं** के लिए समर्थन प्राप्त करने के लिए **अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों** को निशाना बना रहे हैं, **अंतरिम सरकार** पर **इस्लामी उग्रवादियों** को रिहा करने के लिए **दबाव** डाल रहे हैं जैसे कि **ABT** के प्रमुख **जशिमुद्दीन रहमानी** और **भारत विरोधी बयानबाजी** का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।

- India should be cautious and avoid falling into the trap of being manipulated by these extremists.
  भारत को सावधान रहना चाहिए और इन उग्रवादियों द्वारा चाल में फंसने से बचना चाहिए।

Religious Hate on the Rise
धार्मिक घृणा का बढ़ना

- In **2021-2022**, India raised the issue of rising **religiophobia** against **non-Abrahamic religions** like **Hindus**, **Sikhs**, and **Buddhists** at the UN.
  2021-2022 में, भारत ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र में **हिंदू, सिख** और **बौद्ध** जैसे **गैर-अबराहमिक धर्मों** के खिलाफ बढ़ती **धार्मिक घृणा** का मुद्दा उठाया।

- India condemned all forms of **religious hate** globally, whether it occurred in the **U.S.**, the **West**, or **Bangladesh**.
  भारत ने विश्व स्तर पर सभी प्रकार की **धार्मिक घृणा** की निंदा की, चाहे वह **अमेरिका, पश्चिम** या **बांग्लादेश** में हो।

- India had been successful in preventing the rise of **Islamic extremism** in Bangladesh for the last **16 years**.
  भारत पिछले **16 वर्षों** में बांग्लादेश में **इस्लामी उग्रवाद** के उभार को रोकने में सफल रहा था।

The Larger Perspective
विस्तृत दृष्टिकोण

- Viewing the unfolding events purely through a **religious lens**, whether **Islamic** or **Hindu**, would be a mistake and counterproductive.
  घटनाओं को केवल **धार्मिक दृष्टिकोण** से देखना, चाहे वह **इस्लामी** हो या **हिंदू,** एक गलती और अप्रभावी होगा।

- **Islamic radicals** are attempting to provoke **India**, and some officials appointed as advisers to **Mr. Yunus** are working to **polarize forces** within Bangladesh.
  इस्लामी उग्रवादी भारत को उकसाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, और श्रीमान **युनूस** के सलाहकारों के

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रूप में नियुक्त कुछ अधिकारी बांग्लादेश के भीतर **शक्तियों को ध्रुवीकृत** करने का काम कर रहे हैं।

- India has maintained its focus on protecting **bilateral relations** with Bangladesh, removing most irritants except the **Teesta river water sharing issue**.
भारत ने बांग्लादेश के साथ **द्विपक्षीय संबंधों** को सुरक्षित रखने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है, और **तिस्ता नदी जल साझा करने** के मुद्दे को छोड़कर अधिकांश अवरोधों को हटा दिया है।

- India supported the newly-elected Bangladesh government during the **2009 BDR revolt**, helping to save **democracy**.
भारत ने **2009 बीडीआर विद्रोह** के दौरान नव-निर्वाचित बांग्लादेश सरकार का समर्थन किया, जिससे **लोकतंत्र** को बचाने में मदद मिली।

Importance of Preventing an Islamic Coup in Bangladesh
बांग्लादेश में इस्लामी विद्रोह को रोकने का महत्व

- It is in Bangladesh's interest that the **military coup** does not transform into an **Islamic coup** like in **Syria** or **Afghanistan**.
बांग्लादेश के हित में है कि यह **सैन्य विद्रोह सीरिया** या **अफगानिस्तान** की तरह **इस्लामी विद्रोह** में न बदले।

- The **silver lining** is that after experiencing **democracy** in **2008** and **2024**, it will be difficult for Bangladesh to reverse its progress.
रजत रेखा यह है कि **2008** और **2024** में लोकतंत्र का अनुभव करने के बाद, बांग्लादेश के लिए अपनी प्रगति को पलटना कठिन होगा।

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Pyrrhic peace

A united administration under the Palestinian Authority must be in place

After 15 months of war, which saw the deaths of tens of thousands of people, the destruction of much of Gaza and multiple rounds of painstaking negotiations, Hamas and Israel have agreed to a ceasefire. As soon as the news was out, thousands ventured out on the streets in Gaza, hoping that the daily bombardment and shelling would come to an end. Uncertainty still lingered, but both sides resolved their last-minute differences over details about Israel's partial withdrawal from Gaza and the names of the hostages to be released on day one and the ceasefire came into force on Sunday. This is not a permanent end to the war. But given the violence that Israel and Gaza have witnessed since October 7, 2023, even a pause in the war is a great relief, especially for Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians. The agreement is expected to be implemented in three phases. In the first phase, Hamas will release 33 hostages, while Israel will release about 1,000 Palestinian security prisoners. The second phase would see more exchanges of hostages and prisoners and both sides are required to announce a permanent end to the hostilities. The third phase will involve discussions on the 'day after', including who should be in charge of Gaza.

As of now, both sides stay focused on phase one. Trouble could arise when negotiations for the next phases begin. When Israel launched the war, it set two objectives for itself – the destruction of Hamas and the release of hostages. In 15 months of war, Israel has degraded Hamas's militant infrastructure, but the group has survived and reinvented itself as an insurgency. According to Antony Blinken, the outgoing U.S. Secretary of State, Hamas recruited as many fighters as it had lost during the war. Israel's inability to destroy Hamas or secure the release of the hostages through the offensive raises serious questions about the IDF's military tactics in Gaza. This could probably be one of the factors that persuaded Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the ceasefire. But he has not committed to bringing the war to an end. Hamas, on the other side, demands a complete withdrawal of Israel from Gaza. Despite the possible roadblocks, the fact that a ceasefire came into force is welcome news. It provides a desperately needed relief for Gaza and a platform to build further talks. Israel, Palestinians as well as the international mediators should now work towards bridging the gaps in the post-war scenario. Israel will not accept a situation that would leave Hamas as a ruling force in Gaza. A more pragmatic solution is to form a united administration of all Palestinian factions under the leadership of the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority, and then shift the focus towards the reconstruction of Gaza. But for this plan to work and peace to prevail, Israel should be ready to withdraw all its troops from the Gaza Strip.

Pyrrhic peace
पाइरिक शांति

A united administration under the Palestinian Authority must be in place
फिलिस्तीनी प्राधिकरण के तहत एक संयुक्त प्रशासन स्थापित होना चाहिए

Ceasefire Agreement Between Hamas and Israel
हमास और इज़राइल के बीच संघर्ष विराम समझौता

- After **15 months** of war, which led to the deaths of tens of thousands, the destruction of much of **Gaza**, and multiple rounds of negotiations, **Hamas** and **Israel** have agreed to a **ceasefire**.
15 महीने के युद्ध के बाद, जिसमें **हजारों** लोग मारे गए, **गाजा** का बहुत सा हिस्सा नष्ट हो गया, और कई दौर की वार्ताओं के बाद, **हमास** और **इज़राइल** ने **संघर्ष विराम** पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

- As soon as the news was out, **thousands** ventured out on the streets in **Gaza**, hoping the daily bombardment and shelling would come to an end.
जैसे ही खबर बाहर आई, **हजारों** लोग **गाजा** की सड़कों पर आ गए, यह उम्मीद करते हुए कि रोज़ की बमबारी और गोला-बारूद की बौछार खत्म हो जाएगी।

- Uncertainty still lingered, but both sides resolved their last-minute differences over details about Israel's partial withdrawal from Gaza and the names of the hostages to be released on day one, and the ceasefire came into force on **Sunday**.
अनिश्चितता अभी भी बनी हुई थी, लेकिन दोनों पक्षों ने **गाजा** से इज़राइल की आंशिक वापसी और पहले दिन जिन बंधकों को छोड़ा जाएगा, उनके नामों को लेकर आखिरी मिनट के मतभेदों को सुलझा लिया, और **रविवार** को संघर्ष विराम लागू हो गया।

- This is not a permanent end to the war, but given the violence Israel and Gaza have witnessed since **October 7, 2023**, even a pause in the war is a great relief, especially for Gaza's **2.3 million Palestinians**.
यह युद्ध का स्थायी अंत नहीं है, लेकिन **7 अक्टूबर 2023** से इज़राइल और गाजा में जो हिंसा हुई है, उसे देखते हुए, युद्ध में एक विराम भी एक बड़ी राहत है, विशेष रूप से गाजा के **2.3 मिलियन फिलिस्तीनी** लोगों के लिए।

Implementation of the Ceasefire in Phases
संघर्ष विराम का चरणों में क्रियान्वयन

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- The agreement is expected to be implemented in **three phases**.
  समझौते के क्रियान्वयन की उम्मीद **तीन चरणों** में की जा रही है।

- In the first phase, **Hamas** will release **33 hostages**, while **Israel** will release about **1,000 Palestinian security prisoners**.
  पहले चरण में, **हामास 33 बंधकों** को रिहा करेगा, जबकि **इज़राइल** लगभग **1,000 फिलिस्तीनी सुरक्षा बंदियों** को रिहा करेगा।

- The second phase will involve more exchanges of hostages and prisoners, and both sides are required to announce a permanent end to the hostilities.
  दूसरे चरण में और अधिक बंधक और बंदी आदान-प्रदान होंगे, और दोनों पक्षों को संघर्ष की स्थायी समाप्ति की घोषणा करनी होगी।

- The third phase will involve discussions on the 'day after', including who should be in charge of **Gaza**.
  तीसरे चरण में 'अगले दिन' पर चर्चा होगी, जिसमें यह तय किया जाएगा कि **गाजा** का प्रभारी कौन होगा।

- As of now, both sides stay focused on phase one. Trouble could arise when negotiations for the next phases begin.
  अब तक, दोनों पक्ष पहले चरण पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं। अगले चरणों के लिए वार्ता शुरू होने पर समस्याएँ उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।

Israel's Objectives and Hamas's Survival
इज़राइल के उद्देश्य और हामास का जीवित रहना

- When Israel launched the war, it set two objectives for itself — the **destruction of Hamas** and the **release of hostages**.
  जब इज़राइल ने युद्ध शुरू किया, तो उसने अपने लिए दो उद्देश्य तय किए - **हामास का विनाश** और **बंधकों की रिहाई**।

- In **15 months** of war, Israel has degraded Hamas's militant infrastructure, but the group has survived and reinvented itself as an **insurgency**.
  15 महीनों के युद्ध में, इज़राइल ने हामास की उग्रवादी संरचना को कमजोर किया, लेकिन यह समूह जीवित रहा और खुद को एक **विद्रोह** के रूप में फिर से ढाल लिया।

- According to **Antony Blinken**, the outgoing **U.S. Secretary of State**, Hamas recruited as many fighters as it had lost during the war.
  एंटनी ब्लिंकन, अमेरिकी **विदेश सचिव**, के अनुसार, हामास ने उतने ही **लड़ाके** भर्ती किए जितने कि उसने युद्ध के दौरान खो दिए थे।

- Israel's inability to destroy Hamas or secure the release of the hostages through the offensive raises serious questions about the **IDF's military tactics** in **Gaza**.
  हामास को नष्ट करने या बंधकों की रिहाई सुनिश्चित करने में इज़राइल की असमर्थता, **गाजा** में **IDF के सैन्य रणनीतियों** पर गंभीर सवाल उठाती है।

- This could probably be one of the factors that persuaded **Benjamin Netanyahu** to accept the ceasefire.

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यह शायद एक कारण हो सकता है जिसने **बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू** को संघर्ष विराम स्वीकार करने के लिए मनाया।

Hamas's Demands and Post-War Plans
हामास की मांगें और युद्धोत्तर योजनाएँ

- Hamas, on the other hand, demands a **complete withdrawal of Israel** from Gaza.
  दूसरी ओर, हामास **गाजा** से **इज़राइल की पूर्ण वापसी** की मांग करता है।

- Despite the possible roadblocks, the fact that a ceasefire came into force is welcome news.
  संभावित अवरोधों के बावजूद, यह तथ्य कि संघर्ष विराम लागू हो गया, स्वागत योग्य खबर है।

- It provides desperately needed relief for Gaza and a platform to build further talks.
  यह गाजा के लिए अत्यधिक आवश्यक राहत प्रदान करता है और आगे की वार्ताओं के लिए एक मंच तैयार करता है।

- Israel, Palestinians, as well as the international mediators should now work towards bridging the gaps in the post-war scenario.
  अब **इज़राइल**, **फिलिस्तीनी** और **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मध्यस्थों** को युद्धोत्तर परिदृश्य में खाइयों को पाटने की दिशा में काम करना चाहिए।

- Israel will not accept a situation that would leave **Hamas** as a ruling force in Gaza.
  इज़राइल उस स्थिति को स्वीकार नहीं करेगा जिसमें **हामास** गाजा में शासक बल के रूप में बना रहे।

- A more pragmatic solution is to form a united administration of all **Palestinian factions** under the leadership of the internationally recognized **Palestinian Authority**, and then shift the focus towards the **reconstruction of Gaza**.
  एक अधिक व्यावहारिक समाधान यह है कि सभी **फिलिस्तीनी गुटों** का एक एकीकृत प्रशासन अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त **फिलिस्तीनी प्राधिकरण** के नेतृत्व में बनाया जाए, और फिर **गाजा के पुनर्निर्माण** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाए।

- But for this plan to work and peace to prevail, Israel should be ready to withdraw all its troops from the **Gaza Strip**.
  लेकिन इस योजना को काम करने और शांति स्थापित करने के लिए, इज़राइल को **गाजा पट्टी** से अपनी सभी सेनाएँ वापस लेने के लिए तैयार होना चाहिए।

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Recasting insolvency resolution

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) is one of India's most significant economic reforms, introduced to address the challenges of insolvency resolution in a structured and time-bound manner.

At the time of its introduction, the IBC was seen as an important tool that would help India's standing in the business world and bring bad borrowers and big defaulters to book. Yet, as the law matured, certain issues have cropped up that demand attention, particularly regarding institutional capacity and procedural efficiency. The recent Supreme Court of India judgment in Jet Airways (*State Bank of India & Ors. vs The Consortium of Mr. Murari Lal Jalan and Mr. Florian Fritsch & Anr.*) has laid bare the many structural infirmities that are plaguing India's insolvency regime.

A double burden

The effective implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) hinges on the performance of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and its appellate body, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). These tribunals face the dual burden of handling corporate insolvencies under the IBC and cases under the Companies Act. This institutional architecture, however, suffers from what might be termed "temporal disjunction".

Conceived in 1999 based on the Eradi Committee's recommendations and operationalised in 2016, the NCLT's structure reflects the economic realities of a bygone era, leaving it ill-equipped to meet contemporary demands. With a sanctioned strength of 63 members – many of whom divide their time across multiple benches – the NCLT has become a bottleneck for insolvency resolutions and corporate transactions such as mergers and amalgamations.

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The Jet Airways case is one example of the many structural infirmities affecting India's insolvency regime

Compounding the issue, several NCLT benches do not operate for the full working day, even when not tasked with handling cases from other benches.

As a result, delays have worsened. According to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), the average time for insolvency resolutions increased to 716 days in FY2023-24, up from 654 days in FY2022-23. This is despite the Supreme Court's repeated calls for adherence to the specific timelines provided in IBC, including in the Jet Airways case, where the Court has stated that the "NCLTs/NCLATs need to be sensitised of not exercising their judicial discretion in extending the timelines...in such a way that it may make the Code lose its effectiveness thereby rendering it obsolete".

The need for domain expertise

The current framework's deficiencies are manifest across other dimensions. What stands out the most is the qualitative dimension of institutional capacity. The current method of appointment ignores the need for domain experience. As the Court noted in the Jet Airways case, "Members often lack the domain knowledge required to appreciate the nuanced complexities involved in high-stakes insolvency matters...". This creates a paradox where an institution tasked with resolving complex cases is hindered by a lack of specialised knowledge.

However, the problems run deeper than capacity limitations. There is also the bureaucratic labyrinth. There is no effective system in place before the NCLTs for urgent listings. And as noted by the Supreme Court, the staff of the Registry is given wide powers to list or not to list a particular matter. Perhaps most troubling is what the Court has termed a "growing tendency" among NCLT and NCLAT members to ignore or defy its orders, which threatens the very foundation of India's judicial hierarchy.

This is not merely about institutional efficiency. It is about institutional integrity.

Sparse use of alternatives

The procedural framework further exacerbates these constraints. The requirement for a mandatory hearing for all applications including for progress reports, which is not in any way necessary from the standpoint of natural justice, results in considerable delays. The limited use of alternative dispute settlement methods adds to the problems of an already overworked system.

Various jurisdictions across the globe contend with similar challenges pertaining to institutional capacity and procedural efficiency. Nevertheless, the magnitude of India's scale, its endemic corruption and its economic ambitions necessitate solutions that transcend mere incremental enhancements. The recent reform proposals, including the initiative for mandatory mediation prior to the submission of insolvency applications, present a degree of optimism.

Further, there needs to be a hybrid model that values judicial experience and domain expertise. Also, the time is ripe for procedural innovations that go beyond piecemeal changes. The creation of specialised benches for different categories of cases could enhance both efficiency and expertise and ensure that mergers and amalgamations are cleared in time.

Pertinently, infrastructure must not remain an afterthought. Adequate courtrooms and a qualified, permanent support staff are critical to sustaining these institutions within the broader economic framework. Above all, India's insolvency regime must evolve beyond mere debt resolution to serve as a proactive driver of economic rejuvenation, especially as the country aims to attract greater foreign investment. At this very important point in time, the choice is clear. The time for a bold reimagining is now.

Recasting insolvency resolution
दिवालियापन समाधान का पुनर्गठन

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) दिवालियापन और ऋण उन्मूलन संहिता, 2016 (IBC)

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016** is one of **India's most significant economic reforms**, aimed at addressing insolvency resolution in a **structured and time-bound manner**.
  दिवालियापन और ऋण उन्मूलन संहिता (IBC), 2016 भारत का एक महत्वपूर्ण **आर्थिक सुधार है**, जिसका उद्देश्य दिवालियापन समाधान को **संरचित और समयबद्ध तरीके से** सुलझाना है।

- At the time of its introduction, the IBC was seen as a tool that would help **India's standing in the business world** and bring **bad borrowers and big defaulters to book**.
  इसे पेश करते समय, IBC को **भारत की व्यापारिक स्थिति को बेहतर बनाने** और **खराब उधारकर्ताओं और बड़े डिफॉल्टर्स को दंडित करने के** एक साधन के रूप में देखा गया था।

- As the law matured, certain issues related to **institutional capacity** and **procedural efficiency** have arisen.
  जैसे-जैसे यह कानून परिपक्व हुआ, **संस्थागत क्षमता** और **प्रक्रियात्मक दक्षता** से संबंधित कुछ समस्याएं सामने आई हैं।

- The recent **Supreme Court judgment** in **Jet Airways** has exposed the structural infirmities in India's insolvency regime.
  हाल ही में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट का निर्णय जेट एयरवेज** मामले में भारत के दिवालियापन शासन में संरचनात्मक कमजोरियों को उजागर किया है।

A Double Burden एक दोहरी जिम्मेदारी

- The effective implementation of IBC depends on the **performance of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** and its appellate body, **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**.
  IBC के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन का निर्भरता **नेशनल कंपनी लॉ ट्रिब्यूनल (NCLT)** और इसके **एप्लेट ट्रिब्यूनल (NCLAT)** की **प्रदर्शन** पर है।

- These tribunals handle both **corporate insolvencies** under IBC and cases under the **Companies Act**, leading to a dual burden.
  ये ट्रिब्यूनल **IBC के तहत कॉर्पोरेट दिवालियापन** और **कंपनी अधिनियम** के तहत मामलों का निपटारा करते हैं, जिससे दोहरी जिम्मेदारी होती है।

- The NCLT's structure, operationalized in **2016**, reflects economic realities of an earlier era, making it ill-equipped to handle modern demands.
  NCLT की संरचना, जो **2016** में क्रियान्वित हुई, पूर्व की **आर्थिक वास्तविकताओं** को दर्शाती है, जिससे यह आधुनिक मांगों का सामना करने में अक्षम है।

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- With a sanctioned strength of **63 members**, the NCLT is struggling to manage both insolvency resolutions and corporate transactions such as mergers.
  63 सदस्य की स्वीकृत शक्ति के साथ, NCLT दिवालियापन समाधान और कंपनियों के विलय जैसे **कॉर्पोरेट लेनदेन** को संभालने में संघर्ष कर रहा है।

- Delays in insolvency resolutions have worsened, with the average time increasing to **716 days in FY2023-24**, up from **654 days in FY2022-23**.
  दिवालियापन समाधान में देरी बढ़ गई है, **FY2023-24** में औसत समय **716 दिन** तक बढ़ गया है, जो **FY2022-23** में **654 दिन** था।

The Need for Domain Expertise क्षेत्रीय विशेषज्ञता की आवश्यकता

- A significant issue with the current system is the lack of **domain knowledge** in members appointed to NCLT and NCLAT.
  वर्तमान प्रणाली में एक महत्वपूर्ण समस्या यह है कि NCLT और NCLAT में नियुक्त सदस्यों में **क्षेत्रीय ज्ञान** की कमी है।

- As noted in the **Jet Airways case**, members often lack the necessary domain knowledge to understand the complexities of high-stakes insolvency matters.
  जेट एयरवेज मामले में जैसा कि बताया गया, सदस्यों में अक्सर उच्च-जोखिम दिवालियापन मामलों की जटिलताओं को समझने के लिए आवश्यक **क्षेत्रीय ज्ञान** नहीं होता।

- The **bureaucratic labyrinth** and lack of an effective system for urgent listings also contribute to delays in the process.
  प्रशासनिक भूलभुलैया और तात्कालिक सूचीकरण के लिए प्रभावी प्रणाली की कमी भी प्रक्रिया में देरी का कारण बनती है।

Sparse Use of Alternatives वैकल्पिक विधियों का सीमित उपयोग

- The procedural framework mandates a **mandatory hearing** for all applications, including progress reports, leading to further delays.
  प्रक्रियात्मक ढांचा सभी आवेदनों, जिसमें प्रगति रिपोर्ट भी शामिल है, के लिए **अनिवार्य सुनवाई** की मांग करता है, जिससे और अधिक देरी होती है।

- The limited use of **alternative dispute settlement** methods worsens the burden on an already overworked system.
  वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान विधियों का सीमित उपयोग पहले से ही अधिक कामकाजी प्रणाली पर बोझ बढ़ाता है।

- Proposals for reforms, such as **mandatory mediation before insolvency applications**, offer a degree of optimism.
  दिवालियापन आवेदनों से पहले अनिवार्य मध्यस्थता जैसे सुधार प्रस्ताव एक हद तक आशावाद प्रदान करते हैं।

Suggestions for Improvement सुधार के लिए सुझाव

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- The creation of **specialized benches** for different categories of cases could enhance efficiency and expertise.

  विभिन्न प्रकार के मामलों के लिए **विशेषीकृत बेंचों** की स्थापना से दक्षता और विशेषज्ञता बढ़ सकती है।

- Adequate infrastructure, including **courtrooms** and a **qualified permanent support staff**, is critical for sustaining the insolvency framework.

  पर्याप्त बुनियादी ढांचा, जिसमें **कोर्ट रूम** और **कुशल स्थायी सहायक कर्मचारी** शामिल हैं, दिवालियापन ढांचे को बनाए रखने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

- India's insolvency regime must evolve to serve as a **proactive driver of economic rejuvenation**, especially to attract greater **foreign investment**.

  भारत का दिवालियापन शासन **आर्थिक पुनर्निर्माण** को सक्रिय रूप से बढ़ावा देने के रूप में विकसित होना चाहिए, खासकर **विदेशी निवेश** को आकर्षित करने के लिए।

What did the ILO report state about international migrants?

Why are there more male international migrants in the global labour force than women? Which are the countries that have absorbed the most international migrant workers?

GS Paper II: International Organizations

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:

By addressing labour market shortages in host nations and contributing remittances to home countries, International Migrants (IM) continue to make contributions to world economic growth, the fourth edition of 'Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers', released by the International Labour Organization (ILO), said.

What did the ILO state?

In 2022, IMs made up 4.7% (167.7 million) of the global labour force, defined as both employed and unemployed (but available for work); over 30 million more than in 2013. An estimated 155.6 million were employed and 12.1 million unemployed. The share of IM men in the total employment for males globally was estimated at 4.7% and that of IM women at 4.4%. However, between 2019-2022, the rate of growth dipped annually to less than 1%, influenced among other factors by the pandemic.

What about age and gender?

A higher proportion of IM males were employed – 61.3% out of a total of 102.7 million. Conversely, only 38.7% female IMs were employed out of a total of 64.9 million in 2022. All the same, the number of women IMs has steadily risen ever since the ILO began compiling global estimates in 2015.

One explanation for the smaller proportion of women in the global labour force is their lower representation in the total population of IMs.

At 74.9% (125.6 million), prime-age adult IM workers – those aged between 25 and 54 years, both men and women – constituted the largest majority of IM workers in the labour force in 2022. Less than one out of 10 IMs were below 25. Way behind the above category, at 9.3% were young IM workers, aged between 15-24 years, numbering 15.5 million, in the global labour force. IMs aged between 55-64 years were 12.5% and those above 65 at 3.4%.

Which economic sectors attract IMs?

The largest proportion of IMs, 68.4%, were concentrated in the services sector, even higher than non-migrants. Women IMs held the dominant share in this arena at 80.7%, as against 60.8% among their male counterparts. The corresponding figures for non-migrant women and men in the services industry were 59.4% and 46.3% respectively. Significantly, the dominance of IMs in this sector has remained consistent over the decade, upwards of 67% between 2013-2022. In industry, the proportion of IMs was 24.3% and that of non-migrants 24.2%. In agriculture, IMs accounted for 7.4%, whereas non-migrants were at a significantly higher share of 24.3%.

Which are the main host countries?

High-income countries absorbed the largest number of IMs, accounting for 68.4% (114 million people), in key sectors such as services, especially in the provision of care. At about a quarter of this share, 17.4% (29.2 million), were distributed among upper-middle-income countries. For an entire decade between 2013-2022, high-income and upper-middle-income countries have consistently remained primary destinations for IMs.

The share of IM workers in northern, southern and western Europe in the year 2022 was at 23.3%, increasing by less than one percentage point after 2013. In Northern America on the other hand, the share of IMs in the labour force in 2022 was at 22.6%, a more than one percentage point decrease over the same decade. The Arab states accounted for 13.3% of IM workers in 2022, down three percentage points over 2013. A combination of ageing populations, growing demand in the care economy and greater economic opportunities means that high income countries will continue to remain attractive destinations for the bulk of IMs.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

▼

In 2022, IMs made up 4.7% (167.7 million) of the global labour force, defined as both employed and unemployed (but available for work); over 30 million more than in 2013.

▼

High-income countries absorbed the largest number of IMs, accounting for 68.4% (114 million people), in key sectors such as services, especially in the provision of care.

▼

A higher proportion of IM males were employed; 61.3% out of a total of 102.7 million. Conversely, only 38.7% female IMs were employed out of a total of 64.9 million in 2022.

What did the ILO report state about international migrants?
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रवासियों के बारे में आईएलओ की रिपोर्ट में क्या कहा गया है?

Why are there more male international migrants in the global labour force than women? Which are the countries that have absorbed the most international migrant workers?

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वैश्विक श्रम शक्ति में महिलाओं की तुलना में पुरुष अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रवासी अधिक क्यों हैं? वे कौन से देश हैं जिन्होंने सबसे अधिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रवासी श्रमिकों को अपने में समाहित किया है?

Contributions of International Migrants (IM) to World Economic Growth अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रवासियों (IM) का वैश्विक आर्थिक वृद्धि में योगदान

- International Migrants (IM) continue to contribute to **world economic growth** by addressing **labour market shortages** in host nations and contributing **remittances** to home countries, according to the **fourth edition** of **'Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers'** released by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.
  अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रवासी (IM) मेज़बान देशों में **श्रम बाजार की कमी** को हल करके और गृह देशों में **प्रेषण** भेजकर **वैश्विक आर्थिक वृद्धि** में योगदान देते रहते हैं, जैसा कि **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (ILO)** द्वारा जारी की गई **'वैश्विक अनुमान - अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रवासी श्रमिक'** की **चौथी संस्करण** में कहा गया है।

ILO's Findings ILO के निष्कर्ष

- In **2022**, IMs made up **4.7%** (**167.7 million**) of the global labour force, which includes both employed and unemployed individuals (but available for work); this is **30 million more** than in **2013**.
  2022 में, IM ने वैश्विक श्रम बल का **4.7%** (**167.7 मिलियन**) हिस्सा बनाया, जिसमें दोनों कामकाजी और बेरोजगार व्यक्ति (जो काम के लिए उपलब्ध थे) शामिल हैं; यह **2013** के मुकाबले **30 मिलियन अधिक** है।
- **155.6 million** IMs were employed and **12.1 million** were unemployed.
  155.6 मिलियन IM कार्यरत थे और **12.1 मिलियन** बेरोजगार थे।
- The share of **IM men** in the total male employment globally was estimated at **4.7%** and **IM women** at **4.4%**.
  वैश्विक पुरुष रोजगार में **IM पुरुषों** का हिस्सा **4.7%** और **IM महिलाओं** का **4.4%** अनुमानित था।
- Between **2019-2022**, the rate of growth dipped annually to less than **1%**, influenced by factors such as the **pandemic**.
  2019-2022 के बीच, विकास दर **1%** से कम वार्षिक रूप से घट गई, जिसे **महामारी** जैसे कारकों से प्रभावित किया गया था।

Age and Gender Distribution उम्र और लिंग वितरण

- A higher proportion of **IM males** were employed (**61.3%** out of **102.7 million**), while only **38.7%** of **female IMs** were employed (**64.9 million**).
  IM पुरुषों का एक बड़ा हिस्सा कार्यरत था (**61.3%** कुल **102.7 मिलियन** में से), जबकि केवल **38.7% महिला IMs** कार्यरत थीं (**64.9 मिलियन** में से)।

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- The number of **female IMs** has steadily increased since **2015**, when the ILO began compiling global estimates.
  महिला **IMs** की संख्या **2015** से लगातार बढ़ी है, जब ILO ने वैश्विक अनुमानों का संकलन करना शुरू किया था।

- **Prime-age adults** (aged between **25-54 years**) constituted the largest group of IM workers, at **74.9%** (**125.6 million**) in **2022**.
  प्रधान आयु वर्ग (जो **25-54 वर्ष** के बीच के हैं) ने **2022** में IM श्रमिकों का सबसे बड़ा समूह **74.9%** (**125.6 मिलियन**) का गठन किया।

- **Young IM workers** (aged **15-24 years**) were **9.3%** of the global IM workforce, totaling **15.5 million**.
  युवा IM श्रमिक (जो **15-24 वर्ष** के बीच के हैं) वैश्विक IM कार्यबल का **9.3%** थे, कुल **15.5 मिलियन**।

- IM workers aged **55-64 years** were **12.5%** and those above **65** were **3.4%**.
  55-64 वर्ष के IM श्रमिक **12.5%** थे और **65** वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के IM श्रमिक **3.4%** थे।

Economic Sectors Attracting IMs आर्थिक क्षेत्र जो IMs को आकर्षित करते हैं

- The largest proportion of IMs, **68.4%**, were concentrated in the **services sector**, even higher than non-migrants.
  IMs का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा, **68.4%**, **सेवा क्षेत्र** में था, जो गैर-प्रवासी श्रमिकों से भी अधिक था।

- **Women IMs** held the dominant share in this sector at **80.7%**, compared to **60.8%** among male IMs.
  महिला IMs ने इस क्षेत्र में प्रमुख हिस्सा **80.7%** रखा, जबकि पुरुष IMs का हिस्सा **60.8%** था।

- The share of non-migrant women and men in the services industry was **59.4%** and **46.3%**, respectively.
  गैर-प्रवासी महिलाओं और पुरुषों का हिस्सा सेवा उद्योग में क्रमशः **59.4%** और **46.3%** था।

- In **industry**, the proportion of IMs was **24.3%**, compared to **24.2%** for non-migrants.
  उद्योग में IMs का हिस्सा **24.3%** था, जबकि गैर-प्रवासी का हिस्सा **24.2%** था।

- In **agriculture**, IMs accounted for **7.4%**, while non-migrants made up **24.3%**.
  कृषि में IMs का हिस्सा **7.4%** था, जबकि गैर-प्रवासी का हिस्सा **24.3%** था।

Main Host Countries मुख्य मेज़बान देश

- **High-income countries** absorbed the largest number of IMs, accounting for **68.4%** (**114 million people**), particularly in services such as **care provision**.
  उच्च-आय वाले देशों ने सबसे बड़ी संख्या में IMs को अवशोषित किया, जो **68.4%** (**114 मिलियन लोग**) थे, विशेष रूप से **देखभाल सेवाएं** जैसे क्षेत्रों में।

- **Upper-middle-income countries** absorbed **17.4%** (**29.2 million**) of IMs.
  उच्च-मध्यम आय वाले देशों ने **17.4%** (**29.2 मिलियन**) IMs को अवशोषित किया।

- For an entire decade between **2013-2022**, high-income and upper-middle-income countries consistently remained primary destinations for IMs.

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2013-2022 के पूरे दशक के लिए, उच्च-आय और उच्च-मध्यम आय वाले देश लगातार IMs के लिए प्रमुख गंतव्य बने रहे।

- The share of IM workers in **northern, southern, and western Europe** in **2022** was **23.3%**, increasing by less than **one percentage point** since **2013**.

  2022 में **उत्तर, दक्षिण और पश्चिमी यूरोप** में IM श्रमिकों का हिस्सा **23.3%** था, जो **2013** से **एक प्रतिशत अंक** से कम बढ़ा था।

- In **Northern America**, the share of IMs in the labour force in **2022** was **22.6%**, a **decrease of over one percentage point** since **2013**.

  उत्तरी अमेरिका में **2022** में श्रम बल में IMs का हिस्सा **22.6%** था, जो **2013** से **एक प्रतिशत अंक** से अधिक घटा था।

- **Arab states** accounted for **13.3%** of IM workers in **2022**, down **three percentage points** from **2013**.

  अरब राज्यों ने **2022** में IM श्रमिकों का **13.3%** हिस्सा लिया, जो **2013** से **तीन प्रतिशत अंक** कम था।

- A combination of **ageing populations**, growing demand in the **care economy**, and **greater economic opportunities** means that high-income countries will continue to remain attractive destinations for the bulk of IMs.

  बुजुर्ग होती जनसंख्या, देखभाल अर्थव्यवस्था में बढ़ती मांग, और **आर्थिक अवसरों** का संयोजन यह दर्शाता है कि उच्च-आय वाले देश IMs के लिए आकर्षक गंतव्य बने रहेंगे।

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The impact of H-1B visas on the tech industry in U.S.

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, both immigrants and Mr. Trump's picks to overhaul the U.S. government, are supportive of the skilled foreign worker visa programme

GS Paper II: India-US

John Xavier

The last week of 2024 didn't exude the holiday spirit for several folks in the tech world. A section of billionaires, politicians, and tech workers were piqued by a specific U.S. immigration policy that allows skilled foreign workers to work in the country.

A verbal mudslinging began after President-elect Donald Trump appointed Sriram Krishnan as his senior policy advisor on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Within days after the announcement, Laura Loomer, a prominent MAGA supporter, wrote rancorous social media posts against the decision, calling Indian immigrants "third world invaders." The right-wing influencer then doxxed Mr. Krishnan, sharing his domicile details scoured from the U.S. Federal Election Commission (FEC). While Ms. Loomer apologised for doxxing Mr. Krishnan, she remains rooted in the idea that the number of skilled foreign workers must be reduced in the U.S. as the programme is negatively impacting native workers.

Mr. Krishnan, an Indian immigrant who came through the ranks of top tech firms in the Silicon Valley, supports simplifying the legal process for tech workers to enter the U.S. His stance has been echoed by several tech billionaires. His to-be-peer in the Trump administration, former PayPal executive David Sacks, came in support of the a16z's general partner and clarified that Mr. Krishnan did not advocate for the removal of restrictions for a green card but was only seeking the removal of country-specific caps.

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, both immigrants and Mr. Trump's picks to overhaul the U.S. government, are supportive of the skilled foreign worker visa programme. The world's richest man even said he would "go to war" to defend the programme. In an X post, he wrote: "The reason I'm in America along with so many critical people who built SpaceX, Tesla, and hundreds of other companies that made America strong is because of H1B." The H1-B issue has not just split MAGA supporters; it has also turned some prominent Democrats, who were pro-immigration during the election season, into H-1B programme bashers. For instance, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders said the main function of the H1-B visa "is not to hire 'the best and the brightest' but rather to replace good-paying American jobs with low-wage indentured servants from abroad."

Heated debates on the H-1B visa programme are not a new phenomenon. It helps to know the programme's brief history – at least from the time it went through a major revision in the 90s – and its net impact on wages and productivity in the U.S.

A brief history

In the early 90s, the U.S. enacted the Immigration Act of 1990 to increase the number and diversity of immigrants coming into the country and to adapt to the changing economic and social needs of a globalising world. The legislation significantly revised and expanded the H-1B visa programme.

Apart from mandating employers to file

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an application with the labour department that hiring H-1B workers will not adversely affect wages and working conditions of U.S. workers, the law established an annual cap of 65,000 new H-1B visas for each fiscal year.

These changes led to a substantial increase in the number of H-1B visas issued and made the programme more accessible to U.S. employers seeking high-skilled foreign workers. This, in turn, contributed to the programme's role in attracting skilled workers at a time when American companies were facing intensifying global competition, especially from Japan in high-tech and manufacturing sectors.

Silicon Valley was emerging as a global tech hub, creating unprecedented

demand for scientists, technology professionals, engineers, and mathematicians (STEM workers). Traditional industries in other parts of the country were also undergoing rapid computerisation, requiring STEM talent that wasn't readily available in the domestic workforce.

The cap on H-1B visas were hiked to 1,95,000 during the dot-com boom before returning to the base cap. Then, in 2004, an additional 20,000 slots were added for advanced degree holders from U.S. universities. Since 1990 to 2019, roughly 4.5 million H-1B visas were issued, and in the fiscal year of 2023, 72% of approved H-1B petitions were for beneficiaries born in India, and 65% of all approved H-1B petitions were for workers in computer-related occupations.

The impact of H-1B workers

A 2013 study, titled 'STEM Workers, H-1B Visas, and Productivity in U.S. Cities' by economist Giovanni Peri, found that H-1B workers had a positive impact on the wages of native college-educated workers and overall productivity in U.S. cities.

The study examined the influx of foreign STEM workers through the H-1B visa programme and their impact in 219 cities between 1990 to 2010. It noted that H-1B-driven increases in STEM workers boosted wages for native college-educated workers. A one percentage point increase in the foreign STEM share of a city's employment led to an increase of around 7-8 percentage points in the wages of native college-educated workers.

Also, wages of non-college-educated native workers saw a positive, though smaller, increase. These workers experienced a 3-4 percentage point increase in wages for every one percentage point increase in the foreign STEM share of employment. The study estimates that the growth in foreign STEM workers may account for 30% to 50% of aggregate productivity growth in the U.S. between 1990 and 2010. Fast forward to 2024, and the impact of foreign workers on U.S. wages and productivity continued to be positive.

In a follow-up study, titled 'Immigration's Effect on US Wages and Employment Redux,' economists Alessandro Caiumi and Giovanni Peri note that immigrants and native workers complement each other in the labour market. In their research that examines the broader impact of immigration on the U.S. labour market between 2000 and 2022, they found that immigrants often specialise in different and complementary occupations compared to native workers.

In a separate study that documents the impact of H-1B workers on innovation and product commercialisation, Harvard Business School Professor William Kerr notes that skilled immigrants have contributed significantly to U.S. patent activity, particularly in emerging technologies. Jennifer Hunt, Professor of Economics at Rutgers University, has shown in her research that H-1B workers who transition to permanent residency tend to be particularly innovative and entrepreneurial, often founding companies that create jobs for U.S. workers.

Talent conundrum in the age of AI

Despite the positive impact of H-1B workers on the U.S. economy, opponents of the visa programme are clamouring for restrictions and lowering the number of legal immigrants. Some criticisms, particularly the ones against Indian tech services companies like Infosys and Cognizant, are well-laid.

These companies developed a business model that combined offshore development centres in India with on-site presence in the U.S., facilitated by H-1B visas. This model, sometimes called the "global delivery model," transformed how technology services were delivered to U.S. companies, but it did not truly make a path-breaking innovation for the U.S. economy.

These companies typically rank among the top H-1B sponsors annually. For instance, in many years between 2005-2019, Indian companies accounted for a substantial portion of all H-1B visa petitions. This has raised concerns about the programme's concentration among top IT services firms.

It will do well for the incoming Trump administration to look into these practices and redraft a skilled worker immigration policy that prioritises the skill and educational background of an individual over a company's profit-making interests.

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The impact of H-1B visas on the tech industry in U.S.

अमेरिका में टेक उद्योग पर H-1B वीजा का प्रभाव

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, both immigrants and Mr. Trump's picks to overhaul the U.S. government, are supportive of the skilled foreign worker visa programme

एलन मस्क और विवेक रामास्वामी, दोनों अप्रवासी और श्री ट्रम्प द्वारा अमेरिकी सरकार में बदलाव के लिए चुने गए लोग, कुशल विदेशी कर्मचारी वीज़ा कार्यक्रम के समर्थक हैं

Controversy over U.S. Immigration Policy and Skilled Foreign Workers अमेरिकी आव्रजन नीति और कुशल विदेशी श्रमिकों पर विवाद

- The last week of **2024** didn't exude the holiday spirit for many in the **tech world** due to a specific **U.S. immigration policy** that allows **skilled foreign workers** to work in the country.

  2024 के अंतिम सप्ताह में **टेक जगत** के कई लोगों के लिए छुट्टियों का उत्साह नहीं था, क्योंकि एक विशेष **अमेरिकी आव्रजन नीति** के तहत **कुशल विदेशी श्रमिकों** को देश में काम करने की अनुमति दी जाती है।

- A verbal mudslinging started after **President-elect Donald Trump** appointed **Sriram Krishnan** as his senior policy advisor on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

  राष्ट्रपति-चुनाव डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने **Sriram Krishnan** को कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) पर अपना वरिष्ठ नीति सलाहकार नियुक्त करने के बाद verbal mudslinging शुरू हो गई।

- **Laura Loomer**, a prominent **MAGA** supporter, wrote social media posts calling **Indian immigrants** "**third world invaders**."

  लॉरा लूमर, एक प्रमुख **MAGA** समर्थक, ने सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट लिखे और **भारतीय प्रवासियों** को "**तीसरी दुनिया के आक्रमणकारी**" कहा।

- Ms. Loomer also doxxed Mr. Krishnan, sharing his domicile details from the **U.S. Federal Election Commission (FEC)**.

  Ms. Loomer ने Mr. Krishnan की **U.S. Federal Election Commission (FEC)** से उनके डोमिसाइल विवरण भी साझा किए।

- Though Ms. Loomer apologized for doxxing Mr. Krishnan, she remained firm in her belief that the number of skilled foreign workers should be reduced in the U.S. as the programme negatively affects **native workers**.

  हालांकि Ms. Loomer ने Mr. Krishnan को doxxing करने के लिए माफी मांगी, फिर भी उनका यह मानना था कि **कुशल विदेशी श्रमिकों** की संख्या को अमेरिका में घटाया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि यह कार्यक्रम **देशी श्रमिकों** पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव डाल रहा है।

- **Mr. Krishnan**, an Indian immigrant who rose through top tech firms in **Silicon Valley**, supports simplifying the legal process for tech workers to enter the U.S.

  Mr. Krishnan, एक भारतीय प्रवासी जिन्होंने **Silicon Valley** में शीर्ष तकनीकी कंपनियों में काम

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किया, तकनीकी श्रमिकों के लिए अमेरिका में प्रवेश की कानूनी प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाने के पक्षधर हैं।

- **David Sacks**, former **PayPal executive**, clarified that Mr. Krishnan did not seek the removal of **green card restrictions**, but only sought the removal of **country-specific caps**.

  डेविड सैक्स, पूर्व **PayPal कार्यकारी**, ने स्पष्ट किया कि Mr. Krishnan ने **ग्रीन कार्ड प्रतिबंधों** को हटाने की मांग नहीं की थी, बल्कि केवल **देश-विशिष्ट सीमा** को हटाने की मांग की थी।

- **Elon Musk** and **Vivek Ramaswamy**, both immigrants and **Trump's picks** for U.S. government overhaul, support the skilled foreign worker visa programme.

  Elon Musk और **Vivek Ramaswamy**, दोनों प्रवासी और **Trump के चुने हुए** व्यक्तित्व U.S. सरकार के पुनर्गठन के लिए, कुशल विदेशी श्रमिक वीजा कार्यक्रम के समर्थन में हैं।

- **Elon Musk**, the world's richest man, even said he would "go to war" to defend the programme, mentioning **H1B** as the reason for his presence in America.

  Elon Musk, दुनिया के सबसे अमीर आदमी ने यह भी कहा कि वह इस कार्यक्रम का बचाव करने के लिए "युद्ध पर जाएंगे", और **H1B** को अमेरिका में अपनी उपस्थिति का कारण बताया।

- The debate over the **H1-B visa** programme has led to **MAGA** supporters and even some Democrats turning against the programme.

  H1-B वीजा कार्यक्रम पर बहस ने **MAGA** समर्थकों और कुछ डेमोक्रेट्स को भी कार्यक्रम के खिलाफ मोड़ दिया।

- For instance, **Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders** criticized the H1-B visa, claiming it replaces **well-paying American jobs** with **low-wage workers** from abroad.

  उदाहरण के लिए, **वर्मोंट के सीनेटर बर्नी सैंडर्स** ने H1-B वीजा की आलोचना की, यह दावा करते हुए कि यह **अच्छी तनख्वाह वाली अमेरिकी नौकरियों** को विदेशों से **कम वेतन वाले श्रमिकों** से बदलता है।

- Heated debates on the H-1B visa programme are not a new phenomenon; it helps to understand its brief **history** and its net impact on **wages** and **productivity** in the U.S.

  H-1B वीजा कार्यक्रम पर गर्म बहस नई घटना नहीं है; यह समझना मददगार है कि इसका संक्षिप्त **इतिहास** और अमेरिकी **वेतन** और **उत्पादकता** पर इसका **कुल प्रभाव** क्या है।

A Brief History संक्षिप्त इतिहास

- In the early **90s**, the U.S. enacted the **Immigration Act of 1990** to increase the number and diversity of immigrants and adapt to the changing **economic and social needs** of a globalising world.

  90 के दशक की शुरुआत में, अमेरिका ने **1990 का आव्रजन अधिनियम** लागू किया, ताकि आप्रवासियों की संख्या और विविधता को बढ़ाया जा सके और वैश्विक दुनिया की बदलती **आर्थिक और सामाजिक आवश्यकताओं** के अनुसार ढाला जा सके।

- The legislation significantly revised and expanded the **H-1B visa programme**.

  इस कानून ने **H-1B वीजा कार्यक्रम** में महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन किए और इसे विस्तारित किया।

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- Employers were mandated to file an application with the **labour department** to ensure that hiring H-1B workers would not adversely affect the **wages** and **working conditions** of U.S. workers.

  नियोक्ताओं को **श्रम विभाग** में एक आवेदन दाखिल करने का आदेश दिया गया था ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि H-1B श्रमिकों को नियुक्त करने से **वेतन** और **कार्य परिस्थितियों** पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव न पड़े।

- The law established an **annual cap of 65,000** new H-1B visas for each fiscal year.

  इस कानून ने प्रत्येक वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए **65,000** नए H-1B वीजा की **वार्षिक सीमा** निर्धारित की।

- These changes led to a substantial increase in the number of H-1B visas issued and made the programme more accessible to U.S. employers seeking **high-skilled foreign workers**.

  इन परिवर्तनों के कारण जारी किए गए H-1B वीजा की संख्या में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि हुई और इस कार्यक्रम को **कुशल विदेशी श्रमिकों** की तलाश में अमेरिकी नियोक्ताओं के लिए अधिक सुलभ बना दिया गया।

- The programme helped attract skilled workers during a time when American companies were facing growing global competition, especially from **Japan** in high-tech and manufacturing sectors.

  यह कार्यक्रम उस समय कुशल श्रमिकों को आकर्षित करने में सहायक रहा जब अमेरिकी कंपनियाँ वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा, विशेषकर **जापान** से उच्च-तकनीकी और निर्माण क्षेत्रों में, का सामना कर रही थीं।

- **Silicon Valley** emerged as a global tech hub, creating an unprecedented demand for **STEM workers** (scientists, technology professionals, engineers, and mathematicians).

  Silicon Valley एक वैश्विक तकनीकी केंद्र के रूप में उभरा, जिससे **STEM श्रमिकों** (वैज्ञानिकों, प्रौद्योगिकी पेशेवरों, इंजीनियरों, और गणितज्ञों) की अभूतपूर्व मांग पैदा हुई।

- Traditional industries in other parts of the country were also undergoing rapid **computerisation**, requiring STEM talent that wasn't readily available in the domestic workforce.

  देश के अन्य हिस्सों में पारंपरिक उद्योग भी **कंप्यूटरीकरण** के तेजी से दौर से गुजर रहे थे, जिससे STEM प्रतिभाओं की आवश्यकता थी जो घरेलू श्रमिकों में आसानी से उपलब्ध नहीं थीं।

- The cap on H-1B visas was hiked to **195,000** during the **dot-com boom** before returning to the base cap.

  H-1B वीजा की सीमा **dot-com बूम** के दौरान **195,000** तक बढ़ा दी गई थी, फिर इसे मूल सीमा पर वापस लाया गया।

- In **2004**, an additional **20,000** slots were added for **advanced degree holders** from U.S. universities.

  2004 में, **U.S. विश्वविद्यालयों** से **उन्नत डिग्री धारकों** के लिए अतिरिक्त **20,000** स्लॉट जोड़े गए।

- From **1990 to 2019**, about **4.5 million** H-1B visas were issued, with **72%** of approved petitions in **2023** being for beneficiaries born in **India**, and **65%** of all approved petitions were for workers in **computer-related occupations**.

  1990 से 2019 तक, लगभग **4.5 मिलियन** H-1B वीजा जारी किए गए, और **2023** में मंजूर की गई

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याचिकाओं का **72% भारत** में जन्मे लाभार्थियों के लिए था, और सभी मंजूर याचिकाओं का **65%** **कंप्यूटर-संबंधित पेशों** में कार्यरत श्रमिकों के लिए था।

The Impact of H-1B Workers H-1B श्रमिकों का प्रभाव

- A **2013** study titled '**STEM Workers**, H-1B Visas, and **Productivity** in U.S. Cities' by economist **Giovanni Peri** found that H-1B workers positively impacted the **wages** of native, **college-educated workers** and overall **productivity** in U.S. cities.
  2013 में अर्थशास्त्री Giovanni Peri द्वारा की गई एक अध्ययन, जिसका शीर्षक था '**STEM श्रमिक**, H-1B वीजा, और **उत्पादकता** U.S. शहरों में', ने पाया कि H-1B श्रमिकों ने देशी, **कॉलेज-शिक्षित श्रमिकों** के **वेतन** और U.S. शहरों में कुल **उत्पादकता** पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव डाला।

- The study examined the influx of foreign **STEM workers** through the H-1B visa programme and their impact in **219 cities** between **1990** to **2010**.
  इस अध्ययन ने H-1B वीजा कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से विदेशी **STEM श्रमिकों** के प्रवाह और उनके **1990 से 2010** तक **219 शहरों** में प्रभाव की जांच की।

- It was noted that **H-1B-driven** increases in STEM workers boosted wages for **native college-educated workers**.
  यह नोट किया गया कि **H-1B-प्रेरित** STEM श्रमिकों की वृद्धि ने **देशी कॉलेज-शिक्षित श्रमिकों** के वेतन को बढ़ाया।

- A **one percentage point** increase in the foreign STEM share of a city's employment led to an increase of **7-8 percentage points** in the wages of native, college-educated workers.
  शहर के रोजगार में विदेशी STEM हिस्से में **एक प्रतिशत** की वृद्धि ने **देशी, कॉलेज-शिक्षित श्रमिकों** के वेतन में **7-8 प्रतिशत अंक** की वृद्धि की।

Wages of Non-College-Educated Native Workers गैर-कोलिज शिक्षा प्राप्त देशी श्रमिकों के वेतन

- Wages of **non-college-educated native workers** saw a **positive, though smaller**, increase due to H-1B workers.
  गैर-कोलिज शिक्षा प्राप्त देशी श्रमिकों के वेतन में **सकारात्मक, हालांकि छोटा** वृद्धि देखी गई, जो H-1B श्रमिकों की वजह से हुई।

- These workers experienced a **3-4 percentage point increase** in wages for every **one percentage point increase** in the foreign STEM share of employment.
  इन श्रमिकों ने हर **एक प्रतिशत अंक की वृद्धि** के लिए **3-4 प्रतिशत अंक की वृद्धि** अनुभव की, जो विदेशी STEM श्रमिकों के रोजगार के हिस्से में आई थी।

- The study estimates that the growth in foreign STEM workers may account for **30% to 50%** of aggregate **productivity growth** in the U.S. between **1990 and 2010**.
  अध्यान का अनुमान है कि विदेशी STEM श्रमिकों की वृद्धि **1990 से 2010** के बीच अमेरिका में कुल **उत्पादकता वृद्धि** का **30% से 50%** का हिस्सा हो सकती है।

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Impact in 2024 2024 में प्रभाव

- By **2024**, the impact of foreign workers on U.S. **wages** and **productivity** continued to be **positive**.
  2024 तक, विदेशी श्रमिकों का U.S. **वेतन** और **उत्पादकता** पर प्रभाव **सकारात्मक** रहा।

Follow-up Study on Immigration आव्रजन पर अनुसरण अध्ययन

- A follow-up study titled '**Immigration's Effect on US Wages and Employment Redux**' by economists **Alessandro Caiumi** and **Giovanni Peri** found that immigrants and native workers **complement each other** in the labour market.
  अर्थशास्त्रियों **Alessandro Caiumi** और **Giovanni Peri** द्वारा किए गए एक अनुसरण अध्ययन का शीर्षक था '**आव्रजन का U.S. वेतन और रोजगार पर प्रभाव Redux**', जिसमें पाया गया कि आव्रजन और देशी श्रमिक **एक-दूसरे को पूरा करते हैं** श्रम बाजार में।

- Their research, which examined the broader impact of immigration on the U.S. labour market between **2000 and 2022**, found that immigrants often specialise in **different** and **complementary occupations** compared to native workers.
  उनका शोध, जो **2000 से 2022** तक अमेरिका के श्रम बाजार पर आव्रजन के व्यापक प्रभाव का विश्लेषण करता है, में पाया गया कि आव्रजन अक्सर देशी श्रमिकों की तुलना में **विभिन्न** और **पूरक पेशों** में विशेषज्ञता प्राप्त करते हैं।

Impact of H-1B Workers on Innovation H-1B श्रमिकों का नवाचार पर प्रभाव

- A separate study by Harvard Business School Professor **William Kerr** noted that skilled immigrants have contributed significantly to **U.S. patent activity**, particularly in **emerging technologies**.
  हार्वर्ड बिजनेस स्कूल के प्रोफेसर **William Kerr** द्वारा किए गए एक अलग अध्ययन में यह देखा गया कि कुशल आव्रजनियों ने **U.S. पेटेंट गतिविधि** में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया, विशेषकर **उभरती तकनीकों** में।

- **Jennifer Hunt**, Professor of Economics at **Rutgers University**, showed in her research that H-1B workers who transition to permanent residency tend to be particularly **innovative and entrepreneurial**, often founding companies that create jobs for U.S. workers.
  Rutgers विश्वविद्यालय में **Jennifer Hunt**, अर्थशास्त्र की प्रोफेसर ने अपने शोध में दिखाया कि H-1B श्रमिक जो स्थायी निवास के लिए स्थानांतरित होते हैं, वे विशेष रूप से **नवोन्मेषी और उद्यमिता से भरपूर** होते हैं, और अक्सर ऐसी कंपनियाँ स्थापित करते हैं जो अमेरिकी श्रमिकों के लिए नौकरियाँ उत्पन्न करती हैं।

Talent Conundrum in the Age of AI AI युग में प्रतिभा की उलझन

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- Despite the positive impact of H-1B workers on the U.S. economy, **opponents of the visa programme** are clamouring for **restrictions** and lowering the number of **legal immigrants**.

  H-1B श्रमिकों के U.S. अर्थव्यवस्था पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव के बावजूद, **वीजा कार्यक्रम के विपक्षी प्रतिबंधों** और **कानूनी आव्रजनकर्ताओं** की संख्या को कम करने की मांग कर रहे हैं।

- Some criticisms, particularly those against **Indian tech services companies** like **Infosys** and **Cognizant**, are well-laid.

  कुछ आलोचनाएँ, विशेषकर **भारतीय तकनीकी सेवा कंपनियों** जैसे Infosys और Cognizant के खिलाफ, सही तरीके से रखी गई हैं।

- These companies developed a **business model** that combined offshore development centres in **India** with an on-site presence in the U.S., facilitated by **H-1B visas**.

  इन कंपनियों ने एक **व्यवसाय मॉडल** विकसित किया, जिसमें **भारत में** ऑफशोर विकास केंद्रों को H-1B वीजाओं से सुविधा प्राप्त कर U.S. में ऑन-साइट उपस्थिति के साथ जोड़ा गया।

- This model, sometimes called the **"global delivery model,"** transformed how technology services were delivered to U.S. companies, but did not truly make a **path-breaking innovation** for the U.S. economy.

  इस मॉडल को कभी-कभी **"वैश्विक डिलीवरी मॉडल"** कहा जाता है, जिसने U.S. कंपनियों को प्रौद्योगिकी सेवाएँ प्रदान करने के तरीके को बदल दिया, लेकिन इसने U.S. अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए **मूलभूत नवाचार** नहीं किया।

- These companies typically rank among the **top H-1B sponsors** annually. For instance, between **2005-2019**, **Indian companies** accounted for a **substantial portion** of all H-1B visa petitions.

  यह कंपनियाँ आमतौर पर हर साल **शीर्ष H-1B प्रायोजकों** में से होती हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, **2005-2019** के बीच, **भारतीय कंपनियाँ** सभी H-1B वीजा याचिकाओं का **महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा** थीं।

- This raised concerns about the programme's **concentration** among top **IT services firms**.

  इसने कार्यक्रम के **केंद्रीकरण** पर चिंताएँ उत्पन्न कीं, विशेषकर शीर्ष **IT सेवा कंपनियों** के बीच।

- The incoming **Trump administration** should look into these practices and **redraft a skilled worker immigration policy** that prioritises the **skill and educational background** of an individual over a company's **profit-making interests**.

  आगामी **Trump प्रशासन** को इन प्रथाओं पर गौर करना चाहिए और **कुशल श्रमिक आव्रजन नीति** को फिर से तैयार करना चाहिए, जो एक व्यक्ति के **कौशल और शैक्षिक पृष्ठभूमि** को कंपनी के **लाभकारी हितों** पर प्राथमिकता दे।

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Liberalism and Hinduism are totally compatible, says Shashi Tharoor

The MP says his book *Why I am A Hindu* was written at a time when it was necessary to offer an alternative view to 'weaponisation of Hinduism for political purposes'; he says no one has monopoly in Hinduism and the assumption that everyone who votes for BJP believes in Hindutva is not true

GS Paper II: Basic
Concepts

CHENNAI

Hinduism offers an extraordinarily eclectic mix of choices and is totally compatible with liberalism, Shashi Tharoor, MP, said at the Lit for Life on Sunday.

Mr. Tharoor was in conversation with N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd., and Francesc Miralles, author of the book *The four purusharthas: The Path To Happiness, Success, and a Meaningful Life*.

Explaining why he wrote a book called *Why I am A Hindu*, Mr. Tharoor said it was done at a time when "weaponisation of Hinduism for political purposes in our country had reached a particular stage" where it was "necessary to offer an alternative view". "I was not prepared to surrender my faith to one particular narrow interpretation," he said, adding that he thought writing this book was necessary "to reclaim the idea of Hinduism" for those Hindus who wish to agree with him. "And it turned out to be awful... [but] found some resonance amongst the new readers," he said recalling the controversy the book evoked when it was published in 2018.

Mr. Tharoor said Hinduism was an ideal faith for the 21st century. "No one is taking a monopoly in Hinduism. Swami Vivekananda said it is not just a religion that teaches tolerance, it teaches universal acceptance. There are multiple choices of worship and individuals have tremendous amounts of freedom," he said.

Responding to a question on the public support for Hindutva reflected in the last three general elections, Mr. Tharoor pointed out that the BJP got 31% of the votes in the 2014 election, 37% in 2019, and 36% in 2024.

"In no case, they have won a majority of the Hindu population, which is 80%. We tend to lose sight of the fact that in our first-past-the-post system, a party doesn't actually need a majority of votes or a popular sentiment to get a majority of seats. The assumption that everyone who votes for the BJP necessarily believes in Hindutva is also not true. But there is much greater acceptance for Hindutva, particularly across northern India, than there was 10 years ago. That is partially a reflection of the success of the BJP in politics," the Congress MP said.

Cradle of spirituality
Talking about writing a book on the four Purusharthas, Mr. Miralles said, "India is the cradle of spirituality. Answers to questions like what it means to be human, and what is the meaning of life were answered in Indian philosophies. The roots are here. India is not only an inspiration that comes from the past, but it is an inspiration for the future too."

Speaking about happiness, Mr. Miralles said, "I would define happiness in two ways. The first is simplicity. The happiest people we have met in our lives are very simple. Another one is purpose. When you discover your mission in life, that would give happiness."

Current concerns: Shashi Tharoor, MP, in conversation with N. Ravi, Director, The Hindu Group, and writer Francesc Miralles at the Lit for Life on Sunday. R. RAGU

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Hinduism's Compatibility with Liberalism
हिंदू धर्म का उदारवादिता के साथ संगतता

- **Shashi Tharoor**, MP, said at **Lit for Life** on Sunday that Hinduism offers an **extraordinarily eclectic mix** of choices and is totally compatible with **liberalism**.
  Shashi Tharoor, सांसद, ने रविवार को **Lit for Life** में कहा कि हिंदू धर्म एक **असाधारण रूप से विविध मिश्रण** प्रदान करता है और यह **उदारवादिता** के साथ पूरी तरह से संगत है।
- Mr. Tharoor was in conversation with **N. Ravi**, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd., and **Francesc Miralles**, author of the book "The four purusharthas: The Path To Happiness, Success, and a Meaningful Life."
  श्री Tharoor **N. Ravi**, निदेशक, Kasturi and Sons Ltd. और **Francesc Miralles**, पुस्तक "The four purusharthas: The Path To Happiness, Success, and a Meaningful Life" के लेखक के साथ संवाद में थे।

Why I Wrote "Why I am A Hindu"
"Why I am A Hindu" क्यों लिखा

- Mr. Tharoor explained that he wrote the book "Why I am A Hindu" during a time when the **weaponisation of Hinduism** for **political purposes** had reached a particular stage.
  श्री Tharoor ने स्पष्ट किया कि उन्होंने "Why I am A Hindu" पुस्तक उस समय लिखी जब देश में **राजनीतिक उद्देश्य** के लिए हिंदू धर्म का **हथियार के रूप में इस्तेमाल** एक विशेष स्तर तक पहुँच चुका था।
- He wanted to offer an **alternative view** and was not prepared to surrender his faith to any **narrow interpretation**.
  उन्होंने एक **विकल्प दृष्टिकोण** पेश करना चाहा और किसी भी **संकीर्ण व्याख्या** के तहत अपने विश्वास को समर्पित करने के लिए तैयार नहीं थे।
- He felt it was necessary to **reclaim the idea of Hinduism** for those Hindus who wish to agree with him.
  उन्होंने महसूस किया कि उनके विचारों से सहमत होने वाले हिंदुओं के लिए **हिंदू धर्म के विचार को पुनः प्राप्त करना** आवश्यक था।
- Mr. Tharoor mentioned that the book had **controversy** when it was published in **2018** but found some resonance among new readers.
  श्री Tharoor ने उल्लेख किया कि पुस्तक को **2018** में प्रकाशित होने पर **विवाद** का सामना करना पड़ा, लेकिन इसे नए पाठकों में कुछ **गूंज** मिली।

Hinduism as an Ideal Faith for the 21st Century
21वीं सदी के लिए हिंदू धर्म एक आदर्श विश्वास

- Mr. Tharoor described Hinduism as an **ideal faith for the 21st century**, emphasizing **universal acceptance** and **multiple choices of worship**.

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श्री Tharoor ने हिंदू धर्म को **21वीं सदी के लिए आदर्श विश्वास** के रूप में वर्णित किया, जिसमें **सार्वभौमिक स्वीकृति** और **पूजा के विविध विकल्पों** पर जोर दिया।

- He quoted **Swami Vivekananda**, who said that Hinduism is not just a religion teaching tolerance but also teaches **universal acceptance**.
  उन्होंने **स्वामी विवेकानंद** का उद्धरण दिया, जिन्होंने कहा कि हिंदू धर्म सिर्फ सहिष्णुता सिखाने वाला धर्म नहीं है, बल्कि यह **सार्वभौमिक स्वीकृति** भी सिखाता है।

- According to Mr. Tharoor, Hinduism offers **tremendous freedom** to individuals.
  श्री Tharoor के अनुसार, हिंदू धर्म व्यक्तियों को **बेहद स्वतंत्रता** प्रदान करता है।

Hindutva's Public Support in General Elections
सामान्य चुनावों में हिंदुत्व का सार्वजनिक समर्थन

- Responding to a question about the public support for **Hindutva** in the last three general elections, Mr. Tharoor pointed out that the **BJP** got **31%** of votes in **2014**, **37%** in **2019**, and **36%** in **2024**.
  हिंदुत्व के लिए सार्वजनिक समर्थन पर एक प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए श्री Tharoor ने बताया कि **BJP** को **2014** में **31%** वोट मिले, **2019** में **37%**, और **2024** में **36%**।

- He emphasized that the BJP did not win a **majority of the Hindu population** which is **80%**.
  उन्होंने यह जोर देकर कहा कि BJP ने **80%** हिंदू जनसंख्या में से **बहुमत** नहीं जीता।

- He pointed out that in the first-past-the-post system, a party doesn't need a **majority of votes** or **popular sentiment** to get a majority of seats.
  उन्होंने बताया कि पहले-पार-दी-पोस्ट सिस्टम में, किसी पार्टी को **वोटों का बहुमत** या **लोकप्रिय भावना** की आवश्यकता नहीं होती, केवल सीटों का बहुमत पाने के लिए।

- Mr. Tharoor also clarified that not everyone who votes for the BJP necessarily believes in **Hindutva**.
  श्री Tharoor ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि BJP के लिए वोट देने वाला हर व्यक्ति जरूरी नहीं कि **हिंदुत्व** में विश्वास करता हो।

- He acknowledged that there is **greater acceptance for Hindutva** across **northern India** than there was 10 years ago, which reflects the **BJP's success in politics**.
  उन्होंने स्वीकार किया कि **उत्तर भारत** में पिछले 10 वर्षों की तुलना में **हिंदुत्व के लिए अधिक स्वीकृति** है, जो **BJP की राजनीतिक सफलता** को दर्शाता है।

India as the Cradle of Spirituality
भारत: आध्यात्मिकता का पालना

- **Francesc Miralles** spoke about writing a book on the **four Purusharthas**, stating that **India is the cradle of spirituality**, where answers to questions like **what it means to be human** and **what is the meaning of life** were found.
  Francesc Miralles ने **चार पुरुषार्थों** पर पुस्तक लिखने के बारे में बात की, जिसमें कहा कि **भारत**

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आध्यात्मिकता का पालना है, जहाँ **मानव होने का क्या मतलब** और **जीवन का क्या अर्थ है** जैसे सवालों के जवाब पाए गए हैं।

- He added that **India is not only an inspiration from the past**, but also an inspiration for the future.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **भारत केवल अतीत से प्रेरणा नहीं है**, बल्कि भविष्य के लिए भी प्रेरणा है।

Happiness: Simplicity and Purpose
खुशी: सरलता और उद्देश्य

- Mr. Miralles defined **happiness** in two ways: **simplicity** and **purpose**.
  Miralles ने **खुशी** को दो तरीकों से परिभाषित किया: **सरलता** और **उद्देश्य**।
- He stated that the happiest people are often **very simple** and that discovering your **mission in life** gives happiness.
  उन्होंने कहा कि सबसे खुश लोग अक्सर **बहुत सरल** होते हैं और जीवन में अपने **मिशन को खोजने** से खुशी मिलती है।

Evidence collection in Kaleshwaram probe in final phase

GS Paper II
B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

The Justice P.C. Ghose Commission of Inquiry probing the alleged irregularities in the planning, design, execution, quality control, operation and maintenance of the three barrages of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) is likely to take up the final leg of its work from Monday to submit its report to the Telangana government on February 28.

After being instituted in March 14 last year to inquire into the alleged irregularities following sinking of some piers of the Medigadda Barrage along with other damage in Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the KLIP to complete the task in three months, its term was extended thrice in June, August, November and December last year.

The one-man commission has already examined and collected information from dozens of engineers including those in service and retired in the ranks of Engineer-in-Chief, Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer in various wings of the Irrigation department and linked to the Kaleshwaram project in one way or the other.

Further, the commission has summoned several bureaucrats who worked in the Irrigation, Finance and other line departments as also those who volunteered to share information with the panel such as Adviser to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti Sriram Vedire, Telangana Jana Samithi MLC M. Kodandaram, Telangana Joint Action Committee convenor K. Raghu and others.

According to sources, the commission is expected to summon elected representatives who held key positions in the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government such as T. Harish Rao and Eatala Rajender, who held the portfolios of Irrigation and Finance, in the final leg of collecting evidence and information.

Ex-CM to be deposed
Before finalising its report, the Commission is expected to collect information from former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao too, who, according to the witnesses deposed before it so far, had played a key role in decision making at different levels of the project execution and used to give oral instructions either in person, or indirectly – in written form.

Evidence collection in Kaleshwaram probe in final phase
कालेश्वरम जांच में साक्ष्य संकलन अंतिम चरण में

Justice P.C. Ghose Commission of Inquiry
न्यायमूर्ति पी.सी. घोष आयोग की जांच

- The **Justice P.C. Ghose Commission of Inquiry** is probing the **alleged irregularities** in the **planning, design, execution, quality control, operation**, and **maintenance** of the three barrages of the **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)**.
  न्यायमूर्ति पी.सी. घोष आयोग की जांच कालेश्वरम लिफ्ट सिंचाई परियोजना (KLIP) के तीन बैराजों की **योजना, डिज़ाइन, निष्पादन, गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण, संचालन** और **रखरखाव** में **संभावित अनियमितताओं** की जांच कर रहा है।
- The commission is likely to take up the final leg of its work **from Monday** and submit its report to the **Telangana government on February 28**.
  आयोग अपनी कार्य की अंतिम कड़ी **सोमवार से** शुरू करने और अपनी रिपोर्ट **28 फरवरी को तेलंगाना सरकार** को सौंपने की संभावना है।
- The commission was instituted on **March 14 last year** to inquire into the alleged irregularities following the sinking of some piers of the **Medigadda Barrage** and damage in **Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla** barrages of the **KLIP**.

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आयोग की स्थापना **14 मार्च पिछले साल** हुई थी, ताकि **मेदिगड्डा बैराज** के कुछ पियर्स के डूबने और **मेदिगड्डा, अन्नाराम और सुंदिला** बैराजों में **KLIP** के संभावित नुकसान की जांच की जा सके।

- The commission's term was extended **thrice in June, August, November, and December** last year.

  आयोग की अवधि **जून, अगस्त, नवंबर और दिसंबर** पिछले साल **तीन बार बढ़ाई गई**।

- The one-man commission has already examined and collected information from dozens of **engineers** in the ranks of **Engineer-in-Chief, Chief Engineer**, **Superintending Engineer**, and **Executive Engineer** in various wings of the **Irrigation department** linked to the **Kaleshwaram project**.

  एकल आयोग ने पहले ही **इंजीनियर-इन-चीफ, चीफ इंजीनियर, सुपरिंटेंडिंग इंजीनियर**, और **एक्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर** जैसे दर्जनों **इंजीनियरों** से जानकारी एकत्र की है, जो **सिंचाई विभाग** के विभिन्न विंगों में हैं और जो **कालेश्वरम परियोजना** से जुड़े हैं।

- The commission has summoned several **bureaucrats** who worked in the **Irrigation, Finance**, and other departments, including **Adviser to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti Sriram Vedire**, **Telangana Jana Samithi MLC M. Kodandaram**, and **Telangana Joint Action Committee convenor K. Raghu**.

  आयोग ने कई **ब्यूरोक्रेट्स** को बुलाया है, जो **सिंचाई, वित्त** और अन्य विभागों में काम कर चुके हैं, जिनमें **केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के सलाहकार श्रीराम वेदीरे, तेलंगाना जन समिति के MLC M. कोडंडाराम**, और **तेलंगाना संयुक्त क्रियावली समिति के संयोजक K. रघु** शामिल हैं।

- The commission is expected to summon elected representatives who held key positions in the **Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)** government, such as **T. Harish Rao** and **Eatala Rajender**, who held the portfolios of **Irrigation and Finance**.

  आयोग के **भारत राष्ट्र समिति (BRS)** सरकार में महत्वपूर्ण पदों पर रहने वाले निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों को बुलाने की संभावना है, जैसे कि **टी. हरिश राव** और **ईटाला राजेंद्र**, जिन्होंने **सिंचाई और वित्त** मंत्रालयों का कार्यभार संभाला था।

- Before finalizing its report, the commission is expected to collect information from **former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao**, who played a key role in **decision making** at different levels of the project execution.

  आयोग अपनी रिपोर्ट को अंतिम रूप देने से पहले **पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री K. चंद्रशेखर राव** से जानकारी इकट्ठा करने की संभावना है, जिन्होंने परियोजना के निष्पादन के विभिन्न स्तरों पर **निर्णय लेने** में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी।

- Witnesses have stated that **K. Chandrasekhar Rao** used to give **oral instructions** either in person or indirectly in **written form**.

  गवाहों ने कहा है कि **K. चंद्रशेखर राव** व्यक्तिगत रूप से या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से **लिखित रूप में मौखिक निर्देश** दिया करते थे।

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Modi-Trump meet on Jaishankar's 5-point agenda

Ahead of his visit to Washington, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump, which he will attend, could have "profound consequences for the global order", spelling out some of the challenges and opportunities India could face over the next four years.

"Today, we may well be on the cusp of a new era," Mr. Jaishankar said at a lecture in Mumbai on Saturday. "One where the United States departs from an established tradition of foreign policy and focuses on its own interests, rather than in shaping the world itself... Where the focus is more on the compulsions of competition rather than on observance of regimes,"

he said, indicating that the incoming Trump administration would pose the biggest challenge globally to the prevailing rules-based order, which could affect India on trade and immigration issues in particular.

As a result, Mr. Jaishankar's five-point agenda during the Washington trip, his third visit to the U.S. in the past six months, will be to set the course for an intense engagement with the Trump administration, beginning with an early meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Trump. That could come as early as next month, as Mr. Modi will travel to Paris for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit at the Grand Palais, where Mr. Trump has been invited, or subsequently on a visit by Mr. Modi to the U.S. in the next few months.

The next agenda point

S. Jaishankar

for Mr. Jaishankar is to set a date for the Quad summit in India later this year.

"The Quad Foreign Ministers (Australia, India, Japan) are expected to be in Washington, D.C. for the inaugural ceremony of President Trump," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced on Friday. On Saturday, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Mr.

Trump had told advisers that he wanted to travel to China early in his tenure, and was also considering a visit to India.

Ahead of such a visit, all eyes will be on who Mr. Trump appoints as his Ambassador to India, as Eric Garcetti, a political appointee during the Biden administration, will step down on Tuesday.

In contrast to his strong rhetoric against China during his campaign, and his nomination of a number of China-hawks to his Cabinet, Mr. Trump has made a number of overtures to Chinese President Xi Jinping in recent weeks, including inviting him to the inauguration, and speaking to him over the telephone on Friday in what he called a "very good" call for China and the U.S.

In addition, Mr. Trump's plans to begin his tenure

with a series of 'Executive Orders', including ordering mass deportations and raids on "day one" as outlooked by his 'border Czar' Tom Homan, will be watched closely during Mr. Jaishankar's visit. According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report released in December, there are about 17,940 Indian nationals out of a total of 1.4 million on the "final removal orders" list, and 2,647 Indians are amongst those immigrants already in detention centres, making them the fourth-largest group by nationality, following Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Finally, the Jaishankar delegation's meetings with Trump advisers, including billionaire Elon Musk, will be watched for announcements on their engagement with India.

जयशंकर के 5 सूत्री एजेंडे पर मोदी-ट्रंप की मुलाकात

Ahead of S. Jaishankar's Visit to Washington: Key Developments
S. जयशंकर की वॉशिंगटन यात्रा से पहले: प्रमुख घटनाएँ

- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** has expressed concerns that **U.S. President Donald Trump's inauguration** could have **"profound consequences for the global order"**.

  विदेश मंत्री श्री **S. जयशंकर** ने चिंता व्यक्त की है कि **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का उद्घाटन "वैश्विक व्यवस्था पर गहरे प्रभाव डाल सकता है"**।

- **Jaishankar** highlighted the challenges and opportunities **India** could face over the next **four years**, suggesting the U.S. could **focus on its own interests** rather than shaping the global world order.

  जयशंकर ने यह बताया कि **भारत** को अगले **चार वर्षों** में जिन **चुनौतियों और अवसरों** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है, जिसमें अमेरिका **अपने हितों पर अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित** कर सकता है, बजाय वैश्विक व्यवस्था को आकार देने के।

- He indicated that the incoming **Trump administration** would challenge the **prevailing rules-based order**, potentially affecting **India's trade** and **immigration issues**.

  उन्होंने यह संकेत दिया कि आने वाली **ट्रंप प्रशासन** वैश्विक **नियम-आधारित व्यवस्था** को चुनौती दे सकता है, जो **भारत के व्यापार** और **आव्रजन मुद्दों** को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

- **Jaishankar's five-point agenda** for his **third visit to the U.S.** includes setting the stage for an **intense engagement** with the **Trump administration**, starting with a **meeting between PM Modi and Mr. Trump**.

  जयशंकर का **पांच-बिंदु कार्यक्रम** उनकी **तीसरी यात्रा के लिए** यू.एस. में **ट्रंप प्रशासन के साथ गहरे संबंध** स्थापित करने का है, जिसमें **प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और श्री ट्रंप** के बीच **बैठक** से शुरुआत होगी।

- The meeting could take place **as early as next month**, when **PM Modi travels to Paris** for the **AI Action Summit**, or later during his **visit to the U.S.** in the following months.

  यह बैठक **अगले महीने** के पहले **प्रधानमंत्री मोदी द्वारा पेरिस यात्रा के** दौरान **ए.आई. एक्शन समिट** के लिए हो सकती है, या फिर उनकी **अमेरिका यात्रा** के दौरान अगले कुछ महीनों में।

- One of the agenda points is to **set a date for the Quad summit** in **India** later this year.

  कार्यक्रम के एक बिंदु में **भारत में क्वाड समिट** की तारीख तय करना शामिल है, जो इस साल के अंत में होगा।

- **The Quad Foreign Ministers** (Australia, India, Japan) are expected to be in **Washington, D.C.** for **Trump's inaugural ceremony**.

  क्वाड विदेश मंत्री (ऑस्ट्रेलिया, भारत, जापान) **ट्रंप के उद्घाटन समारोह** के लिए **वॉशिंगटन डी.सी.** में होने की संभावना है।

- **Trump has expressed interest** in visiting **China** early in his tenure and has also shown interest in **visiting India**.

  ट्रंप ने अपनी अध्यक्षता के पहले कुछ महीनों में **चीन यात्रा करने की इच्छा व्यक्त की है और **भारत यात्रा** में भी रुचि दिखाई है।

- **Trump's Ambassador to India** will be a key appointment, with **Eric Garcetti** stepping down on **Tuesday**.

  भारत में ट्रंप के राजदूत की नियुक्ति महत्वपूर्ण होगी, क्योंकि **एरिक गार्सेटी मंगलवार** को पद छोड़ देंगे।

- **Trump's tough stance** on **China** and his **nominations of China-hawks** in his **Cabinet** will be closely observed.

  ट्रंप का चीन पर कठोर रुख और उनके **कैबिनेट में चीन-प्रेमियों की नियुक्तियाँ** पर बारीकी से ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

- **Mr. Trump's plans** to begin his tenure with **'Executive Orders'** on issues such as **mass deportations** and **raids** will be closely monitored during **Jaishankar's visit**.

  श्री ट्रंप की योजना अपनी कार्यकाल की शुरुआत **'कार्यकारी आदेशों'** के साथ करने की है, जैसे **मास डिपोर्टेशन** और **रायड्स**, जिन्हें **जयशंकर की यात्रा** के दौरान बारीकी से देखा जाएगा।

- **The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** report states that **17,940 Indian nationals** are on the **"final removal orders"** list.

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यू.एस. इमिग्रेशन और कस्टम्स एनफोर्समेंट **(ICE)** की रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि **17,940 भारतीय नागरिक "अंतिम निष्कासन आदेशों"** की सूची में हैं।

- **Jaishankar's delegation** will meet with **Trump's advisers**, including **billionaire Elon Musk**, to discuss **engagement with India**.
  जयशंकर का दल ट्रंप के सलाहकारों से मुलाकात करेगा, जिसमें **अरबपति एलन मस्क** भी शामिल हैं, ताकि **भारत के साथ संबंधों** पर चर्चा की जा सके।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Economy, Science &Technology, Environment, Disaster Management, Internal Security)

1. **Poor demand hits investments by private sector in Q3 / तीसरी तिमाही में निजी क्षेत्र द्वारा निवेश पर खराब मांग का असर**

2. **83 injured in jallikattu in Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु में जल्लीकट्टू के दौरान 83 लोग घायल**

3. **How is TRAI and the govt. combating spam? / ट्राई और सरकार स्पैम से कैसे निपट रही है?**

4. **Indian cryptography research gears up to face the quantum challenge
भारत का क्रिप्टोग्राफी अनुसंधान क्वांटम चुनौती का सामना करने के लिए तैयार है**

5. **Water Hyacinth Threatens the Livelihoods of Fishers on Kenyan Lake
केन्या की झील पर जलकुंभी मछुआरों की आजीविका के लिए खतरा**

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Poor demand hits investments by private sector in Q3

New investments by domestic private players fell 1.4% from Q2 reflecting fears over costs, slow growth; States drive growth in public investments
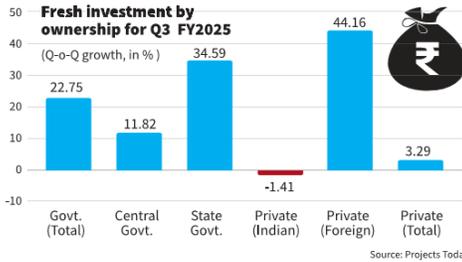
NEW DELHI

With domestic demand seen waning amid a spike in inflation and input costs, investment plans by India's private sector took a hit, falling 1.4% in the October-December quarter (Q3) of 2024-25 after a fleeting recovery in the second quarter (Q2).

However, government capex plans registered a sharp growth, lifting overall fresh investments in the economy by 9.9% in Q3 to ₹11.46 lakh crore from an updated tally of ₹10.43 lakh crore recorded in Q2. This rise was led by a 34.6% spike in fresh investments by State governments over

Corporate India's capex slips

Government capital spending grows, led by States, to lift overall value of new investment projects in Q3 by 9.9% over Q2

Fresh investment by ownership for Q3 FY2025
(Q-o-Q growth, in %)

Category	Value
Govt. (Total)	22.75
Central Govt.	11.82
State Govt.	34.59
Private (Indian)	-1.41
Private (Foreign)	44.16
Private (Total)	3.29

Source: Projects Today

Q2 levels, almost thrice the 11.8% growth in new outlays announced by the Union government.

Domestic investors, however, pulled back fresh investment plans by 1.4% from Q2 to nearly ₹6.11 lakh crore in Q3, show data from Projects Today, a firm tracking new and ongoing investment projects in the country since 2000.

CONTINUED ON
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Investment Plans Hit Amid Inflation and Input Costs
महंगाई और इनपुट लागत के बीच निवेश योजनाओं में गिरावट

- With domestic demand seen waning amid a spike in inflation and input costs, investment plans by India's private sector took a hit, falling **1.4% in the October-December quarter (Q3) of 2024-25** after a fleeting recovery in the second quarter (Q2).
महंगाई और इनपुट लागत में वृद्धि के बीच घरेलू मांग घटने के कारण, भारत के निजी क्षेत्र की निवेश योजनाओं में **2024-25 के अक्टूबर-दिसंबर तिमाही (Q3)** में **1.4%** की गिरावट आई, जो दूसरे तिमाही (Q2) में एक अस्थायी सुधार के बाद हुआ।

- However, **government capex plans registered a sharp growth**, lifting overall fresh investments in the economy by **9.9% in Q3** to **₹11.46 lakh crore** from an updated tally of **₹10.43 lakh crore** recorded in Q2.
हालाँकि, **सरकारी पूंजीगत व्यय योजनाओं में तेज़ वृद्धि** दर्ज की गई, जिससे **Q3 में समग्र नए निवेशों में 9.9%** की वृद्धि हुई और यह **₹11.46 लाख करोड़** तक पहुँच गया, जो Q2 में **₹10.43 लाख करोड़** के अद्यतन आंकड़े से अधिक था।

- This rise was led by a **34.6% spike in fresh investments by State governments** over Q2 levels, almost thrice the **11.8% growth in new outlays announced by the Union government**.
इस वृद्धि का नेतृत्व **राज्य सरकारों द्वारा Q2 स्तरों के मुकाबले ताजे निवेशों में 34.6%** की

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वृद्धि ने किया, जो **संघीय सरकार द्वारा घोषित नए बजटों में 11.8%** की वृद्धि से लगभग तीन गुना अधिक था।

- Domestic investors, however, pulled back fresh investment plans by **1.4% from Q2** to nearly **₹6.11 lakh crore in Q3**, show data from **Projects Today**, a firm tracking new and ongoing investment projects in the country since 2000.

  हालाँकि, घरेलू निवेशकों ने **Q2 से 1.4%** कम करके **Q3 में लगभग ₹6.11 लाख करोड़** के ताजे निवेश योजनाओं से कदम पीछे खींच लिए, जो **Projects Today** के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जो 2000 से देश में नए और जारी निवेश परियोजनाओं को ट्रैक करता है।

83 injured in jallikattu in Tamil Nadu

GS Paper I: A&C
GS Paper III: DM

TIRUCHI

A total of 83 people were injured in the jallikattu organised at Mukkanipatti village in Pudukottai district and Pallapatti village in Tiruchi district on Sunday. A total of 750 bulls were released into the arena, and 315 tamers took part in the event at Pallapatti. Police sources said 60 people were injured, of whom 14 were referred to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital in Tiruchi. At Mukkanipatti, 23 people were hurt.

A total of 586 bulls were released into the arena, and 300 tamers participated in the event. Ten of the injured were referred to Pudukottai Government Medical College Hospital.

83 injured in jallikattu in Tamil Nadu

तमिलनाडु में जल्लीकट्टू के दौरान 83 लोग घायल

Injuries in Jallikattu Events at Mukkanipatti and Pallapatti
मुक्करिपट्टी और पललापट्टी में जल्लीकट्टू घटनाओं में चोटें

- A total of **83 people** were injured in the **jallikattu** organised at **Mukkanipatti village** in **Pudukottai district** and **Pallapatti village** in **Tiruchi district** on Sunday.

  रविवार को **पुडुकोट्टई जिले** के **मुक्करिपट्टी गांव** और **तिरुचि जिले** के **पल्लापट्टी गांव** में आयोजित **जल्लीकट्टू** में कुल **83 लोग** घायल हो गए।

- A total of **750 bulls** were released into the arena, and **315 tamers** took part in the event at **Pallapatti**.

  पल्लापट्टी में कुल **750 बैल** अखाड़े में छोड़े गए, और **315 हल्के** इस आयोजन में शामिल हुए।

- Police sources said **60 people** were injured, of whom **14 were referred to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital in Tiruchi**.

  पुलिस सूत्रों ने कहा कि **60 लोग** घायल हुए, जिनमें से **14 को तिरुचि के महात्मा गांधी मेमोरियल सरकारी अस्पताल** में भेजा गया।

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- At **Mukkanipatti**, **23 people** were hurt.
  मुक्करिपट्टी में **23 लोग** घायल हुए।
- A total of **586 bulls** were released into the arena, and **300 tamers** participated in the event.
  मुक्करिपट्टी में कुल **586 बैल** अखाड़े में छोड़े गए, और **300 हल्के** ने इस आयोजन में भाग लिया।
- **Ten of the injured** were referred to **Pudukottai Government Medical College Hospital**.
  घायल हुए दस लोगों को पुडुकोट्टई सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल भेजा गया।

How is TRAI and the govt. combating spam?

How will blockchain technology effectively counter spam? What are some of the steps being taken by the government against unsolicited commercial communications? Have some of the measures already taken been effective against unwanted calls and messages? What is a do-not-disturb registry?

GS Paper III: S&T

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) will be using distributed ledger technology (DLT) to register spam preferences from customers, TRAI chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said. Spam rules will be tightened to make commercial messages traceable, the TRAI has indicated.

What is TRAI's role in fighting spam?
The TRAI regulates the telecom industry, and its main role is in regulating Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC), the official name for spam. Starting in 2007, the regulator implemented a do-not-disturb (DND) registry, which would force telemarketers to abide by customer preferences when it came to commercial calls.

If a telecom customer signs up to the DND registry, they are not supposed to get any spam calls or SMS messages.

TRAI had also worked with an external agency to develop a DND app, which would allow customers to register their DND preference, and accept complaints. Under the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation (TCCCPR), 2018, telemarketers who called or sent messages to DND-registered customers would receive warnings, and if enough warnings accumulated, they would be blacklisted from sending messages to telecom operators.

The DND app has not always been maintained by the TRAI, and was briefly unavailable from 2022 onwards. An SMS reporting facility where users would have to report messages in a particular format was available, but further steps were taken to make the process more user friendly. In 2024, TRAI mandated that DND reporting be made available on every telecom provider's app.

GETTY IMAGES

What role does blockchain play?
In order to fight the deluge of spam messages, TRAI mandated in the TCCCPR that telcos use a blockchain ledger, also known as a distributed ledger, in order to store a constantly-updated list of approved senders of SMS messages. Telcos would also be required to approve specific formats of messages. For instance, an OTP message that goes, "Your OTP is 433212," would be stored in the blockchain as "Your OTP is ..." with space for a variable. These messages have been required to be sent from sender IDs, and not phone numbers.

This has been one of the most stringent rules that have been issued to fight SMS spam anywhere in the world. Blockchain as a technology allows for so-called immutability, which means that every stakeholder involved in a transaction has a reliable, un-tamperable version of the same data. At the time of the 2018 regulations, the necessity to use blockchain for the purpose of maintaining a spam exemption database was debated, as enthusiasm about the technology's potential had spilled over beyond cryptocurrencies, where it continues to be a mainstay.

In 2024, the regulations were tightened to ensure "traceability" of messages, thus making sure that telcos would have a complete record of who issued a message before it is sent to an SMS gateway. This was aimed at plugging a crucial flaw in the system that would allow anyone to register on the blockchain solutions implemented by telecom operators and send out fraudulent or spam messages in spite of the systems in place to combat them. These, Mr. Lahoti has said, will be

further tightened in the coming year.

Have these measures been effective?
For those who have registered their DND preferences, communications from legitimate businesses that follow the rules may have reduced. However, spam has a constantly changing character. While much of spam is merely commercial messages that may be annoying but harmless, the wave of digitisation has increased incentives to get around the protections against commercial messaging and calling. A wave of fraudulent calls have also emerged, with cyber frauds seeking to ensnare Indians in financial scams. Many of these operations are done outside the framework of SMS sender IDs, and are run through disposable 10-digit phone numbers, making it hard for real-time enforcement of anti-spam regulations.

There is also the issue of spam and scam calls from international numbers, which can be leased from certain online Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers, but appear as legitimate international call traffic.

Which are the other steps taken by the government to end spam?
The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Sanchar Saathi portal, which has a reporting site called Chakshu. DoT has partnered with law enforcement, banks, and other stakeholders in order to accept reports of "suspected fraudulent" calls and messages, and has moved to cancel lakhs of numbers that are associated with unauthorised telemarketers and scammers.

It also set up the Telecom Security Operation Centre at its New Delhi headquarters to monitor suspicious internet traffic in real time. Meanwhile, firms like Airtel have taken steps to declare suspicious calls using Artificial Intelligence as "Suspected Spam," a move that is being replicated by other telcos as well. The telco has also started labelling international calls on smartphones.

THE GIST

▼
The TRAI regulates the telecom industry, and its main role is in regulating Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC), the official name for spam.

▼
Spam has a constantly changing character. While much of spam is merely commercial messages that may be annoying but harmless, the wave of digitisation has increased incentives to get around the protections against commercial messaging and calling.

▼
Firms like Airtel have taken steps to declare suspicious calls using Artificial Intelligence as "Suspected Spam," a move that is being replicated by other telcos as well.

How is TRAI and the govt. combating spam?
ट्राई और सरकार स्पैम से कैसे निपट रही है?

How will blockchain technology effectively counter spam? What are some of the steps being taken by the government against unsolicited commercial communications? Have some of the measures already taken been effective against unwanted calls and messages? What is a do-not-disturb registry?

ब्लॉकचेन तकनीक स्पैम का प्रभावी ढंग से मुकाबला कैसे करेगी? अनचाहे वाणिज्यिक संचार के खिलाफ सरकार द्वारा उठाए जा रहे कुछ कदम क्या हैं? क्या पहले से उठाए गए कुछ उपाय अवांछित कॉल और संदेशों के खिलाफ प्रभावी रहे हैं? डू-नॉट-डिस्टर्ब रजिस्ट्री क्या है?

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Spam Control भारत संचार नियामक प्राधिकरण (TRAI) और स्पैम नियंत्रण

- **TRAI** will use **distributed ledger technology (DLT)** to register **spam preferences** from customers, said **TRAI chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti**.
  TRAI वितरित खाता प्रौद्योगिकी **(DLT)** का उपयोग करेगा ताकि वह **ग्राहकों से स्पैम प्राथमिकताएं** पंजीकृत कर सके, जैसा कि **TRAI के अध्यक्ष अनिल कुमार लाहोटी** ने कहा।
- Spam rules will be tightened to make **commercial messages traceable**.
  स्पैम नियमों को सख्त किया जाएगा ताकि **वाणिज्यिक संदेशों को ट्रेस किया जा सके।**

TRAI's Role in Fighting Spam स्पैम से लड़ने में **TRAI** की भूमिका

- **TRAI** regulates the **telecom industry** and its main role is in regulating **Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC)**, which is the official name for spam.
  TRAI दूरसंचार उद्योग को नियंत्रित करता है और इसकी मुख्य भूमिका **अनचाहे वाणिज्यिक संचार (UCC)** को नियंत्रित करने की है, जो स्पैम का आधिकारिक नाम है।
- **TRAI** implemented a **do-not-disturb (DND)** registry in **2007** to force telemarketers to follow customer preferences regarding commercial calls.
  TRAI ने **2007** में **डू-नॉट-डिस्टर्ब (DND)** रजिस्ट्री लागू की थी ताकि टेलीमार्केटर्स को वाणिज्यिक कॉल्स के संबंध में ग्राहक की प्राथमिकताओं का पालन करना पड़े।
- Customers signing up for the **DND registry** are not supposed to receive **spam calls or SMS messages**.
  जो ग्राहक **DND रजिस्ट्री** के लिए साइन अप करते हैं, उन्हें **स्पैम कॉल्स या SMS संदेश** प्राप्त नहीं होने चाहिए।
- **TRAI** developed a **DND app** with an external agency to allow customers to register their preferences and accept complaints.
  TRAI ने एक बाहरी एजेंसी के साथ मिलकर एक **DND ऐप** विकसित किया था, जिससे ग्राहक अपनी प्राथमिकताएं पंजीकृत कर सकें और शिकायतें स्वीकार की जा सकें।
- Under the **Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation (TCCCPR), 2018**, telemarketers who send messages to DND-registered customers will be **blacklisted** if enough warnings accumulate.
  टेलीकॉम कमर्शियल कम्युनिकेशन कस्टमर प्रेफरेंस रेगुलेशन (TCCCPR), 2018 के तहत, वे

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टेलीमार्केटर्स जो DND-रजिस्टर्ड ग्राहकों को संदेश भेजते हैं, यदि पर्याप्त चेतावनियां इकट्ठी हो जाती हैं, तो उन्हें **ब्लैकलिस्ट** किया जाएगा।

- The **DND app** was briefly unavailable from **2022 onwards**, and a **SMS reporting facility** was available for users to report spam.
  DND ऐप 2022 से संतुलित नहीं था, और उपयोगकर्ताओं को स्पैम रिपोर्ट करने के लिए **SMS रिपोर्टिंग सुविधा** उपलब्ध थी।

- In **2024**, **TRAI** mandated that **DND reporting** be made available on every telecom provider's app.
  2024 में, **TRAI** ने आदेश दिया कि **DND रिपोर्टिंग** हर टेलीकॉम सेवा प्रदाता के ऐप पर उपलब्ध हो।

Role of Blockchain in Fighting Spam स्पैम से लड़ने में ब्लॉकचेन की भूमिका

- **TRAI** mandated the use of **blockchain ledger** (distributed ledger) in **TCCCPR** for **telcos** to store a **constantly-updated list** of approved senders of SMS messages.
  TRAI ने **TCCCPR** में **ब्लॉकचेन खाता (वितरित खाता)** के उपयोग को अनिवार्य किया ताकि **टेल्कोस SMS संदेशों के अनुमोदित प्रेषकों की लगातार अपडेट होने वाली सूची** को संग्रहित कर सकें।

- **Telcos** are required to approve **specific formats** of messages, such as OTP messages, which are stored in the blockchain with a placeholder for variables.
  टेल्कोस को **संदेशों के विशिष्ट प्रारूपों** को मंजूरी देने की आवश्यकता है, जैसे OTP संदेश, जिन्हें ब्लॉकचेन में एक स्थान पर **चर (variables)** के लिए खाली स्थान के साथ संग्रहीत किया जाता है।

- Blockchain technology allows for **immutability**, ensuring that all stakeholders involved in a transaction have an **un-tamperable version** of the data.
  ब्लॉकचेन प्रौद्योगिकी **अपरिवर्तनीयता** की अनुमति देती है, यह सुनिश्चित करते हुए कि लेन-देन में शामिल सभी हितधारकों के पास डेटा का **अचूक संस्करण** हो।

- At the time of the **2018 regulations**, the necessity of using **blockchain** for maintaining a spam exemption database was debated.
  2018 के नियमों के समय, स्पैम छूट डेटाबेस को बनाए रखने के लिए **ब्लॉकचेन** के उपयोग की आवश्यकता पर बहस हुई थी।

Tightening of Regulations in 2024 2024 में नियमों का कड़ा करना

- In **2024**, regulations were tightened to ensure **"traceability"** of messages, ensuring **telcos** maintain a **complete record** of who issued a message before it is sent to an SMS gateway.
  2024 में, नियमों को **"ट्रेसबिलिटी"** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कड़ा किया गया, जिससे **टेल्कोस** को

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यह सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता होगी कि वे संदेश भेजने से पहले किसने उसे जारी किया, इसका **पूरा रिकॉर्ड** बनाए रखें।

- The aim was to address a critical flaw in the system that allowed anyone to register on the blockchain solutions used by telecom operators and send fraudulent or spam messages.

  इसका उद्देश्य प्रणाली में एक महत्वपूर्ण दोष को ठीक करना था, जो किसी को भी टेलीकॉम ऑपरेटरों द्वारा उपयोग किए जा रहे ब्लॉकचेन समाधानों पर पंजीकरण करने और धोखाधड़ी या स्पैम संदेश भेजने की अनुमति देता था।

- **Mr. Lahoti** has stated that these measures will be **further tightened** in the coming year.

  श्री लाहोटी ने कहा है कि आने वाले वर्ष में इन उपायों को **अधिक कड़ा** किया जाएगा।

Effectiveness of the Measures उपायों की प्रभावशीलता

- For **DND-registered** users, communications from **legitimate businesses** that follow the rules may have reduced.

  DND-रजिस्टर्ड उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए, जो नियमों का पालन करने वाले **वैध व्यवसायों** से संचार हो रहा था, वह कम हो सकता है।

- However, **spam** has a constantly changing nature, and while much of it is merely **commercial messages**, the wave of **digitization** has increased incentives to bypass protections against spam.

  हालाँकि, **स्पैम** का स्वरूप लगातार बदलता रहता है, और जबकि इसका अधिकांश हिस्सा केवल **वाणिज्यिक संदेश** है, **डिजिटलीकरण** की लहर ने स्पैम से सुरक्षा को पार करने के लिए प्रोत्साहन को बढ़ा दिया है।

- There has also been a rise in **fraudulent calls**, with **cyber frauds** targeting Indians for **financial scams**.

  धोखाधड़ी कॉल्स में भी वृद्धि हुई है, जिसमें **साइबर धोखाधड़ी** भारतीयों को **आर्थिक धोखाधड़ी** के लिए लक्षित कर रही है।

- Many of these frauds operate outside the SMS sender ID framework and use **disposable 10-digit phone numbers**, making real-time enforcement of anti-spam regulations difficult.

  इनमें से कई धोखाधड़ी SMS प्रेषक आईडी ढांचे के बाहर संचालित होती हैं और **नष्ट किए जा सकने वाले 10-अंकीय फोन नंबरों** का उपयोग करती हैं, जिससे **एंटी-स्पैम** नियमों की वास्तविक समय में निगरानी कठिन हो जाती है।

- There is also the issue of **spam and scam calls** from international numbers leased from **VoIP providers**, which appear as legitimate international traffic.

  स्पैम और धोखाधड़ी कॉल्स का एक और मुद्दा **अंतरराष्ट्रीय नंबरों** से है जो **VoIP प्रदाताओं** से किराए पर लिए जाते हैं, जो वैध अंतरराष्ट्रीय ट्रैफ़िक के रूप में दिखते हैं।

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Other Steps Taken by the Government to End Spam स्पैम को समाप्त करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए अन्य कदम

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** launched the **Sanchar Saathi portal**, which includes a reporting site called **Chakshu** for reporting fraudulent calls and messages.

  दूरसंचार विभाग (DoT) ने **संचार साथी पोर्टल** लॉन्च किया, जिसमें धोखाधड़ी कॉल्स और संदेशों की रिपोर्ट करने के लिए एक रिपोर्टिंग साइट **चक्षु** शामिल है।

- **DoT** has partnered with **law enforcement, banks, and other stakeholders** to accept reports of suspected fraudulent calls and messages and has moved to cancel lakhs of numbers associated with unauthorized telemarketers and scammers.

  DoT ने **कानून प्रवर्तन, बैंकों, और अन्य हितधारकों** के साथ साझेदारी की है ताकि संदिग्ध धोखाधड़ी कॉल्स और संदेशों की रिपोर्ट स्वीकार की जा सके और **अनधिकृत टेलीमार्केटर्स** और धोखाधड़ी करने वालों से जुड़ी लाखों नंबरों को रद्द करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की है।

- It has also set up the **Telecom Security Operation Centre** at its **New Delhi headquarters** to monitor suspicious internet traffic in real-time.

  इसने **नई दिल्ली मुख्यालय** में **टेलीकॉम सुरक्षा संचालन केंद्र** भी स्थापित किया है, जो वास्तविक समय में संदेहास्पद इंटरनेट ट्रैफ़िक की निगरानी करता है।

- **Airtel** and other telcos have started using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to label suspicious calls as **"Suspected Spam"** and have started labelling international calls on smartphones.

  एयरटेल और अन्य टेल्कोस ने **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** का उपयोग करके संदेहास्पद कॉल्स को **"संदिग्ध स्पैम"** के रूप में चिन्हित करना शुरू कर दिया है और स्मार्टफोन पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय कॉल्स को भी लेबल करना शुरू कर दिया है।

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Indian cryptography research gears up to face the quantum challenge

Areas where Indian researchers are working extensively include communication complexity, the amount of communication required to complete a computational task; proof complexity, the computational resources required to prove or disprove statements; and algebraic coding theory

Fundamental research in cryptography that's used worldwide to facilitate internet banking, e-commerce services, and secure messaging systems is now taking root in India as well.

The principal goal of those developing or using cryptographic systems is to improve system security. Cryptography – from the English roots of "hidden writing" – is the name for techniques that secure information by converting plain text into ciphertext. It is concerned with the creation and use of encrypted messages that only the sender and the receiver can understand and which a malicious actor who interferes with the communication can't.

Sending secret messages isn't new. Archaeologists have unearthed clay tablets made by the ancient Mesopotamians in which they wrote down cryptic formulae to make ceramic glazes. In the first century BC, the Roman dictator Julius Caesar used the eponymous Caesar cipher to relay messages of strategic value to his generals.

More recently, many Polish codebreakers fled their country after Adolf Hitler invaded it in 1939 to work with reputed British mathematicians, including the father of modern computing, Alan Turing, to crack Germany's famed Enigma cryptosystem. Turing's work in particular established much of the foundational theory for modern algorithmic computing.

Scientists have devised many sophisticated methods to prevent adversaries from cracking secret codes and gaining unauthorised access to sensitive information. These methods achieve their goals by using algorithms and protocols to protect some data's confidentiality, integrity, authenticatability, and non-repudiation.

'Hard' problems

Cryptographic algorithms convert messages in ways that make it very difficult, very expensive, or both to decode them. A common way to achieve this has been to place some sensitive information behind the answer to a very difficult problem. An agent can access the information by solving the problem, so the harder the problem, the more inaccessible the information.

"Hence the search for harder and harder problems – for instance, even those that quantum computers may find hard to solve," R. Ramanujam of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, said.

As computational techniques evolve, particularly with advancements in quantum computing, the interplay between complexity and cryptography will continue to be a crucial area of research and development, he added.

Modern cryptographic systems are built on problems that demand far too many resources to be solved.

"As they say in the crypto community, if your cryptosystem is broken, either a spy is dead or a million dollars is missing," Ayan Mukherjee, an assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, said. "Such is the seriousness of the effect of a broken cryptosystem. Thus, oftentimes, people use the old and the trusted to secure their communications."

This is also why, he added, "The field of cryptography is very slow-moving."

"There is a close connection between complexity theory and cryptography, hence many [researchers] work on these connections, clarifying notions and building finer techniques," Ramanujam said.

Areas where Indian researchers are working extensively include communication complexity (the amount of communication required to complete a computational task), proof complexity (the computational resources required to prove or disprove statements), and algebraic coding theory (using algebra to encode and decode data).

Locks and keys

The goal is to make sure an adversary, especially one with enormous computational resources, can't crack the code. At the heart of any cryptosystem is the key: a secret value an algorithm uses to encrypt or decrypt data.

The Caesar cipher is a simple example. It works by mapping the existing alphabet to one where the starting letter is offset by some number of letters. This number is the key. For example, if the key is 14, the encrypted alphabet begins with the letter O (the 14th letter) rather than A. Thus the

At the heart of any cryptosystem is the key, a secret value an algorithm uses to decrypt, or unlock, data. JAYDEEP_/PIXABAY

words FIGHT FOR ROME become TWUVH TCF FCAS.

When the sender encrypts data with a key, only someone who knows the key can decrypt the message and read it. More sophisticated systems use two keys – one each for the sender and the receiver – and map them in a separate secret way.

A famous example is public-key cryptography, which is used to secure information over the internet. The receiver uses a single algorithm to generate two keys called the public key and the private key, and shares the public key with the sender. Any message the sender encrypts with the public key can be decrypted by the private key.

Researchers prefer the algorithms that generate keys to one-way functions, a name in mathematics for functions that are simple to use but hard to crack. In cryptography, this means they can be used to easily encrypt messages but can't be cracked without knowing the key. As Ramanujam put it, the challenge is like protecting a house with a strong alarm system that the house's residents can still use without training.

Some one-way functions are very difficult to crack and thus very secure – but they also take a long time to decrypt messages. This is one of the principal reasons mining for bitcoins has become a very energy-intensive process. The bitcoin system uses a one-way function that has required more computational resources to decrypt messages as the size of its blockchain has increased.

This is why some cryptography researchers in India and abroad are working on simplifying the decryption side in particular. Researchers are also considering whether shorter proofs (of the hard problems) can be used to verify the integrity of data in artificial intelligence and large language models.

Cryptography isn't just a mathematical

A cryostat refrigerator for cooling quantum computing chips at Google's Quantum AI lab in Santa Barbara, California, U.S. REUTERS

or academic curiosity but is of considerable practical interest, Yael Kalai, whose work on proofs won her the 2022 Turing Award, told the 11th Heidelberg Laureate Forum in September (the author was in the audience). "In today's world, the biggest problem we have to solve is trustworthiness," she said.

Since researchers have solved the problem of authentication and security in communications, she added, the current problem is computation.

"People are computing things for us. How do we know that they are computing correctly? How do we certify the huge and often crazy computations people are coming up with? That is a huge new research problem now."

Possibility of disruption

Two research areas that could disrupt current cryptographic systems with significant economic and social consequences are homomorphic encryption and quantum information technologies, per a recent paper by the Organisation of Economically Developed Countries (OECD).

Homomorphic encryption is a cryptographic method that allows certain calculations to be performed on encrypted data without the need to decrypt it first and without accessing the secret key. The result of such computations remains in encrypted form and can be revealed later, when necessary. According to the paper, this technique could surmount the problem of processing encrypted data without decrypting it first, which increases risk.

Second, a mature quantum computer could easily break some encryption methods widely used today. Some researchers are thus working on algorithms that can resist attacks powered by a quantum computer, an enterprise called quantum resistant cryptography (QRC). In fact, marrying cryptography with quantum physics paves the way for encryption technologies based on the laws of quantum physics, which can be more convoluted than mathematical concepts alone.

Researchers worldwide have been working on QRC since 2006, including in publicly funded research projects in the European Union and Japan. In India, Mukherjee's group at IISER Pune, and those at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Raman Research Institute (RRI), both in Bengaluru; the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi; and at Pondicherry University are working on it as well.

'A huge deal'

Cryptography research in India is taking off in other aspects, too, catching up with that in the European Union, the U.S., and China. The National Quantum Mission the Cabinet approved in 2023 includes a research hub for quantum communication. The mission is to enable

A mature quantum computer could easily break some encryption methods widely used today. Some researchers are thus working on algorithms that can resist attacks powered by a quantum computer, an enterprise called quantum resistant cryptography

satellite-based secure quantum communications between ground stations over 2,000 km, long-distance secure quantum communications with other countries, inter-city quantum key distribution over 2,000 km, and multi-node quantum networks, among other outcomes.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is also planning to launch a satellite with ultra-secure quantum communication capabilities.

In July, a team of Indian scientists from RRI, IISc, IISER Thiruvananthapuram, and the Bose Institute in Kolkata published a paper describing a way to generate true random numbers that are crucial to making secure private keys and nearly unhackable passwords.

"This new method offers the enhanced protection we all need in our daily lives by using truly random numbers to generate keys that will be used to encrypt the passwords," the Department of Science & Technology said in a statement.

Apart from the Ministry of Science & Technology, major government funders for cryptography research in the country include the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Department of Telecommunications.

"The present status of quantum cryptography is to build quantum-secure cryptosystems," Mukherjee said. "It's based on the idea that, in the near future, we will have quantum computers. When that happens, the current cryptosystems will fail. This is a huge deal."

The consequences will also affect India's cryptography policy. According to a recent study commissioned by the Thales Group, the volume of sensitive data in the cloud could surge from 51% of all organisational data to 68% by 2027. As more data enters and lives in the cloud, "encryption techniques for data at rest, in motion, and in use are becoming more pervasive, evolving into a standard practice for protecting cloud-resident sensitive information against emerging cyber threats," the report said.

There is widespread data loss as well: the report said almost three-fourths of all organisations have faced multiple data breaches in the past year, foremost due to inadequate encryption. Some 71% initiated formal cryptographic programmes and 81% have dedicated encryption teams.

(T.V. Padma is a science journalist in New Delhi. tvpadma_10@yahoo.co.in)

theory.

भारतीय शोधकर्ता जिन क्षेत्रों में अत्यधिक काम कर रहे हैं उनमें संचार जटिलता, गणना कार्य को पूरा करने के लिए आवश्यक संचार की मात्रा; सिद्धांत जटिलता, कथनों को साबित करने या अस्वीकार करने के लिए आवश्यक गणना संसाधन; और बीजगणितीय कोडिंग सिद्धांत शामिल हैं।

- Fundamental research in cryptography that's used worldwide to facilitate internet banking, **e-commerce services**, and **secure messaging systems** is now taking root in India as well.

  इंटरनेट बैंकिंग, **ई-कॉमर्स सेवाएं**, और **सुरक्षित संदेश प्रणाली** को सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए दुनिया भर में उपयोग होने वाला क्रिप्टोग्राफी में बुनियादी अनुसंधान अब भारत में भी अपनी जड़ें जमा रहा है।

- The principal goal of those developing or using cryptographic systems is to improve system **security**.

  क्रिप्टोग्राफिक प्रणालियाँ विकसित करने या उपयोग करने वाले लोगों का मुख्य उद्देश्य प्रणाली की **सुरक्षा** में सुधार करना है।

- **Cryptography** — from the English roots of "hidden writing" — is the name for techniques that secure information by converting plain text into **ciphertext**.

  क्रिप्टोग्राफी — "गुप्त लेखन" शब्द की अंग्रेजी जड़ों से – वह तकनीक है जो जानकारी को **सादा पाठ** से **साइफरटेक्स्ट** में बदलकर सुरक्षित करती है।

- It is concerned with the creation and use of **encrypted messages** that only the sender and the receiver can understand and which a **malicious actor** who interferes with the communication can't.

  यह **एन्क्रिप्टेड संदेशों** के निर्माण और उपयोग से संबंधित है जिन्हें केवल भेजने वाला और प्राप्त करने वाला समझ सकता है और जो एक **दुर्भावनापूर्ण अभिनेता** जो संचार में हस्तक्षेप करता है, नहीं समझ सकता।

- Sending secret messages isn't new. Archaeologists have unearthed clay tablets made by the ancient Mesopotamians in which they wrote down **cryptic formulae** to make ceramic glazes.

  गुप्त संदेश भेजना नया नहीं है। पुरातत्वविदों ने प्राचीन मेसोपोटामियनों द्वारा बनाई गई मिट्टी की तालिकाएँ खोजी हैं, जिनमें उन्होंने **गुप्त सूत्र** लिखे थे जो चीनी के ग्लेज़ बनाने के लिए थे।

- In the 1st century BC, the Roman dictator **Julius Caesar** used the eponymous **Caesar cipher** to relay messages of strategic value to his generals.

  पहली शताब्दी ईसा पूर्व में, रोमन तानाशाह **जूलियस सीज़र** ने अपने जनरलों को रणनीतिक महत्व के संदेश भेजने के लिए प्रसिद्ध **सीज़र सिफर** का उपयोग किया।

- More recently, many **Polish codebreakers** fled their country after Adolf Hitler invaded it in 1939 to work with reputed British mathematicians, including the father of modern computing, **Alan Turing**, to crack Germany's famed **Enigma cryptosystem**.

हाल ही में, कई **पोलिश कोडब्रेकर्स** 1939 में एडोल्फ हिटलर के आक्रमण के बाद अपने देश से भागे थे और प्रसिद्ध ब्रिटिश गणितज्ञों के साथ काम किया था, जिनमें आधुनिक कंप्यूटिंग के पिता **एलन ट्यूरिंग** भी शामिल थे, ताकि वे जर्मनी के प्रसिद्ध **एनिग्मा क्रिप्टोसिस्टम** को तोड़ सकें।

- Turing's work in particular established much of the **foundational theory** for modern algorithmic computing.
विशेष रूप से ट्यूरिंग के काम ने आधुनिक एल्गोरिदमिक कंप्यूटिंग के लिए **मूलभूत सिद्धांत** की स्थापना की।

- Scientists have devised many **sophisticated methods** to prevent adversaries from cracking secret codes and gaining **unauthorised access** to sensitive information.
वैज्ञानिकों ने कई **सुदृढ़ विधियाँ** तैयार की हैं ताकि प्रतिद्वंद्वियों को गुप्त कोड तोड़ने और संवेदनशील जानकारी तक **अनधिकृत पहुंच** प्राप्त करने से रोका जा सके।

- These methods achieve their goals by using **algorithms** and **protocols** to protect some data's **confidentiality**, **integrity**, **authenticatability**, and **non-repudiation**.
ये विधियाँ अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए **एल्गोरिदम** और **प्रोटोकॉल्स** का उपयोग करती हैं ताकि कुछ डेटा की **गोपनीयता**, **अखंडता**, **प्रमाणिकता**, और **अस्वीकरण** से सुरक्षा की जा सके।

- Cryptographic algorithms convert messages in ways that make it very difficult, very **expensive**, or both to **decode** them.
क्रिप्टोग्राफिक एल्गोरिदम संदेशों को इस तरह से बदलते हैं कि उन्हें **डिकोड** करना बहुत कठिन, बहुत **महंगा**, या दोनों हो जाता है।

- A common way to achieve this has been to place some sensitive information behind the answer to a very **difficult problem**.
इसे प्राप्त करने का एक सामान्य तरीका यह रहा है कि कुछ संवेदनशील जानकारी को एक **कठिन समस्या** के उत्तर के पीछे रखा जाए।

- The harder the problem, the more inaccessible the information.
जितनी कठिन समस्या होगी, जानकारी उतनी ही अधिक अप्राप्य होगी।

- "Hence the search for **harder and harder problems** — for instance, even those that **quantum computers** may find hard to solve," **R. Ramanujam** of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, said.
"इसलिए **कठिन और कठिन समस्याओं** की खोज – उदाहरण के लिए, वे समस्याएँ जो **क्वांटम कंप्यूटर** हल करना मुश्किल पा सकते हैं," **आर. रामानुजम**, इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैथमैटिकल साइंसेज, चेन्नई ने कहा।

- As computational techniques evolve, particularly with advancements in **quantum computing**, the interplay between **complexity** and **cryptography** will continue to be a crucial area of **research** and development.
जैसे-जैसे गणना तकनीकें विकसित होती हैं, विशेष रूप से **क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग** में प्रगति के साथ, **जटिलता** और **क्रिप्टोग्राफी** के बीच परस्पर क्रिया अनुसंधान और विकास का एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र बनी रहेगी।

- Modern cryptographic systems are built on problems that demand far too many **resources** to be solved.

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आधुनिक क्रिप्टोग्राफिक प्रणालियाँ उन समस्याओं पर आधारित हैं जिन्हें हल करने के लिए बहुत अधिक **संसाधनों** की आवश्यकता होती है।

- "As they say in the crypto community, if your cryptosystem is broken, either a **spy is dead** or a **million dollars** is missing," **Ayan Mukherjee**, an assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, said.

  "जैसा कि क्रिप्टो समुदाय में कहा जाता है, अगर आपकी क्रिप्टोसिस्टम टूट गई है, तो या तो एक **जासूस मर चुका है** या **एक मिलियन डॉलर** गायब है," **आयन मुखर्जी**, भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा और अनुसंधान संस्थान (IISER), पुणे के सहायक प्रोफेसर ने कहा।

- This is also why, he added, "The field of **cryptography** is very slow-moving."

  यही कारण है, उन्होंने जोड़ा, "**क्रिप्टोग्राफी** का क्षेत्र बहुत धीमा-चलने वाला है।"

- "There is a close connection between **complexity theory** and **cryptography**, hence many [researchers] work on these connections, clarifying notions and building finer techniques," Ramanujam said.

  "**जटिलता सिद्धांत** और **क्रिप्टोग्राफी** के बीच एक करीबी संबंध है, इसलिए कई [शोधकर्ता] इन कनेक्शनों पर काम करते हैं, विचारों को स्पष्ट करते हैं और अधिक सटीक तकनीकें तैयार करते हैं," रामानुजम ने कहा।

- Areas where Indian researchers are working extensively include **communication complexity**, **proof complexity**, and **algebraic coding theory**.

  भारतीय शोधकर्ता जिन क्षेत्रों में अत्यधिक काम कर रहे हैं उनमें **संचार जटिलता**, **सिद्धांत जटिलता**, और **बीजगणितीय कोडिंग सिद्धांत** शामिल हैं।

- The goal is to make sure an adversary, especially one with **enormous computational resources**, can't crack the code.

  लक्ष्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि एक शत्रु, विशेष रूप से एक जो **विशाल गणना संसाधनों** के साथ हो, कोड को न तोड़ सके।

- At the heart of any cryptosystem is the **key**: a secret value an algorithm uses to encrypt or decrypt data.

  किसी भी क्रिप्टोसिस्टम का मूल है **कुंजी**: एक गुप्त मान जिसे एक एल्गोरिदम डेटा को एन्क्रिप्ट या डिक्रिप्ट करने के लिए उपयोग करता है।

- The **Caesar cipher** is a simple example. It works by mapping the existing alphabet to one where the starting letter is offset by some number of letters. This number is the key.

  सीज़र सिफर एक सरल उदाहरण है। यह मौजूदा वर्णमाला को एक ऐसे में मैप करता है जहां प्रारंभिक अक्षर कुछ अक्षरों से स्थानांतरित होता है। यह संख्या ही कुंजी है।

- More sophisticated systems use **two keys** — one each for the sender and the receiver — and map them in a separate secret way.

  अधिक उन्नत प्रणालियाँ **दो कुंजियाँ** का उपयोग करती हैं – एक भेजने वाले के लिए और एक प्राप्त करने वाले के लिए – और उन्हें एक अलग गुप्त तरीके से मैप करती हैं।

- A famous example is **public-key cryptography**, which is used to secure information over the internet.

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एक प्रसिद्ध उदाहरण है **सार्वजनिक-कुंजी क्रिप्टोग्राफी**, जिसका उपयोग इंटरनेट पर जानकारी को सुरक्षित करने के लिए किया जाता है।

- Researchers prefer the **algorithms** that generate keys to be **one-way functions**, a name in mathematics for functions that are simple to use but hard to crack.

  शोधकर्ता उन **एल्गोरिदम** को प्राथमिकता देते हैं जो कुंजियाँ उत्पन्न करते हैं, **एकतरफा कार्य** होते हैं, गणित में उन कार्यों का नाम है जो उपयोग करने में सरल होते हैं लेकिन तोड़ने में कठिन होते हैं।

- Some one-way functions are very difficult to crack and thus very **secure** — but they also take a long time to **decrypt** messages.

  कुछ एकतरफा कार्य तोड़ने में बहुत कठिन होते हैं और इस प्रकार बहुत **सुरक्षित** होते हैं – लेकिन उन्हें संदेशों को **डिक्रिप्ट** करने में लंबा समय लगता है।

- This is one of the principal reasons **mining for bitcoins** has become a very energy-intensive process.

  यह **बिटकॉइन खनन** के बहुत ऊर्जा-गहन प्रक्रिया बनने का एक प्रमुख कारण है।

- Researchers are also considering whether **shorter proofs** (of the hard problems) can be used to verify the **integrity** of data in **artificial intelligence** and **large language models**.

  शोधकर्ता यह भी विचार कर रहे हैं कि क्या **संक्षिप्त प्रमाण** (कठिन समस्याओं के) का उपयोग **आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस** और **बड़े भाषा मॉडलों** में डेटा की **अखंडता** को सत्यापित करने के लिए किया जा सकता है।

- Cryptography isn't just a mathematical or academic curiosity but is of considerable **practical interest**.

  क्रिप्टोग्राफी केवल एक गणितीय या शैक्षणिक जिज्ञासा नहीं है, बल्कि यह महत्वपूर्ण **व्यावहारिक रुचि** की है।

- "In today's world, the biggest problem we have to solve is **trustworthiness**," said **Yael Kalai**, whose work on proofs won her the 2022 **Turing Award**.

  "आज की दुनिया में, हमें हल करने के लिए सबसे बड़ी समस्या है **विश्वसनीयता**," **याएल कलाई** ने कहा, जिनके प्रमाणों पर किए गए कार्य ने उन्हें 2022 का **ट्यूरिंग पुरस्कार** दिलाया।

- Since researchers have solved the problem of **authentication** and **security** in communications, the current problem is **computation**.

  चूंकि शोधकर्ताओं ने संचार में **प्रमाणीकरण** और **सुरक्षा** की समस्या हल कर दी है, वर्तमान समस्या **गणना** है।

- "How do we know that they are **computing correctly**? How do we **certify** the huge and often crazy computations people are coming up with? That is a huge new research problem now."

  "हम कैसे जानें कि वे **सही तरीके से

Possibility of Disruption
विघटन की संभावना

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- Two **research areas** that could disrupt current **cryptographic systems** with significant economic and social consequences are **homomorphic encryption** and **quantum information technologies**, per a recent paper by the **Organisation of Economically Developed Countries (OECD)**.

  दो **अनुसंधान क्षेत्र** जो वर्तमान **क्रिप्टोग्राफिक सिस्टम** को महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिणामों के साथ बाधित कर सकते हैं, वे हैं **होमोमोर्फिक एन्क्रिप्शन** और **क्वांटम सूचना प्रौद्योगिकियां**, जैसा कि **आर्थिक रूप से विकसित देशों के संगठन (OECD)** के एक हालिया पेपर में कहा गया है।

- **Homomorphic encryption** is a cryptographic method that allows **certain calculations** to be performed on **encrypted data** without decrypting it first and without accessing the secret key.

  होमोमोर्फिक एन्क्रिप्शन एक क्रिप्टोग्राफिक पद्धति है जो **एन्क्रिप्टेड डेटा** पर **कुछ गणनाएं** इसे पहले डिक्रिप्ट किए बिना और गुप्त कुंजी तक पहुंच के बिना करने की अनुमति देता है।

- The result of such computations remains in **encrypted form** and can be revealed later, when necessary.

  ऐसी गणनाओं का परिणाम **एन्क्रिप्टेड रूप** में रहता है और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर बाद में प्रकट किया जा सकता है।

- A **mature quantum computer** could easily break some encryption methods widely used today.

  एक **परिपक्व क्वांटम कंप्यूटर** आज व्यापक रूप से उपयोग की जाने वाली कुछ एन्क्रिप्शन विधियों को आसानी से तोड़ सकता है।

- Researchers are working on **quantum-resistant cryptography (QRC)**, which involves algorithms that can resist quantum computer-powered attacks.

  शोधकर्ता **क्वांटम-प्रतिरोधी क्रिप्टोग्राफी (QRC)** पर काम कर रहे हैं, जिसमें ऐसे एल्गोरिदम शामिल हैं जो क्वांटम कंप्यूटर द्वारा संचालित हमलों का प्रतिरोध कर सकते हैं।

Global and Indian Research Efforts
वैश्विक और भारतीय अनुसंधान प्रयास

- Researchers worldwide have been working on **QRC since 2006**, including publicly funded projects in the **European Union** and **Japan**.

  दुनिया भर के शोधकर्ता **2006 से QRC** पर काम कर रहे हैं, जिसमें **यूरोपीय संघ** और **जापान** में सार्वजनिक रूप से वित्त पोषित परियोजनाएं शामिल हैं।

- In India, groups at **IISER Pune**, **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**, and **Pondicherry University** are working on QRC.

  भारत में, **IISER पुणे**, **भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान (IISc)**, **रमन रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (RRI)** और **पांडिचेरी विश्वविद्यालय** के समूह QRC पर काम कर रहे हैं।

- The **National Quantum Mission**, approved by the Cabinet in **2023**, includes a **research hub for quantum communication** to enable **satellite-based secure quantum communications** over 2,000 km.

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राष्ट्रीय क्वांटम मिशन, जिसे कैबिनेट ने 2023 में मंजूरी दी, में क्वांटम संचार के लिए एक शोध केंद्र शामिल है, जो 2,000 किमी से अधिक की उपग्रह-आधारित सुरक्षित क्वांटम संचार सक्षम करेगा।

New Developments and Findings
नए विकास और खोजें

- In **July 2024**, Indian scientists published a method to generate **true random numbers**, which are crucial for creating **secure private keys** and **nearly unhackable passwords**.
जुलाई 2024 में, भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों ने सत्य यादृच्छिक संख्या उत्पन्न करने की एक विधि प्रकाशित की, जो सुरक्षित निजी कुंजियों और लगभग अप्रवेशनीय पासवर्ड बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- This method offers enhanced protection by using **truly random numbers** for encryption.
यह विधि सत्य यादृच्छिक संख्या का उपयोग करके एन्क्रिप्शन के लिए बेहतर सुरक्षा प्रदान करती है।

Challenges and Policy Implications
चुनौतियां और नीतिगत प्रभाव

- A recent study by the **Thales Group** predicts that the volume of **sensitive data in the cloud** could rise from **51% in 2024** to **68% by 2027**.
थेल्स समूह के एक हालिया अध्ययन के अनुसार, क्लाउड में संवेदनशील डेटा की मात्रा 2024 में 51% से बढ़कर 2027 तक 68% हो सकती है।
- Almost **three-fourths** of organisations have faced multiple data breaches due to **inadequate encryption**.
लगभग तीन-चौथाई संगठनों को अपर्याप्त एन्क्रिप्शन के कारण कई डेटा उल्लंघनों का सामना करना पड़ा है।
- **81% of organisations** now have **dedicated encryption teams**, highlighting the urgency to enhance encryption techniques.
81% संगठन अब समर्पित एन्क्रिप्शन टीमों के साथ काम कर रहे हैं, जो एन्क्रिप्शन तकनीकों को बेहतर बनाने की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।

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Water hyacinth threatens the livelihoods of fishers on Kenyan lake

GS Paper III: Environment

Associated Press

For someone who fishes for a living, nothing says a bad day like spending over 18 hours on a lake and taking home nothing.

Recently, a group of fishermen were stranded on Kenya's popular Lake Naivasha for that long and blamed the water hyacinth that has taken over large parts of it.

"They did not realise that the hyacinth would later entrap them," said fellow fisherman Simon Macharia. The men even lost their nets, he said.

The water hyacinth is native to South America and was reportedly introduced to Kenya in the 1980s "by tourists who brought it as an ornamental plant," said Gordon Ocholla, an environmental scientist at Mount Kenya University.

Water hyacinth was first sighted on Lake Naivasha about 10 years ago. Now it has become a large, glossy mat that can cover swathes of the lake. To fishers, the invasive plant is a threat to livelihoods.

Usually, the presence of water hyacinth is linked to pollution. It is known to thrive in the presence of contaminants and grows quickly and is considered the most invasive aquatic plant species in the world, Ocholla said.

It can block sunlight and impact airflow, affecting the quality of aquatic life. This has caused a drastic drop in the population of fish in Lake Naivasha and some other affected areas.

The *East African Journal of Environment and Natural Resources* estimated in a 2023 study that the invasion of water hyacinth in Kenyan

The water hyacinth is native to South America and was reportedly introduced to Kenya in the 1980s 'by tourists who brought it as an ornamental plant'

lakes – including Lake Victoria, Africa's largest – has led to annual losses of between $150 million and $350 million in Kenya's fishing, transport, and tourism sectors.

The fishermen at Lake Naivasha know that well. "Previously we would catch up to 90 kg of fish per day, but nowadays we get between 10 kg and 15 kg," Macharia said. This means daily earnings have dropped from $210 to $35.

There are several ways to deal with the plant, including physically removing it, Ocholla said. Another method is introducing organisms that feed on it. Or chemicals can be sprayed to kill the plant, "but this is not favorable as it would harm other aquatic life."

Recently the fishers, through a Kenyan start-up called HyaPak, began using a method that converts water hyacinth into biodegradable packaging.

HyaPak started in 2022 as a project at Egerton University in Kenya. HyaPak founder Joseph Nguthiru said the company is trying to use one problem, the hyacinth, "to solve the plastic waste pollution" problem.

HyaPak has entered into a partnership with the fishers, who harvest the water hyacinth and sun-dry it for a negotiable fee. Then it is transported to a HyaPak facility to be converted into biodegradable paper material.

The company works with 50 fishers at Lake Naivasha and processes up to 150 kg of water hyacinth per week, converting it to 4,500 biodegradable packages.

Water Hyacinth Threatens the Livelihoods of Fishers on Kenyan Lake

केन्या की झील पर जलकुंभी मछुआरों की आजीविका के लिए खतरा

For someone who fishes for a living, nothing says a bad day like spending over 18 hours on a lake and taking home nothing.

जो लोग मछली पकड़कर आजीविका चलाते हैं, उनके लिए झील पर 18 घंटे बिताने और खाली हाथ लौटने से बुरा कुछ नहीं हो सकता।

- Recently, a group of fishermen were stranded on Kenya's popular **Lake Naivasha** for that long and blamed the **water hyacinth** that has taken over large parts of it.
  हाल ही में, केन्या की प्रसिद्ध **नैवाशा झील** पर मछुआरों का एक समूह इतनी देर तक फंसा रहा और उन्होंने इसके लिए **जलकुंभी** को जिम्मेदार ठहराया, जिसने झील के बड़े हिस्से को ढक लिया है।

- "They did not realise that the hyacinth would later entrap them," said fellow fisherman **Simon Macharia**. The men even lost their nets, he said.
  "उन्हें यह अंदाजा नहीं था कि जलकुंभी उन्हें बाद में फंसा देगी," उनके साथी मछुआरे **साइमन माचारिया** ने कहा। उन्होंने बताया कि मछुआरे अपनी जाल भी खो बैठे।

Introduction of Water Hyacinth in Kenya
केन्या में जलकुंभी का परिचय

- The water hyacinth is **native to South America** and was reportedly introduced to Kenya in the **1980s** "by tourists who brought it as an ornamental plant," said **Gordon Ocholla**, an environmental scientist at **Mount Kenya University**.
  जलकुंभी **दक्षिण अमेरिका की मूल निवासी** है और बताया जाता है कि इसे केन्या में **1980 के दशक** में "पर्यटकों द्वारा सजावटी पौधे के रूप में लाया गया," **माउंट केन्या यूनिवर्सिटी** के पर्यावरण वैज्ञानिक **गॉर्डन ओचोला** ने कहा।

- Water hyacinth was first sighted on **Lake Naivasha about 10 years ago**. Now it has become a large, glossy mat that can cover swathes of the lake.
  जलकुंभी को पहली बार **10 साल पहले नैवाशा झील** में देखा गया था। अब यह झील के बड़े हिस्से को ढकने वाली एक बड़ी, चमकदार चटाई बन गई है।

Impact of Water Hyacinth on Livelihoods
जलकुंभी का आजीविका पर प्रभाव

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- To fishers, the invasive plant is a **threat to livelihoods**.
  मछुआरों के लिए, यह आक्रामक पौधा **आजीविका के लिए खतरा** है।

- Usually, the presence of water hyacinth is linked to **pollution**. It thrives in the presence of contaminants, grows quickly, and is considered the **most invasive aquatic plant species** in the world, said Ocholla.
  आमतौर पर जलकुंभी की उपस्थिति **प्रदूषण** से जुड़ी होती है। यह प्रदूषकों की उपस्थिति में तेजी से बढ़ती है और इसे दुनिया का **सबसे आक्रामक जलीय पौधा** माना जाता है, ओचोला ने कहा।

- It can block sunlight and impact airflow, affecting the quality of aquatic life. This has caused a drastic drop in the population of fish in **Lake Naivasha** and some other affected areas.
  यह सूर्य प्रकाश को रोक सकती है और वायु प्रवाह को प्रभावित कर सकती है, जिससे जलीय जीवन की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होती है। इससे **नैवाशा झील** और अन्य प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में मछलियों की संख्या में भारी गिरावट आई है।

Economic Losses Caused by Water Hyacinth
जलकुंभी से होने वाले आर्थिक नुकसान

- The **East African Journal of Environment and Natural Resources** estimated in a **2023 study** that the invasion of water hyacinth in Kenyan lakes — including **Lake Victoria**, Africa's largest — has led to annual losses of **$150 million to $350 million** in Kenya's fishing, transport, and tourism sectors.
  ईस्ट अफ्रीकन जर्नल ऑफ एनवायरनमेंट एंड नेचुरल रिसोर्सेज ने अपनी **2023 की एक अध्ययन** में अनुमान लगाया कि केन्या की झीलों – जिसमें अफ्रीका की सबसे बड़ी **विक्टोरिया झील** शामिल है – में जलकुंभी के आक्रमण ने केन्या के मत्स्य पालन, परिवहन और पर्यटन क्षेत्रों में **15 करोड़ से 35 करोड़ डॉलर** के वार्षिक नुकसान का कारण बना।

- Fishermen at **Lake Naivasha** report that their daily fish catch has dropped from **90 kg** per day to **10-15 kg**, leading to a fall in earnings from **$210 to $35**.
  नैवाशा झील के मछुआरों ने बताया कि उनकी मछली पकड़ने की दैनिक मात्रा **90 किलोग्राम** से घटकर **10-15 किलोग्राम** रह गई है, जिससे उनकी कमाई **210 डॉलर से घटकर 35 डॉलर** हो गई है।

Possible Solutions for Water Hyacinth
जलकुंभी के लिए संभावित समाधान

- Several ways to deal with the plant include physically removing it, introducing **organisms** that feed on it, or spraying **chemicals**, though the latter is not favorable as it harms other aquatic life.
  पौधे से निपटने के कई तरीके हैं, जैसे इसे शारीरिक रूप से हटाना, इसे खाने वाले **जीवों** को शामिल करना, या **रसायनों** का छिड़काव करना, हालांकि यह तरीका अनुकूल नहीं है क्योंकि यह अन्य जलीय जीवन को नुकसान पहुंचाता है।

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HyaPak: A Sustainable Solution
हायापैक: एक स्थायी समाधान

- Recently, fishermen, through a Kenyan start-up called **HyaPak**, began using a method that converts water hyacinth into **biodegradable packaging**.
  हाल ही में, मछुआरों ने केन्या के स्टार्ट-अप **हायापैक** के माध्यम से जलकुंभी को **बायोडिग्रेडेबल पैकेजिंग** में बदलने की विधि का उपयोग करना शुरू किया।
- **HyaPak**, started in **2022** as a project at **Egerton University** in Kenya.
  हायापैक, 2022 में केन्या की **एगर्टन यूनिवर्सिटी** में एक परियोजना के रूप में शुरू किया गया था।
- The company works with **50 fishers** at Lake Naivasha and processes up to **150 kg of water hyacinth per week**, converting it to **4,500 biodegradable packages**.
  यह कंपनी **नैवाशा झील** के **50 मछुआरों** के साथ काम करती है और प्रति सप्ताह **150 किलोग्राम** जलकुंभी को 4,500 बायोडिग्रेडेबल पैकेज में परिवर्तित करती है।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. **G.P. Singh appointed chief of Central Reserve Police Force /** जी.पी. सिंह को केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल का प्रमुख नियुक्त किया गया

2. **India women power past Nepal, clinch title in style in kho kho WC /** भारत की महिला टीम ने नेपाल को हराया, खो-खो विश्वकप में शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हुए खिताब जीता

3. **Indian men beat Nepal in final to ring in the double cheer /** भारतीय पुरुषों ने फाइनल में नेपाल को हराकर दोहरी खुशी मनाई

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G.P. Singh appointed chief of Central Reserve Police Force

PCS

Assam police chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh has been appointed Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), a government order said.

Mr. Singh is a 1991-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

The Appointments

G.P. Singh

Committee of the Cabinet has approved Mr. Singh's appointment as the CRPF

D-G till the date of his superannuation on November 30, 2027, the January 18 order said.

The CRPF is among the largest Central armed police forces (CAPF) in the country.

Senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar has been holding officiating charge of the force after the retirement of Anish Dayal Singh on December 31.

G.P. Singh appointed chief of Central Reserve Police Force
जी.पी. सिंह को केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल का प्रमुख नियुक्त किया गया

Assam Police Chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh Appointed CRPF Director-General
असम पुलिस प्रमुख ज्ञानेंद्र प्रताप सिंह को CRPF का महानिदेशक नियुक्त किया गया

- **Assam police chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh** has been appointed **Director-General** of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, as per a **government order**.
  असम पुलिस प्रमुख ज्ञानेंद्र प्रताप सिंह को केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल (CRPF) का महानिदेशक नियुक्त किया गया है, जैसा कि एक **सरकारी आदेश** में कहा गया है।

- Mr. Singh is a **1991-batch Indian Police Service officer** of the **Assam-Meghalaya cadre**.
  श्री सिंह **1991-बैच के भारतीय पुलिस सेवा अधिकारी** हैं, जो **असम-मेघालय कैडर** से हैं।

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved Mr. Singh's appointment as the CRPF **D-G** until his **superannuation on November 30, 2027**.
  कैबिनेट की नियुक्ति समिति ने श्री सिंह की **CRPF महानिदेशक** के रूप में नियुक्ति को **30 नवंबर 2027** तक स्वीकृत किया है।

- The **CRPF** is among the **largest Central armed police forces (CAPF)** in the country.
  CRPF देश की **सबसे बड़ी केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों (CAPF)** में से एक है।

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- Senior IPS officer **Vitul Kumar** has been holding the officiating charge of the force after the **retirement of Anish Dayal Singh** on **December 31**.

वरिष्ठ आईपीएस अधिकारी **वितुल कुमार** ने **आनंद दिनेश सिंह** के **31 दिसंबर** को सेवानिवृत्त होने के बाद बल का कार्यकारी कार्यभार संभाला है।

India women power past Nepal, clinch title in style in kho kho WC

PCS   SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Indian women won the inaugural kho kho World Cup in New Delhi on Sunday, easing past Nepal 78-40 in the final. The dominant display from the home side was consistent with its superiority right through the tournament. Former captain Nasreen Shaikh, who won the Arjuna Award in 2023, announced her retirement after the final.

India women power past Nepal, clinch title in style in kho kho WC

भारत की महिला टीम ने नेपाल को हराया, खो-खो विश्वकप में शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हुए खिताब जीता

Indian Women Win Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup
भारतीय महिला टीम ने उद्घाटन खो-खो विश्व कप जीता

- The **Indian women's team** won the **inaugural Kho Kho World Cup** in **New Delhi** on **Sunday**, defeating **Nepal 78-40** in the final.

भारतीय महिला टीम ने **रविवार को **नई दिल्ली** में **उद्घाटन खो-खो विश्व कप** जीता, **नेपाल को 78-40** से हराकर फाइनल में जीत दर्ज की।

- The victory was a **dominant display** from the **home side**, consistent with their **superiority** throughout the tournament.

यह जीत **घरेलू टीम** का **प्रभुत्वपूर्ण प्रदर्शन** था, जो पूरे टूर्नामेंट में उनकी **श्रेष्ठता** के अनुरूप था।

- **Former captain Nasreen Shaikh**, who won the **Arjuna Award in 2023**, announced her **retirement** after the final.

पूर्व कप्तान नासरीन शेख, जिन्होंने **2023 में अर्जुन पुरस्कार** जीता, ने फाइनल के बाद अपने **संन्यास** की घोषणा की।

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Indian men beat Nepal in final to ring in the double cheer

PCS

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India completed the double at the kho kho World Cup as the men followed the women in lifting silverware in New Delhi on Sunday. Up against Nepal in the final, the men won 54-36 to live up to the expectations of a buoyant crowd. Captain Pratik Waikar was one of the star performers for the men's team.

Indian men beat Nepal in final to ring in the double cheer

भारतीय पुरुषों ने फाइनल में नेपाल को हराकर दोहरी खुशी मनाई

India Completes Double at Kho Kho World Cup
भारत ने खो-खो विश्व कप में डबल पूरा किया

- India's **men's team** followed the **women's team** in winning silverware at the **Kho Kho World Cup** in **New Delhi** on **Sunday**.

भारत की **पुरुष टीम** ने **महिला टीम** का अनुसरण करते हुए **रविवार** को **नई दिल्ली** में **खो-खो विश्व कप** में सिल्वर जीता।

- The **men's team** defeated **Nepal 54-36** in the final to meet the expectations of the cheering crowd.

पुरुष टीम ने फाइनल में **नेपाल को 54-36** से हराकर उत्साहित भीड़ की उम्मीदों पर खरा उतरा।

- **Captain Pratik Waikar** was one of the **star performers** for the **men's team**.

कप्तान प्रतीक वाइकड़ पुरुष टीम के **प्रमुख प्रदर्शनकर्ताओं** में से एक थे।

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