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29_01_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Substantive Equality in Child Marriage Laws / बाल विवाह कानूनों में वास्तविक समानता
2. Impact of Classifying Denotified Tribes / डिनोटिफाइड जनजातियों को वर्गीकृत करने का प्रभाव
3. New study decodes when the Nicobarese people came to the island / नए अध्ययन से पता चला है कि निकोबारी लोग इस द्वीप पर कब आए थे

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Substantive equality in child marriage laws

GS Paper I: Society

In *Sanjay Chaudhary v. Guddan* (2024), the Allahabad High Court annulled the marriage of a couple, who got married when the man was 12 and the woman was nine, under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006. While the man had filed a petition for divorce when he was 20 years, 10 months and 28 days old, he later amended his plea for nullification of the marriage under Section 3 of the PCMA. This allows any party who got married as a child to seek annulment of the marriage as long as the petition is filed within two years of attaining majority.

Artificial differentiation

While 'child' in PCMA means a girl below 18 years and a boy below 21 years of age, under the Majority Act, 1875, majority is attained on completing the age of 18 years, without any distinction between men and women. A literal reading of the provisions of the PCMA thus suggests that both male and female parties can seek annulment before they attain 20 years of age. The question that arises is whether the male party can annul the marriage at 23 years or 20 years, due to the gender-based difference in the minimum age of marriage.

In 2011, the Madras High Court in *T. Sivakumar v. The Inspector of Police* held that a literal interpretation will create an unfair disadvantage for males married at 20 who, despite being married below the legal age, would not be able to annul their marriage, and thus interpreted the age limit for annulment for males to be 23. Now, the Allahabad High Court in *Sanjay Chaudhary* has countered this by reasoning that male parties entering into a marriage after attaining 18 years cannot claim ignorance of law or incapacity, as a male above 18 years is criminalised under PCMA for marrying a female child. The Allahabad High Court noted that the difference in the minimum age of marriage stems from patriarchal



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Men are given more time than women to exit a child marriage. This calls for a uniform age of marriage at 18, not 21

notions that expect men to be older and financially responsible in a marriage, while women are perceived as secondary partners and child-bearers. It opined that having the same age limit, i.e., within 20 years of age, to file a nullity petition is aligned with the principle of gender equality.

Despite these observations, the Allahabad High Court felt bound by the Supreme Court's observation in *Independent Thought v. Union of India* (2017), which mentioned that men could file annulment petitions till the age of 23 years. Consequently, the Allahabad High Court annulled the child marriage, and the wife, aggrieved by this ruling, has appealed before the Supreme Court. While the Supreme Court will decide the age limit for boys and men to file nullity petitions under the PCMA, the High Court's reasoning strikes at gendered assumptions that may require re-examining the legal age for marriage.

In *Independent Thought*, the issue before the Supreme Court was the constitutionality of the marital rape exception in respect of wives below 18 years, and not the age limit for filing a nullity petition under the PCMA. Its observation that "a male child can get the marriage annulled before attaining the age of 23 years" was made without examining in detail annulment under the PCMA. This interpretation results in a substantive unfair disadvantage, giving males more time than females to exit a child marriage, leaving wives unprotected and disproportionately affected, which undermines the central objective of the PCMA to protect and advance the status of women.

A case for no difference

This case exemplifies the need for a uniform age of marriage in India, but raising it to 21, as was proposed in the now-lapsed Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, to delay pregnancy and marriage, and advance women's education and

health, will do more harm than good. Indian laws recognise 18 as the age at which all major civil and political rights take effect such as voting, buying and selling property, and entering into contracts, among others. To delay the civil right to enter into marriage and blur the distinction between adults and children would deprive adults between 18-21 years of their right to life, liberty, decisional autonomy, privacy, and dignity. A 2024 study by Enfold Proactive Health Trust and Civic Data Lab, based on 174 PCMA judgments from three States, revealed that 49.4% of these marriages were self-initiated, with the girls' families lodging complaints in 80% of these cases as opposed to families reporting it in only 30.9% of arranged or forced marriages. Raising the age of marriage will further extend state and parental control over the agency of women to be with a partner of their choice. It will also place them at greater risk of deprivation of social protection and health services as they may fear criminal repercussions if their child marriage is reported. It will result in more arrests, detention, breakdown of families, and institutionalisation of young people, at a significant socio-economic and health cost, and overburden the criminal justice system. Gender equality and improved health maternal outcomes can be better achieved through less restrictive and more substantive alternatives such as access to free and compulsory education till 18 years, social security schemes, barrier free access to health services, and comprehensive sexuality education.

An opportunity

This is an opportunity to examine the injustice in women's access to annulment arising from different minimum ages for marriage, consider an increase in the time limit for seeking annulment, and prescribe 18 as the uniform age of marriage for all genders.



Substantive Equality in Child Marriage Laws

बाल विवाह कानूनों में वास्तविक समानता

In *Sanjay Chaudhary v. Guddan (2024)*, the Allahabad High Court annulled the marriage of a couple who married when the man was 12 and the woman was 9, under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006.

संजय चौधरी बनाम गुड्डन (2024) में, इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने उस दंपति का विवाह निरस्त कर दिया, जो 12 वर्ष की आयु में पुरुष और 9 वर्ष की आयु में महिला के बीच हुआ था, यह विवाह बाल विवाह निषेध अधिनियम (2006) के तहत किया गया था।

- The man filed a petition for divorce at **20 years, 10 months, and 28 days**, and later amended his plea for annulment under Section 3 of PCMA, which allows annulment if filed within **two years** of attaining majority.
पुरुष ने **20 वर्ष, 10 महीने और 28 दिन** की आयु में तलाक के लिए याचिका दायर की और बाद में अपनी याचिका को **PCMA की धारा 3** के तहत विवाह निरस्तीकरण के लिए संशोधित किया, जो यह अनुमति देता है यदि याचिका **वयस्कता प्राप्त करने के दो वर्ष** के भीतर दायर की जाती है।
- While 'child' in PCMA means a girl below **18 years** and a boy below **21 years**, under the Majority Act, **1875**, majority is attained at **18 years**.
जबकि PCMA में 'बालक' का अर्थ है एक लड़की जो **18 वर्ष** से कम और एक लड़का जो **21 वर्ष** से कम हो, जबकि **वयस्कता अधिनियम, 1875** के तहत वयस्कता **18 वर्ष** में प्राप्त होती है।
- The literal reading of PCMA suggests both male and female parties can seek annulment before they attain **20 years** of age.
PCMA की शाब्दिक व्याख्या यह सुझाव देती है कि पुरुष और महिला दोनों पक्ष **20 वर्ष** की आयु से पहले विवाह निरस्तीकरण की याचिका दायर कर सकते हैं।
- The Allahabad High Court countered the Madras High Court's 2011 ruling in *T. Sivakumar v. The Inspector of Police*, which allowed annulment for males up to **23 years**.
इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय के **2011** के फैसले *टी. शिवकुमार बनाम पुलिस निरीक्षक* को पलट दिया, जिसमें पुरुषों को **23 वर्ष** तक विवाह निरस्तीकरण की अनुमति दी गई थी।
- The Court reasoned that **males above 18 years** are criminalized under PCMA for marrying a female child, thus cannot claim ignorance of the law.
न्यायालय ने यह तर्क दिया कि **18 वर्ष** से ऊपर के पुरुषों को PCMA के तहत एक बालिका से



विवाह करने पर आपराधिक दंड का सामना करना पड़ता है, इसलिये वे कानून की अज्ञानता का दावा नहीं कर सकते।

- The Court argued that the difference in minimum marriage age reflects **patriarchal notions**, where men are expected to be older and financially responsible, while women are seen as secondary partners and child-bearers.

न्यायालय ने कहा कि विवाह की न्यूनतम आयु में अंतर **पितृसत्तात्मक धारणाओं** को दर्शाता है, जहाँ पुरुषों से अपेक्षाकृत अधिक उम्र और वित्तीय जिम्मेदारी की उम्मीद की जाती है, जबकि महिलाओं को गौण साथी और संतानोत्पत्ति करने वाली के रूप में देखा जाता है।

- The Allahabad High Court emphasized that having the same age limit for annulment petitions is in line with **gender equality**.

इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने यह बल दिया कि विवाह निरस्तीकरण की याचिकाओं के लिए समान आयु सीमा **लिंग समानता** के अनुरूप है।

- Despite this reasoning, the Court felt bound by the Supreme Court's **2017** observation in *Independent Thought v. Union of India*, which allowed annulment petitions for males up to **23 years**.

इस तर्क के बावजूद, न्यायालय ने **2017** में *इंडिपेंडेंट थॉट बनाम भारत संघ* में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की टिप्पणी से बाध्य महसूस किया, जिसमें पुरुषों के लिए विवाह निरस्तीकरण की याचिकाएं **23 वर्ष** तक अनुमति दी गई थीं।

- The wife, aggrieved by this ruling, has appealed before the Supreme Court, which will decide on the age limit for annulment petitions under PCMA.

इस निर्णय से आहत पत्नी ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपील की है, जो PCMA के तहत विवाह निरस्तीकरण याचिकाओं के लिए आयु सीमा पर निर्णय करेगा।

- The Supreme Court's ruling in *Independent Thought* focused on the **constitutionality of the marital rape exception**, not the age limit for annulment under PCMA.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट का निर्णय *इंडिपेंडेंट थॉट* में **वैवाहिक दुष्कर्म अपवाद** की संवैधानिकता पर केंद्रित था, न कि PCMA के तहत विवाह निरस्तीकरण के लिए आयु सीमा पर।

- The current interpretation creates an unfair disadvantage for **females**, who can only annul a marriage before they turn **20**, while males have a longer window until **23**.

वर्तमान व्याख्या एक **अन्यायपूर्ण disadvantage** उत्पन्न करती है, जहां **महिलाएं** केवल **20 वर्ष** की आयु से पहले विवाह निरस्तीकरण कर सकती हैं, जबकि पुरुषों को **23 वर्ष** तक का लंबा समय मिलता है।

- The **gendered assumptions** in the interpretation undermine the objective of PCMA to protect and advance the status of women.

व्याख्या में **लिंग आधारित धारणाएं** PCMA के उद्देश्य को कमजोर करती हैं, जो महिलाओं की स्थिति को सुरक्षा और उन्नति देने के लिए है।

- A case for no difference in annulment age suggests that **18** should be the uniform age of marriage for all genders.

विवाह निरस्तीकरण की आयु में भेदभाव न करने के लिए यह मामला यह सुझाव देता है कि सभी लिंगों के लिए विवाह की समान आयु **18** होनी चाहिए।



- Raising the marriage age to **21**, as proposed in the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, **2021**, will likely do more harm than good.
2021 में प्रस्तावित बाल विवाह निषेध (संशोधन) विधेयक के तहत विवाह की आयु को **21** तक बढ़ाना शायद अच्छे से ज्यादा नुकसान करेगा।
- Indian laws recognize **18 years** as the age for civil rights such as voting, property rights, and contracts.
भारतीय कानूनों में **18 वर्ष** को नागरिक अधिकारों के लिए आयु के रूप में स्वीकार किया गया है, जैसे मतदान, संपत्ति के अधिकार और अनुबंध।
- Raising the age of marriage could deprive individuals between **18-21 years** of their rights to life, liberty, autonomy, privacy, and dignity.
विवाह की आयु बढ़ाने से **18-21 वर्ष** के बीच के व्यक्तियों के जीवन, स्वतंत्रता, स्वायत्तता, गोपनीयता और गरिमा के अधिकारों से वंचित हो सकते हैं।
- A **2024** study by Enfold Proactive Health Trust and Civic Data Lab showed that **49.4%** of child marriages were self-initiated by the girls.
2024 में Enfold Proactive Health Trust और Civic Data Lab द्वारा किए गए एक अध्ययन में यह दिखाया गया कि **49.4%** बाल विवाह लड़कियों द्वारा स्वयं प्रारंभित किए गए थे।
- Raising the marriage age would further extend state and parental control over women's autonomy in choosing a partner.
विवाह की आयु बढ़ाने से महिलाओं की अपने साथी को चुनने की स्वायत्तता पर राज्य और माता-पिता का नियंत्रण और बढ़ेगा।
- Raising the marriage age might increase **arrests**, detention, and family breakdown, burdening the criminal justice system.
विवाह की आयु बढ़ाने से **गिरफ्तारी**, हिरासत, और पारिवारिक टूट-फूट में वृद्धि हो सकती है, जिससे आपराधिक न्याय व्यवस्था पर दबाव बढ़ेगा।
- Gender equality and better health outcomes can be achieved through **less restrictive** alternatives like **free education** till 18, social security schemes, and access to health services.
लिंग समानता और बेहतर स्वास्थ्य परिणाम **कम प्रतिबंधात्मक** विकल्पों के माध्यम से प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं, जैसे **18 वर्ष तक मुफ्त शिक्षा**, सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाएं और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुंच।
- This is an opportunity to re-examine **women's access to annulment** due to the gendered difference in marriage age and consider a uniform age of marriage.
यह महिलाओं की **विवाह निरस्तीकरण तक पहुंच** को पुनः परीक्षा में लेने का अवसर है, जो विवाह आयु में लिंग आधारित अंतर के कारण है, और एक समान विवाह आयु पर विचार करने का अवसर है।



The impact of classifying denotified tribes

How many denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes have been comprehensively categorised by the Anthropological Survey of India and Tribal Research Institutes? What will be the impact on SC, ST and OBC reservations? How many communities were classified for the first time ever?

GS Paper I: Society

EXPLAINER

Abhinav Lakshman

The story so far:

The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) across the country have for the first time comprehensively categorised 268 denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes that were thought to have never been classified before. After a three-year study, the AnSI and TRIs have recommended the inclusion of 179 of these communities in the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes lists. At least 85 of these communities are being recommended for a classification for the first time ever. The study also found that 63 communities that had never been classified were "not traceable" anymore – meaning that they had likely assimilated into larger communities, changed their names, or migrated to other States.

Why was the study needed?

Ever since the Criminal Tribes Act of 1924 was repealed in August 1949, after which communities notified as "criminal" had been denotified, successive commissions have tried to classify these communities, starting with the First Backward Classes Commission headed by Kaka Kalelkar.

Since then, the Lokur Committee (1965), the Mandal Commission (1980), the Renke Commission (2008), and the Idate Commission (2017) have tried to classify such tribes across the country. However, they have fallen short of being able to identify all such communities.

The last Commission tasked with this was the one headed by Bhiku Ramji Idate, which submitted its report in December 2017. In this report, it had listed a total of over 1,200 denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes across the country, apart from which, it said there were 267 communities that had never been classified. The Idate Commission's report



Official recognition: Members of the Adi tribe in Siang, Arunachal Pradesh on January 28. ANI

had noted that previous commissions had never been able to classify these communities, recommending strongly that the classification work be completed as soon as possible. To this end, the Prime Minister's Office constituted a Special Committee in February 2019, headed by the Vice Chairperson of the NITI Aayog, consisting of Mr. Idate, Dr. J.K. Bajaj of the Centre for Policy Studies, and the Director-General of the AnSI as members. This Committee gave the work of classification to the AnSI and TRIs, which began work on the project in February 2020, submitting a report in August 2023.

What is the need for categorisation?

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment had in a December 2022 report said that it had repeatedly flagged the government's

"inability to take necessary action" on the speedy categorisation of these communities. "Delay in locating them would increase their suffering and they would not be able to get benefits of the prevailing schemes meant for the welfare of SC/STs," the House panel said.

S. Narayan, Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Social Sciences in New Delhi pointed out that the issue with wrong categorisation began with some of the first Censuses ever conducted by colonial administrations. "There were many instances of tribes being classified as castes and vice versa. Many of it may have had political considerations behind it and this continued after Independence as well." He added that while the act of including communities in SC, ST, OBC lists may be political, when one applies an anthropological lens to it, the

classifications are bound to be different.

Further, community activists and experts like Dr. B.K. Lodhi, who also assisted the Idate Commission in its work, said that in the absence of a complete list of denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic communities across the country, it has been very difficult to organise the communities and its peoples. "Some are classified as SC, ST, OBC, some of this is also incorrect. And beyond this, there are hundreds that have not been classified."

What will be the impact?

Now that almost all denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes are closer to being classified than ever before, one impact has been political. Community activists across U.P., Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat are pushing hard to question the premise of classifying these communities as SC, ST, and OBC altogether, with an eye on reservations.

Within the Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities, there are now two strands of thoughts. One calls for the completion of the classification process so that all denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes get benefits meant for them as per the classification of SC, ST, or OBC, including that of reservation. The other calls for creating a separate classification altogether – for denotified tribes in the form of a Schedule in the Constitution. Secondly, depending on what action the government takes on the recommendations on this study, it will make it easier for State governments to initiate the process of inclusion if they so decide to do it.

What next?

While the AnSI and TRIs have completed the ethnographic study, this report remains with the Special Committee headed by the Vice-Chairperson of the NITI Aayog. Officials have said that this committee is now "scrutinising" the recommendations and will soon prepare a final report, on which the Government will take a call.

THE GIST

Ever since the Criminal Tribes Act of 1924 was repealed in August 1949, after which communities notified as "criminal" had been denotified, successive commissions have tried to classify these communities.

Community activists across U.P., Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat are pushing hard to question the premise of classifying these communities as SC, ST, and OBC altogether, with an eye on reservations.

While the AnSI and TRIs have completed the ethnographic study, this report remains with the Special Committee headed by the Vice-Chairperson of the NITI Aayog.

Impact of Classifying Denotified Tribes

डिनोटिफाइड जनजातियों को वर्गीकृत करने का प्रभाव

The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) across the country have for the first time comprehensively categorised 268 denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes that were thought to have never been classified before.



- एंथ्रोपोलॉजिकल सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया (AnSI) और ट्राइबल रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (TRI) ने देशभर में पहली बार 268 डिनोटिफाइड, अर्ध-घुमंतू, और घुमंतू जनजातियों का समग्र रूप से वर्गीकरण किया है जिन्हें पहले कभी वर्गीकृत नहीं किया गया था।
- After a **three-year study**, the **AnSI** and **TRIs** have recommended the inclusion of **179** of these communities in the **Scheduled Castes (SC)**, **Scheduled Tribes (ST)**, and **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** lists.
 - तीन साल की अध्ययन के बाद, **AnSI** और **TRIs** ने इन समुदायों में से **179** के अनुसूचित जाति (SC), अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) और अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (OBC) सूचियों में समावेश की सिफारिश की है।
- At least **85** of these communities are being recommended for a classification for the first time ever.
 - इन समुदायों में से कम से कम **85** को पहली बार कभी न वर्गीकृत किए जाने के लिए सिफारिश की जा रही है।
- The study also found that **63** communities that had never been classified were “**not traceable**” anymore — meaning that they had likely assimilated into larger communities, changed their names, or migrated to other States.
 - अध्ययन में यह भी पाया गया कि **63** समुदाय जो कभी वर्गीकृत नहीं हुए थे, अब “**पता नहीं चल पाए**” — इसका मतलब है कि वे शायद बड़े समुदायों में समाहित हो गए थे, उनके नाम बदल गए थे, या वे अन्य राज्यों में चले गए थे।

Why Was the Study Needed?

यह अध्ययन क्यों जरूरी था?

- Ever since the **Criminal Tribes Act of 1924** was repealed in **August 1949**, after which communities notified as “criminal” had been denotified, successive commissions have tried to classify these communities.
 - **क्रिमिनल ट्राइब्स एक्ट 1924** को अगस्त 1949 में निरस्त किए जाने के बाद, जब “अपराधिक” के रूप में अधिसूचित समुदायों को डिनोटिफाइड किया गया, तब से विभिन्न आयोगों ने इन समुदायों का वर्गीकरण करने की कोशिश की है।
- The last commission, headed by **Bhiku Ramji Idate**, submitted its report in **December 2017**. In this report, it had listed over **1,200** denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes across the country.
 - आखिरी आयोग, जिसकी अध्यक्षता **भीकू रामजी ईदते** ने की, ने अपनी रिपोर्ट **दिसंबर 2017** में प्रस्तुत की। इस रिपोर्ट में देशभर में **1,200** से अधिक डिनोटिफाइड, अर्ध-घुमंतू, और घुमंतू जनजातियों की सूची दी गई थी।
- The **Idate Commission's** report noted that previous commissions had never been able to classify these communities and strongly recommended that the classification work be completed as soon as possible.



- ईदते आयोग की रिपोर्ट ने यह नोट किया कि पिछले आयोगों ने कभी इन समुदायों का वर्गीकरण नहीं किया और इस कार्य को जल्द से जल्द पूरा करने की जोरदार सिफारिश की।

What is the Need for Categorisation?

वर्गीकरण की आवश्यकता क्यों है?

- The **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment** in a **December 2022** report said that it had repeatedly flagged the government's "inability to take necessary action" on the speedy categorisation of these communities.
 - सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता पर संसदीय स्थायी समिति ने दिसंबर 2022 की रिपोर्ट में कहा कि उसने बार-बार सरकार की "जरूरी कार्रवाई नहीं करने की असमर्थता" को उजागर किया है।
- **S. Narayan**, Professor Emeritus at the **Institute of Social Sciences** in New Delhi, pointed out that the issue with wrong categorisation began with some of the first censuses ever conducted by colonial administrations.
 - **S. नारायण**, नई दिल्ली स्थित **सोशल साइंसेज इंस्टीट्यूट** में प्रोफेसर एमेरिटस, ने यह बताया कि गलत वर्गीकरण की समस्या पहले कुछ उपनिवेशी प्रशासनों द्वारा किए गए पहले सर्वेक्षणों से शुरू हुई।
- Activists like **Dr. B.K. Lodhi**, who also assisted the **Idate Commission**, pointed out that without a complete list of these communities, it has been difficult to organize them and provide appropriate benefits.
 - **डॉ. बी.के. लोधी** जैसे कार्यकर्ताओं ने, जिन्होंने **ईदते आयोग** में भी सहायता की, यह बताया कि इन समुदायों की एक पूरी सूची के बिना, उन्हें संगठित करना और उचित लाभ प्रदान करना मुश्किल हो गया है।

What Will Be the Impact?

इसका क्या प्रभाव होगा?

- Political impact has been observed as community activists in **U.P.**, **Haryana**, **Madhya Pradesh**, and **Gujarat** are pushing hard to classify these communities under **SC**, **ST**, and **OBC** categories.
 - राजनीतिक प्रभाव देखा गया है क्योंकि **उत्तर प्रदेश**, **हरियाणा**, **मध्य प्रदेश**, और **गुजरात** के समुदाय कार्यकर्ता इन समुदायों को **SC**, **ST**, और **OBC** श्रेणियों में वर्गीकृत करने की जोरदार कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- Within the **Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities**, there are two main strands of thought: one for including them in existing categories for reservations and another for creating a separate classification.



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- डिनोटिफ़ाइड, घुमंतू और अर्ध-घुमंतू समुदायों के विकास और कल्याण बोर्ड में विचारधारा की दो मुख्य धाराएँ हैं: एक उनके समावेश की है मौजूदा श्रेणियों में आरक्षण के लिए और दूसरी एक अलग वर्गीकरण बनाने की है।

What Next?

अब आगे क्या?

- While the **AnSI** and **TRIs** have completed the ethnographic study, the report remains with the Special Committee headed by the **Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog** for scrutiny.
 - जबकि **AnSI** और **TRIs** ने मानवशास्त्रीय अध्ययन पूरा कर लिया है, रिपोर्ट **NITI आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष** द्वारा नेतृत्व किए गए विशेष समिति के पास जांच के लिए है।
- The government will soon take a call on the recommendations made by this committee.
 - सरकार जल्द ही इस समिति द्वारा की गई सिफारिशों पर निर्णय लेगी।

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New study decodes when the Nicobarese people came to the island

For a long time, scientists believed the Austroasiatic ancestors of the Nicobarese community migrated to the island more than 11,000 years ago; the new study corrects this impression by taking a closer look at DNA mutations, showing that they arrived at the island around 5,000 years ago

GS Paper I: Tribes in India

Sanjukta Mondal
BENGALURU

More than half a million years ago, one of humans' ancestors took a bold step and ventured beyond Africa, the cradle of humankind, in search of greener pastures. Since then humans have explored every habitable corner of the globe, often driven by the need to find new sources of food and to escape diseases and natural disasters.

Researchers have documented many migrations in great detail in the historical and archaeological records – but even now, some chapters are missing from this epic tale.

One part of the missing story was recently published in the *European Journal of Human Genetics*. Scientists from India have reported finding the genetic heritage of the people of the Nicobar Archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

The team conducted a detailed analysis of genetic data collected from 1,559 individuals across South and Southeast Asia. They found ancestral ties between the Nicobarese and the Htin Mal community, a population from the Laos-Thailand region.

The Nicobarese were also found to have retained their Austroasiatic language roots – a language family spanning Southeast Asia – of the Khmuic branch.

"Almost 20 years ago, we collected DNA from tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar region. We could not gather much information from DNA for the Nicobarese population but we related them to some South Asian groups and estimated their age to be around 11,500 years," said Kumarasamy Thangaraj of the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

He co-led the study with Gyaneshwer Chaubey of Banaras Hindu University.

"Since then, we [have] analysed many people within India and saw many advancements in technology," including the sequencing of one million human genomes. "Using these new techniques, we found that the Nicobarese are closer to Southeast Asian groups who migrated approximately 5,000 years ago," said Mr. Thangaraj.

Uncovering the ancestry trail

The Andaman and the Nicobar Islands are separated by the Ten Degree Channel, which is around 150 km wide. Though they're close to each other, the peoples of the two islands have significantly different physical features, which also differ from those of the people of mainland India. These differences have stoked scientists' curiosity about where the Nicobarese people originated.

In 2005, one research team that included the co-leads of this study investigated the origins of Andaman



A group of Nicobarese people gather to inaugurate a new hut on Teressa island in the Nicobar. TRIBAL COUNCIL, TERESSA/FILE PHOTO

Islanders by analysing mitochondrial DNA, which is passed down by mothers to their children. They discovered that the indigenous tribal groups Onge and Great Andamanese preserved two ancient maternal genetic lineages called M31 and M32, meaning they had a common ancestor. These lineages likely evolved in isolation for a long time, with a genetic history found to date back to humans travelling along the Indian Ocean coast 50,000 to 70,000 years ago.

The study also revealed the Nicobarese were closely linked to Southeast Asian populations.

However, it couldn't say when exactly they set foot on Nicobar.

In the new study, rather than mitochondrial DNA, the researchers analysed biparental and uniparental genetic markers from 1,554 previously studied individuals and five newly collected samples from the Nicobarese population. Biparental genetic material is inherited from both parents and uniparental is from one parent.

Biparental genetic material in particular is more instructive than mitochondrial DNA because it contains the complete genome (DNA contributed by both parents), paving the way for researchers to uncover more clearly relationships and differences between populations.

Equipped with their data, the team carried out an admixture analysis, a method for estimating how much of an individual's genetic makeup comes from different ancestral populations. The team also used principal component analysis, a

Earlier study of mitochondrial DNA to investigate origins of Andaman Islanders had also revealed that the Nicobarese communities were closely linked to Southeast Asian populations

statistical tool that can assess complex genetic datasets and create simple visualisations that elucidate the genetic similarities and differences.

The results confirmed previously suggested links between the Nicobarese and Southeast Asian populations and also provided a higher-resolution view of their genetic stories by pinpointing their ancestral links to the Htin Mal.

Correcting the timeline

For a long time, scientists believed the Austroasiatic ancestors of the Nicobarese migrated to the island more than 11,000 years ago. The new study corrected this impression by taking a closer look at DNA mutations.

Some sections of human DNA can evolve and mutate over centuries, often under the influence of environmental factors – e.g. when a population moves to a new land with different weather conditions. These mutations can provide clues about when a population might have migrated to a region.

Due to its geographical isolation, the ancient Nicobarese tribe has preserved its genetic identity without significant admixture with different populations. So by comparing the differences in

mutations between the genetic ancestors and the migrated populations, the scientists were able to trace their time of arrival at the Nicobar Islands: approximately 5,000 years ago, according to Mr. Thangaraj.

Future ventures

Despite bearing genetic similarities with Southeast Asian groups, the lifestyle of the Nicobarese is entirely different, Mr. Thangaraj said. "I have visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and collected samples from the Nicobarese, so I've seen their lifestyle first-hand. It is fascinating to compare them with linguistically similar groups elsewhere."

Indeed, the unique societal dynamics of the Nicobarese people are still largely uncharted.

Mr. Thangaraj also singled out their isolation from pathogens. "For example, during COVID, [the Nicobarese] were protected unless someone from the mainland brought the virus," he said. "Unlike us, who have adapted to polluted and pathogen-filled environments, they might struggle with infections if exposed to other regions."

The team plans to dive further into the genetic adaptations of these isolated populations to uncover how natural selection and environmental factors have shaped their survival strategies and immune response to diseases.

Sanjukta Mondal is a chemist-turned-science-writer with experience in writing popular science articles and scripts for STEM YouTube channel. (sanjuktamondal.sm@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Due to its geographical isolation, the ancient Nicobarese tribe has preserved its genetic identity without significant admixture with different populations

By comparing the differences in mutations between the genetic ancestors and the migrated populations, the scientists were able to trace their time of arrival at the Nicobar Islands

But the unique societal dynamics of the Nicobarese people still remain largely uncharted



New study decodes when the Nicobarese people came to the island

नए अध्ययन से पता चला है कि निकोबारी लोग इस द्वीप पर कब आए थे

For a long time, scientists believed the Austroasiatic ancestors of the Nicobarese community migrated to the island more than 11,000 years ago; the new study corrects this impression by taking a closer look at DNA mutations, showing that they arrived at the island around 5,000 years ago

लंबे समय से वैज्ञानिकों का मानना था कि निकोबारी समुदाय के ऑस्ट्रोएशियाटिक पूर्वज 11,000 साल से भी पहले इस द्वीप पर आए थे; नए अध्ययन ने डीएनए उत्परिवर्तन पर करीब से नज़र डालकर इस धारणा को सही कर दिया है, जिससे पता चलता है कि वे लगभग 5,000 साल पहले इस द्वीप पर आए थे।

Ancient Human Migration and the Nicobarese Genetic Link

प्राचीन मानव प्रवास और निकोबारी लोगों की आनुवंशिक कड़ी

- **More than half a million years ago**, one of **humans' ancestors** took a bold step and ventured beyond **Africa**, the **cradle of humankind**, in search of **greener pastures**.
पाँच लाख साल से अधिक समय पहले, मानव पूर्वजों में से एक ने एक साहसी कदम उठाया और अफ्रीका, जो मानव सभ्यता का उद्गम स्थल है, से बाहर निकलकर बेहतर जीवन की खोज शुरू की।
- Since then, **humans have explored every habitable corner of the globe**, often driven by the **need for food**, and to **escape diseases and natural disasters**.
तब से, मानव ने पृथ्वी के प्रत्येक रहने योग्य कोने का अन्वेषण किया, अक्सर खाद्य स्रोतों की तलाश, बीमारियों से बचाव और प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से बचने के लिए।
- Researchers have documented **many migrations** in great detail in **historical and archaeological records**, but **some chapters are still missing**.
शोधकर्ताओं ने इतिहास और पुरातात्विक अभिलेखों में कई प्रवासों का विस्तार से दस्तावेजीकरण किया है, लेकिन अब भी कुछ अध्याय अधूरे हैं।

Genetic Heritage of Nicobar Archipelago

निकोबार द्वीपसमूह की आनुवंशिक विरासत

- A part of the missing story was recently published in the **European Journal of Human Genetics**.
इस अधूरी कहानी का एक हिस्सा हाल ही में यूरोपियन जर्नल ऑफ ह्यूमन जेनेटिक्स में प्रकाशित हुआ।



- Scientists from **India** have reported finding the **genetic heritage** of the **people of the Nicobar Archipelago** in the **Indian Ocean**.
भारत के वैज्ञानिकों ने भारतीय महासागर में स्थित निकोबार द्वीपसमूह के लोगों की आनुवंशिक विरासत की खोज की है।
- The team conducted a **detailed analysis of genetic data** from **1,559 individuals** across **South and Southeast Asia**.
इस टीम ने दक्षिण और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया के 1,559 व्यक्तियों के आनुवंशिक डेटा का विस्तृत विश्लेषण किया।
- They found **ancestral ties between the Nicobarese and the Htin Mal community**, a population from the **Laos-Thailand region**.
उन्होंने निकोबारी लोगों और थाईलैंड-लाओस क्षेत्र की 'हटिन माल' जनजाति के बीच पूर्वजों से जुड़ी कड़ी पाई।
- The **Nicobarese** were also found to have retained their **Austroasiatic language roots**, specifically from the **Khmuic branch**.
निकोबारी लोगों ने अपनी ऑस्ट्रोएशियाटिक भाषा की जड़ें भी बनाए रखी हैं, विशेष रूप से ख्मुइक शाखा से।

DNA Research and Discoveries

डीएनए अनुसंधान और खोजें

- **20 years ago**, researchers collected **DNA samples** from tribes in the **Andaman and Nicobar region**.
लगभग 20 साल पहले, शोधकर्ताओं ने अंडमान और निकोबार क्षेत्र की जनजातियों से डीएनए नमूने एकत्र किए।
- At that time, they estimated the **Nicobarese population's age to be around 11,500 years** but had limited information.
उस समय, उन्होंने निकोबारी जनसंख्या की आयु लगभग 11,500 वर्ष आंकी थी, लेकिन बहुत कम जानकारी थी।
- **With advancements in technology**, including sequencing **one million human genomes**, researchers have now found that the **Nicobarese are genetically closer to Southeast Asian groups who migrated about 5,000 years ago**.
नई तकनीकों की उन्नति, जिसमें एक मिलियन मानव जीनोम अनुक्रमण शामिल है, से अब शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि निकोबारी लोग दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई समूहों के अधिक निकट हैं, जिन्होंने लगभग 5,000 वर्ष पहले प्रवास किया था।

Tracing the Ancestry of Nicobarese People

निकोबारी लोगों के पूर्वजों की खोज

- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** are separated by the **Ten Degree Channel**, which is around **150 km wide**.
अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप टेन डिग्री चैनल से विभाजित हैं, जो लगभग 150 किमी चौड़ा है।



- Despite their proximity, **the people of Andaman and Nicobar have significantly different physical features**, unlike mainland India.
निकटता के बावजूद, अंडमान और निकोबार के लोगों की शारीरिक विशेषताएँ मुख्य भूमि भारत के लोगों से काफी अलग हैं।
- In **2005**, a study found that **indigenous tribal groups Onge and Great Andamanese share two ancient maternal genetic lineages** called M31 and M32.
2005 में किए गए अध्ययन में पाया गया कि ऑंगे और ग्रेट अंडमानी जनजातीय समूहों में M31 और M32 नामक प्राचीन मातृ आनुवंशिक वंशावली पाई गई।
- These genetic markers suggest their ancestors traveled along the **Indian Ocean coast 50,000 to 70,000 years ago**.
ये आनुवंशिक चिह्न दर्शाते हैं कि उनके पूर्वज 50,000 से 70,000 वर्ष पहले भारतीय महासागर तट के साथ यात्रा कर चुके थे।
- The new study used **biparental and uniparental genetic markers**, analyzing **1,554 previously studied individuals** and **five new samples from Nicobarese**.
नए अध्ययन में द्विपारिवारिक और एकपारिवारिक आनुवंशिक चिह्नों का उपयोग किया गया, जिसमें 1,554 पहले से अध्ययन किए गए व्यक्तियों और निकोबारी समुदाय के 5 नए नमूनों का विश्लेषण किया गया।
- **Biparental genetic material** is more informative as it contains the **complete genome** from **both parents**, helping researchers better understand **population relationships and differences**.
द्विपारिवारिक आनुवंशिक सामग्री अधिक सूचनात्मक होती है क्योंकि इसमें दोनों माता-पिता से प्राप्त पूर्ण जीनोम होता है, जिससे शोधकर्ताओं को जनसंख्या संबंधों और भिन्नताओं को बेहतर समझने में मदद मिलती है।

Genetic Study of the Nicobarese

निकोबारी जनजाति का आनुवंशिक अध्ययन

- The team conducted an **admixture analysis**, estimating how much of an individual's **genetic makeup** comes from different **ancestral populations**.
टीम ने अडमिक्सचर विश्लेषण किया, जिसमें यह अनुमान लगाया गया कि किसी व्यक्ति के आनुवंशिक संरचना का कितना हिस्सा विभिन्न पूर्वज जनसंख्या से आया है।
- They also used **principal component analysis**, a statistical tool that helps in visualizing **genetic similarities and differences**.
उन्होंने प्रिंसिपल कंपोनेंट विश्लेषण का भी उपयोग किया, जो आनुवंशिक समानताओं और भिन्नताओं को स्पष्ट करने में मदद करता है।
- The study confirmed previously suggested links between the **Nicobarese and Southeast Asian populations** and provided a **higher-resolution view** of their genetic history, tracing their **ancestral links to the Htin Mal**.
अध्ययन ने पहले से सुझाए गए निकोबारी और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई जनसंख्या के बीच संबंधों की



पुष्टि की और उनकी आनुवंशिक इतिहास की अधिक उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन वाली तस्वीर प्रदान की, जो उनके पूर्वजों को हतिन मल से जोड़ती है।

Correcting the Timeline

समयरेखा का सुधार

- Earlier, scientists believed that **Austroasiatic ancestors of the Nicobarese migrated over 11,000 years ago.**
पहले वैज्ञानिक मानते थे कि निकोबारी जनजाति के ऑस्ट्रोएशियाटिक पूर्वज 11,000 साल पहले प्रवास कर चुके थे।
- The new study corrected this by analyzing **DNA mutations**, which evolve over centuries due to **environmental factors.**
नए अध्ययन ने डीएनए उत्परिवर्तन का विश्लेषण करके इसे सही किया, जो पर्यावरणीय कारकों के कारण सदियों में विकसित होते हैं।
- These **mutations** help in tracing migration timelines, as populations adapt to **new climates and conditions.**
ये उत्परिवर्तन प्रवास की समयरेखा को ट्रैक करने में मदद करते हैं, क्योंकि जनसंख्या नए जलवायु और परिस्थितियों के अनुसार अनुकूलन करती है।
- Due to **geographical isolation**, the Nicobarese preserved their **genetic identity** without significant mixing with other populations.
भौगोलिक अलगाव के कारण, निकोबारी जनजाति ने अपनी आनुवंशिक पहचान को बिना अन्य जनसंख्या के साथ महत्वपूर्ण मिश्रण के संरक्षित रखा।
- By analyzing **genetic mutations**, scientists estimated their migration to **Nicobar Islands around 5,000 years ago**, according to **Mr. Thangaraj.**
आनुवंशिक उत्परिवर्तन के विश्लेषण से, वैज्ञानिकों ने अनुमान लगाया कि निकोबारी जनजाति लगभग 5,000 साल पहले निकोबार द्वीप में बसी, श्री थंगराज के अनुसार।

Future Ventures

भविष्य की योजनाएँ

- Despite genetic similarities with **Southeast Asian groups**, the **Nicobarese lifestyle** is entirely different.
दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई समूहों के साथ आनुवंशिक समानता होने के बावजूद, निकोबारी जनजाति की जीवनशैली पूरी तरह से अलग है।
- **Mr. Thangaraj** personally visited **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, collected samples, and observed their unique lifestyle.



श्री थंगराज ने व्यक्तिगत रूप से अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप का दौरा किया, नमूने एकत्र किए, और उनकी अनूठी जीवनशैली देखी।

- One notable factor is their **isolation from pathogens**, making them vulnerable to **infections from external populations**.

एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू उनका रोगजनकों से अलगाव है, जिससे वे बाहरी जनसंख्या से संक्रमण के प्रति संवेदनशील हो सकते हैं।

- During **COVID-19**, the Nicobarese remained **protected unless someone from the mainland introduced the virus**.

कोविड-19 के दौरान, निकोबारी सुरक्षित रहे जब तक कि कोई मुख्य भूमि से वायरस लेकर नहीं आया।

- Unlike modern populations, they have **not adapted to polluted and pathogen-filled environments**, making them susceptible to new infections.

आधुनिक जनसंख्या के विपरीत, उन्होंने प्रदूषित और रोगजनक-युक्त वातावरण में अनुकूलन नहीं किया है, जिससे वे नए संक्रमणों के प्रति संवेदनशील हो सकते हैं।

- The team plans to study the **genetic adaptations of isolated populations**, focusing on **natural selection and immune responses**.

टीम अलग-थलग पड़ी जनसंख्या के आनुवंशिक अनुकूलन का अध्ययन करने की योजना बना रही है, जिसमें प्राकृतिक चयन और प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

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

1. **Modi Likely to Visit U.S. to Deepen Ties, Says Trump / मोदी अमेरिका का दौरा कर सकते हैं, संबंध गहराने के लिए: ट्रंप**
2. **Ram Rahim walks out of jail on 30-day parole ahead of Delhi election, to stay at Sirsa ashram / दिल्ली चुनाव से पहले 30-दिन की पैरोल पर जेल से बाहर निकले राम रहीम, सिरसा आश्रम में रहेंगे**
3. **The Budget Pipeline and India's Foreign Policy Ambitions / बजट पाइपलाइन और भारत की विदेश नीति की महत्वाकांक्षाएँ**
4. **A case of troubled waters / पानी की परेशान स्थिति**
5. **Trump's order on birthright citizenship constitutional? / क्या ट्रंप का आदेश जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता पर संवैधानिक है?**



6. **Choice of Secular Inheritance Law Should Apply to All Faiths, Says CJI / सभी धर्मों पर लागू होनी चाहिए धर्मनिरपेक्ष उत्तराधिकार कानून की पसंद, सीजेआई का बयान**
7. **SC's journey reflects evolution in rights and reach, says CJI / सीजेआई का कहना है कि SC की यात्रा अधिकारों और पहुंच में विकास को दर्शाती है**
8. **Lab holding Ebola sample in Goma is at risk: Red Cross / गोमा में इबोला सैंपल रखने वाली लैब जोखिम में है: रेड क्रॉस**
9. **Troops battle Rwanda-backed rebels as protests erupt in Congo's capital / रवांडा समर्थित विद्रोहियों से लड़ते हुए सैनिकों और कांगो की राजधानी में विरोध प्रदर्शन**
10. **Serbia PM quits in attempt to calm anti-graft protests / सर्बिया के पीएम भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी प्रदर्शनों को शांत करने के लिए इस्तीफा देते हैं**

Modi likely to visit U.S. to deepen ties, says Trump

U.S. President, however, adds a new dimension to the relationship soon after a telephone call with the Prime Minister, calling for putting 'America first' in trade relations with major economies

[GS Paper II: India-US](#)

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Priime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Washington DC in February, U.S. President Donald Trump has said.

In an announcement that came hours after Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi spoke over the phone on Monday, the White House called for a "fair bilateral trading relationship", and indicated that India would host the leaders of the Quadilateral grouping in the coming months.

"The two leaders discussed expanding and deepening cooperation. They also discussed a range of regional issues, including security in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe. The President em-



Coming closer: The White House says the two leaders discussed expanding and deepening cooperation. REUTERS

phasised the importance of increasing its procurement of America-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship," the White House statement said.

"The leaders discussed plans for Mr. Modi to visit the White House, under-

scoring the strength of the friendship and strategic ties between our nations. Both leaders emphasised their commitment to advance the U.S.-India strategic partnership and the Indo-Pacific Quad partnership, with India hosting Quad leaders for the first time later this year," the

press note said.

Mr. Modi on Monday said he had a telephone conversation with Mr. Trump and had agreed to work for "global peace" and "security". "Congratulated him [Mr. Trump] on his historic second term. We are committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership," the Prime Minister said. However, President Trump added a new dimension to the relationship soon after holding the telephone call with Mr. Modi, with the call for putting "America first" in trade relation with major economies. "We are going to put tariffs on outside countries," Mr. Trump told a gathering of House Republicans in Florida.

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Modi Likely to Visit U.S. to Deepen Ties, Says Trump

मोदी अमेरिका का दौरा कर सकते हैं, संबंध गहराने के लिए: ट्रंप

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Washington DC in February, according to U.S. President Donald Trump. प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के फरवरी में वाशिंगटन डीसी जाने की



संभावना है, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के अनुसार।

- The announcement came hours after a **telephone conversation on Monday** between **Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi**.
यह घोषणा सोमवार को श्री ट्रंप और श्री मोदी के बीच टेलीफोन वार्ता के कुछ घंटों बाद आई।
- The **White House** emphasized a **“fair bilateral trading relationship”**, and indicated that **India would host the leaders of the Quadrilateral grouping** in the coming months.
व्हाइट हाउस ने "निष्पक्ष द्विपक्षीय व्यापारिक संबंधों" पर जोर दिया और संकेत दिया कि **भारत आने वाले महीनों में क्वाड समूह के नेताओं की मेजबानी करेगा।**
- The leaders discussed **expanding and deepening cooperation**, including regional issues such as **security in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe**.
नेताओं ने सहयोग को विस्तार और गहराई देने पर चर्चा की, जिसमें **इंडो-पैसिफिक, मध्य पूर्व और यूरोप में सुरक्षा** जैसे क्षेत्रीय मुद्दे शामिल थे।
- **President Trump** highlighted the importance of **increasing procurement of America-made security equipment** and moving toward a **fair bilateral trading relationship**.
राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने अमेरिका-निर्मित सुरक्षा उपकरणों की खरीद बढ़ाने और निष्पक्ष द्विपक्षीय व्यापार संबंध की ओर बढ़ने के महत्व को रेखांकित किया।
- Both leaders emphasized advancing the **U.S.-India strategic partnership** and strengthening the **Indo-Pacific Quad partnership**.
दोनों नेताओं ने **अमेरिका-भारत रणनीतिक साझेदारी** को आगे बढ़ाने और **इंडो-पैसिफिक क्वाड साझेदारी** को मजबूत करने पर जोर दिया।
- **India will host Quad leaders for the first time later this year**, according to the press note.
प्रेस नोट के अनुसार, **भारत इस वर्ष के अंत में पहली बार क्वाड नेताओं की मेजबानी करेगा।**
- **Mr. Modi** said on Monday that he had agreed to work for **“global peace” and “security”** during his phone conversation with **Mr. Trump**.
श्री मोदी ने सोमवार को कहा कि उन्होंने श्री ट्रंप के साथ टेलीफोन वार्ता के दौरान **"वैश्विक शांति"** और **"सुरक्षा"** के लिए काम करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- **Prime Minister Modi** congratulated **President Trump** on his **historic second term**, calling for a **mutually beneficial and trusted partnership**.
प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप को उनके ऐतिहासिक दूसरे कार्यकाल पर बधाई दी और आपसी लाभकारी और भरोसेमंद साझेदारी का आह्वान किया।
- **President Trump** added a new dimension to the relationship by emphasizing **“America first” in trade relations** and announced potential **tariffs on outside countries**.
राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने व्यापार संबंधों में **"अमेरिका फर्स्ट"** पर जोर देकर संबंधों में एक नया आयाम जोड़ा और **अन्य देशों पर संभावित टैरिफ** की घोषणा की।
- **“We are going to put tariffs on outside countries,”** said **Mr. Trump** while addressing **House Republicans in Florida**.



"हम अन्य देशों पर टैरिफ लगाएंगे," श्री ट्रंप ने फ्लोरिडा में हाउस रिपब्लिकन को संबोधित करते हुए कहा।

Ram Rahim walks out of jail on 30-day parole ahead of Delhi election, to stay at Sirsa ashram

GS Paper II:
Judiciary
GURUGRAM



Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, a rape and murder convict, again walked out of Rohtak's Sunaria jail in Haryana on 30-day parole on Tuesday. Temporarily released from jail for around a dozen times since he was convicted in two rape cases in 2017, Mr. Singh's release coincided with the high-stakes Delhi Assembly election scheduled on February 5.

In a first instance since his conviction, Singh has been allowed to stay at his dera headquarters in Sirsa this time during the parole. Unconfirmed reports said he has been accorded permission to stay put at Sirsa ashram till February 6 and would later shift to Uttar Pradesh ashram.

Confirming his release, Dera Sacha Sauda spokesperson Jitender Khurana told The Hindu that "guru ji" had reached the Sirsa ashram after his release.

According to the Haryana Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 2022, a convicted prisoner can be granted 10 weeks of parole in a calendar year on the completion of one year of sentence and it can be awarded in two parts.

However, it is not for the

first time that Mr. Singh's release from jail has coincided with the election. Opposing his release on parole during Haryana Assembly poll last year, Anshul Chatrapati, the son of slain journalist Ramchander Chatrapati, in whose murder case Ram Rahim was convicted in January 2019, had, in a letter to Chief Election Commissioner, pointed out that he had been out of jail for 255 days since 2022 and six out of 10 times he was released during the elections. He also questioned the decision to allow him to stay at Sirsa ashram. "He is still facing trial in a case pertaining to castration of disciples at Sirsa ashram. His frequent release and the permission to stay at Sirsa ashram would create fear in the minds of the witnesses," said Mr. Chatrapati.

Ram Rahim walks out of jail on 30-day parole ahead of Delhi election, to stay at Sirsa ashram

दिल्ली चुनाव से पहले 30-दिन की पैरोल पर जेल से बाहर निकले राम रहीम, सिरसा आश्रम में रहेंगे

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, a rape and murder convict, walked out of Rohtak's Sunaria jail on 30-day parole on Tuesday.

डेरा सच्चा सौदा प्रमुख गुरमीत राम रहीम सिंह, जो कि बलात्कार और हत्या के दोषी हैं, मंगलवार को रोहतक की सुनारिया जेल से 30-दिन की पैरोल पर

बाहर आए।

- He has been temporarily released from jail around a dozen times since his conviction in two rape cases in 2017.
2017 में बलात्कार के दो मामलों में दोषसिद्धि के बाद से, उन्हें जेल से करीब दर्जन भर बार अस्थायी रूप से रिहा किया गया है।
- His release coincided with the Delhi Assembly election scheduled on February 5. उनकी रिहाई 5 फरवरी को निर्धारित दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव के साथ मेल खाती है।
- For the first time since his conviction, Singh has been allowed to stay at his dera headquarters in Sirsa during parole.
दोषसिद्धि के बाद पहली बार, सिंह को पैरोल के दौरान सिरसा स्थित अपने डेरे में रहने की अनुमति दी गई है।
- Unconfirmed reports suggest he may stay at the Sirsa ashram till February 6, after which he might shift to a Uttar Pradesh ashram.



अपुष्ट रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, वह 6 फरवरी तक सिरसा आश्रम में रह सकते हैं और उसके बाद उत्तर प्रदेश के आश्रम में स्थानांतरित हो सकते हैं।

- Dera Sacha Sauda spokesperson **Jitender Khurana** confirmed his release, stating that "guru ji" has reached the Sirsa ashram.
डेरा सच्चा सौदा के प्रवक्ता **जितेंद्र खुराना** ने उनकी रिहाई की पुष्टि की और कहा कि "गुरु जी" सिरसा आश्रम पहुंच गए हैं।

Haryana Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 2022

हरियाणा अच्छे आचरण कैदी (अस्थायी रिहाई) अधिनियम, 2022

- Under this Act, a convicted prisoner can be granted **10 weeks of parole in a calendar year** after completing **one year of their sentence**, which can be availed in **two parts**.
इस अधिनियम के तहत, दोषी कैदी को एक वर्ष की सजा पूरी करने के बाद एक कैलेंडर वर्ष में 10 सप्ताह की पैरोल दी जा सकती है, जिसे दो भागों में लिया जा सकता है।

Election and Parole Connection

चुनाव और पैरोल का संबंध

- Singh's release from jail has coincided with elections **multiple times**, including the **Haryana Assembly election last year**.
सिंह की जेल से रिहाई कई बार चुनावों के साथ मेल खाई है, जिसमें पिछले वर्ष हरियाणा विधानसभा चुनाव भी शामिल है।
- **Anshul Chatrapati**, son of slain journalist **Ramchander Chatrapati**, opposed his release, highlighting that Singh was out of jail for **255 days since 2022** and **six out of ten times during elections**.
अंशुल छत्रपति, मारे गए पत्रकार रामचंद्र छत्रपति के बेटे ने उनकी रिहाई का विरोध किया, यह उजागर करते हुए कि सिंह 2022 से 255 दिन जेल से बाहर रहे और 10 में से 6 बार चुनावों के दौरान रिहा हुए।
- He raised concerns about Singh being allowed to stay at **Sirsa ashram**, citing that Singh still faces trial in a **castration case** and his release could intimidate witnesses.
उन्होंने सिरसा आश्रम में रहने की अनुमति पर आपत्ति जताई, यह कहते हुए कि सिंह अभी भी नसबंदी मामले में मुकदमे का सामना कर रहे हैं और उनकी रिहाई गवाहों को डराने का कारण बन सकती है।



The Budget pipeline and India's foreign policy ambitions

GS Paper II: Budget and Foreign Aid

When the Union Budget is presented every year, most of the public attention often centres on taxation, infrastructure, and defence. In this, however, the budget for India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) deserves closer scrutiny. Last year, the MEA budget saw a rare 23% spike, up from the modest 4% annual increase between 2017 and 2023. Despite efficient Budget utilisation, exceeding 96% of the revised estimates, the MEA remains one of the least-funded Ministries. The MEA's allocation not only reflects the government's foreign policy priorities but also its capacity to deliver on its global ambitions and commitments.

The vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 hinges on sustained global partnerships. Here, India is positioning itself as a global leader: from leading the Global South; strengthening ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; enhancing regional connectivity, engaging with the Quad (India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.) and creating institutions such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

Impact on plans

Partner countries also expect more from India, requiring a stronger MEA. Countries anticipate timely project delivery, financial support, and diplomatic follow-through. Yet, the MEA's current budget – just 0.4% of India's overall expenditure – falls short to deliver on these plans. In 2022, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs suggested raising this to 1% of the total budget. While such an increase (approximately 63%) seems unlikely, even a gradual increase to 0.6% or 0.8% would signal intent.

Two areas demand greater budgetary resources to beef up India's diplomatic clout: economic tools for regional integration and cooperation, and the MEA's institutional capacity



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The Ministry of External Affairs remains one of the least-funded Ministries, in turn affecting India's diplomatic outreach

by expanding human resources and research expertise. India's regional connectivity faced new challenges in 2024, including Bangladesh's regime change, Myanmar's instability, strained ties with Nepal, and the Maldives' "India Out" stance. But visits by Sri Lanka's President and Bhutan's Prime Minister bolstered commitments in cross-border projects. Sustaining momentum under the 'Neighbourhood First' policy requires economic support, amid China's growing influence. Enhanced financial backing is crucial for advancing connectivity initiatives in South Asia.

Foreign aid and shifts

Budgetary trends reveal nuanced shifts. India's aid to foreign countries declined by 10% in 2024-25, while loans to foreign governments, increased by 29%. Approximately 50% of India's grants is directed to its neighbourhood. Bhutan remained the largest recipient of Indian aid, reflecting historical ties and a new impetus on energy interdependence, including hydropower development and sub-regional grid connectivity. Aid to Bangladesh declined from ₹200 crore in 2023-24 to ₹120 crore in 2024-25, while Sri Lanka saw a 63% increase in budgetary allocation.

A notable shift is the move from outright grants to lines of credit (LoCs), with 45% of the LoCs directed to the neighbourhood, Bangladesh being the largest recipient at \$7.86 billion. While LoCs enable sustainable infrastructure financing, they also demand robust disbursement and oversight mechanisms, stretching India's diplomatic machinery.

Another critical indicator is MEA resources to build institutional capacity. These are less visible but critical catalysts to enable long-term growth, including through a stronger Indian Foreign Service (IFS), supported by an expert research ecosystem.

While the MEA's training budget saw a 30%

increase in 2024-25, overall capacity-building allocations remain insufficient. The IFS remains a chronically understaffed diplomatic corps. Coordination challenges, delayed expansion plans, and limited lateral entry efforts hinder progress.

Last year's MEA budget allocation for its foreign missions, training programmes, and cultural diplomacy grew by only 7% but key academic institutions such as Nalanda University and South Asian University experienced cuts of 20% and 22%, respectively. While the MEA has invested massively in convening international conferences and dialogues to foster India's image as a bridging and argumentative power, it must also find more budgetary resources to support policy-relevant and evidence-based research at Indian universities and think tanks.

Need for declassification, digitisation

According to the External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, "Track 1 has been consistently ahead of Track 2 when it comes to diplomacy, foreign policy, and keeping up with the world." If this is the reality, and "needs change" as the Minister beckoned, the MEA could lead by example by allocating specific resources in the next Budget to accelerate the declassification and the digitisation of hundreds of thousands of its records. Public e-access will help scholars map India's rich diplomatic history, contest deeply-held myths and get a better grasp of the underappreciated context and constraints that regulate Track 1 decision-making. And in turn, such Track 2 research may also help current MEA decision-makers to learn from past successes and failures, avoid reinventing the wheel, and articulate India's uniqueness based on the power of historical record, rather than mere political proclamation.

The views expressed are personal

The Budget Pipeline and India's Foreign Policy Ambitions

बजट पाइपलाइन और भारत की विदेश नीति की महत्वाकांक्षाएँ

When the Union Budget is presented every year, taxation, infrastructure, and defence often dominate public attention.

हर साल जब केंद्रीय बजट पेश किया जाता है, तो कराधान, बुनियादी ढांचा, और रक्षा आमतौर पर सार्वजनिक ध्यान आकर्षित करते हैं।

- However, the budget for India's **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** requires closer scrutiny.

हालांकि, भारत के विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) के बजट की गहन समीक्षा की आवश्यकता है।

- Last year, the MEA budget saw a rare **23% spike**, compared to the **modest 4% annual increase between 2017 and 2023**.

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पिछले साल, MEA के बजट में 23% की दुर्लभ वृद्धि देखी गई, जबकि 2017 से 2023 के बीच वार्षिक वृद्धि मात्र 4% थी।

- Despite efficient Budget utilisation exceeding 96%, MEA remains one of the least-funded Ministries.

96% से अधिक बजट के कुशल उपयोग के बावजूद, MEA अब भी सबसे कम वित्तपोषित मंत्रालयों में से एक है।

- The MEA's allocation reflects the government's foreign policy priorities and its capacity to deliver on global ambitions and commitments.

MEA का आवंटन सरकार की विदेश नीति की प्राथमिकताओं और वैश्विक महत्वाकांक्षाओं और प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने की क्षमता को दर्शाता है।

India's Global Vision by 2047

2047 तक भारत का वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण

- The vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 relies on sustained global partnerships. 2047 तक विकसित भारत की दृष्टि वैश्विक साझेदारियों पर निर्भर करती है।
- India is positioning itself as a global leader by leading the Global South, strengthening ties with ASEAN, and creating institutions like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

भारत वैश्विक नेता के रूप में उभर रहा है, ग्लोबल साउथ का नेतृत्व कर रहा है, आसियान के साथ संबंध मजबूत कर रहा है और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन और आपदा-लचीला अवसंरचना गठबंधन जैसी संस्थाएँ बना रहा है।

Challenges and Budget Constraints

चुनौतियाँ और बजट की सीमाएँ

- Partner countries expect timely project delivery, financial support, and diplomatic follow-through from India.

भागीदार देश भारत से समय पर परियोजनाओं की डिलीवरी, वित्तीय सहायता और कूटनीतिक अनुसरण की अपेक्षा करते हैं।

- MEA's current budget is only 0.4% of India's overall expenditure, which is insufficient to meet these expectations.

MEA का मौजूदा बजट भारत के कुल व्यय का केवल 0.4% है, जो इन अपेक्षाओं को पूरा करने के लिए अपर्याप्त है।

- In 2022, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs suggested raising the budget to 1% of the total budget, but even a gradual increase to 0.6% or 0.8% would signal intent.

2022 में, विदेश मामलों की संसदीय स्थायी समिति ने बजट को कुल बजट का 1% करने का सुझाव दिया, लेकिन 0.6% या 0.8% की धीरे-धीरे वृद्धि भी इरादे को दर्शाएगी।



Focus Areas for Strengthening MEA

MEA को सशक्त बनाने के लिए फोकस क्षेत्र

- Two priority areas are:
 - Expanding **economic tools** for regional integration and cooperation.
 - Enhancing MEA's **institutional capacity** by increasing human resources and research expertise.
- MEA को सशक्त करने के दो प्राथमिक क्षेत्र हैं:
- क्षेत्रीय एकीकरण और सहयोग के लिए **आर्थिक उपकरणों** का विस्तार।
 - मानव संसाधन और शोध विशेषज्ञता को बढ़ाकर MEA की **संस्थागत क्षमता** को मजबूत करना।

Regional Connectivity Challenges

क्षेत्रीय संपर्क की चुनौतियाँ

- **2024** brought challenges such as:
 - **Bangladesh's regime change**, Myanmar's instability, and strained ties with Nepal.
 - The Maldives' "**India Out**" stance.
- 2024** में चुनौतियाँ उभरकर आईं जैसे:
- **बांग्लादेश में शासन परिवर्तन**, म्यांमार में अस्थिरता, और नेपाल के साथ तनावपूर्ण संबंध।
 - मालदीव का "**इंडिया आउट**" रुख।
- Visits by **Sri Lanka's President** and **Bhutan's Prime Minister** strengthened commitments in **cross-border projects**.
श्रीलंका के राष्ट्रपति और भूटान के प्रधानमंत्री की यात्राओं ने सीमापार परियोजनाओं में प्रतिबद्धताओं को मजबूत किया।
 - Sustaining the '**Neighbourhood First**' policy requires economic support, especially amid **China's growing influence**.
'पड़ोसी पहले' नीति को बनाए रखने के लिए आर्थिक समर्थन आवश्यक है, विशेष रूप से चीन के बढ़ते प्रभाव के बीच।
 - Enhanced **financial backing** is critical for advancing connectivity initiatives in **South Asia**.
दक्षिण एशिया में संपर्क पहलों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए बढ़ा हुआ **वित्तीय समर्थन** महत्वपूर्ण है।

Foreign aid and shifts

विदेशी सहायता और बदलाव

- **Budgetary trends** reveal nuanced shifts. **India's aid to foreign countries declined by 10% in 2024-25**, while loans to foreign governments increased by 29%.



बजटीय प्रवृत्तियों में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव देखने को मिले हैं। भारत की विदेशी सहायता 2024-25 में 10% घट गई, जबकि विदेशी सरकारों को दिए गए ऋण 29% बढ़ गए।

- **Approximately 50% of India's grants** is directed to its neighbourhood. **Bhutan** remained the largest recipient of Indian aid, reflecting historical ties and a new impetus on energy interdependence, including hydropower development and sub-regional grid connectivity.

भारत की लगभग 50% अनुदान राशि उसके पड़ोसी देशों को दी जाती है। भूटान भारत की सहायता का सबसे बड़ा प्राप्तकर्ता बना रहा, जो ऐतिहासिक संबंधों और ऊर्जा पारस्परिकता, जलविद्युत विकास तथा उप-क्षेत्रीय ग्रिड कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ावा देता है।

- **Aid to Bangladesh declined from ₹200 crore in 2023-24 to ₹120 crore in 2024-25**, while Sri Lanka saw a 63% increase in budgetary allocation.

बांग्लादेश को दी जाने वाली सहायता ₹200 करोड़ (2023-24) से घटकर ₹120 करोड़ (2024-25) हो गई, जबकि श्रीलंका की बजटीय आवंटन में 63% की वृद्धि हुई।

- A notable shift is the move from outright grants to lines of credit (LoCs), with 45% of the LoCs directed to the neighbourhood, Bangladesh being the largest recipient at \$7.86 billion.

एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव यह है कि सीधी अनुदान राशि को ऋण सीमा (LoCs) में बदला जा रहा है, जिसमें 45% LoCs पड़ोसी देशों को दिया गया, बांग्लादेश को सबसे अधिक \$7.86 बिलियन मिला।

- While LoCs enable sustainable infrastructure financing, they also demand robust disbursement and oversight mechanisms, stretching India's diplomatic machinery. LoCs दीर्घकालिक बुनियादी ढांचे के वित्तपोषण को सक्षम बनाते हैं, लेकिन वे मजबूत वितरण और निगरानी तंत्र की मांग भी करते हैं, जिससे भारत की कूटनीतिक व्यवस्था पर दबाव बढ़ता है।

Institutional capacity and research

संस्थागत क्षमता और अनुसंधान

- Another critical indicator is **MEA resources to build institutional capacity**. These are less visible but critical catalysts to enable long-term growth, including through a stronger Indian Foreign Service (IFS), supported by an expert research ecosystem.

एक और महत्वपूर्ण संकेतक है विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) की संस्थागत क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिए संसाधन। ये कम दिखने वाले लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण कारक हैं, जो दीर्घकालिक विकास में मदद करते हैं, विशेष रूप से मजबूत भारतीय विदेश सेवा (IFS) और विशेषज्ञ अनुसंधान प्रणाली के माध्यम से।

- **MEA's training budget saw a 30% increase in 2024-25**, but overall capacity-building allocations remain insufficient. The IFS remains a chronically understaffed diplomatic corps.

2024-25 में विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रशिक्षण बजट में 30% की वृद्धि हुई, लेकिन संयुक्त क्षमता निर्माण के लिए बजट अब भी अपर्याप्त है। भारतीय विदेश सेवा (IFS) में लगातार स्टाफ की कमी बनी हुई है।



- Last year's MEA budget allocation for foreign missions, training programs, and cultural diplomacy grew by only 7%, but Nalanda University and South Asian University faced budget cuts of 20% and 22%, respectively.

पिछले वर्ष विदेश मंत्रालय का विदेशी मिशनों, प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों और सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति के लिए बजट केवल 7% बढ़ा, लेकिन नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय और दक्षिण एशियाई विश्वविद्यालय के बजट में क्रमशः 20% और 22% की कटौती की गई।

- MEA has invested massively in international conferences and dialogues to foster India's image as a bridging and argumentative power, but more budgetary resources are needed to support policy-relevant research in Indian universities and think tanks.

विदेश मंत्रालय ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलनों और संवादों में भारी निवेश किया है ताकि भारत को एक मध्यस्थ और तर्कशील शक्ति के रूप में स्थापित किया जा सके, लेकिन नीतिगत अनुसंधान को समर्थन देने के लिए भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों और थिंक टैंकों में अधिक बजट की आवश्यकता है।

Need for declassification and digitisation

वर्गीकृत दस्तावेजों को सार्वजनिक करने और डिजिटलीकरण की आवश्यकता

- According to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, "Track 1 has been consistently ahead of Track 2 when it comes to diplomacy, foreign policy, and keeping up with the world."

विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर के अनुसार, "कूटनीति, विदेश नीति और वैश्विक घटनाओं के संदर्भ में ट्रैक 1 हमेशा ट्रैक 2 से आगे रहा है।"

- If this is the reality and "needs change" as the Minister beckoned, the MEA could lead by example by allocating specific resources in the next Budget to accelerate the declassification and digitisation of hundreds of thousands of its records.

यदि यह वास्तविकता है और "बदलाव की आवश्यकता है", जैसा कि मंत्री ने कहा, तो विदेश मंत्रालय अगले बजट में विशिष्ट संसाधन आवंटित कर सकता है ताकि अपने सैकड़ों हजारों दस्तावेजों को सार्वजनिक करने और डिजिटलीकरण की प्रक्रिया तेज की जा सके।

- Public e-access will help scholars map India's rich diplomatic history, contest deeply-held myths, and understand Track 1 decision-making constraints.

सार्वजनिक ई-एक्सेस से विद्वानों को भारत के समृद्ध कूटनीतिक इतिहास को समझने, गहराई से जमी हुई भ्रांतियों को चुनौती देने, और ट्रैक 1 निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रिया की सीमाओं को समझने में मदद मिलेगी।

- Such Track 2 research may also help current MEA decision-makers learn from past successes and failures, avoid reinventing the wheel, and articulate India's uniqueness based on historical records rather than mere political proclamations.

इस प्रकार का ट्रैक 2 अनुसंधान वर्तमान विदेश मंत्रालय के नीति-निर्माताओं को पिछली सफलताओं और विफलताओं से सीखने, पहले से मौजूद संरचनाओं को फिर से विकसित करने से बचने, और



ऐतिहासिक रिकॉर्ड के आधार पर भारत की विशिष्टता को परिभाषित करने में मदद कर सकता है, बजाय केवल राजनीतिक घोषणाओं के।

A case of troubled waters

Many questions have been raised over the **Godavari-Banakacherla project**

GS Paper II: Inter State Dispute

STATE OF PLAY

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The **Andhra Pradesh** government's ambitious plan to link the waters of the Godavari and Krishna has become controversial.

Touted by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu as a "game changer," the Godavari-Banakacherla project aims to provide drinking water to 80 lakh people and ensure an additional 7.5 lakh acres of irrigated land. It is estimated to cost ₹80,112 crore and is expected to be completed in three years.

The **Telangana** government has protested against the project. According to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, if any State wants to build a project on any river in these two States, it must inform the Godavari River Management Board and the Krishna River Management Board as well as the neighbouring State. **Telangana** argues that Andhra Pradesh took up the project without providing this information.

The division of water resources has been a source of friction between **Telangana** and **Andhra Pradesh** ever since the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. **Telangana**, which is upstream, asserts its right to use waters of the Krishna river for projects such as the **Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme**, while **Andhra Pradesh** believes that these initiatives are **detrimental** to the flow downstream and would potentially impact projects such as **Banakacherla**. Both **Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana** refer to the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**, to make their case.

Recalling that the Reorgani-



sation Act provides for project-wise allocation of water between the riparian States, **Telangana** Chief Minister **Revanth Reddy** has also stated that his government would put up a strong case before the **Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II** for the allocation of **Krishna** river water to **Telangana** under **Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act (ISRWDA), 1956**. **Telangana** contends that the Apex Council set up under the Reorganisation Act also supported the claim for allocation of water between **Telangana** and **Andhra Pradesh**, as per **Section 3 of ISRWDA**.

Perhaps expecting such opposition, **Mr. Naidu** chose his words carefully while speaking of the details of the project. He stressed that the **Banakacherla** project involved the "intra-State linking of rivers" and that the interlinking of rivers is the responsibility of the Union government. He argued that as an aqueduct would be used to transfer waters from the Godavari to the **Krishna**, there may not be demands from other co-basin States of the **Krishna** river to share in the supplementation.

The project will be taken up in three segments. The first segment involves diverting water from the **Polavaram** project to the **Krishna** river. In the second segment, the government proposes to construct the **Bollapalli** reservoir

and transfer water. In the third segment, water will be diverted from **Bollapalli** to **Banakacherla**, which will be the gateway to **Rayalaseema**.

Mr. Naidu urged the visiting Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** on January 18 to help **Andhra Pradesh** complete the project. He told the media that he had already discussed the project with Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** during his visit to **Delhi** last December. The ball is now in the **Central** government's court. If the inter-State water disputes are solved, **Andhra Pradesh** will be able to take up the project, which is important to the State and particularly to **Rayalaseema's** drought-prone areas.

The **Andhra Pradesh** government has said that a hybrid model would be adopted for completion of the project and would involve State and Central funding and private partnerships. It clarified that the project will not be under private control and that the government will "pay annuity" to the investors akin to toll collected by the road users. There are apprehensions that the burden of the annuity will be passed on to the farmers. The government should clear the air on this issue before going ahead with the project.

While the State government has embarked on this project, 86 other irrigation projects remain pending in **Andhra Pradesh**. The status on the **Polavaram** project, which is considered the lifeline of **Andhra Pradesh**, remains unclear. If work on the **Banakacherla** project begins, these pending projects as well as the issues relating to the **Polavaram** project are likely to be on the back burner. In the next three to four years, discussions will probably centre around the **Banakacherla** project.

A case of troubled waters पानी की परेशान स्थिति

The **Andhra Pradesh** government's ambitious plan to link the waters of the **Godavari** and **Krishna** has become controversial.

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी योजना, गोदावरी और कृष्णा नदियों के पानी को जोड़ने की, विवादास्पद बन गई है।

- Touted by Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** as a "game changer," the **Godavari-Banakacherla** project aims to provide drinking water to **80 lakh people** and ensure an additional **7.5 lakh acres of irrigated land**.

मुख्यमंत्री चंद्रबाबू नायडू द्वारा इसे "गेम चेंजर" के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, गोदावरी-बनाकाचरला परियोजना का उद्देश्य 80 लाख लोगों को पीने का पानी प्रदान करना और 7.5 लाख एकड़ अतिरिक्त सिंचित भूमि सुनिश्चित करना है।

- It is estimated to cost **₹80,112 crore** and is expected to be completed in **three years**.

इसकी अनुमानित लागत ₹80,112 करोड़ है और इसे तीन वर्षों में पूरा होने की उम्मीद है।

- The **Telangana** government has protested against the project.

तेलंगाना सरकार ने इस परियोजना के खिलाफ

विरोध किया है।



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- According to the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**, if any State wants to build a project on any river in these two States, it must inform the **Godavari River Management Board** and the **Krishna River Management Board** as well as the neighbouring State.
आंध्र प्रदेश पुनर्गठन अधिनियम, 2014 के अनुसार, यदि कोई राज्य इन दोनों राज्यों में से किसी नदी पर परियोजना बनाना चाहता है, तो उसे **गोदावरी नदी प्रबंधन बोर्ड** और **कृष्णा नदी प्रबंधन बोर्ड** के साथ-साथ पड़ोसी राज्य को भी सूचित करना चाहिए।
- Telangana argues that Andhra Pradesh took up the project without providing this information.
तेलंगाना का तर्क है कि आंध्र प्रदेश ने यह परियोजना बिना इस जानकारी को प्रदान किए शुरू की है।
- The division of water resources has been a source of friction between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh ever since the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in **2014**.
जल संसाधनों का विभाजन आंध्र प्रदेश के **2014** में विभाजन के बाद से तेलंगाना और आंध्र प्रदेश के बीच तनाव का कारण रहा है।
- Telangana, which is upstream, asserts its right to use waters of the **Krishna river** for projects such as the **Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme**, while Andhra Pradesh believes that these initiatives are detrimental to the flow downstream and would potentially impact projects such as **Banakacherla**.
तेलंगाना, जो ऊपरी क्षेत्र में है, **कृष्णा नदी** के पानी का उपयोग परियोजनाओं जैसे **पालामुरु-रंगारेड्डी लिफ्ट सिंचाई योजना** के लिए करने का अपना अधिकार जताता है, जबकि आंध्र प्रदेश का मानना है कि ये पहलकदमी निचले क्षेत्रों में प्रवाह को नुकसान पहुँचाती हैं और **बनाकाचेरला** जैसी परियोजनाओं को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।
- Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana refer to the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**, to make their case.
आंध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगाना दोनों अपनी बात रखने के लिए **आंध्र प्रदेश पुनर्गठन अधिनियम, 2014** का संदर्भ देते हैं।
- Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has stated that his government would put up a strong case before the **Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II** for the allocation of **Krishna river water** to Telangana under **Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act (ISRWDA), 1956**.
तेलंगाना के मुख्यमंत्री रेवंत रेड्डी ने कहा है कि उनकी सरकार **कृष्णा जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण-II** के सामने **कृष्णा नदी के पानी** के वितरण के लिए एक मजबूत मामला प्रस्तुत करेगी, जो **इंटर-स्टेट रिवर वाटर डिस्प्यूट्स एक्ट (ISRWDA), 1956** की धारा 3 के तहत होगा।
- Telangana contends that the **Apex Council** set up under the Reorganisation Act also supported the claim for allocation of water between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, as per **Section 3 of ISRWDA**.
तेलंगाना का तर्क है कि पुनर्गठन अधिनियम के तहत स्थापित **एपेक्स काउंसिल** ने भी तेलंगाना और आंध्र प्रदेश के बीच जल वितरण के लिए **ISRWDA की धारा 3** के अनुसार दावे का समर्थन किया है।

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- Mr. Naidu stressed that the Banakacherla project involved the “**intra-State linking of rivers**” and that the interlinking of rivers is the responsibility of the **Union government**.
श्री नायडू ने जोर दिया कि बनाकाचेरला परियोजना में “**राज्य के भीतर नदियों का जोड़**” शामिल है और नदियों का आपसी जोड़ **केंद्र सरकार** की जिम्मेदारी है।
- He argued that as an aqueduct would be used to transfer waters from the **Godavari to the Krishna**, there may not be demands from other co-basin States of the Krishna river to share in the supplementation.
उन्होंने तर्क किया कि क्योंकि **गोदावरी से कृष्णा** तक पानी को स्थानांतरित करने के लिए एक जलवाहिनी का उपयोग किया जाएगा, ऐसे में कृष्णा नदी के अन्य सह-बेसिन राज्यों से इसके पूरक जल को साझा करने की कोई मांग नहीं हो सकती है।
- The project will be taken up in three segments.
परियोजना को तीन भागों में लिया जाएगा।
- The first segment involves diverting water from the **Polavaram project** to the Krishna river.
पहला खंड **पोलावरम परियोजना** से कृष्णा नदी में पानी मोड़ने से संबंधित है।
- In the second segment, the government proposes to construct the **Bollapalli reservoir** and transfer water.
दूसरे खंड में, सरकार **बोल्लापल्ली जलाशय** का निर्माण करने और पानी स्थानांतरित करने का प्रस्ताव करती है।
- In the third segment, water will be diverted from **Bollapalli to Banakacherla**, which will be the gateway to **Royalaseema**.
तीसरे खंड में, पानी **बोल्लापल्ली से बनाकाचेरला** में स्थानांतरित किया जाएगा, जो **रायलसीमा** का प्रवेश द्वार होगा।
- Mr. Naidu urged the visiting **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** on **January 18**, to help Andhra Pradesh complete the project.
श्री नायडू ने **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह** से **18 जनवरी** को आग्रह किया कि वे आंध्र प्रदेश को परियोजना पूरी करने में मदद करें।
- He had already discussed the project with **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** during his visit to Delhi last **December**.
उन्होंने पिछले **दिसंबर** में दिल्ली यात्रा के दौरान इस परियोजना पर **केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण** से पहले ही चर्चा की थी।
- The ball is now in the **Central government's court**.
अब गेंद **केंद्र सरकार** के पाले में है।
- If the inter-State water disputes are solved, Andhra Pradesh will be able to take up the project, which is important to the State and particularly to **Royalaseema's drought-prone areas**.
यदि अंतर-राज्य जल विवाद हल हो जाते हैं, तो आंध्र प्रदेश इस परियोजना को शुरू करने में सक्षम होगा, जो राज्य और विशेष रूप से **रायलसीमा के सूखा-प्रवण क्षेत्रों** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The Andhra Pradesh government has said that a **hybrid model** would be adopted for completion of the project and would involve **State and Central funding** and **private**



partnerships.

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने कहा है कि परियोजना को पूरा करने के लिए **हाइब्रिड मॉडल** अपनाया जाएगा और इसमें **राज्य और केंद्रीय वित्तपोषण** और **निजी साझेदारी** शामिल होंगी।

- It clarified that the project will not be under **private control** and that the government will “pay annuity” to the investors akin to **toll** collected by road users.
इसने स्पष्ट किया कि परियोजना **निजी नियंत्रण** में नहीं होगी और सरकार निवेशकों को "एन्युटी" देगी, जैसे कि सड़क उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा **टोल** वसूला जाता है।
- There are apprehensions that the burden of the annuity will be passed on to the farmers. चिंताएं हैं कि एन्युटी का बोझ किसानों पर डाला जाएगा।
- The government should clear the air on this issue before going ahead with the project. सरकार को परियोजना को आगे बढ़ाने से पहले इस मुद्दे पर स्थिति स्पष्ट करनी चाहिए।
- While the State government has embarked on this project, **86 other irrigation projects** remain pending in Andhra Pradesh.

जबकि राज्य सरकार ने इस परियोजना को शुरू किया है, आंध्र प्रदेश में **86 अन्य सिंचाई परियोजनाएं** लंबित हैं।

- The status on the **Polavaram project**, which is considered the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh, remains unclear.

पोलावरम परियोजना की स्थिति, जिसे आंध्र प्रदेश की जीवनरेखा माना जाता है, अस्पष्ट बनी हुई है।

- If work on the Banakacherla project begins, these pending projects as well as the issues relating to the Polavaram project are likely to be on the back burner.

यदि बनाकाचेरला परियोजना पर कार्य शुरू होता है, तो ये लंबित परियोजनाएं और पोलावरम परियोजना से संबंधित मुद्दे संभवतः प्राथमिकता से बाहर हो जाएंगे।

- In the next **three to four years**, discussions will probably centre around the Banakacherla project.

अगले **तीन से चार वर्षों** में, चर्चाएँ संभवतः बनाकाचेरला परियोजना के चारों ओर केंद्रित होंगी।



Is Trump's order on birthright citizenship constitutional?

GS Paper II: India-US

What does the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution state? On what grounds has U.S. District judge John Coughenour blocked President Trump's executive order?

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

In January 23, U.S. District judge John Coughenour in Seattle blocked President Trump's executive order attempting to curb 'birthright citizenship'.

What is birthright citizenship?

Birthright citizenship is a legal principle that grants automatic citizenship to individuals born within a country's territory, regardless of their parents' citizenship status. In the U.S., this right is enshrined in the 14th amendment of the Constitution, ratified in 1868, which states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." The 14th amendment was the hard-won result of a prolonged legal

and political struggle to abolish slavery and advance racial equality. It directly overturned the infamous *Dred Scott versus Sandford* (1857) judgment, which had denied citizenship to African Americans.

Nations worldwide largely determine citizenship through two principles – "jus soli" (right of the soil), which grants citizenship by birthplace, or "jus sanguinis" (right of blood), which grants it by familial descent. The U.S. employs both. The jus soli principle was reinforced in *United States versus Wong Kim Ark* (1898), which upheld the citizenship of a man born in California to Chinese parents despite the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act barring their naturalisation. This ruling solidified birth in the U.S. as the primary basis for citizenship, irrespective of parental status.

What does Trump's order say?

Trump's executive order reinterprets the

14th amendment, arguing that birthright citizenship excludes persons born in the U.S. but not "subject to the jurisdiction thereof". The administration interprets this to mean that children born in the U.S. to undocumented parents or parents with temporary legal status, such as tourists or foreign students, are not automatically granted citizenship unless at least one parent is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.

The administration's interpretation hinges on the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof," claiming it excludes children of non-citizens. However, this contradicts historical and legal precedent. The order also narrowly defines "mother" and "father" as "female biological progenitor" and "male biological progenitor," excluding transgender and queer parents from its scope. The administration justifies the order as necessary, arguing that birthright

citizenship encourages 'unauthorised immigration', draining 'public resources'.

Why did the judge block the order?

U.S. District judge John Coughenour issued a temporary restraining order halting the enforcement of the executive order, nationwide. He described the order as "blatantly unconstitutional", remarking, "I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented was as clear as this one is".

During a hearing in Seattle, Judge Coughenour questioned Justice Department attorney Brett Shumate, expressing his disbelief saying "Frankly, I have difficulty understanding how a member of the bar could state unequivocally that this is a constitutional order. It just boggles my mind". The ruling came in response to a legal challenge brought forth by four States.

President Trump could also pursue a 'constitutional amendment' to revise the law. According to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, an amendment can be proposed by two-thirds of both houses of Congress or two-thirds of the States and must then be ratified by three-fourths of the States. Meanwhile, other legal challenges are underway, signalling that the final resolution may ultimately rest with the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Trump's order on birthright citizenship constitutional?

क्या ट्रंप का आदेश जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता पर संवैधानिक है?

On January 23, U.S. District Judge John Coughenour in Seattle blocked President Trump's executive order attempting to curb 'birthright citizenship'.

23 जनवरी को, अमेरिका के जिला न्यायाधीश जॉन काफ़ेनॉर ने सिएटल में राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप के कार्यकारी आदेश को अवरुद्ध कर दिया, जो 'जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता' को सीमित करने का प्रयास कर रहा था।

What is birthright citizenship?

जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता क्या है?

- Birthright citizenship is a legal principle that grants automatic citizenship to individuals born within a country's territory, regardless of their parents' citizenship status.

जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता एक कानूनी सिद्धांत है जो किसी देश की सीमा में जन्मे व्यक्तियों को

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स्वचालित रूप से नागरिकता प्रदान करता है, चाहे उनके माता-पिता की नागरिकता की स्थिति कुछ भी हो।

- In the U.S., this right is enshrined in the **14th amendment** of the Constitution, ratified in 1868, which states: “**All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.**”

अमेरिका में, यह अधिकार संविधान के 14वें संशोधन में निहित है, जिसे 1868 में मंजूरी दी गई थी, जिसमें कहा गया है: “सभी व्यक्ति जो संयुक्त राज्य में जन्मे या प्राकृतिकृत हैं और वहां के अधिकार क्षेत्र के अधीन हैं, संयुक्त राज्य और जिस राज्य में वे रहते हैं, के नागरिक हैं।”

- The **14th amendment** was the result of a prolonged legal and political struggle to abolish **slavery** and advance **racial equality**.

14वां संशोधन एक लंबी कानूनी और राजनीतिक संघर्ष का परिणाम था, जिसका उद्देश्य दासप्रथा को समाप्त करना और **जातीय समानता** को बढ़ावा देना था।

- It directly overturned the infamous **Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)** judgment, which had denied citizenship to **African Americans**.

इसने सीधे तौर पर कुख्यात **ड्रेड स्कॉट बनाम सैंडफोर्ड (1857)** फैसले को पलट दिया था, जिसमें **अफ्रीकी अमेरिकियों** को नागरिकता से वंचित किया गया था।

- Nations worldwide largely determine citizenship through two principles — ‘**jus soli**’ (right of the soil), which grants citizenship by birthplace, or ‘**jus sanguinis**’ (right of blood), which grants it by familial descent.

दुनिया भर के देश नागरिकता निर्धारित करने के लिए दो प्रमुख सिद्धांतों का पालन करते हैं – ‘**जस सोलि**’ (भूमि का अधिकार), जो जन्म स्थान के आधार पर नागरिकता प्रदान करता है, या ‘**जस सॉंग्विनिस**’ (रक्त का अधिकार), जो पारिवारिक वंश पर आधारित है।

- The **U.S.** employs both. The **jus soli principle** was reinforced in **United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)**, which upheld the citizenship of a man born in **California** to **Chinese parents** despite the **1882 Chinese Exclusion Act** barring their naturalization. **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** दोनों का पालन करता है। **जस सोलि सिद्धांत** को **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका बनाम वांग किम अर्क (1898)** में मजबूत किया गया था, जिसमें **कैलिफोर्निया** में जन्मे एक व्यक्ति की नागरिकता की पुष्टि की गई, जिनके **चीनी माता-पिता** थे, भले ही **1882 चीनी निषेध अधिनियम** ने उनकी प्राकृतिककरण पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया था।

What does Trump’s order say?

ट्रंप के आदेश में क्या कहा गया है?

- Trump’s executive order reinterprets the **14th amendment**, arguing that birthright citizenship excludes persons born in the U.S. but not ‘**subject to the jurisdiction thereof**’.

ट्रंप का कार्यकारी आदेश **14वें संशोधन** की पुनर्व्याख्या करता है, यह तर्क करते हुए कि जन्मसिद्ध



नागरिकता उन व्यक्तियों को शामिल नहीं करती जो अमेरिका में जन्मे हैं, लेकिन 'उसके अधिकार क्षेत्र के अधीन नहीं हैं'।

- The administration interprets this to mean that children born in the U.S. to **undocumented parents** or parents with **temporary legal status**, such as tourists or foreign students, are not automatically granted citizenship unless at least one parent is a **U.S. citizen** or lawful permanent resident.

प्रशासन इसका अर्थ यह निकालता है कि अमेरिका में जन्मे बच्चे, जिनके माता-पिता **गैरकानूनी** या **अस्थायी कानूनी स्थिति** वाले हैं, जैसे पर्यटक या विदेशी छात्र, उन्हें स्वचालित रूप से नागरिकता नहीं मिलती, जब तक कि उनमें से कम से कम एक माता-पिता **अमेरिकी नागरिक** या कानूनी स्थायी निवासी न हो।

- The administration's interpretation hinges on the phrase "**subject to the jurisdiction thereof**," claiming it excludes children of **non-citizens**.
प्रशासन की व्याख्या "उसके अधिकार क्षेत्र के अधीन" वाक्य पर आधारित है, यह दावा करते हुए कि यह **गैर-नागरिकों** के बच्चों को बाहर करता है।
- However, this contradicts historical and legal **precedent**.
हालांकि, यह ऐतिहासिक और कानूनी **पूर्ववर्ती** के विपरीत है।
- The order also narrowly defines "mother" and "father" as "**female biological progenitor**" and "**male biological progenitor**," excluding transgender and queer parents from its scope.

आदेश में "माँ" और "पिता" को "महिला जैविक उत्पत्ति" और "पुरुष जैविक उत्पत्ति" के रूप में संकुचित रूप से परिभाषित किया गया है, जिससे ट्रांसजेंडर और क्वीयर माता-पिता इससे बाहर हो जाते हैं।

- The administration justifies the order as necessary, arguing that **birthright citizenship encourages 'unauthorized immigration'**, draining '**public resources**'.
प्रशासन इस आदेश को आवश्यक बताते हुए इसका औचित्य सिद्ध करता है, यह तर्क करते हुए कि **जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता 'अनधिकृत आप्रवास'** को बढ़ावा देती है, जिससे '**सार्वजनिक संसाधन**' का दोहन होता है।

Why did the judge block the order?

न्यायाधीश ने आदेश क्यों अवरुद्ध किया?

- **U.S. District Judge John Coughenour** issued a **temporary restraining order** halting the enforcement of the executive order, nationwide.

संयुक्त राज्य जिला न्यायाधीश जॉन काफेनॉर ने कार्यकारी आदेश के प्रवर्तन को पूरे देश में रोकने के लिए एक **अस्थायी रोक आदेश** जारी किया।

- He described the order as "**blatantly unconstitutional**," remarking, "I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented was as clear as this one is."

उन्होंने आदेश को "**स्पष्ट रूप से असंवैधानिक**" बताया, और टिप्पणी की, "मैंने चार दशकों से



अधिक समय तक न्यायधीश के रूप में काम किया है। मुझे ऐसा कोई और मामला याद नहीं है जहां सवाल इतना स्पष्ट हो।”

- During a hearing in Seattle, Judge Coughenour questioned **Justice Department attorney Brett Shumate**, expressing his disbelief saying “Frankly, I have difficulty understanding how a member of the bar could state unequivocally that this is a constitutional order. It just boggles my mind.”

सिएटल में एक सुनवाई के दौरान, न्यायाधीश काफ़ेनॉर ने न्याय विभाग के वकील ब्रेस्ट शूमेट से सवाल किया, और अविश्वास व्यक्त करते हुए कहा, “ईमानदारी से, मुझे यह समझने में कठिनाई हो रही है कि एक कानूनी सदस्य यह कैसे स्पष्ट रूप से कह सकता है कि यह संवैधानिक आदेश है। यह मेरी समझ से बाहर है।”

- The ruling came in response to a legal challenge brought forth by four States. यह निर्णय चार राज्यों द्वारा उठाए गए कानूनी चुनौती के जवाब में आया।
- President Trump could also pursue a ‘**constitutional amendment**’ to revise the law. According to **Article V of the U.S. Constitution**, an amendment can be proposed by two-thirds of both houses of **Congress** or two-thirds of the **States** and must then be ratified by three-fourths of the States.

राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप संविधान संशोधन के लिए भी प्रयास कर सकते हैं। संविधान के अनुच्छेद V के अनुसार, संशोधन को कांग्रेस के दोनों सदनों के दो-तिहाई या राज्यों के दो-तिहाई द्वारा प्रस्तावित किया जा सकता है और फिर इसे राज्यों के तीन-चौथाई द्वारा अनुमोदित किया जाना चाहिए।

- Meanwhile, other **legal challenges** are underway, signaling that the final resolution may ultimately rest with the **U.S. Supreme Court**.

इस बीच, अन्य कानूनी चुनौतियाँ चल रही हैं, जो संकेत देती हैं कि अंतिम समाधान अंततः संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका उच्च न्यायालय में होगा।



Choice of secular inheritance law should apply to all faiths, says CJI

GS Paper II: Inheritance

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday orally observed that the freedom to become a non-believer and choose to be governed by secular inheritance laws of the country must apply across faiths.

The Chief Justice's observation came while hearing a petition filed by a Kerala-based woman, Safiya P.M., who said that though born a Muslim, she was now a non-believer and wished to be governed by secular statutes like the Indian Succession Act rather than the Sharia law.

"If it is to apply to one faith, it must apply to all faiths," Chief Justice Khanna, who was heading the Bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan, said.

The CJI, at one point, observed that "under the Hindu Succession Act, if you convert, your inheritance is taken away... if you convert, you lose your right of inheritance".

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union of India, said one could still inherit through a Will irrespective of the restrictions in the Hindu Succession Act.

However, the Chief Jus-

ice said there were also situations of intestate successions and even the Joint Hindu Family property.

'Give time for response'

Mr. Mehta agreed that the petition posed an interesting question and the Union government must be given time to file a considered response in the form of a counter-affidavit.

Chief Justice Khanna indicated that if the petition succeeded, changes in official forms would have to be considered. "Where [in a form] you have to mention your religion, the option not to mention one's religion must be there."

Ms. Safiya said that a person who left faith in Islam would be ousted from community and was not entitled to any inheritance right in parental property.

The petition noted that the legal vacuum would leave the petitioner with no recourse to succeed to her parental property even if she officially got a no-religion, no-caste certificate from an authority. This state of affairs was a direct violation of the fundamental right to believe (or not to believe) in a religion under Article 25 of the Constitution, Advocate Prashant Padmanabhan, appearing for Ms. Safiya argued.

Choice of Secular Inheritance Law Should Apply to All Faiths, Says CJI

सभी धर्मों पर लागू होनी चाहिए धर्मनिरपेक्ष उत्तराधिकार कानून की पसंद, सीजेआई का बयान

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday orally observed that the freedom to become a non-believer and choose to be governed by secular inheritance laws of the country must apply across all faiths.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) संजीव खन्ना ने मंगलवार को मौखिक रूप से कहा कि अविश्वासी बनने की स्वतंत्रता और देश के धर्मनिरपेक्ष उत्तराधिकार कानूनों द्वारा शासित होने का अधिकार सभी धर्मों पर लागू होना चाहिए।



- The observation came while hearing a petition filed by **Saitya P. M., a Kerala-based woman**, who said that though born a **Muslim**, she was now a **non-believer** and wished to be governed by **secular statutes** like the **Indian Succession Act** rather than **Sharia law**.
यह टिप्पणी उस समय आई जब केरल की **सत्या पी. एम.** नामक महिला द्वारा दायर एक याचिका पर सुनवाई हो रही थी। उन्होंने कहा कि हालांकि वह **मुस्लिम** पैदा हुई थीं, लेकिन अब वह **अविश्वासी** हैं और **शरिया कानून** के बजाय **भारतीय उत्तराधिकार अधिनियम** जैसे **धर्मनिरपेक्ष कानूनों** द्वारा शासित होना चाहती हैं।
- **CJI Khanna**, heading a Bench comprising **Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan**, remarked that "**if it is to apply to one faith, it must apply to all faiths.**"
CJI खन्ना, जो **न्यायमूर्ति संजय कुमार और के. वी. विश्वनाथन** की पीठ का नेतृत्व कर रहे थे, ने कहा कि "**यदि यह एक धर्म पर लागू होता है, तो यह सभी धर्मों पर लागू होना चाहिए।**"
- The CJI further observed that **under the Hindu Succession Act, conversion leads to loss of inheritance rights.**
CJI ने आगे कहा कि **हिंदू उत्तराधिकार अधिनियम** के तहत, यदि कोई धर्म परिवर्तन करता है, तो उसकी **विरासत का अधिकार समाप्त हो जाता है।**
- **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta**, representing the **Union of India**, argued that one could still **inherit through a Will**, regardless of the restrictions in the **Hindu Succession Act**.
सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता, जो **भारत सरकार** का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे, ने तर्क दिया कि **हिंदू उत्तराधिकार अधिनियम** में प्रतिबंधों के बावजूद, कोई व्यक्ति **वसीयत के माध्यम से विरासत प्राप्त कर सकता है।**
- However, the **CJI pointed out that issues also arise in cases of intestate succession and Joint Hindu Family property.**
हालांकि, **CJI ने यह भी कहा कि बिना वसीयत के उत्तराधिकार और संयुक्त हिंदू परिवार संपत्ति के मामलों में भी समस्याएं उत्पन्न होती हैं।**
- **Union government sought time to file a counter-affidavit**, agreeing that the petition raised an **interesting constitutional question.**
केंद्र सरकार ने प्रतिवाद हलफनामा दाखिल करने के लिए समय मांगा, यह स्वीकार करते हुए कि याचिका ने एक **महत्वपूर्ण संवैधानिक प्रश्न** उठाया है।
- **CJI Khanna suggested changes in official forms**, stating that there should be an **option to not mention one's religion.**
CJI खन्ना ने आधिकारिक प्रपत्रों में बदलाव का सुझाव दिया, यह कहते हुए कि वहां **धर्म का उल्लेख न करने का विकल्प होना चाहिए।**
- **Ms. Saitya argued that leaving Islam results in being ousted from the community and losing inheritance rights.**
सुश्री सत्या ने तर्क दिया कि इस्लाम छोड़ने से समुदाय से बाहर कर दिया जाता है और उत्तराधिकार अधिकार समाप्त हो जाते हैं।
- The petition contended that this **legal vacuum violates the fundamental right under Article 25 of the Indian Constitution** to believe or not believe in any religion.



याचिका में कहा गया कि यह कानूनी शून्यता भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 25 के तहत मौलिक अधिकार का उल्लंघन करती है, जो किसी भी धर्म में विश्वास करने या न करने की स्वतंत्रता देता है।

SC's journey reflects evolution in rights and reach, says CJI

Seventy-five years have transformed the top court and yet it stands anchored in its foundational mission, he says at the Ceremonial Bench

[GS Paper II: Constitutional Philosophy](#)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, speaking at the Ceremonial Bench held to commemorate the closure of the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Supreme Court on Tuesday, said the three challenges before the court are pendency which continues to delay justice, mounting litigation costs and, the most fundamental of them all, practice of falsehood.

"While the court's journey reflects remarkable evolution in rights and reach, three challenges demand our attention. First, the weight of arrears which continues to delay justice. Second, mounting costs of litigation threatens true accessibility. Third, and perhaps most fundamentally - justice cannot thrive where and when falsehood is practised. These challenges mark the next frontier in our pursuit for justice," Chief Justice Khanna said in his formal address at the head of the Ceremonial Bench.

The Bench comprised all the serving judges of the Supreme Court. It was held in the Chief Justice of India's courtroom. Senior Bar leaders, including Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior advocate Kapil Sibal, senior advocates C. Vaidyanathan and Dushyant Dave and Su-



Transformation reflects a deeper recognition - that justice must be both principled and practical. In doing so, it makes the constitutional promise of justice a living reality for millions of Indians
CJI SANJIV KHANNA
Supreme Court

preme Court Advocates-on-Record Association president advocate Vipin Nair were in attendance among others in the packed courtroom.

Seventy-five years have both transformed the Supreme Court and yet it stands anchored in its foundational mission, he said.

"This transformation reflects a deeper recognition - that justice must be both principled and practical. In doing so, it makes the constitutional promise of justice - social, economic, and political - a living reality for millions of Indians," Chief Justice Khanna said.

'Evolving role'

The CJI said the two decades of the 21st century stand as a testament to the Supreme Court's evolving role in our constitutional framework. No other apex court had navigated such an expansive domain, from personal liberty to environmental issues, from intellectual property rights to privacy to the right to information.

Chief Justice Khanna

said the evolution began with strengthening electoral democracy by establishing voters' right to information about candidates as an extension to freedom of expression, which included the right to impart and receive information.

The court dismantled gender stereotypes in employment. It recognised emerging digital rights as a new frontier of constitutional protection and struck down vague restrictions on online speech, extending constitutional safeguards to digital spaces.

In socio-economic justice, it broadened affirmative action to include economic criteria, recognising diverse forms of disadvantage in modern society, the CJI noted.

The court's decisions have strengthened India's economic landscape by injecting clarity, efficiency and fairness - be it the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act or strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, he added.

SC's journey reflects evolution in rights and reach, says CJI

सीजेआई का कहना है कि SC की यात्रा अधिकारों और पहुंच में विकास को दर्शाती है

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, speaking at the Ceremonial Bench held to commemorate the closure of the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Supreme Court, said the three challenges before the court are pendency, which continues to delay justice, mounting litigation costs, and the most fundamental of them all, practice of falsehood.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना ने मंगलवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट के डायमंड जुबली वर्ष के समापन पर आयोजित शास्त्रीय बेंच में कहा कि कोर्ट के सामने तीन प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ हैं - लंबित मामले, जो न्याय में देरी का कारण बनते हैं, मूल्यांकन बढ़ते मुकदमे खर्च, और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण, झूठ का अभ्यास।

• "While the court's journey reflects remarkable evolution in rights and reach, three challenges demand our attention. First, the weight of arrears which continues to delay justice. Second, mounting costs of litigation threaten true



accessibility. Third, and perhaps most fundamentally – justice cannot thrive where and when falsehood is practiced. These challenges mark the next frontier in our pursuit for justice,” Chief Justice Khanna said.

"जबकि न्यायालय की यात्रा अधिकारों और पहुंच में उल्लेखनीय विकास को दर्शाती है, तीन प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ हमारे ध्यान की मांग करती हैं। पहली, लंबित मामलों का बोझ जो न्याय में देरी का कारण बनता है। दूसरी, मुकदमों के बढ़ते खर्च वास्तविक पहुंच को खतरे में डालते हैं। तीसरी, और शायद सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात - न्याय वहां नहीं पनप सकता जहां और जब झूठ का अभ्यास किया जाता है। ये चुनौतियाँ न्याय की हमारी खोज में अगला मोर्चा निर्धारित करती हैं," मुख्य न्यायाधीश खन्ना ने कहा।

- The Bench comprised all the serving judges of the Supreme Court. It was held in the **Chief Justice of India's courtroom**.
बेंच में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सभी वर्तमान न्यायाधीश शामिल थे। यह भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश के कक्ष में आयोजित किया गया था।
- Seventy-five years have both transformed the Supreme Court and yet it stands anchored in its foundational mission, Chief Justice Khanna said.
पचहत्तर वर्षों ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को बदला है और फिर भी यह अपनी मूलभूत मिशन में अडिग खड़ा है, मुख्य न्यायाधीश खन्ना ने कहा।
- "This transformation reflects a deeper recognition – that justice must be both principled and practical. In doing so, it makes the constitutional promise of justice – **social, economic, and political** – a living reality for millions of Indians," Chief Justice Khanna said.
"यह परिवर्तन एक गहरे पहचान को दर्शाता है - कि न्याय को सिद्धांतपूर्ण और व्यावहारिक दोनों होना चाहिए। ऐसा करने से, यह संविधानिक वादे को - सामाजिक, आर्थिक, और राजनीतिक - लाखों भारतीयों के लिए एक जीवित वास्तविकता बनाता है," मुख्य न्यायाधीश खन्ना ने कहा।
- The CJI said the two decades of the 21st century stand as a testament to the Supreme Court's evolving role in our constitutional framework.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि 21वीं सदी के दो दशक सुप्रीम कोर्ट की संविधानिक ढांचे में विकसित भूमिका का गवाह हैं।
- No other apex court had navigated such an expansive domain, from **personal liberty to environmental issues**, from **intellectual property rights to privacy to the right to information**.
किसी और शीर्ष अदालत ने व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता से लेकर पर्यावरणीय मुद्दों, बौद्धिक संपत्ति अधिकारों से लेकर गोपनीयता और सूचना के अधिकार तक के इस विस्तृत क्षेत्र को नहीं संभाला।
- Chief Justice Khanna said the evolution began with strengthening **electoral democracy** by establishing voters' **right to information** about candidates as an extension to **freedom of expression**, which included the **right to impart and receive information**.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश खन्ना ने कहा कि यह विकास चुनावी लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करने से शुरू हुआ, जिसमें उम्मीदवारों के बारे में मतदाताओं के सूचना के अधिकार की स्थापना की गई, जो



अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता का विस्तार था, जिसमें सूचना प्रदान करने और प्राप्त करने का अधिकार शामिल था।

- The court dismantled **gender stereotypes in employment**.

कोर्ट ने रोजगार में लिंग भेदभाव को समाप्त किया।

- It recognised **emerging digital rights** as a new frontier of constitutional protection and struck down vague restrictions on **online speech**, extending constitutional safeguards to **digital spaces**.

इसने उभरते डिजिटल अधिकारों को संविधानिक सुरक्षा के एक नए मोर्चे के रूप में मान्यता दी और ऑनलाइन भाषण पर अस्पष्ट प्रतिबंधों को निरस्त किया, जिससे संविधानिक सुरक्षा डिजिटल स्थानों तक बढ़ी।

- In socio-economic justice, it broadened **affirmative action** to include **economic criteria**, recognising diverse forms of **disadvantage** in modern society, the CJI noted.

सामाजिक-आर्थिक न्याय में, इसने सकारात्मक कार्रवाई को आर्थिक मापदंड को शामिल करने के लिए विस्तारित किया, आधुनिक समाज में विभिन्न प्रकार के नुकसान को पहचानते हुए, मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने नोट किया।

- The court's decisions have strengthened **India's economic landscape** by injecting clarity, efficiency, and fairness – be it the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**, the **Arbitration and Conciliation Act** or strengthening **alternative dispute resolution mechanisms**, he added.

कोर्ट के निर्णयों ने भारत के आर्थिक परिदृश्य को स्पष्टता, दक्षता, और निष्पक्षता से सशक्त किया है - चाहे वह दिवाला और ऋण शोधन संहिता, मध्यस्थता और सुलह अधिनियम हो या वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान तंत्रों को मजबूत करना, उन्होंने जोड़ा।

Lab holding
Ebola sample
in Goma is at
risk: Red Cross

Lab holding Ebola sample in Goma is at risk: Red Cross गोमा में इबोला सैंपल रखने वाली लैब जोखिम में है: रेड क्रॉस

The Red Cross voiced alarm on Tuesday over the risk that fighting in the DR Congo city of Goma could cause samples of Ebola and other pathogens held in a laboratory to escape.

रेड क्रॉस ने मंगलवार को डीआर कांगो के गोमा शहर में चल रहे संघर्ष के कारण लैब में रखे इबोला और अन्य पैथोजेन्स के सैंपल के लीक होने का जोखिम जताया।

- The Red Cross is “very concerned about the situation in the laboratory of the **national biomedical research institute**, which is facing a risk of **power cuts**,” said ICRC regional director for Africa Patrick Youssef.

रेड क्रॉस ने कहा कि वह राष्ट्रीय जैव चिकित्सा अनुसंधान संस्थान की लैब की स्थिति को लेकर

GS Paper II:
International
Organization

The Red Cross voiced alarm on Tuesday over the risk that fighting in the DR Congo city of Goma could cause samples of Ebola and other pathogens held in a laboratory to escape.

The Red Cross is “very concerned about the situation in the laboratory of the national biomedical research institute, which is facing a risk of power cuts”, ICRC regional director for Africa Patrick Youssef said.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, he warned of “unimaginable consequences if the (samples), including the Ebola virus, that it contains were to spread.”



बहुत चिंतित है, जहां बिजली कटौती का जोखिम है, यह बयान आईसीआरसी के अफ्रीका क्षेत्रीय निदेशक पैट्रिक यूसुफ ने दिया।

- Speaking to reporters in **Geneva**, he warned of “**unimaginable consequences**” if the (samples), including the **Ebola virus**, that it contains were to spread.

जिनेवा में रिपोर्टरों से बात करते हुए, उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि अगर लैब में मौजूद इबोला वायरस सहित सैंपल फैलते हैं तो इसके परिणाम “कल्पनातीत” हो सकते हैं।

Troops battle **Rwanda-backed rebels** as protests erupt in **Congo's capital**

Demonstrators attack several foreign embassies, including those of Rwanda, France and Belgium; UN says humanitarian situation in Goma is extremely worrying with a hospital coming under attack, killing newborns and pregnant women

GS Paper II: Africa

Associated Press

GOMA

Security forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were fighting on Tuesday against Rwanda-backed rebels who advanced into a key eastern city in a major escalation of a decades-long conflict.

Residents reported gunfire overnight in Goma, a city of 2 million people which the rebels claimed to have captured on Monday. Explosions and gunfire were heard near the now-shut Goma airport.

Goma is a regional trade and humanitarian hub



Chaos unfolds: People protest in Kinshasa on Tuesday against M23 rebels' advance into the city of Goma in Congo's east. AP

holding hundreds of thousands of the more than 6 million people displaced by eastern Congo's prolonged conflict over ethnic

tensions.

Dozens of demonstrators attacked several foreign embassies, including those of Rwanda, France

and Belgium, on Tuesday demanding that they oppose the advance of **M23 rebels into Goma**. Police fired teargas at the protesters as they marched to the embassies in Kinshasa, looting and setting fires to parts of the buildings. The embassies of Kenya and Uganda were also attacked.

The humanitarian situation in Goma “is extremely worrying, with a new threshold of violence and suffering reached today,” Bruno Lemarquis, the United Nations humanitarian coordinator for Congo, told reporters on Monday.

There were active combat zones in all areas of the

city, with civilians taking cover and heavy artillery fire directed at the city center on Monday, Mr. Lemarquis said. He said several shells struck the Charité Maternelle Hospital in central Goma, “killing and injuring civilians, including newborns and pregnant women.”

Three South African peacekeepers were killed on Monday, while a fourth soldier succumbed to injuries sustained in fighting days ago. That makes 17 peacekeepers and foreign soldiers who have been killed in the fighting, according to UN and Army officials.

Troops battle **Rwanda-backed rebels** as protests erupt in **Congo's capital**

रवांडा समर्थित विद्रोहियों से लड़ते हुए सैनिकों और कांगो की राजधानी में विरोध प्रदर्शन

Security forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were fighting on Tuesday against Rwanda-backed rebels who advanced into a key eastern city in a major escalation of a decadeslong conflict.



डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ कांगो की सुरक्षा बल मंगलवार को रवांडा समर्थित विद्रोहियों से लड़ रहे थे, जो एक प्रमुख पूर्वी शहर में घुस आए थे, यह दशकों पुराने संघर्ष में एक बड़ी वृद्धि थी।

- **Residents** reported **gunfire** overnight in **Goma**, a city of **2 million people** which the rebels claimed to have captured on **Monday**. **Explosions** and **gunfire** were heard near the now-shut **Goma airport**.
निवासियों ने गोमा में रातभर बंदूक की गोलियां चलने की सूचना दी, यह शहर जिसकी 2 मिलियन लोग की आबादी है, विद्रोहियों ने सोमवार को कब्जा करने का दावा किया। विस्फोट और बंदूक की गोलियां अब बंद हो चुके गोमा हवाई अड्डे के पास सुनाई दीं।
- **Goma** is a **regional trade and humanitarian hub** holding hundreds of thousands of the more than **6 million people displaced** by **eastern Congo's prolonged conflict** over ethnic tensions.
गोमा एक क्षेत्रीय व्यापार और मानवीय केंद्र है, जो 6 मिलियन से अधिक विस्थापित लोगों में से सैकड़ों हजारों को रखता है, जो पूर्वी कांगो के लंबे समय से चले आ रहे संघर्ष के कारण विस्थापित हुए हैं।
- **Dozens of demonstrators** attacked several foreign embassies, including those of **Rwanda, France, and Belgium**, on **Tuesday** demanding that they oppose the advance of **M23 rebels** into **Goma**.
दर्जनों प्रदर्शनकारियों ने मंगलवार को रवांडा, फ्रांस और बेल्जियम सहित कई विदेशी दूतावासों पर हमला किया, यह मांग करते हुए कि वे गोमा में **M23 विद्रोहियों** की आक्रमण का विरोध करें।
- **Police** fired **teargas** at the protesters as they marched to the embassies in **Kinshasa**, looting and setting fires to parts of the buildings. The embassies of **Kenya** and **Uganda** were also attacked.
पुलिस ने प्रदर्शनकारियों पर आंसू गैस फेंकी क्योंकि वे किनशासा में दूतावासों की ओर मार्च कर रहे थे, और इमारतों के हिस्सों में लूटपाट और आग लगाई। केन्या और युगांडा के दूतावासों पर भी हमला किया गया।
- The **humanitarian situation** in **Goma** "is extremely worrying, with a new threshold of violence and suffering reached today," said **Bruno Lemarquis**, the **United Nations humanitarian coordinator** for **Congo**, to reporters on **Monday**.
गोमा में मानवीय स्थिति "आज एक नई सीमा तक पहुंच गई है, जिसमें हिंसा और पीड़ा की एक नई सीमा पार हो गई है," ब्रूनो लेमार्किस, संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवीय समन्वयक कांगो के लिए, ने सोमवार को रिपोर्टों से कहा।
- There were **active combat zones** in all areas of the city, with **civilians** taking cover and **heavy artillery** fire directed at the **city center** on **Monday**, Mr. Lemarquis said.
शहर के सभी क्षेत्रों में सक्रिय युद्ध क्षेत्र थे, जिसमें नागरिकों ने शरण ली और भारी तोपखाना गोलियां शहर के केंद्र की ओर दागी गईं, श्री लेमार्किस ने कहा।
- Several **shells** struck the **Charité Maternelle Hospital** in central **Goma**, "killing and injuring civilians, including **newborns** and **pregnant women**."



कई गोले ने गोमा के केंद्रीय चारिटी मातरनेल अस्पताल को आघात पहुंचाया, "जिससे नागरिकों की मौत और चोटें आईं, जिनमें नवजात बच्चे और गर्भवती महिलाएं शामिल हैं।"

- **Three South African peacekeepers** were killed on **Monday**, while a fourth soldier succumbed to injuries sustained in fighting days ago. That makes **17 peacekeepers and foreign soldiers** who have been killed in the fighting, according to **UN and Army officials**.

तीन दक्षिण अफ्रीकी शांति सैनिक सोमवार को मारे गए, जबकि एक चौथे सैनिक की कई दिन पहले लड़ाई में लगी चोटों के कारण मौत हो गई। यह 17 शांति सैनिकों और विदेशी सैनिकों की कुल संख्या बनाता है जो लड़ाई में मारे गए, संयुक्त राष्ट्र और सेना अधिकारियों के अनुसार।

Serbia PM quits in attempt to calm anti-graft protests

GS Paper II: Serbia

Associated Press
BELGRADE

Serbia's populist Prime Minister **Milos Vucevic** resigned on Tuesday in an attempt to calm political tensions and pressure roiled by weeks of massive anti-corruption protests over the deadly collapse of a concrete canopy.

The canopy collapse in November, which killed 15 persons in the northern city of Novi Sad, has become a flashpoint reflecting wider discontent with the increasingly autocratic rule of Serbia's populist President Aleksandar Vucic. He has faced accusations of curbing democratic free-



Milos Vucevic

doms in Serbia despite formally seeking European Union membership for the troubled Balkan nation.

"It is my appeal for everyone to calm down the passions and return to dialogue," Mr. Vucevic told a news conference announc-

ing his resignation.

Novi Sad Mayor Milan Djuric also stepped down.

Way forward

Mr. Vucevic's resignation could lead to an early parliamentary election. The resignation must be confirmed by Serbia's Parliament, which has 30 days to choose a new government or call a snap election.

Opposition parties have said they would insist on a transitional government that would create conditions for a free and fair election.

Mr. Vucic's populists have faced accusations of irregularities during past elections.

Serbia PM quits in attempt to calm anti-graft protests

सर्बिया के पीएम भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी प्रदर्शनों को शांत करने के लिए इस्तीफा देते हैं

Serbia's populist Prime Minister **Milos Vucevic** resigned on **Tuesday** in an attempt to calm political tensions and pressure roiled by weeks of massive anti-corruption protests over the deadly collapse of a concrete canopy.

सर्बिया के लोकलुभावन प्रधानमंत्री

मिलोस वुचेविक ने मंगलवार को एक कंक्रीट छत के खतरनाक गिरने के कारण हुई 15 मौतों और भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी प्रदर्शनों से उपजी राजनीतिक तनाव को शांत करने के प्रयास में इस्तीफा दिया।

- The canopy collapse in **November**, which killed **15 persons** in the northern city of **Novi Sad**, has become a flashpoint reflecting wider discontent with the increasingly autocratic rule of **Serbia's populist President Aleksandar Vucic**.

नवंबर में नोवी साद के उत्तरी शहर में कंक्रीट छत गिरने से 15 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी, और यह घटना सर्बिया के लोकलुभावन राष्ट्रपति अलेक्जेंडर वुचिक के बढ़ते तानाशाही शासन के खिलाफ असंतोष का प्रतीक बन गई है।



- He has faced accusations of curbing democratic freedoms in Serbia despite formally seeking **European Union membership** for the troubled **Balkan** nation.
उन्होंने सर्बिया में लोकतांत्रिक स्वतंत्रताओं को कुचलने का आरोप झेला है, जबकि संकटग्रस्त बाल्कन देश के लिए यूरोपीय संघ की सदस्यता की औपचारिक मांग की थी।
- “It is my appeal for everyone to calm down the passions and return to dialogue,” **Mr. Vucevic** told a news conference announcing his resignation.
“यह मेरी अपील है कि सभी लोग जोश को शांत करें और संवाद की ओर लौटें,” वुचेविक ने अपनी इस्तीफे की घोषणा करते हुए एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा।
- **Novi Sad Mayor Milan Djuric** also stepped down.
नोवी साद के मेयर मिलान ड्यूरिक ने भी इस्तीफा दे दिया।

Way forward

आगे का रास्ता

- **Mr. Vucevic's resignation** could lead to an early parliamentary election.
वुचेविक के इस्तीफे से जल्दी संसदीय चुनाव हो सकते हैं।
- The resignation must be confirmed by **Serbia's Parliament**, which has **30 days** to choose a new government or call a snap election.
इस्तीफे को सर्बिया की संसद द्वारा पुष्टि किया जाना चाहिए, जिसे नए सरकार का चुनाव करने या तात्कालिक चुनाव बुलाने के लिए 30 दिन का समय है।
- Opposition parties have said they would insist on a transitional government that would create conditions for a free and fair election.
विपक्षी पार्टियों ने कहा है कि वे एक संक्रमणकालीन सरकार की मांग करेंगे, जो स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव के लिए स्थितियाँ तैयार करेगी।
- **Mr. Vucic's populists** have faced accusations of irregularities during past elections.
वुचिक के लोकलुभावन नेताओं को पिछले चुनावों के दौरान अनियमितताओं के आरोपों का सामना करना पड़ा है।

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

1. **DeepSeek AI Model Jolts Global Tech Landscape**
DeepSeek AI / मॉडल ने वैश्विक तकनीकी परिदृश्य को झटका दिया
2. **A Question of Hygiene / स्वच्छता का प्रश्न**
3. **Mining Politics / खनन राजनीति**
4. **Union Budget: Understanding its Formulation and Implications /**
केंद्रीय बजट: इसकी संरचना और प्रभावों की समझ



5. ISRO set for a historic 100th launch from Sriharikota / इसरो

श्रीहरिकोटा से ऐतिहासिक 100वें प्रक्षेपण के लिए तैयार

6. Replace regular table salt with lower-sodium salt substitutes

that contain potassium: WHO / नियमित टेबल नमक की जगह कम

सोडियम वाले नमक का इस्तेमाल करें जिसमें पोटेशियम हो: WHO

7. What is the corpse flower? / लाश का भार क्या है?

DeepSeek AI model jolts global tech landscape

GS Paper III: S&T

John Xavier

CHENNAI

A new player in the artificial intelligence (AI) race, the Chinese start-up DeepSeek, has created a buzz in global tech circles with the launch of its cutting-edge AI models, claiming they nearly match the capabilities of top industry leaders in the U.S. – all while being far more affordable. The company's AI model, DeepSeek-R1, has ignited a fresh debate over the shifting dynamics of the global AI market.

Monday night's trading session on Wall Street left Big Tech companies reeling as investors scrambled to make sense of the damage. AI chip maker Nvidia's market value declined by half a trillion dollars in the biggest single-session loss for any company ever.

The impact reverberated across global markets as tech and AI stocks plummeted. Though the sell-off steadied on Tuesday, the low-cost Chinese AI model continues to be popular globally.

Commenting on the development from China, U.S. President Donald Trump said: "The release of DeepSeek AI from a Chinese company must be a wake-up call for our industries as we need to be laser focused on competing to win."

Mr. Trump said DeepSeek was a positive development for the U.S. tech industry as they "will be doing that too and won't be spending that much to get the same results".

DeepSeek's flagship AI Assistant, powered by its DeepSeek-v3 model, has already made significant waves by dethroning OpenAI's ChatGPT as the highest-rated free app on Apple's App Store. This achievement signals a potential turning point in the competition between U.S. and Chinese AI firms.

In a recent paper, DeepSeek revealed that the training of its DeepSeek-v3 model cost under \$6 million, utilising Nvidia's H800 chips – dramatically undercutting the billions of dollars spent by leading U.S. firms. The company also claimed its latest DeepSeek-R1 model is nearly 50 times cheaper to operate than OpenAI's GPT-4, for a specific task.

The emergence of DeepSeek is particularly noteworthy because it flips the narrative that Chinese AI models lag behind their U.S. counterparts. While China's early attempts at creating a local alternative to ChatGPT – such as Baidu's Ernie bot – were met with widespread disappointment due to quality gaps, DeepSeek has changed the game by offering models that rival the best from Silicon Valley.

Despite the buzz, DeepSeek has faced its share of scepticism. Some experts have questioned the true cost of developing and training DeepSeek's models, with some analysts casting doubt on the \$5.58-million figure provided by the company for the v3 model's computing power. Others have raised concerns about the start-up's access to cutting-edge Nvidia chips, claiming the company may have up to 50,000 Nvidia H100s – chips restricted for sale to Chinese firms under U.S. export controls. DeepSeek has yet to address these claims.

Moreover, cybersecurity experts have noted that it is critical to engage with DeepSeek with a degree of caution as the start-up operates within a regulatory environment where government oversight of data is stringent.

DeepSeek was founded in 2023 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang by Liang Wenfeng, co-founder of the Chinese quantitative hedge fund High-Flyer. The fund, known for its involvement in AI research and development, has played a key role in DeepSeek's growth, though the exact extent of High-Flyer's financial backing remains unclear.

DeepSeek AI Model Jolts Global Tech Landscape

DeepSeek AI मॉडल ने वैश्विक

तकनीकी परिदृश्य को झटका दिया

• A new player in the artificial intelligence (AI) race, the Chinese start-up DeepSeek, has created a buzz in global tech circles with the launch of its cutting-edge AI models, claiming they nearly match the capabilities of top industry leaders in the U.S.

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) की दौड़ में एक नया

खिलाड़ी, चीनी स्टार्टअप DeepSeek ने अपने उन्नत

AI मॉडल्स के लॉन्च के साथ वैश्विक तकनीकी

हलकों में हलचल मचा दी है, यह दावा करते हुए

कि वे अमेरिका के शीर्ष उद्योग नेताओं की

क्षमताओं के लगभग बराबर हैं।

• DeepSeek's AI model, DeepSeek-R1, has ignited a fresh debate over the shifting dynamics of the global AI market.

DeepSeek का AI मॉडल DeepSeek-R1, वैश्विक

AI बाजार की बदलती गतिशीलता पर एक नई बहस

छेड़ चुका है।

• Monday night's trading session on Wall Street left Big Tech companies reeling as investors scrambled to make sense of the damage.

सोमवार रात के ट्रेडिंग सत्र में वॉल स्ट्रीट पर बड़ी



टेक कंपनियों को झटका लगा, क्योंकि निवेशक नुकसान को समझने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे थे।

- **AI chip maker Nvidia's market value** declined by **half a trillion dollars**, marking the **biggest single-session loss** for any company ever.

AI चिप निर्माता Nvidia का बाजार मूल्य आधा ट्रिलियन डॉलर गिर गया, जो किसी भी कंपनी के लिए अब तक का सबसे बड़ा एकल-दिवसीय नुकसान है।

Impact on Global Markets

वैश्विक बाजारों पर प्रभाव

- The impact **reverberated across global markets** as **tech and AI stocks plummeted**. तकनीक और एआई शेयरों में गिरावट के कारण इसका प्रभाव वैश्विक बाजारों में गूंज उठा।
- Though the **sell-off steadied on Tuesday**, the **low-cost Chinese AI model continues to be popular globally**. हालांकि मंगलवार को बिकवाली स्थिर हो गई, लेकिन कम लागत वाला चीनी एआई मॉडल वैश्विक स्तर पर लोकप्रिय बना हुआ है।

U.S. Reaction and Donald Trump's Statement

अमेरिका की प्रतिक्रिया और डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का बयान

- **U.S. President Donald Trump** commented on the development from China, stating: अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने चीन के इस विकास पर टिप्पणी करते हुए कहा:
- "The release of **DeepSeek AI** from a **Chinese company must be a wake-up call** for our industries as we need to be **laser-focused on competing to win**."
"चीनी कंपनी द्वारा जारी किया गया DeepSeek AI हमारी उद्योगों के लिए चेतावनी होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि हमें प्रतिस्पर्धा में जीतने पर केंद्रित रहना होगा।"
- Trump further said that **DeepSeek is a positive development** for the **U.S. tech industry**, as they will be able to **achieve similar results at lower costs**.
ट्रंप ने आगे कहा कि DeepSeek अमेरिकी टेक उद्योग के लिए एक सकारात्मक विकास है, क्योंकि वे कम लागत में समान परिणाम प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

DeepSeek AI's Market Impact

DeepSeek AI का बाजार पर प्रभाव

- DeepSeek's **flagship AI Assistant**, powered by **DeepSeek-v3 model**, has dethroned **OpenAI's ChatGPT** as the **highest-rated free app on Apple's App Store**.
DeepSeek का प्रमुख एआई असिस्टेंट, जो DeepSeek-v3 मॉडल द्वारा संचालित है, ने OpenAI के ChatGPT को हटाकर एप्पल ऐप स्टोर पर सबसे अधिक रेटेड मुफ्त ऐप बना दिया है।



- This signals a **turning point in the AI competition** between **U.S. and Chinese firms**.
यह अमेरिकी और चीनी कंपनियों के बीच एआई प्रतिस्पर्धा में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ को दर्शाता है।

DeepSeek's Cost Advantage

DeepSeek की लागत में बढ़त

- DeepSeek revealed that the **training of its DeepSeek-v3 model cost under \$6 million**, utilizing **Nvidia's H800 chips**.
DeepSeek ने खुलासा किया कि इसके DeepSeek-v3 मॉडल के प्रशिक्षण की लागत \$6 मिलियन से कम रही, जिसमें Nvidia के H800 चिप्स का उपयोग किया गया।
- This dramatically undercuts the **billions of dollars spent by leading U.S. firms**.
यह अमेरिकी कंपनियों द्वारा खर्च किए गए अरबों डॉलर की तुलना में बेहद सस्ती है।
- DeepSeek claimed that its latest **DeepSeek-R1 model is nearly 50 times cheaper** to operate than **OpenAI's GPT-4 for a specific task**.
DeepSeek ने दावा किया कि इसका नवीनतम DeepSeek-R1 मॉडल एक विशिष्ट कार्य के लिए OpenAI के GPT-4 की तुलना में लगभग 50 गुना सस्ता है।

China's AI Breakthrough

चीन की एआई में प्रगति

- The emergence of **DeepSeek is significant**, as it **flips the narrative that Chinese AI models lag behind U.S. counterparts**.
DeepSeek का उभरना महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि यह इस धारणा को बदलता है कि चीनी एआई मॉडल अमेरिकी मॉडलों से पीछे हैं।
- Earlier attempts, like **Baidu's Ernie bot**, were **criticized for quality gaps**, but **DeepSeek has changed the game**.
पहले के प्रयास, जैसे कि Baidu का Ernie बॉट, गुणवत्ता की कमी के कारण आलोचना का शिकार हुए, लेकिन DeepSeek ने इस स्थिति को बदल दिया।

Skepticism and Concerns

संदेह और चिंताएँ

- Some experts question the **true cost of DeepSeek's training**, as analysts doubt the **\$5.58-million figure** provided by the company.
कुछ विशेषज्ञ DeepSeek के प्रशिक्षण की वास्तविक लागत पर संदेह कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि विश्लेषकों को \$5.58 मिलियन की लागत पर संदेह है।
- Concerns have been raised regarding **DeepSeek's access to Nvidia's H100 chips**, which are **restricted under U.S. export controls**.



DeepSeek की Nvidia के H100 चिप्स तक पहुंच को लेकर चिंताएँ उठी हैं, क्योंकि ये अमेरिकी निर्यात नियंत्रण के तहत प्रतिबंधित हैं।

- Some reports suggest DeepSeek may have up to 50,000 Nvidia H100s, but the company has not yet addressed these claims.

कुछ रिपोर्टों में कहा गया है कि DeepSeek के पास 50,000 तक Nvidia H100 चिप्स हो सकते हैं, लेकिन कंपनी ने इन दावों पर कोई स्पष्टीकरण नहीं दिया।

Regulatory and Cybersecurity Concerns

नियामक और साइबर सुरक्षा चिंताएँ

- Cybersecurity experts urge caution as DeepSeek operates under a regulatory environment with stringent government oversight of data. साइबर सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञ सतर्क रहने की सलाह देते हैं क्योंकि DeepSeek एक ऐसे नियामक वातावरण में संचालित होता है, जहाँ सरकार का डेटा पर कड़ा नियंत्रण है।

DeepSeek's Founding and Financial Backing

DeepSeek की स्थापना और वित्तीय समर्थन

- DeepSeek was founded in 2023 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang by Liang Wenfeng, co-founder of the Chinese quantitative hedge fund High-Flyer. DeepSeek की स्थापना 2023 में हांगझोउ, ज़ेजियांग में Liang Wenfeng द्वारा की गई, जो चीनी क्वांटिटेटिव हेज फंड High-Flyer के सह-संस्थापक हैं।
- High-Flyer, known for its involvement in AI research and development, has played a key role in DeepSeek's growth. High-Flyer, जो एआई अनुसंधान और विकास में अपनी भूमिका के लिए जाना जाता है, ने DeepSeek की वृद्धि में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।
- However, the exact extent of High-Flyer's financial backing remains unclear. हालांकि, High-Flyer के वित्तीय समर्थन की सटीक सीमा स्पष्ट नहीं है।



GS Paper III: S&T

A question of hygiene

The GBS outbreak in Pune reveals the fragility of its urban systems

At the heart of the current Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) outbreak in Pune, where over 100 cases of suspected GBS have been recorded, is a bacterial infection. A health investigation has revealed *Campylobacter jejuni*, a bacteria found in contaminated food and water, to be behind the first cluster of cases. In almost all the patients, recent case history has shown episodes of gastroenteritis, vomiting, diarrhoea and nausea before the onset of the characteristic peripheral numbing of GBS, leading to paralysis. One case of death due to suspected GBS has also been recorded – of a patient who had visited Pune. This outbreak reveals the fragility of the scaffolding that urban systems in India are built on, with pathogens managing to breach all safety nets that humans have built for themselves, to emerge through and cause havoc. Any slip up in maintenance or in surveillance, clearly leads to discomfort, ill health and debility for a large number of people. GBS is a rare, autoimmune neurological disorder, in which a person's immune system launches an attack on the peripheral nervous system, leading to tingling, weakening of muscles, numbing and paralysis in the arms and legs, not unlike in the acute flaccid paralysis of polio. It can be caused by viral or bacterial pre-infections, as per the World Health Organization (WHO). Globally, it is estimated that GBS has an incidence of 1-2 per 1,00,000 population, and is more predominant among adult males. While India-specific large epidemiological studies on GBS are lacking, as testing for GBS in a resource-poor setting is difficult, according to a WHO report (1993), it was estimated that 138 cases of GBS were seen annually in seven major teaching hospitals, with approximately 75% of cases occurring in adults. While studies across the world have shown numbers to rise in seasons of weather change, it is possible that this is India's largest outbreak in recorded history.

Patients are treated with plasma exchange or intravenous immunoglobulin therapy, and most recover. However, these treatments are most effective if started within two weeks of the first symptoms, making early detection and initiation of treatment absolutely crucial. Rapid response teams in Pune are in place, collecting water samples and mounting surveillance on the community, and a central team has also been rushed to affected areas. It is key to ensure that all measures are in place to pick up patients, and initiate treatment as soon as possible. It is the duty of the local and State governance to provide clean drinking water to all residents and ensure that adequate social messaging is provided periodically on avoiding contaminated, unhygienic food.

A Question of Hygiene

स्वच्छता का प्रश्न

At the heart of the current Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) outbreak in Pune, over 100 cases of suspected GBS have been recorded, caused by *Campylobacter jejuni*, a bacteria found in contaminated food and water.

पुणे में वर्तमान गिलियन-बैरे सिंड्रोम (GBS) प्रकोप के केंद्र में, 100 से अधिक संदिग्ध GBS मामलों को रिकॉर्ड किया गया है, जो कैंपिलोबैक्टर जेजुनी नामक बैक्टीरिया के कारण हुआ है, जो दूषित भोजन और पानी में पाया जाता है।

•Patients exhibited symptoms such as **gastroenteritis, vomiting, diarrhea, and nausea** before the onset of **peripheral numbing leading to paralysis**.

मरीजों में आंत्रशोथ, उल्टी, दस्त, और मतली जैसे लक्षण देखे गए, जिसके बाद तंत्रिका सुन्नता और लकवा का प्रभाव पड़ा।

•**One death** due to suspected GBS has been reported of a patient who had visited Pune.

पुणे का दौरा करने वाले एक मरीज की GBS से संदिग्ध मृत्यु दर्ज की गई है।

•This outbreak highlights the **fragility of urban systems** in India, where pathogens breach safety nets, leading to ill health and discomfort for large populations.

यह प्रकोप भारत की शहरी व्यवस्थाओं की कमजोरियों को उजागर करता है, जहां रोगाणु सुरक्षा व्यवस्थाओं को तोड़कर बड़े पैमाने पर अस्वस्थता और असुविधा का कारण बनते हैं।

•**GBS** is a rare autoimmune neurological disorder where the **immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system**, causing **tingling, muscle weakness, and paralysis**.

GBS एक दुर्लभ ऑटोइम्यून न्यूरोलॉजिकल विकार है, जिसमें प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली परिधीय तंत्रिका तंत्र पर हमला करती है, जिससे झुनझुनी, मांसपेशियों की कमजोरी, और लकवा होता है।

•According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, GBS is caused by **viral or bacterial pre-infections**, with an estimated 1-2



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cases per 1,00,000 population globally.

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) के अनुसार, GBS वायरल या बैक्टीरियल संक्रमणों से होता है, और इसका वैश्विक प्रसार 1-2 मामले प्रति 1,00,000 जनसंख्या है।

- Studies indicate GBS is **more common among adult males** and increases during **weather change seasons**.
अध्ययन बताते हैं कि GBS वयस्क पुरुषों में अधिक आम है और मौसम परिवर्तन के मौसमों में बढ़ता है।
- **India-specific data** on GBS is limited, but a **1993 WHO report** estimated **138 annual cases across seven teaching hospitals**, with 75% affecting adults.
GBS पर भारत-विशिष्ट डेटा सीमित है, लेकिन 1993 की WHO रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, सात शिक्षण अस्पतालों में वार्षिक 138 मामले पाए गए, जिनमें से 75% वयस्कों को प्रभावित करते हैं।
- Patients are treated with **plasma exchange or intravenous immunoglobulin therapy**, most recovering if treated within **two weeks of symptom onset**.
मरीजों का इलाज प्लाज्मा एक्सचेंज या अंतःशिरा इम्युनोग्लोबुलिन थेरेपी से किया जाता है, और लक्षण शुरू होने के दो सप्ताह के भीतर इलाज होने पर अधिकांश ठीक हो जाते हैं।
- Rapid response teams in Pune are collecting **water samples**, monitoring communities, and a **central team** has been sent to affected areas.
पुणे में तेजी से कार्रवाई करने वाली टीम पानी के नमूने एकत्र कर रही हैं, समुदायों की निगरानी कर रही हैं, और प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में केंद्रीय टीम भेजी गई है।
- Local and State governance must ensure **clean drinking water** and regular **awareness campaigns** to avoid contaminated food.
स्थानीय और राज्य प्रशासन को साफ पेयजल और दूषित भोजन से बचने के लिए नियमित जागरूकता अभियानों को सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए।

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water to all residents and ensure that adequate
GS Paper III: Development vs. Environmental Protection

Mining politics

Strategic need for tungsten must be balanced against ecological concerns

By annulling the Nayakkarpatti tungsten block auction in Madurai, the Union Government has halted protests against a project that was red-flagged, tardily, by the State citing environmental and cultural concerns. Rarely has the Narendra Modi government made a swift 'U-turn' in the face of opposition. Nayakkarpatti was among eight critical and strategic mineral blocks put up for auction last February by the Mines Ministry. Eight months later, the contract for mining 2,015.51 hectares was awarded to Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited. However, the presence of Arittapatti, Tamil Nadu's first biodiversity heritage site, in the vicinity, triggered concerns. An Assembly resolution pointed out that mining could endanger historical cave temples, Jain symbols, Tamil Brahmi scripts and a habitat for rare species. The Centre and the BJP were initially on the defensive, arguing that of the 20.16 sq. km area, only 1.93 sq. km within Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages had been notified as a biodiversity site. Last month, the Ministry deferred issuance of Letter of Intent to the bidder, and asked the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to explore redefining the boundaries by excluding the biodiversity site. But the Centre annulled the auction before the GSI could act, after a meeting with community leaders from Madurai, led by BJP State president K. Annamalai, and the Mines Minister.

Politics seems to have played a larger role than India's strategic need for tungsten or the Centre's and State's claims that they had acted in deference to people's wishes. Tungsten, or wolfram, a dense lustrous metal, is crucial for industries such as defence and in high technology fields. It has no effective substitutes. Globally, tungsten is stockpiled. Indigenously rare, only 5% of tungsten mining resources are in Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, with the rest distributed in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Though the State had flagged the biodiversity issue to the Centre, there is no clear indication that the DMK government was openly opposed to the auction. Reports suggest that prior to the amendment of the Mines and Minerals Act, which empowered the Centre to exclusively auction mining leases for critical minerals, the State's Natural Resources Department had requested permission to mine tungsten and molybdenum through joint ventures. Regardless of the political dynamics, the importance and scarcity of tungsten cannot be overstated. The Centre might have been more effective had it consulted the State and waited for the GSI's report before making a decision, striking a balance between environmental concerns and the strategic need for tungsten mining by adjusting the block boundaries.

Mining Politics खनन राजनीति

By annulling the Nayakkarpatti tungsten block auction in Madurai, the Union Government has halted protests against the project.

मदुरै में नायक्करपट्टी टंगस्टन ब्लॉक की नीलामी को रद्द करके, केंद्र सरकार ने परियोजना के खिलाफ विरोध को रोका है।

- Nayakkarpatti was among **eight critical and strategic mineral blocks** put up for auction in **February 2023** by the Mines Ministry.

नायक्करपट्टी उन आठ महत्वपूर्ण और रणनीतिक खनिज ब्लॉकों में से एक था, जिसे **फरवरी 2023** में खनन मंत्रालय द्वारा नीलामी के लिए रखा गया था।

- Eight months later, the contract for **2,015.51 hectares** was awarded to Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited.

आठ महीने बाद, **2,015.51 हेक्टेयर** के लिए अनुबंध वेदांता की हिंदुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड को दिया गया।

- Concerns arose due to the presence of Arittapatti, Tamil Nadu's **first biodiversity heritage site**, in the vicinity.

चिंता का कारण अरिट्टपट्टी था, जो तमिलनाडु का पहला जैव विविधता धरोहर स्थल है और पास में स्थित है।

- The Assembly resolution highlighted that mining could endanger **historical cave temples, Jain symbols, Tamil Brahmi scripts**, and habitats for rare species.

विधानसभा प्रस्ताव में बताया गया कि खनन से ऐतिहासिक गुफा मंदिरों, जैन प्रतीकों, तमिल ब्राह्मी शिलालेखों, और दुर्लभ प्रजातियों के आवास को खतरा हो सकता है।

- Initially, the Centre argued that only **1.93 sq. km** of the **20.16 sq. km** area overlapped with the biodiversity site.

शुरुआत में केंद्र ने तर्क दिया कि **20.16 वर्ग किलोमीटर** क्षेत्र में से केवल **1.93 वर्ग किलोमीटर** जैव विविधता स्थल के साथ ओवरलैप करता है।

- Last month, the Ministry deferred the issuance of the Letter of Intent and asked the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** to redefine boundaries.

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पिछले महीने, मंत्रालय ने एलओआई (Letter of Intent) जारी करने को टाल दिया और भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (GSI) को सीमाओं को पुनः परिभाषित करने को कहा।

- However, the Centre annulled the auction after discussions with community leaders led by BJP State president K. Annamalai and the Mines Minister.

हालांकि, केंद्र ने बीजपी राज्य अध्यक्ष के. अन्नामलाई और खनन मंत्री के साथ सामुदायिक नेताओं की बातचीत के बाद नीलामी को रद्द कर दिया।

- **Tungsten**, also known as wolfram, is a **dense lustrous metal** critical for industries like **defense** and **high technology**.

टंगस्टन, जिसे वोल्फ्राम भी कहा जाता है, एक घना और चमकदार धातु है, जो रक्षा और उच्च तकनीक उद्योगों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

- It has no **effective substitutes**, and globally, tungsten is **stockpiled**.

इसका कोई प्रभावी विकल्प नहीं है और विश्व स्तर पर टंगस्टन का संग्रहण किया जाता है।

- Only **5% of tungsten mining resources** in India are in **Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttarakhand**, and **West Bengal**, with the rest distributed in **Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh**, and **Maharashtra**.

भारत में केवल 5% टंगस्टन खनन संसाधन तमिलनाडु, हरियाणा, उत्तराखंड, और पश्चिम बंगाल में हैं, बाकी कर्नाटक, राजस्थान, आंध्र प्रदेश, और महाराष्ट्र में फैले हुए हैं।

- Reports suggest that prior to the Mines and Minerals Act amendment, Tamil Nadu's Natural Resources Department had sought to mine tungsten and molybdenum through joint ventures.

रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, खनन और खनिज अधिनियम में संशोधन से पहले, तमिलनाडु के प्राकृतिक संसाधन विभाग ने टंगस्टन और मोलिब्डेनम के खनन के लिए संयुक्त उपक्रमों के माध्यम से अनुमति मांगी थी।

- The Centre could have been more effective by consulting the State and awaiting the GSI report to balance **environmental concerns** with **strategic needs**.

केंद्र पर्यावरणीय चिंताओं और रणनीतिक आवश्यकताओं को संतुलित करने के लिए राज्य से परामर्श करके और जीएसआई रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा करके अधिक प्रभावी हो सकता था।



Union Budget: understanding its formulation and implications

There are three major components of the Budget — expenditure, receipts and deficit indicators. Depending on the manner in which they are defined, there can be many classifications and indicators of expenditure, receipts and deficits

GS Paper III: Budget

Zico Dasgupta

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget for the upcoming year on Saturday, February 1, 2025. In this article, dated January 31, 2022, Zico Dasgupta helps us understand how to decode the Budget.

The story so far:
The Budget, which will be tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is the Government's blueprint on expenditure, taxes it plans to levy, and other transactions which affect the economy and lives of citizens.

What are the major components of the Budget?

There are three major components — expenditure, receipts and deficit indicators. Depending on the manner in which they are defined, there can be many classifications and indicators of expenditure, receipts and deficits.

Based on their impact on assets and liabilities, total expenditure can be divided into capital and revenue expenditure. Capital expenditure is incurred with the purpose of increasing assets of a durable nature or of reducing recurring liabilities. Consider the expenditure incurred for constructing new schools or new hospitals. All these are classified as capital expenditure as they lead to creation of new assets. Revenue expenditure involves any expenditure that does not add to assets or reduce liabilities. Expenditure on the payment of wages and salaries, subsidies or interest payments would be typically classified as revenue expenditure.

Depending on the manner in which it affects different sectors, expenditure is also classified into (i) general services (ii) economic services, (iii) social services and (iv) grants-in-aid and contribution. The sum of expenditure on economic and social services together form the

development expenditure. Economic services include expenditure on transport, communication, rural development, agricultural and allied sectors. Expenditure on the social sector including education or health is categorised as social services. Again, depending on its effect on asset creation or liability reduction, development expenditure can be further classified as revenue and capital expenditure.

The receipts of the Government have three components — revenue receipts, non-debt capital receipts and debt-creating capital receipts. Revenue receipts involve receipts that are not associated with increase in liabilities and comprise revenue from taxes and non-tax sources. Non-debt receipts are part of capital receipts that do not generate additional liabilities. Recovery of loans and proceeds from disinvestments would be regarded as non-debt receipts since generating revenue from these sources does not directly increase liabilities, or future payment commitments. Debt-creating capital receipts are ones that involves higher liabilities and future payment commitments of the Government. Fiscal deficit by definition is the difference between total expenditure and the sum of revenue receipts and non-debt receipts. It indicates how much the Government is spending in net terms. Since positive fiscal deficits indicate the amount of expenditure over and above revenue and non-debt receipts, it needs to be financed by a debt-creating capital receipt. Primary deficit is the difference between fiscal deficit and interest payments. Revenue deficit is derived by deducting capital expenditure from fiscal deficits.

What are the implications of the Budget on the economy?

The Budget has an implication for aggregate demand of an economy. All Government expenditure generates

aggregate demand in the economy since it involves purchase of private goods and services by the Government sector. All tax and non-tax revenue reduces net income of the private sector and thereby leads to reduction in private and aggregate demand. But except for exceptional circumstances, the GDP, revenue receipt and expenditure typically show a tendency to rise over time. Thus, the trend in absolute value of expenditure and receipts in themselves have little use for meaningful analysis of the Budget. The trend in expenditures and revenue is analysed either by the GDP or as growth rates after accounting for the inflation rate.

Reduction in expenditure GDP ratio or increase in revenue receipt-GDP ratio indicates the Government's policy to reduce aggregate demand and vice-versa. For similar reasons, reduction in fiscal deficit-GDP ratio and primary deficit-GDP ratios indicate Government policy of reducing demand and vice versa.

Since different components of expenditure and revenue can have different effects on income of different classes and social groups, the Budget also has implications for income distribution. For example, revenue expenditure such as employment guarantee schemes or food subsidies can directly boost the income of the poor. Concession in corporate tax may directly and positively affect corporate incomes. Though both a rise in expenditure for employment guarantee schemes or reduction in the corporate tax would widen the fiscal deficit, its implications for income distribution would be different.

What are fiscal rules and how do they affect policy?

Fiscal rules provide specific policy targets on the basis of which fiscal policy is formed. Policy targets can be met by using different policy instruments. There exists no unique fiscal rule that is applied

to all countries. Rather, policy targets are sensitive to the nature of economic theory and depend on the specificity of an economy.

In India's case, its present fiscal rule is guided by the recommendations of the N.K. Singh Committee Report. Allowing for some deviations under exceptional times, it has three policy targets — maintaining a specific level of debt-GDP ratio (stock target), fiscal deficit-GDP ratio (flow target) and revenue deficit-GDP ratio (composition target).

Though both expenditure and revenue receipts can potentially act as policy instruments to meet specific set of fiscal rules, tax-rates within the existing policy framework happen to be determined independent of the expenditure requirement of the economy. Accordingly, in the present institutional framework in India, it is primarily the expenditure which is adjusted to meet the fiscal rules at given tax-ratios.

Such an adjustment mechanism has at least two related, but analytically distinct implications for fiscal policy. First, independent of the extent of expenditure needed to stimulate the economy or boost labour income, existing fiscal rules provide a cap on expenditure by imposing the three policy targets. Second, under any situation when the debt-ratio or deficit ratio is greater than the targeted level, expenditure is adjusted in order to meet the policy targets. By implication, independent of the state of the economy and the need for expansionary fiscal policy, existing policy targets may lead the Government to reduce expenditure.

In the midst of the inadequacies of fiscal policy to address the contemporary challenges of unemployment and low output growth rate, the nature and objective of fiscal rules in India would have to be re-examined.

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Union Budget: Understanding its Formulation and Implications

केंद्रीय बजट: इसकी संरचना और प्रभावों की समझ

There are three major components of the Budget — expenditure, receipts, and deficit indicators.

बजट के तीन प्रमुख घटक होते हैं — व्यय, प्राप्तियां और घाटा संकेतक।



- Depending on the manner in which they are defined, there can be many classifications and indicators of expenditure, receipts, and deficits.
जिस तरीके से इन्हें परिभाषित किया जाता है, उसके आधार पर व्यय, प्राप्तियां और घाटे के कई वर्गीकरण और संकेतक हो सकते हैं।

The Story So Far

अब तक की स्थिति

- The Budget, which will be tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is the Government's blueprint on expenditure, taxes it plans to levy, and other transactions affecting the economy and citizens' lives.
वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण द्वारा संसद में प्रस्तुत किया जाने वाला बजट सरकार की व्यय, कर लगाने की योजना और अन्य आर्थिक व नागरिक जीवन को प्रभावित करने वाले लेन-देन का खाका होता है।

Major Components of the Budget

बजट के प्रमुख घटक

- There are three major components — expenditure, receipts, and deficit indicators.
बजट के तीन प्रमुख घटक होते हैं – व्यय, प्राप्तियां और घाटा संकेतक।
- Based on their impact on assets and liabilities, total expenditure can be divided into capital and revenue expenditure.
संपत्तियों और देनदारियों पर प्रभाव के आधार पर, कुल व्यय को पूंजीगत व्यय और राजस्व व्यय में विभाजित किया जा सकता है।





- Capital expenditure is incurred with the purpose of increasing assets of a durable nature or of reducing recurring liabilities.
पूंजीगत व्यय का उपयोग स्थायी संपत्तियों को बढ़ाने या बार-बार होने वाली देनदारियों को कम करने के लिए किया जाता है।
- For example, expenditure incurred for constructing new schools or hospitals is classified as capital expenditure as it leads to the creation of new assets.
उदाहरण के लिए, नए स्कूलों या अस्पतालों के निर्माण पर किया गया व्यय पूंजीगत व्यय के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया जाता है क्योंकि यह नई संपत्तियों के निर्माण में सहायक होता है।
- Revenue expenditure involves any expenditure that does not add to assets or reduce liabilities.
राजस्व व्यय में वह सभी खर्च शामिल होते हैं जो संपत्तियों में वृद्धि नहीं करते या देयताओं को कम नहीं करते।
- Expenditure on wages and salaries, subsidies, or interest payments is classified as revenue expenditure.
वेतन और मजदूरी, सब्सिडी, या ब्याज भुगतान पर किया गया व्यय राजस्व व्यय में आता है।

Classification of Expenditure

व्यय का वर्गीकरण

- Depending on the manner in which it affects different sectors, expenditure is classified into:
इसका विभिन्न क्षेत्रों पर प्रभाव के आधार पर, व्यय को निम्नलिखित में वर्गीकृत किया जाता है:
 - General Services (सामान्य सेवाएं)
 - Economic Services (आर्थिक सेवाएं)
 - Social Services (सामाजिक सेवाएं)
 - Grants-in-Aid and Contributions (अनुदान सहायता और योगदान)
- Development expenditure includes expenditure on economic and social services.
विकास व्यय में आर्थिक और सामाजिक सेवाओं पर किया गया व्यय शामिल होता है।
- Economic services include expenditure on transport, communication, rural development, and agricultural sectors.
आर्थिक सेवाओं में परिवहन, संचार, ग्रामीण विकास, और कृषि क्षेत्रों पर किया गया व्यय शामिल होता है।
- Social services include expenditure on education and health.
सामाजिक सेवाओं में शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य पर किया गया व्यय शामिल होता है।

Receipts of the Government

सरकार की प्राप्तियां



- The receipts of the Government have three components:
सरकार की प्राप्तियों के तीन घटक होते हैं:
 - Revenue Receipts (राजस्व प्राप्तियां)
 - Non-Debt Capital Receipts (ऋण-मुक्त पूंजीगत प्राप्तियां)
 - Debt-Creating Capital Receipts (ऋण-निर्माण पूंजीगत प्राप्तियां)
- Revenue receipts include tax and non-tax revenue and do not create liabilities.
राजस्व प्राप्तियों में कर और गैर-कर राजस्व शामिल होते हैं और इससे कोई देयता नहीं बनती।
- Non-debt receipts include loan recoveries and disinvestment proceeds since they do not create additional liabilities.
ऋण-मुक्त प्राप्तियों में ऋण वसूली और विनिवेश से प्राप्त धन शामिल होता है क्योंकि इससे अतिरिक्त देनदारियां नहीं बनती।
- Debt-creating capital receipts increase government liabilities and future payment commitments.
ऋण-निर्माण पूंजीगत प्राप्तियां सरकार की देयताओं और भविष्य की भुगतान प्रतिबद्धताओं को बढ़ाती हैं।

Deficit Indicators

घाटा संकेतक

- Fiscal deficit is the difference between total expenditure and the sum of revenue receipts and non-debt receipts.
राजकोषीय घाटा कुल व्यय और राजस्व प्राप्तियों व ऋण-मुक्त प्राप्तियों के योग के बीच का अंतर होता है।
- It indicates how much the Government is spending in net terms beyond its revenue and non-debt receipts.
यह दर्शाता है कि सरकार कुल राजस्व और ऋण-मुक्त प्राप्तियों से अधिक कितना खर्च कर रही है।
- Primary deficit is the fiscal deficit minus interest payments.
प्राथमिक घाटा = राजकोषीय घाटा - ब्याज भुगतान।
- Revenue deficit is derived by deducting capital expenditure from fiscal deficit.
राजस्व घाटा = राजकोषीय घाटा - पूंजीगत व्यय।

Implications of the Budget on the Economy

अर्थव्यवस्था पर बजट का प्रभाव

- The Budget impacts aggregate demand in the economy.
बजट का प्रभाव कुल मांग पर पड़ता है।



- All Government expenditure generates demand by purchasing private goods and services.
सरकारी व्यय निजी सामानों और सेवाओं की खरीद के माध्यम से कुल मांग उत्पन्न करता है।
- Tax and non-tax revenue reduce the net income of the private sector, leading to a decrease in aggregate demand.
कर और गैर-कर राजस्व निजी क्षेत्र की कुल आय को कम करता है, जिससे कुल मांग घटती है।
- GDP, revenue receipts, and expenditure generally tend to increase over time.
जीडीपी, राजस्व प्राप्तियां और व्यय आमतौर पर समय के साथ बढ़ते हैं।
- Trends in expenditures and revenue are analyzed with respect to GDP or adjusted for inflation.
व्यय और राजस्व की प्रवृत्ति का जीडीपी के संदर्भ में या मुद्रास्फीति को ध्यान में रखकर विश्लेषण किया जाता है।

Reduction in Expenditure GDP Ratio or Increase in Revenue Receipt-GDP Ratio

व्यय-जीडीपी अनुपात में कमी या राजस्व प्राप्ति-जीडीपी अनुपात में वृद्धि

- Reduction in expenditure GDP ratio or increase in revenue receipt-GDP ratio indicates the Government's policy to reduce aggregate demand and vice-versa.
व्यय-जीडीपी अनुपात में कमी या राजस्व प्राप्ति-जीडीपी अनुपात में वृद्धि सरकार की समग्र मांग (aggregate demand) को कम करने की नीति को दर्शाती है और इसके विपरीत भी सही है।
- Similarly, reduction in fiscal deficit-GDP ratio and primary deficit-GDP ratio indicate the Government's policy of reducing demand and vice versa.
इसी तरह, राजकोषीय घाटा-जीडीपी अनुपात में कमी और प्राथमिक घाटा-जीडीपी अनुपात में कमी सरकार की मांग को कम करने की नीति को दर्शाती है और इसके विपरीत भी सही है।
- Since different components of expenditure and revenue can have different effects on the income of different classes and social groups, the Budget also has implications for income distribution.
चूंकि व्यय और राजस्व के विभिन्न घटकों का विभिन्न वर्गों और सामाजिक समूहों की आय पर अलग-अलग प्रभाव पड़ सकता है, इसलिए बजट का आय वितरण पर भी प्रभाव पड़ता है।
- Revenue expenditure such as employment guarantee schemes or food subsidies can directly boost the income of the poor.
राजस्व व्यय जैसे कि रोजगार गारंटी योजनाएं या खाद्य सब्सिडी सीधे गरीबों की आय को बढ़ा सकती हैं।
- Concession in corporate tax may directly and positively affect corporate incomes.
कॉर्पोरेट कर में रियायत सीधे और सकारात्मक रूप से कॉर्पोरेट आय को प्रभावित कर सकती है।
- Though both a rise in expenditure for employment guarantee schemes and reduction in corporate tax would widen the fiscal deficit, their implications for income distribution would be different.



हालांकि, रोजगार गारंटी योजनाओं पर व्यय में वृद्धि और कॉर्पोरेट कर में कमी दोनों राजकोषीय घाटे को बढ़ा सकते हैं, लेकिन आय वितरण पर उनके प्रभाव अलग-अलग होंगे।

What are Fiscal Rules and How Do They Affect Policy?

राजकोषीय नियम क्या हैं और वे नीति को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं?

- **Fiscal rules** provide specific **policy targets** on the basis of which **fiscal policy** is formed.
राजकोषीय नियम कुछ विशिष्ट नीति लक्ष्यों को निर्धारित करते हैं, जिनके आधार पर राजकोषीय नीति बनाई जाती है।
- Policy targets can be met by using **different policy instruments**.
नीति लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए विभिन्न नीति उपकरणों का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- There exists **no unique fiscal rule** that is applied to **all countries**. Rather, **policy targets** are sensitive to the **nature of economic theory** and depend on the **specificity of an economy**.
कोई एकल राजकोषीय नियम नहीं है जो सभी देशों पर लागू होता हो। बल्कि, नीति लक्ष्य आर्थिक सिद्धांत की प्रकृति और किसी अर्थव्यवस्था की विशिष्टता पर निर्भर करते हैं।
- In **India's case**, its present **fiscal rule** is guided by the recommendations of the **N.K. Singh Committee Report**.
भारत के मामले में, वर्तमान राजकोषीय नियम एन.के. सिंह समिति की रिपोर्ट की सिफारिशों से निर्देशित है।
- Allowing for some deviations under **exceptional times**, it has **three policy targets**:
विशेष परिस्थितियों में कुछ विचलन की अनुमति देते हुए, इसमें तीन नीति लक्ष्य शामिल हैं:
 1. **Debt-GDP ratio (stock target)** – ऋण-जीडीपी अनुपात (स्टॉक लक्ष्य)
 2. **Fiscal deficit-GDP ratio (flow target)** – राजकोषीय घाटा-जीडीपी अनुपात (प्रवाह लक्ष्य)
 3. **Revenue deficit-GDP ratio (composition target)** – राजस्व घाटा-जीडीपी अनुपात (संरचना लक्ष्य)
- Though both **expenditure and revenue receipts** can potentially act as **policy instruments** to meet a specific set of **fiscal rules**, **tax-rates** within the existing **policy framework** happen to be **determined independently** of the **expenditure requirement of the economy**.
हालांकि व्यय और राजस्व प्राप्तियां संभावित रूप से नीति उपकरणों के रूप में कार्य कर सकते हैं, लेकिन मौजूदा नीति ढांचे में कर-दरें अर्थव्यवस्था की व्यय आवश्यकताओं से स्वतंत्र रूप से निर्धारित की जाती हैं।
- Accordingly, in the **present institutional framework** in India, it is **primarily the expenditure** that is **adjusted to meet fiscal rules** at given **tax-ratios**.



इसलिए, भारत में वर्तमान संस्थागत ढांचे के अनुसार, मुख्य रूप से व्यय को समायोजित किया जाता है ताकि निर्धारित कर-अनुपातों के तहत राजकोषीय नियमों को पूरा किया जा सके।

Implications for Fiscal Policy

राजकोषीय नीति के लिए प्रभाव

- This adjustment mechanism has at least two related but distinct implications for fiscal policy:

यह समायोजन तंत्र राजकोषीय नीति के लिए दो संबंधित लेकिन विशिष्ट प्रभाव डालता है:

1. Independent of the extent of expenditure needed to stimulate the economy or boost labour income, existing fiscal rules provide a cap on expenditure by imposing the three policy targets.

अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित करने या श्रम आय को बढ़ाने के लिए आवश्यक व्यय की सीमा से स्वतंत्र रूप से, मौजूदा राजकोषीय नियम तीन नीति लक्ष्यों को लागू करके व्यय पर एक सीमा निर्धारित करते हैं।

2. Under any situation when the debt-ratio or deficit ratio is greater than the targeted level, expenditure is adjusted to meet the policy targets.

यदि किसी भी परिस्थिति में ऋण-अनुपात या घाटा-अनुपात लक्षित स्तर से अधिक होता है, तो नीति लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए व्यय को समायोजित किया जाता है।

- By implication, independent of the state of the economy and the need for expansionary fiscal policy, existing policy targets may lead the Government to reduce expenditure.

इसका अर्थ यह है कि अर्थव्यवस्था की स्थिति से स्वतंत्र रूप से और विस्तारवादी राजकोषीय नीति की आवश्यकता के बावजूद, मौजूदा नीति लक्ष्य सरकार को व्यय में कटौती करने के लिए मजबूर कर सकते हैं।

Need for Re-examining Fiscal Rules

राजकोषीय नियमों की पुनः समीक्षा की आवश्यकता

- In the midst of the inadequacies of fiscal policy to address contemporary challenges of unemployment and low output growth rate, the nature and objective of fiscal rules in India would have to be re-examined.

बेरोजगारी और कम उत्पादन वृद्धि दर जैसी आधुनिक चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए मौजूदा राजकोषीय नीति की अपर्याप्तताओं को देखते हुए, भारत में राजकोषीय नियमों की प्रकृति और उद्देश्य की पुनः समीक्षा आवश्यक होगी।



ISRO set for a historic 100th launch from Sriharikota

The **GSLV-F15 mission** will lift off in the early hours of Wednesday; the first launch, **SLV-3 E10**, had taken place in **August 1979** when former President **Abdul Kalam** was the Director of the mission

GS Paper III: S&T

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will in the early hours of Wednesday oversee the historic 100th launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota with the **GSLV-F15 mission**.

The first launch, on August 10, 1979, was the experimental flight of Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3 E10) carrying the Rohini Technology Payload, which was only partially successful, according to the space agency. Former President of India A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who was then with the ISRO, was the Director of the mission. Dr. Kalam and the ISRO officials recovered from the setback and tasted success with the SLV-3E2 a year later, on July 18, 1980, as the Rohini satellite, RS-1, was placed in orbit.

After this, the ISRO launched two more SLV missions; four Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) missions; 62 missions from its workhorse, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV); 16 Geosynchronous Satellite Launch



Aiming high: The GSLV-F15 mission seeks to place NVS-02, a navigation satellite, into a geosynchronous transfer orbit. X/@ISRO

Vehicle (GSLV) missions; seven Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LMV3) missions; three Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) missions; one Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) mission; one Test Vehicle Abort Mission; and one Pad Abort Test (PAT) as part of the Gaganyaan programme.

The location of the spaceport on the east coast was decided upon by the founding members of the Indian space programme due to its unique features. "Features like a good launch azimuth corridor for various missions, nearness to the equator (benef-

iting eastward launches) and large uninhabited area for a safety zone have made Sriharikota the ideal location for the spaceport," the SDSC has stated on selecting this location.

Landmark missions

Among its landmark missions were India's lunar missions, including the PSLV-C11/Chandrayaan-1 in 2008, the GSLV-Mk III - M1/Chandrayaan-2 in 2019, and the LVM3 M4/Chandrayaan-3 in 2023, which made India the first country to touchdown in the polar region of the moon.

The PSLV-C25/Mars Or-



Features like a good launch azimuth corridor, nearness to the equator and large uninhabited area have made Sriharikota ideal location for the spaceport

ISRO

biter Mission in 2013 was another important launch as it was India's first interplanetary mission, and the PSLV-C57/Aditya-L1 in 2023 was India's first mission to study the sun.

Another watershed moment was the launch of the PSLV-C37/ Cartosat-2 series in 2017. During this mission, the ISRO launched a record 104 satellites in a single flight – this was a record till 2021, when it was broken by the SpaceX Falcon 9 that launched 143 satellites.

It has not been all rosy for the space agency, and the launch pad as there have also been multiple failures, including the GSLV-F02/ INSAT-4C in 2006, GSLV-D3/ GSAT-4 and GSLV-F06/ GSAT-5P in 2010, and the GSLV-F10/ EOS-03.

ISRO set for a historic 100th launch from Sriharikota

इसरो श्रीहरिकोटा से ऐतिहासिक 100वें प्रक्षेपण के लिए तैयार

The **GSLV-F15 mission** will lift off in the early hours of Wednesday; the first launch, **SLV-3 E10**, had taken place in **August 1979** when former President **Abdul Kalam** was the Director of the mission

जीएसएलवी-एफ15 मिशन बुधवार की सुबह प्रक्षेपित किया जाएगा; पहला प्रक्षेपण, एसएलवी-3 ई10, अगस्त 1979 में हुआ था, जब पूर्व राष्ट्रपति अब्दुल कलाम इस मिशन के निदेशक थे।

Historic 100th Launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)

सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (SDSC) से ऐतिहासिक 100वीं लॉन्च

- On Wednesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will oversee the historic 100th launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, with the **GSLV-F15 mission**.

बुधवार को भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (SDSC), श्रीहरिकोटा से ऐतिहासिक 100वीं लॉन्च का संचालन करेगा, जिसमें **GSLV-F15 मिशन** शामिल होगा।



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- The first launch on August 10, 1979, was the experimental flight of Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3 E10), carrying the Rohini Technology Payload.
पहली लॉन्च 10 अगस्त 1979 को उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण वाहन-3 (SLV-3 E10) की प्रयोगात्मक उड़ान थी, जिसमें रोहिणी टेक्नोलॉजी पेलोड था।
- It was only partially successful, according to ISRO.
ISRO के अनुसार, यह आंशिक रूप से सफल रहा।
- Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the Director of the mission.
पूर्व राष्ट्रपति ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम इस मिशन के निदेशक थे।
- ISRO recovered from this setback and succeeded with SLV-3E2 on July 18, 1980, when the Rohini satellite (RS-1) was placed in orbit.
ISRO ने इस असफलता से उबरते हुए 18 जुलाई 1980 को SLV-3E2 के साथ सफलता प्राप्त की, जब रोहिणी उपग्रह (RS-1) को कक्षा में स्थापित किया गया।

Major ISRO Launches

ISRO की प्रमुख लॉन्चिंग

- ISRO has since launched:
इसके बाद ISRO ने लॉन्च किए:
 - Two more SLV missions.
दो और SLV मिशन।
 - Four Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) missions.
चार ऑगमेंटेड सैटेलाइट लॉन्च व्हीकल (ASLV) मिशन।
 - 62 missions from the workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
वर्कहॉर्स पोलर सैटेलाइट लॉन्च व्हीकल (PSLV) से 62 मिशन।
 - 16 Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) missions.
16 भू-समकालिक उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण वाहन (GSLV) मिशन।
 - Seven Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) missions.
सात लॉन्च व्हीकल मार्क-3 (LVM3) मिशन।
 - Three Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) missions.
तीन स्मॉल सैटेलाइट लॉन्च व्हीकल (SSLV) मिशन।
 - One Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) mission.
एक पुनः उपयोग योग्य लॉन्च व्हीकल (RLV) मिशन।
 - One Test Vehicle Abort Mission.
एक टेस्ट व्हीकल अबॉर्ट मिशन।
 - One Pad Abort Test (PAT) under the Gaganyaan programme.
गगनयान कार्यक्रम के तहत एक पैड अबॉर्ट टेस्ट (PAT)।

Why Sriharikota was Chosen?

श्रीहरिकोटा को क्यों चुना गया?

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- Sriharikota was chosen due to its unique features like:
श्रीहरिकोटा को इसके अनोखे गुणों के कारण चुना गया, जैसे:
 - A good launch azimuth corridor for various missions.
विभिन्न मिशनों के लिए अच्छा लॉन्च एज़िमुथ कॉरिडोर।
 - Proximity to the equator, benefiting eastward launches.
भूमध्य रेखा के निकटता, जिससे पूर्व की ओर लॉन्चिंग को लाभ मिलता है।
 - Large uninhabited area for safety.
सुरक्षा के लिए बड़ा निर्जन क्षेत्र।

Landmark Missions

महत्वपूर्ण मिशन

- PSLV-C11/Chandrayaan-1 (2008) - India's first lunar mission.
PSLV-C11/चंद्रयान-1 (2008) - भारत का पहला चंद्र मिशन।
- GSLV-Mk III - M1/Chandrayaan-2 (2019) - India's second lunar mission.
GSLV-Mk III - M1/चंद्रयान-2 (2019) - भारत का दूसरा चंद्र मिशन।
- LVM3 M4/Chandrayaan-3 (2023) - India became the first country to land in the Moon's polar region.
LVM3 M4/चंद्रयान-3 (2023) - भारत चंद्रमा के ध्रुवीय क्षेत्र में उतरने वाला पहला देश बना।
- PSLV-C25/Mars Orbiter Mission (2013) - India's first interplanetary mission.
PSLV-C25/मंगलयान (2013) - भारत का पहला अंतरग्रहीय मिशन।
- PSLV-C57/Aditya-L1 (2023) - India's first mission to study the Sun.
PSLV-C57/आदित्य-एल1 (2023) - सूर्य का अध्ययन करने के लिए भारत का पहला मिशन।
- PSLV-C37/Cartosat-2 series (2017) - ISRO launched a record 104 satellites in a single flight, a record held till 2021.
PSLV-C37/Cartosat-2 श्रृंखला (2017) - ISRO ने एक उड़ान में 104 उपग्रह लॉन्च कर रिकॉर्ड बनाया, जो 2021 तक कायम रहा।

Notable Failures

महत्वपूर्ण असफलताएँ

- GSLV-F02/INSAT-4C (2006) - Mission failed.
GSLV-F02/INSAT-4C (2006) - मिशन असफल रहा।
- GSLV-D3/GSAT-4 (2010) - Mission failed.
GSLV-D3/GSAT-4 (2010) - मिशन असफल रहा।
- GSLV-F06/GSAT-5P (2010) - Mission failed.
GSLV-F06/GSAT-5P (2010) - मिशन असफल रहा।
- GSLV-F10/EOS-03 - Mission failed.
GSLV-F10/EOS-03 - मिशन असफल रहा।

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Replace regular table salt with lower-sodium salt substitutes that contain potassium: WHO

GS Paper III: Basic Science

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

The World Health Organization (WHO) released a set of guidelines on Sunday recommending use of lower-sodium salt substitutes.

While the international body had already strongly recommended reducing sodium intake to less than 2 grams a day, it has proposed a set of guidelines to replace regular table salt with lower-sodium salt substitutes that contain potassium. This recommendation is for adults (not pregnant women or children), and excludes individuals with kidney impairments or with other circumstances or conditions that might compromise potassium excretion.

The emphasis on salt – with so many recommendations on how much to consume and its constitution – is because of the



Crucial change: Reducing salt consumption can help maintain cardiovascular health and prevent strokes. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

huge impact it has on human physiology. Sodium (contained in salt) and water travel together in the human body, explains Priya Chockalingam, founder, Cardiac Wellness Institute, Chennai. Salt forces the body to retain water, so eating too much salt means more water in the blood vessels, raising blood pressure. Reducing salt consumption, therefore, reduces the load on the system, by significantly decreasing the volume in the

blood, thus impacting directly, positively on blood pressure. This will have an ameliorative effect on cardiovascular health and prevent strokes.

Effective way

Globally, each year, eight million deaths are associated with poor diets, and of these, 1.9 million are attributable to high sodium intake. There is enough evidence to stridently endorse reducing salt as an effective way to reduce

noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and chronic kidney disease by lowering blood pressure. It also lowers the risks of other conditions associated with high sodium intake, such as gastric cancer, the guideline says.

It provides evidence-informed guidance on the use of lower-sodium salt substitutes, in which NaCl (sodium chloride) is partially replaced with KCl (potassium chloride) for household consumption of table salt, but not in packaged foods, or foods consumed outside of home. The recommendations are to be employed by policymakers, programme managers, health professionals among other stakeholders, to promote reduction of sodium intake.

Vivekanand Jha, executive director, The George Institute for Global Health

in India, says this guideline is very significant for India, given the propensity to add extra salt to everything. This is an appreciable effort to change behaviour, he says.

“Instead of targeting individuals with messages about reducing salt, it makes sense to change what is available to them at a population level, in this case, low sodium salt, and make it affordable to all,” Prof. Jha explains. He adds that the WHO guidelines clearly keep out persons who might have to be on a low potassium diet. Regular salt may still be available for them.

Dr. Priya, while endorsing efforts to reduce salt consumption, particularly given the culture in India, also flags the issue of putting people with possibly undetected kidney disease, on a potassium-enhanced salt alternative.

Replace regular table salt with lower-sodium salt substitutes that contain potassium: WHO

नियमित टेबल नमक की जगह कम सोडियम वाले नमक का इस्तेमाल करें जिसमें पोटेशियम हो: WHO

WHO Guidelines on Lower-Sodium Salt Substitutes

डब्ल्यूएचओ के कम-सोडियम नमक विकल्पों पर दिशानिर्देश

- On Sunday, the World Health Organization (WHO) released guidelines recommending the use of lower-sodium salt substitutes.

रविवार को, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने कम-सोडियम नमक विकल्पों के उपयोग की सिफारिश करने वाले दिशानिर्देश जारी किए।



- WHO had already strongly recommended reducing **sodium intake to less than 2 grams per day**.
WHO पहले ही सोडियम सेवन को प्रति दिन 2 ग्राम से कम करने की सिफारिश कर चुका था।
- The new guidelines propose replacing **regular table salt with lower-sodium salt substitutes** containing **potassium**.
नए दिशानिर्देश साधारण टेबल सॉल्ट को कम-सोडियम नमक विकल्पों से बदलने का सुझाव देते हैं, जिसमें पोटैशियम होता है।
- This recommendation is for **adults** and **excludes pregnant women, children, and individuals with kidney impairments** or conditions that affect **potassium excretion**.
यह सिफारिश वयस्कों के लिए है और गर्भवती महिलाओं, बच्चों और गुर्दे की समस्याओं वाले व्यक्तियों को शामिल नहीं करती है, जिनके शरीर में पोटैशियम निष्कासन प्रभावित होता है।

Impact of Salt on Health

स्वास्थ्य पर नमक का प्रभाव

- **Sodium and water travel together in the human body**, increasing **blood volume and blood pressure**.
सोडियम और पानी शरीर में एक साथ चलते हैं, जिससे रक्त मात्रा और रक्तचाप बढ़ जाता है।
- Consuming **too much salt** forces the body to **retain water**, increasing blood pressure.
अधिक नमक का सेवन शरीर को पानी बनाए रखने के लिए मजबूर करता है, जिससे रक्तचाप बढ़ता है।
- Reducing salt consumption decreases the **blood volume**, lowering **blood pressure** and **reducing cardiovascular risks** such as **strokes**.
नमक की खपत कम करने से रक्त मात्रा घटती है, जिससे रक्तचाप कम होता है और हृदय संबंधी जोखिम, जैसे स्ट्रोक कम होते हैं।

Global Impact of High Sodium Intake

उच्च सोडियम सेवन का वैश्विक प्रभाव

- **8 million deaths** globally each year are linked to **poor diets**, with **1.9 million deaths due to high sodium intake**.
हर साल वैश्विक स्तर पर 8 मिलियन मौतें खराब आहार से जुड़ी होती हैं, जिनमें से 1.9 मिलियन मौतें उच्च सोडियम सेवन के कारण होती हैं।
- **Reducing salt intake** is an effective strategy to **lower noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)** such as **cardiovascular diseases (CVDs)** and **chronic kidney disease**.
नमक का सेवन कम करना गैर-संचारी रोगों (NCDs), जैसे हृदय रोग (CVDs) और म्रम गुर्दा रोग को कम करने का प्रभावी तरीका है।



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- High sodium intake is also linked to **gastric cancer**.
उच्च सोडियम सेवन का संबंध गैस्ट्रिक कैंसर से भी है।

WHO's Guidelines on Salt Substitutes

WHO के नमक विकल्पों पर दिशानिर्देश

- The guideline recommends **partially replacing sodium chloride (NaCl) with potassium chloride (KCl) in household table salt**.
दिशानिर्देशों में सोडियम क्लोराइड (NaCl) को पोटैशियम क्लोराइड (KCl) से आंशिक रूप से बदलने की सिफारिश की गई है, खासकर घरेलू टेबल सॉल्ट में।
- These substitutes are **not recommended for packaged foods or food consumed outside the home**.
ये विकल्प पैकेज्ड खाद्य पदार्थों या घर से बाहर खाए जाने वाले भोजन के लिए अनुशंसित नहीं हैं।
- **Policymakers, program managers, and health professionals** are expected to implement these recommendations.
नीतिनिर्माताओं, कार्यक्रम प्रबंधकों और स्वास्थ्य पेशेवरों से इन सिफारिशों को लागू करने की उम्मीद की जाती है।

India's Perspective on WHO Guidelines

भारत में WHO दिशानिर्देशों का महत्व

- **Vivekanand Jha**, Executive Director of **The George Institute for Global Health in India**, stated that this guideline is **significant for India**, as people tend to **add extra salt to food**.
विवेकानंद झा, द जॉर्ज इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर ग्लोबल हेल्थ, इंडिया के कार्यकारी निदेशक ने कहा कि यह दिशानिर्देश भारत के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि लोग भोजन में अतिरिक्त नमक डालते हैं।
- He emphasized that instead of **targeting individuals with awareness messages**, changing the **available salt at a population level** is a more effective approach.
उन्होंने जोर दिया कि व्यक्तिगत जागरूकता संदेशों पर ध्यान देने के बजाय, समाज में उपलब्ध नमक को बदलना अधिक प्रभावी तरीका है।
- The guidelines also consider individuals **who need to follow a low-potassium diet**, ensuring that **regular salt remains available for them**.
दिशानिर्देश उन व्यक्तियों को भी ध्यान में रखते हैं जिन्हें कम पोटैशियम आहार का पालन करना आवश्यक है, जिससे उनके लिए सामान्य नमक उपलब्ध बना रहे।
- **Dr. Priya Chockalingam**, Founder of **Cardiac Wellness Institute, Chennai**, supports reducing salt intake but cautions that **undetected kidney disease** may pose risks when using **potassium-enhanced salt substitutes**.
डॉ. प्रिया चॉकालिंगम, कार्डियक वेलनेस इंस्टीट्यूट, चेन्नई की संस्थापक, नमक सेवन को कम

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करने का समर्थन करती हैं, लेकिन आगाह करती हैं कि अज्ञात गुर्दे की बीमारी वाले लोगों के लिए पोटेथियम युक्त नमक विकल्प जोखिम भरा हो सकता है।

What is the corpse flower?

GS Paper III: Basic Science

The Hindu Bureau

Q On January 24, a rare plant known as the corpse flower bloomed in Sydney, Australia, for the first time in more than a decade. A similar flower bloomed in New York in the U.S. on the same day.

In both instances, the plant emitted an odour likened to rotting flesh, delighting hundreds who queued for a whiff.

For the past week, curiosity seekers have been visiting the Sydney specimen, nicknamed "Putricia", at the Royal Botanic Garden. The Brooklyn Botanical Garden in New York dubbed its plant "Smelliot".

The two flowers are *Amorphophallus titanum* and *Amorphophallus gigas*. In each case, the oversized flower features fluted crimson petals and can measure more than a metre across with a pointed centre stalk that can top 3 metres. The plant typically doesn't bloom more than once every few years and lasts only about a day. A specimen has not bloomed in Sydney since 2010. The plant emits the foul odour to attract carrion insects for pollination. These insects feed on the rich concentration of organic compounds in decomposing matter, thus the name. As the sheath enclosing the stalk



The 'corpse flower' seen at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney, Australia. REUTERS

opens, the stalk heats up to 37° C and periodically releases compounds like dimethyl trisulphide, isovaleric acid, and indole, which are responsible for the smell.

The emissions peak at evening and night, when carrion insects are most active, and their smell is discernible even a few hundred metres away.

(With agency inputs)

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"Putricia", at the Royal Botanic Garden. The Brooklyn Botanical Garden in New York dubbed its plant "Smelliot".

पिछले एक हफ्ते से, जिज्ञासु लोग सिडनी में इस पौधे, जिसे "पुट्रिशिया" नाम दिया गया है, को रॉयल बोटैनिक गार्डन में देखने आ रहे हैं। न्यूयॉर्क के ब्रुकलिन बोटैनिकल गार्डन ने अपने पौधे का नाम "स्मेलियट" रखा।

- The two flowers are *Amorphophallus titanum* and *Amorphophallus gigas*. ये दोनों फूल *Amorphophallus titanum* और *Amorphophallus gigas* प्रजाति के हैं।
- In each case, the oversized flower features fluted crimson petals and can measure more than a metre across with a pointed centre stalk that can top 3 metres. दोनों ही मामलों में, यह विशाल फूल में लहरदार गहरे लाल रंग की पंखुड़ियां होती हैं और इसका आकार 1 मीटर से अधिक हो सकता है, जबकि केंद्र का तना 3 मीटर तक लंबा हो सकता है।
- The plant typically doesn't bloom more than once every few years and lasts only about a day. A specimen has not bloomed in Sydney since 2010.

यह पौधा कुछ वर्षों में केवल एक बार खिलता है और सिर्फ एक दिन के लिए रहता है। सिडनी में यह 2010 के बाद से नहीं खिला था।

What is the corpse flower?

लाश का भार क्या है?

Blooming of the Corpse Flower

कॉर्प्स फ्लावर का खिलना

- On January 24, a rare plant known as the corpse flower bloomed in Sydney, Australia, for the first time in more than a decade. A similar flower bloomed in New York, U.S., on the same day.

24 जनवरी को, एक दुर्लभ पौधा, जिसे कॉर्प्स फ्लावर कहा जाता है, सिडनी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया में दस साल से अधिक समय

बाद पहली बार खिला। इसी दिन न्यूयॉर्क, अमेरिका में भी एक समान फूल खिला।

- In both instances, the plant emitted an odour likened to rotting flesh, delighting hundreds who queued for a whiff.

दोनों ही मामलों में, इस पौधे ने सड़े हुए मांस जैसी गंध छोड़ी, जिससे सैकड़ों लोग इसे सूंघने के लिए लाइन में लगे।

- For the past week, curiosity seekers have been visiting the Sydney specimen, nicknamed



- The plant emits the **foul odour to attract carrion insects for pollination**. These insects **feed on decomposing matter**, thus the name **corpse flower**.
यह पौधा परागण के लिए सड़े-गले पदार्थ खाने वाले कीटों को आकर्षित करने के लिए दुर्गंध छोड़ता है। ये कीट सड़ते हुए जैविक पदार्थों पर भोजन करते हैं, इसलिए इसका नाम कॉर्प्स फ्लावर पड़ा।
- As the **sheath enclosing the stalk opens**, the stalk **heats up to 37°C** and periodically releases compounds like **dimethyl trisulphide, isovaleric acid, and indole**, which are responsible for the **smell**.
जैसे ही तने को घेरने वाली खोल खुलती है, तना 37°C तक गर्म हो जाता है और समय-समय पर डाइमिथाइल ट्राइसल्फाइड, आइसोवालेरिक एसिड, और इंडोल जैसे गंध पैदा करने वाले यौगिकों को छोड़ता है।
- The emissions **peak at evening and night**, when **carrion insects** are most active, and their smell is **discernible even a few hundred metres away**.
यह उत्सर्जन शाम और रात में चरम पर होता है, जब सड़े-गले पदार्थ खाने वाले कीट सबसे अधिक सक्रिय होते हैं, और इसकी गंध सैकड़ों मीटर दूर तक महसूस की जा सकती है।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. U.P.'s R-Day tableau wins first place / उत्तर प्रदेश की गणतंत्र दिवस झांकी को प्रथम स्थान मिला

U.P.'s R-Day tableau wins first place

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U.P.'s tableau at the Republic Day parade won the first place in the People's Choice Award with 40% votes, the State government said on Tuesday.

दी।

U.P.'s R-Day tableau wins first place

उत्तर प्रदेश की गणतंत्र दिवस झांकी को प्रथम स्थान मिला

U.P.'s Tableau Wins First Place in People's Choice Award

गणतंत्र दिवस परेड में उत्तर प्रदेश की झांकी को पीपुल्स चॉइस अवॉर्ड में पहला स्थान मिला

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गणतंत्र दिवस परेड में उत्तर प्रदेश की झांकी ने पीपुल्स चॉइस अवॉर्ड में पहला

स्थान प्राप्त किया, जिसे 40% वोट मिले, यह जानकारी राज्य सरकार ने मंगलवार को