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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

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(12 FEBRUARY 2025)

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

1. **Sanskrit interpretation in Lok Sabha sparks debate / लोकसभा में संस्कृत अनुवाद पर बहस छिड़ी**

2. **Ahead of Magh Purnima bath, Maha Kumbh area declared 'no-vehicle zone' / माघ पूर्णिमा स्नान से पहले महाकुंभ क्षेत्र को 'नो-व्हीकल जोन' घोषित किया गया**

Riverside mela: Thousands of people take a dip at the Sangam and perform rituals on the eve of 'Magh Purnima' festival as part of the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Tuesday. PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 12)

GS Paper I: Art and Culture

Sanskrit interpretation in Lok Sabha sparks debate

GS Paper I: Art and Culture

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Sanskrit interpretation in Lok Sabha sparks debate

लोकसभा में संस्कृत अनुवाद पर बहस छिड़ी

Lok Sabha Debate on Sanskrit Interpretation
लोकसभा में संस्कृत अनुवाद पर बहस

- **The Lok Sabha** on **Tuesday** witnessed sharp exchanges between **Speaker Om Birla** and **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Dayanidhi Maran** over the **inclusion of Sanskrit** in the list of languages for which **simultaneous interpretation** was being made available in the Parliament.

लोकसभा में मंगलवार को स्पीकर ओम बिड़ला और द्रविड़ मुन्नेत्र काज़गम के सांसद दयानिधि मारन के बीच संस्कृत को उन भाषाओं की सूची में शामिल करने को लेकर तीखी बहस हुई, जिनके लिए संसद में समवर्ती अनुवाद उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा था।

- **Mr. Maran** charged that **taxpayers' money** was being wasted by providing interpretation in a language that was **"not communicable"**.

श्री मारन ने आरोप लगाया कि करदाताओं का पैसा एक ऐसी भाषा में अनुवाद प्रदान करके बर्बाद हो रहा है, जो **"संप्रेषणीय नहीं है"**।

- Noting that it was **not the official language** of any **State**, he cited the **2011 population survey** to say that **Sanskrit** was spoken by only **73,000 people**.

यह ध्यान में रखते हुए कि यह किसी भी राज्य की आधिकारिक भाषा नहीं है, उन्होंने **2011 की जनगणना** का हवाला दिया और कहा कि संस्कृत केवल **73,000 लोगों** द्वारा बोली जाती है।

- This prompted **Mr. Birla** to respond that in **"Bharat,"** the **primary language** has been **Sanskrit**.

इस पर श्री बिड़ला ने उत्तर दिया कि "भारत" में प्राथमिक भाषा संस्कृत रही है।

- He added that efforts were on to provide interpretation in **all 22 official languages**, and **not Sanskrit alone**.

उन्होंने यह भी जोड़ा कि सभी 22 आधिकारिक भाषाओं में अनुवाद प्रदान करने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं, और केवल संस्कृत नहीं।

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** also hit back.

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने भी पलटवार किया।

- **"Dayanidhi Maran's unwarranted remarks on Sanskrit** are not only in **bad taste** but also reveal **DMK's selective outrage**, **hypocrisy**, and **propaganda** when it comes to **India's linguistic heritage."**

"दयानिधि मारन की संस्कृत पर अनावश्यक टिप्पणी न केवल बुरी हैं, बल्कि यह डीएमके

की चयनात्मक नाराजगी, पाखंड और प्रचार को भी उजागर करती हैं जब बात **भारत की भाषाई धरोहर** की होती है।"

Ahead of Magh Purnima bath, Maha Kumbh area declared 'no-vehicle zone'

GS Paper I: Art and Culture

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

With chaos and congestion prevailing in Prayagraj as lakhs of devotees descend on the city for the Maha Kumbh, the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday declared the entire fair area as a "no-vehicle zone" till the *Magh Purnima Snan* on Wednesday. Devotees have been directed to park their vehicles in designated zones along specific routes.

"The entire mela area has been declared a 'no-vehicle zone' starting from 4 a.m. on February 11, with entry restricted only to essential and emergency services. All private and public vehicles arriving in Prayagraj on February 11 after 4 a.m. are being directed to designated parking areas along their respective routes. This measure aims to prevent traffic congestion in the city and allow pilgrims to reach the bathing ghats conveniently on foot. Additionally, from 5 p.m. on February 11, the 'no-vehicle zone' will expand to the entire Prayagraj city. Only emergency services will be exempt from this regulation," the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement.

Earlier, the administration accepted that the infrastructure of Prayagraj had been pushed to the limits, making delays in traffic movement inevitable. "Managing the unprecedented movement of people and vehicles is a challenge that no city, no administration, and no police force in the world has ever encountered before. The sheer scale of this spiritual gathering has pushed the infrastructure of Prayagraj beyond its

Chock-a-block: The crowded Charbagh railway station in Lucknow on Tuesday as pilgrims rush to Prayagraj. SANDEEP SAXENA

Angry passengers attack express train in Bihar

PATNA

A group of angry people trying to reach the Maha Kumbh attacked the Swatantrata Senani Express in Bihar's Madhubani railway station on Monday night, throwing stones and breaking windows as they were unable to board the train. There are no seats available in most trains to Prayagraj.

maximum capacity, making delays in traffic movement inevitable not due to mismanagement, but due to the sheer volume of devotees," Uttar Pradesh Director-General of Police Prashant Kumar said.

For the *Magh Purnima Snan*, the State government has implemented comprehensive measures to ensure the safety and health of devotees.

Ahead of Magh Purnima bath, Maha Kumbh area declared 'no-vehicle zone'
माघ पूर्णिमा स्नान से पहले महाकुंभ क्षेत्र को 'नो-व्हीकल जोन' घोषित किया गया

Prayagraj Declared a No-Vehicle Zone for Maha Kumbh
महा कुम्भ के लिए प्रयागराज को नो-व्हीकल ज़ोन घोषित किया गया

- With **chaos and congestion** prevailing in **Prayagraj** as lakhs of **devotees** descend on the city for the **Maha Kumbh**, the **Uttar Pradesh government** on **Tuesday** declared the entire fair area as a **"no-vehicle zone"** till the **Magh Purnima Snan** on **Wednesday**.
  प्रयागराज में **अराजकता और भीड़-भाड़** के बीच जब लाखों **भक्त** महा कुम्भ के लिए शहर में आ रहे थे, तो **उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार** ने **मंगलवार** को पूरे मेला क्षेत्र को **"नो-व्हीकल ज़ोन"** घोषित कर दिया, जो **माघ पूर्णिमा स्नान** तक रहेगा, जो **बुधवार** को है।

- **Devotees** have been directed to **park their vehicles** in designated zones along specific routes.
  भक्तों को **अपनी गाड़ियों** को निर्धारित क्षेत्रों में विशेष मार्गों के अनुसार पार्क करने के लिए कहा गया है।

- "The entire **mela area** has been declared a '**no-vehicle zone**' starting from **4 a.m. on February 11**, with entry restricted only to **essential and emergency services**. All **private and public vehicles** arriving in **Prayagraj** on **February 11** after **4 a.m.** are being directed to designated parking areas along their respective routes."
  "पूरे **मेला क्षेत्र** को **11 फरवरी सुबह 4 बजे** से '**नो-व्हीकल ज़ोन**' घोषित किया गया है, जिसमें प्रवेश केवल **आवश्यक और आपातकालीन सेवाओं** के लिए ही प्रतिबंधित होगा। सभी **निजी और सार्वजनिक वाहन** जो **11 फरवरी** को **4 बजे** के बाद **प्रयागराज** पहुंचेंगे, उन्हें उनके संबंधित मार्गों के साथ निर्धारित पार्किंग क्षेत्रों में भेजा जा रहा है।"

- This measure aims to **prevent traffic congestion** in the city and allow **pilgrims** to reach the **bathing ghats** conveniently on foot.
  इस उपाय का उद्देश्य शहर में **यातायात जाम** को रोकना और **तीर्थयात्रियों** को आसानी से पैदल **स्नान घाटों** तक पहुंचने की सुविधा देना है।

- Additionally, from **5 p.m. on February 11**, the '**no-vehicle zone**' will expand to the entire **Prayagraj city**. Only **emergency services** will be exempt from this regulation.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, **11 फरवरी शाम 5 बजे** से '**नो-व्हीकल ज़ोन**' पूरे **प्रयागराज शहर** में फैलेगा। केवल **आपातकालीन सेवाओं** को इस नियम से छूट दी जाएगी।

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** stated that earlier, the administration had accepted that the infrastructure of **Prayagraj** had been pushed to the limits, making delays in **traffic movement** inevitable.
  उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने बताया कि पहले, प्रशासन ने यह स्वीकार किया था कि **प्रयागराज** की **बुनियादी संरचना** अपनी सीमाओं तक पहुंच चुकी थी, जिससे **यातायात की गति में** देरी होना **अपरिहार्य** हो गया था।

- "**Managing the unprecedented movement** of people and vehicles is a **challenge** that no city, no administration, and no police force in the world has ever encountered before."
  "**लोगों और वाहनों की अभूतपूर्व गति** को प्रबंधित करना एक **चुनौती** है, जिसे दुनिया के किसी भी शहर, प्रशासन या पुलिस बल ने पहले कभी अनुभव नहीं किया।"

- **Prashant Kumar**, **Uttar Pradesh Director-General of Police**, said, "The sheer scale of this **spiritual gathering** has pushed the infrastructure of **Prayagraj** beyond its maximum capacity, making delays in **traffic movement** inevitable not due to mismanagement, but due to the sheer volume of **devotees**."

  प्रशांत कुमार, **उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस महानिदेशक**, ने कहा, "इस **आध्यात्मिक समागम** का विशाल आकार **प्रयागराज** की बुनियादी संरचना को उसकी अधिकतम क्षमता से बाहर धकेल चुका है, जिससे **यातायात में देरी** अपरिहार्य हो गई है, यह **प्रबंधन में कमी** के कारण नहीं, बल्कि **भक्तों** की विशाल संख्या के कारण है।"

- For the **Magh Purnima Snan**, the **State government** has implemented **comprehensive measures** to ensure the **safety** and **health** of devotees.

  माघ पूर्णिमा स्नान के लिए, **राज्य सरकार** ने भक्तों की **सुरक्षा** और **स्वास्थ्य** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **व्यापक उपाय** लागू किए हैं।

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

1. **Manipur crisis drags on as BJP weighs its options /** मणिपुर संकट जारी, भाजपा अपने विकल्पों पर विचार कर रही है

2. **Don't erase or reload EVM data, says SC /** ईवीएम डेटा न मिटाएं, न दोबारा लोड करें, सुप्रीम कोर्ट

3. **Maharashtra voter surge not unusual /** महाराष्ट्र में मतदाता वृद्धि असामान्य नहीं

4. **Trump pauses Foreign Bribery Act in a possible reprieve for Adani, others /** ट्रंप ने विदेशी रिश्वतखोरी कानून को रोका, अडानी और अन्य को मिल सकती है राहत

5. **Telangana: Madiga leader asks CM to rectify 'lapses' in SC categorisation report /** तेलंगाना: मडिगा नेता ने सीएम से एससी वर्गीकरण रिपोर्ट में 'कमियों' को सुधारने की मांग की

6. **'OPS bought land meant for SC/STs' /** 'ओ. पन्नीरसेल्वम ने एससी/एसटी के लिए आरक्षित जमीन खरीदी'

7. **A role for India in South-South climate cooperation / दक्षिण-दक्षिण जलवायु सहयोग में भारत की भूमिका**

8. **A legal 'remedy' that perpetuates survivor trauma / एक कानूनी 'उपाय' जो पीड़िता के आघात को बनाए रखता है**

9. **Elector Surge in Maharashtra and Delhi Polls is Par for the Course / महाराष्ट्र और दिल्ली चुनावों में मतदाताओं की संख्या में वृद्धि सामान्य है**

10. **Freeze on USAID and Its Global Impact / USAID पर रोक और इसका वैश्विक प्रभाव**

11. **Bharatiya Influencers Association to organise online content creators / भारतीय प्रभावक संघ ऑनलाइन सामग्री निर्माताओं को संगठित करेगा**

12. **Cannot monitor from Delhi, SC says on mob lynching prosecutions / भीड़ द्वारा हत्या के मामलों पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा, दिल्ली से निगरानी नहीं की जा सकती**

13. **'Digitisation doesn't mean deregulation' / 'डिजिटलीकरण का मतलब विनियमन हटाना नहीं है'**

14. **Maldives to finalise free trade pact with India soon, says Minister Saeed / मालदीव जल्द ही भारत के साथ मुक्त व्यापार समझौता करेगा: मंत्री सईद**
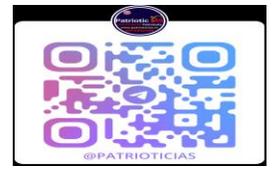
Manipur crisis drags on as BJP weighs its options

Centre will wait a few more days before deciding on President's Rule; Governor did not summon the House even though the 6-month period within which an Assembly should meet ends today

GS Paper II: Tenure of Legislative Assembly

Vijaita Singh
Rahul Karmakar
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The Manipur administration remained in a state of uncertainty on Tuesday evening as the Union government waited for an alternative leadership to emerge within the State's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), two days after N. Biren Singh stepped down as Chief Minister.

The Manipur Assembly's last session was on August 12, 2024, meaning that the six-month period within which an Assembly shall meet lapses on Wednesday. However, the Centre will wait a few more days before any formal decision is taken regarding the imposition of President's Rule, a government

Leadership struggle

BJP appears to be facing internal divisions over N. Biren Singh's successor
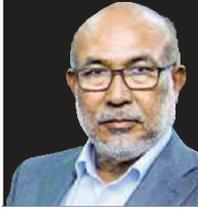
■ No consensus has been reached on selecting Biren Singh's successor, as Sambit Patra held closed-door meetings with Imphal-based NDA legislators for the second consecutive day

■ Patra's separate meetings — first with Biren Singh and later with the Governor, accompanied by State BJP chief A. Sharda Devi and some legislators — suggest a divide within the party ranks

■ The Congress said that the constitutional mandate to hold consecutive Assembly sessions within a six-month gap is breached

official told *The Hindu*.

According to Article 174 (1) of the Constitution, "six months shall not intervene" between the last sitting of the Assembly in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session. No notification summoning the Assembly was issued by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Tuesday.

However, the official noted that the provision does not explicitly state that the Assembly must be dissolved in case the six-month period has lapsed. According to a 2002 Su-

preme Court judgment in the *Bharatbhai Bhagwanjibhai vs State of Gujarat* case, "Merely because the time schedule fixed under Article 174 cannot be adhered to, that per se cannot be a ground for bringing into operation Article 356 (President's Rule)."

No party stakes claim
After Mr. Singh resigned on February 9, none of the parties in the State – neither the ruling BJP nor the Opposition – had staked their claim to form the government till late on Tuesday night. Another government official said that the next step would be the Governor submitting a report to the President of India on the constitutional crisis.

The Manipur administration remained in a state of uncertainty on Tuesday evening as the Union government waited for an alternative leadership to emerge within the State's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), two days after N. Biren Singh stepped down as Chief Minister.

मणिपुर प्रशासन मंगलवार शाम तक अनिश्चितता की स्थिति में बना रहा क्योंकि केंद्र सरकार राज्य में भाजपा के भीतर वैकल्पिक नेतृत्व के उभरने का इंतजार कर रही थी, दो दिन बाद जब एन. बीरेन सिंह ने मुख्यमंत्री पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया।

- The **Manipur Assembly's last session** was on **August 12, 2024**, meaning that the **six-month period** within which an Assembly shall meet lapses on **Wednesday**.
  मणिपुर विधानसभा का आखिरी सत्र 12 अगस्त 2024 को हुआ था, जिसका अर्थ है कि विधानसभा के मिलने की **छह महीने की अवधि बुधवार** को समाप्त हो रही है।

- However, the **Centre will wait a few more days** before any formal decision is taken regarding the imposition of **President's Rule**, a **government official** told *The Hindu*.

हालांकि, **राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू करने** के बारे में कोई औपचारिक निर्णय लेने से पहले **केंद्र कुछ और दिनों तक इंतजार करेगा**, यह एक **सरकारी अधिकारी** ने *द हिंदू* को बताया।

Governor did not summon the House even though the 6-month period within which an Assembly should meet ends today

राज्यपाल ने सदन को नहीं बुलाया, जबकि विधानसभा की बैठक की 6 महीने की अवधि आज समाप्त हो रही है

- According to **Article 174(1) of the Constitution**, **six months shall not intervene** between the last sitting of the Assembly in one session and the date appointed for its **first sitting in the next session**.
  संविधान के अनुच्छेद 174(1) के अनुसार, विधानसभा के **एक सत्र** की अंतिम बैठक और **अगले सत्र की पहली बैठक** के बीच **छह महीने का अंतराल नहीं होना चाहिए।**

- No **notification summoning the Assembly** was issued by **Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla** on **Tuesday**.
  राज्यपाल अजय कुमार भल्ला द्वारा **मंगलवार** को **विधानसभा बुलाने की कोई अधिसूचना जारी नहीं की गई।**

- However, the **official noted** that the provision does not explicitly state that the **Assembly must be dissolved** in case the **six-month period** has lapsed.
  हालांकि, **अधिकारी ने उल्लेख किया** कि इस प्रावधान में यह स्पष्ट रूप से नहीं कहा गया है कि अगर **छह महीने की अवधि** समाप्त हो जाती है तो **विधानसभा भंग करनी ही होगी।**

- According to a **2002 Supreme Court judgment** in the **Bharatbhai Bhagwanjibhai vs State of Gujarat** case, "Merely because the time schedule fixed under **Article 174** cannot be adhered to, that per se cannot be a ground for bringing into operation **Article 356 (President's Rule)**."
  2002 के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले (भारतभाई भगवानजीभाई बनाम गुजरात राज्य) के अनुसार, "सिर्फ इसलिए कि **अनुच्छेद 174** के तहत तय समय का पालन नहीं किया जा सका, यह अपने आप में **अनुच्छेद 356 (राष्ट्रपति शासन)** लागू करने का आधार नहीं बन सकता।"

No party stakes claim
किसी भी पार्टी ने सरकार बनाने का दावा नहीं किया

- After **Mr. Singh resigned on February 9**, none of the parties in the **State — neither the ruling BJP nor the Opposition** — had staked their claim to form the **government** till **late on Tuesday night**.
  9 फरवरी को श्री सिंह के इस्तीफे के बाद, राज्य की किसी भी पार्टी – न तो सत्तारूढ़ भाजपा और न ही विपक्ष — ने मंगलवार रात तक सरकार बनाने का दावा किया।

- Another **government official** said that the next step would be the **Governor submitting a report** to the **President of India** on the **constitutional crisis**.

एक अन्य **सरकारी अधिकारी** ने कहा कि अगला कदम **राज्यपाल द्वारा राष्ट्रपति को संवैधानिक संकट पर रिपोर्ट सौंपना** होगा।

Don't erase or reload EVM data, says SC

GS Paper II: Elections

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday clarified that checking and verifying the burnt memory of microcontrollers of electronic voting machines (EVMs) for signs of tampering does not envisage the erasing or reloading of data in the machines.

"Do not erase the data. Do not reload the data. All we directed was for an engineer to come and certify, in the presence of the applicant-candidates, that the microchip has not been tampered with," Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, heading a Special Bench with Justice Dipankar Datta, addressed the Election Commission, re-presented by senior advocate Maninder Singh.

Petitioners represented by senior advocate Devadutt Kamat and advocate Prashant Bhushan said checking or verification of EVMs was being done like a "mock poll".

'Pleas not maintainable'
Mr. Singh argued that the petitions were not maintainable and some of the petitioners were in the third round of litigation on the same issue since the pronouncement of the judgment upholding use of EVMs.

The court listed the case in the week commencing on March 3. It asked the EC to file a short affidavit with its response on the issue raised by the petitioners.

Don't erase or reload EVM data, says SC
ईवीएम डेटा न मिटाएं, न दोबारा लोड करें, सुप्रीम कोर्ट

The Supreme Court on Tuesday clarified that checking and verifying the burnt memory of microcontrollers of electronic voting machines (EVMs) for signs of tampering does not envisage the erasing or reloading of data in the machines.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को स्पष्ट किया कि इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मशीन (EVMs) के माइक्रोकंट्रोलर की जली हुई मेमोरी की जांच और सत्यापन में डेटा मिटाने या दोबारा लोड करने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

- **"Do not erase the data. Do not reload the data."** All we directed was for an **engineer to certify**, in the presence of the **applicant-candidates**, that the **microchip has not been tampered with**," **Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna**, heading a **Special Bench** with **Justice Dipankar Datta**, addressed the **Election Commission**, represented by **senior advocate Maninder Singh**.

"डेटा न मिटाएं। डेटा दोबारा लोड न करें।" हमने केवल यह निर्देश दिया कि एक **इंजीनियर उम्मीदवारों की उपस्थिति में प्रमाणित करे** कि **माइक्रोचिप के साथ किसी तरह की छेड़छाड़ नहीं की गई है,"** भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना, जो **न्यायमूर्ति दीपांकर दत्ता** के साथ **विशेष पीठ** की अध्यक्षता कर रहे थे, ने **चुनाव आयोग** को संबोधित किया, जिसका प्रतिनिधित्व **वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता मनींदर सिंह** ने किया।

Petitioners claim checking of EVMs being done like a "mock poll"
याचिकाकर्ताओं का दावा, ईवीएम की जांच "मॉक पोल" की तरह की जा रही है

- **Petitioners**, represented by **senior advocate Devadutt Kamat** and **advocate Prashant Bhushan**, said **checking or verification of EVMs** was being done like a **"mock poll"**.

  वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता देवदत्त कामत और **अधिवक्ता प्रशांत भूषण** द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व किए गए **याचिकाकर्ताओं** ने कहा कि **ईवीएम की जांच या सत्यापन** को **"मॉक पोल"** की तरह किया जा रहा ह

'Pleas not maintainable', says EC's counsel
'याचिकाएं स्वीकार्य नहीं', चुनाव आयोग के वकील का तर्क

- **Mr. Singh** argued that the **petitions were not maintainable** and some of the **petitioners were in the third round of litigation** on the **same issue** since the pronouncement of the **judgment upholding use of EVMs**.

  श्री सिंह ने तर्क दिया कि **याचिकाएं स्वीकार्य नहीं हैं**, और कुछ **याचिकाकर्ता** पहले ही इस मुद्दे पर **तीसरी बार मुकदमेबाजी में शामिल हो चुके हैं**, जब से **ईवीएम के उपयोग को बरकरार रखने वाला फैसला** सुनाया गया था।

- The **court listed the case** in the week commencing on **March 3**. It asked the **Election Commission** to file a **short affidavit** with its response on the **issue raised by the petitioners**.

  अदालत ने इस मामले को **3 मार्च** से शुरू होने वाले सप्ताह में सूचीबद्ध किया। इसने **चुनाव आयोग** से **याचिकाकर्ताओं** द्वारा उठाए गए **मुद्दे** पर **संक्षिप्त हलफनामा दायर करने** को कहा।

Maharashtra voter surge not unusual

महाराष्ट्र में मतदाता वृद्धि असामान्य नहीं

GS Paper II: Elections
**Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Sambavi Parthasarathy**
CHENNAI

The net addition of close to 40 lakh electors in about seven months before the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election is not unusually high, past data show.

In Maharashtra, between the Lok Sabha election on April 19, 2024, and the Assembly election on November 20, 2024 – a period of 215 days – there was a net addition of 39.6 lakh electors. However, between the Assembly election in October 2019 and the Lok Sabha election in April 2024, there was a net addition of only 32.2 lakh electors.

This sparked controversy with the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi questioning the "disproportionate rise".

However, past data show that elector surge in brief periods are par for the course in Maharashtra. Between the Lok Sabha election on April 20, 2004, and the Assembly election on October 13, 2004 – a period of 176 days – there was a net addition of 29.5 lakh electors.

Similar analysis in 2009, 2014 and 2019 shows net additions of 30 lakh, 27.2 lakh and 11.6 lakh electors respectively.

Past data for Delhi also show such surges in electors during brief periods between two elections.

DATA POINT

The net addition of close to 40 lakh electors in about seven months before the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election is not unusually high, past data show.

2024 महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले लगभग सात महीनों में 40 लाख मतदाताओं की कुल वृद्धि असामान्य नहीं है, पिछले आंकड़े यही दिखाते हैं।

- In **Maharashtra**, between the **Lok Sabha election on April 19, 2024**, and the **Assembly election on November 20, 2024**—a period of **215 days**—there was a **net addition of 39.6 lakh electors**.

महाराष्ट्र में, **19 अप्रैल 2024 को लोकसभा चुनाव** और **20 नवंबर 2024 को विधानसभा चुनाव** के बीच–जो **215 दिन** का अंतराल था–**39.6 लाख मतदाताओं की वृद्धि** हुई।

- However, between the **Assembly election in October 2019** and the **Lok Sabha election in April 2024**, there was a **net addition of only 32.2 lakh electors**.

हालांकि, **अक्टूबर 2019 के विधानसभा चुनाव** और **अप्रैल 2024 के लोकसभा चुनाव** के बीच सिर्फ **32.2 लाख मतदाताओं की वृद्धि** हुई।

Rahul Gandhi questions the rise

राहुल गांधी ने वृद्धि पर सवाल उठाए

- This sparked **controversy**, with **Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi** questioning the **"disproportionate rise"**.

इस पर **विवाद छिड़ गया**, जब **विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी** ने इस **"असामान्य वृद्धि"** पर सवाल उठाए।

- However, **past data** show that **elector surges in brief periods** are **common** in **Maharashtra**.

  हालांकि, **पिछले आंकड़े** दिखाते हैं कि **कम समय में मतदाताओं की वृद्धि महाराष्ट्र** में आम बात है।

Historical voter surge trends
इतिहास में मतदाताओं की वृद्धि के रुझान

- Between the **Lok Sabha election on April 20, 2004**, and the **Assembly election on October 13, 2004**—a period of **176 days**—there was a **net addition of 29.5 lakh electors**.

  20 अप्रैल 2004 के लोकसभा चुनाव और **13 अक्टूबर 2004 के विधानसभा चुनाव** के बीच—जो **176 दिन** का अंतराल था—**29.5 लाख मतदाताओं की वृद्धि** हुई।

- **Similar analysis** in **2009, 2014, and 2019** shows **net additions** of **30 lakh, 27.2 lakh, and 11.6 lakh electors**, respectively.

  2009, 2014, और 2019 के इसी तरह के विश्लेषण में **30 लाख, 27.2 लाख और 11.6 लाख मतदाताओं की वृद्धि** दर्ज की गई।

- **Past data for Delhi** also show such **surges in electors** during **brief periods between two elections**.

  दिल्ली के पिछले आंकड़े भी दिखाते हैं कि **दो चुनावों के बीच कम समय में मतदाताओं की संख्या** बढ़ती रही है।

Trump pauses foreign bribery Act in a possible reprieve for Adani, others

GS Paper II: US and India

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order pausing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) of 1977 for a period of at least 180 days, until the Attorney General completes a review of the legislation.

The move may come as a reprieve to the conglomerate Adani Group, its billionaire founder Gautam Adani and other executives, who, in November, were charged by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York in connection with an alleged bribery scheme.

> It's going to mean a lot more business for America
>
> **DONALD TRUMP**
> U.S. President

The law prohibits bribing of foreign governments, political parties and others to secure business.

It is unclear how Monday's order would impact any investigations into the Adani Group. While it pertains only to new investigations, enforcement actions already initiated would be subject to the new guidelines the Justice Department develops. The order says the pause can be extended beyond the initial suspension of 180 days. During this time, Attorney General Pam Bondi, a Trump loyalist, is required to cease any new FCPA investigations and review existing ones. After the new guidelines are in place, the Attorney General could institute "remedial measures" with respect to "inappropriate" investigations.

Charges for violating the FCPA were central to the allegations of bribery amounting to $250 million (₹2,100 crore) that allegedly took place between 2020 and 2024. Mr. Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and another executive Vneet S. Jaain, while not charged for violating the FCPA directly, were charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and securities fraud. Five other individuals associated with the alleged scheme were charged with conspiring to violate the FCPA. The two companies at the heart of the allegations had raised funds from U.S. investors or had traded on the New York Stock Exchange during the alleged scheme.

Mr. Trump had objected to the FCPA during his first term as well. "It's going to mean a lot more business for America," he told reporters on Monday as he signed the order.

Trump pauses Foreign Bribery Act in a possible reprieve for Adani, others

ट्रंप ने विदेशी रिश्वतखोरी कानून को रोका, अडानी और अन्य को मिल सकती है राहत

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order pausing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) of 1977 for at least 180 days, until the Attorney General completes a review of the legislation.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने सोमवार को एक कार्यकारी आदेश पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे 1977 के विदेशी भ्रष्ट आचरण अधिनियम (FCPA) को कम से कम 180 दिनों के लिए रोका गया, जब तक कि अटॉर्नी जनरल कानून की समीक्षा पूरी नहीं कर लेते।

- The move may come as a **reprieve** to the **Adani Group**, its **billionaire founder Gautam Adani**, and other executives, who were **charged in November** by the **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission** and the **U.S. Attorney's Office** for the **Eastern District of New York** in connection with an **alleged bribery scheme**.
  यह कदम **अडानी समूह**, इसके **अरबपति संस्थापक गौतम अडानी**, और अन्य अधिकारियों के लिए **राहत** ला सकता है, जिन्हें **नवंबर में अमेरिकी सिक्योरिटीज एंड एक्सचेंज कमीशन** और **न्यूयॉर्क के ईस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट के अमेरिकी अटॉर्नी कार्यालय** द्वारा एक **कथित रिश्वत योजना** से जुड़े होने के आरोप में दोषी ठहराया गया था।

- The law **prohibits bribing** of **foreign governments, political parties, and others** to **secure business**.
  यह कानून **विदेशी सरकारों, राजनीतिक दलों और अन्य लोगों को रिश्वत देने** पर **रोक** लगाता है ताकि व्यापार सुरक्षित किया जा सके।

Impact of the Executive Order
कार्यकारी आदेश का प्रभाव

- It is unclear how **Monday's order** would **impact investigations** into the **Adani Group**.
  यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि **सोमवार के आदेश** से **अडानी समूह की जांचों** पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

- While it pertains **only to new investigations**, enforcement actions **already initiated** would be **subject to new guidelines** from the **Justice Department**.
  यह आदेश **सिर्फ नई जांचों** पर लागू होता है, जबकि **पहले से चल रही जांचें न्याय विभाग द्वारा जारी नई दिशानिर्देशों** के अधीन होंगी।

- The order says the **pause** can be **extended beyond the initial suspension of 180 days**.
  आदेश के अनुसार, यह **रोक प्रारंभिक 180 दिनों की अवधि से आगे भी बढ़ाई जा सकती है।**

Role of Attorney General Pam Bondi
अटॉर्नी जनरल पाम बॉन्डी की भूमिका

- **Attorney General Pam Bondi**, a **Trump loyalist**, is required to **cease any new FCPA investigations** and **review existing ones**.
  अटॉर्नी जनरल पाम बॉन्डी, जो ट्रंप की करीबी मानी जाती हैं, को **नई FCPA जांचों को रोकने** और **पहले से चल रही जांचों की समीक्षा करने** का निर्देश दिया गया है।

- After the **new guidelines** are in place, the **Attorney General** could **institute "remedial measures"** with respect to **"inappropriate"** investigations.
  नई दिशानिर्देश लागू होने के बाद, अटॉर्नी जनरल **"अनुचित"** जांचों के खिलाफ **"सुधारात्मक उपाय"** लागू कर सकती हैं।

Allegations and Charges
आरोप और मुकदमे

- **Charges for violating the FCPA** were **central to allegations** of **bribery worth $250 million (₹2,100 crore)** that allegedly took place between **2020 and 2024**.
  FCPA उल्लंघन के आरोप 2020 और 2024 के बीच हुई **$250 मिलियन (₹2,100 करोड़)** की **कथित रिश्वतखोरी** के केंद्र में थे।

- **Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and another executive Vneet S. Jaain** were **not directly charged** with violating the FCPA but were **charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and securities fraud**.
  गौतम अडानी, उनके भतीजे सागर अडानी और एक अन्य अधिकारी वीनीत एस. जैन पर **FCPA का सीधा उल्लंघन करने का आरोप नहीं** लगा, लेकिन **वायर धोखाधड़ी और प्रतिभूति धोखाधड़ी की साजिश रचने** का आरोप लगाया गया।

- **Five other individuals** associated with the **alleged scheme** were **charged with conspiring to violate the FCPA**.
  कथित योजना से जुड़े पांच अन्य व्यक्तियों पर **FCPA का उल्लंघन करने की साजिश रचने** का आरोप लगाया गया।

- The **two companies** at the **heart of the allegations** had **raised funds from U.S. investors** or **traded on the New York Stock Exchange** during the **alleged scheme**.
  इन आरोपों के केंद्र में रही दो कंपनियों ने **अमेरिकी निवेशकों से धन जुटाया** था या **न्यूयॉर्क स्टॉक एक्सचेंज में व्यापार किया** था।

Trump's View on FCPA
FCPA पर ट्रंप का रुख

- **Mr. Trump had objected to the FCPA** during his **first term as well**.
  ट्रंप ने अपने पहले कार्यकाल में भी **FCPA पर आपत्ति जताई थी।**

- **"It's going to mean a lot more business for America,"** he told reporters on **Monday** as he **signed the order**.

"यह अमेरिका के लिए बहुत अधिक व्यापार का मौका देगा," ट्रंप ने सोमवार को आदेश पर हस्ताक्षर करते हुए कहा।

Telangana: Madiga leader asks CM to rectify 'lapses' in SC categorisation report

GS Paper II: Social Justice

MRPS president Manda Krishna requests A. Revanth Reddy to categorise Scheduled Castes into four groups proportionate to their population in the State; govt. committed to justice, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS) founder-president Manda Krishna has urged the A. Revanth Reddy-led Congress government in Telangana to "rectify lapses" in the report accepted for categorisation of Scheduled Castes to ensure equitable justice to all sub-castes within the category.

Key recommendations

The Telangana government on February 4 accepted three key recommendations of the judicial commission appointed by it for implementation of SC categorisation, while rejecting another suggestion to exempt the creamy layer from reservations.

Welcoming the government's initiative to categorise Scheduled Castes in line with the verdict of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, he requested the government to categorise SCs into four groups proportionate to their population ratio. He said if the government intends to clas-

sify SC sub-castes on the basis of their backwardness, the same principle should be applied for the three groups into which the government proposes to classify them.

Mr. Krishna, who led a delegation of the Madiga community to call on the CM on Tuesday, submitted a memorandum seeking "rectification of lapses" that went into the report. He recalled that the government proposed to provide 1% reservation to 15 sub-castes in Group-1, 9% to 18 sub-castes in Group-2 and 5% to 26 sub-castes in Group-3 out of the 15% quo-

ta for the Scheduled Castes.

However, he said the categorisation of these sub-castes was not unbiased and not done scientifically leading to some lacunae. He said injustice was being done to the Madiga sub-caste, which was highest in terms of population at 62% (32.33 lakh), and in contrast, Malas comprising 29% the SC population (15.27 lakh) and "developed on all fronts" were given more reservation.

The Madiga leader said steps should be taken to place the most socially, economically, educationally and politically backward

sub-castes in Group-3 while sub-castes like Malas who have already benefited in terms of education, employment and finances should be classified as Group-4.

'Approach panel'

The Chief Minister in turn asked members of the Scheduled Caste communities, the Madigas in particular, to take their objections and problems on the categorisation to the Cabinet subcommittee constituted for the purpose as well as the judicial commission.

He asserted that the State government was committed to render justice to the Madiga community and other sub-castes under SC without any political considerations. He briefed the delegation about the discussions held on the issue in the Assembly followed by the constitution of the Cabinet panel and judicial commission to expedite the classification. Mr. Reddy said the official process taken up by the government helped in avoiding legal implications for classification of SC sub-castes.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during a meeting with MRPS founder-president Manda Krishna and representatives of the Madiga community. @TELANGANACMO ON X VIA PTI PHOTO

categorisation report to ensure equitable justice to all sub-castes within the category.

मडिगा रिजर्वेशन पोराटा समिति (MRPS) के संस्थापक अध्यक्ष मंडा कृष्णा ने तेलंगाना की ए. रेवंत रेड्डी के नेतृत्व वाली कांग्रेस सरकार से एससी वर्गीकरण रिपोर्ट में कमियों को सुधारने का आग्रह किया ताकि सभी उप-जातियों को समान न्याय मिल सके।

Key Recommendations
मुख्य सिफारिशें

- The **Telangana government on February 4** accepted **three key recommendations** of the **judicial commission** for **SC categorisation**, while **rejecting another suggestion** to **exempt the creamy layer** from **reservations**.
  तेलंगाना सरकार ने **4 फरवरी** को **न्यायिक आयोग की तीन मुख्य सिफारिशों** को एससी वर्गीकरण के लिए स्वीकार किया, लेकिन **एक अन्य सुझाव** को खारिज कर दिया, जिसमें **क्रीमी लेयर को आरक्षण से छूट** देने की बात कही गई थी।

- **Welcoming** the government's initiative, **Manda Krishna** requested the government to **categorise SCs into four groups proportionate to their population ratio**.
  सरकार की पहल का **स्वागत करते हुए**, **मंडा कृष्णा** ने सरकार से **एससी को उनकी जनसंख्या के अनुपात में चार समूहों में वर्गीकृत करने** की मांग की।

- He suggested that if the government intends to **classify SC sub-castes based on backwardness**, the same principle should be **applied for all groups**.
  उन्होंने सुझाव दिया कि यदि सरकार **एससी उप-जातियों का वर्गीकरण उनके पिछड़ेपन के आधार पर** करना चाहती है, तो यही सिद्धांत **सभी समूहों पर लागू किया जाना चाहिए।**

Memorandum Submission and Concerns
ज्ञापन सौंपना और चिंताएं

- **Mr. Krishna, leading a delegation of the Madiga community**, met the **CM on Tuesday** and **submitted a memorandum** seeking **rectification of lapses** in the report.
  मंडा कृष्णा, मडिगा समुदाय के प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व करते हुए, मंगलवार को मुख्यमंत्री से मिले और रिपोर्ट में कमियों को सुधारने के लिए एक ज्ञापन सौंपा।

- He recalled that the government proposed to **allocate reservations** as follows:
  - **1% reservation** to **15 sub-castes in Group-1**
  - **9% reservation** to **18 sub-castes in Group-2**
  - **5% reservation** to **26 sub-castes in Group-3** out of the **15% quota** for **Scheduled Castes**.
    उन्होंने याद दिलाया कि सरकार ने **आरक्षण आवंटित करने का प्रस्ताव दिया था:**
  - **ग्रुप-1 में 15 उप-जातियों के लिए 1% आरक्षण**

- ग्रुप-2 में 18 उप-जातियों के लिए 9% आरक्षण
- ग्रुप-3 में 26 उप-जातियों के लिए 5% आरक्षण, जो कि एससी के लिए 15% कोटे का हिस्सा है।

- He claimed that the **categorisation was not unbiased or scientifically conducted**, leading to **certain lacunae**.
  उन्होंने दावा किया कि **वर्गीकरण निष्पक्ष या वैज्ञानिक तरीके से नहीं किया गया**, जिससे **कुछ खामियां रह गईं।**

Concerns About Madiga Sub-caste
मडिगा उप-जाति को लेकर चिंताएं

- **Mr. Krishna pointed out that the Madiga sub-caste** has the **highest population at 62% (32.33 lakh)**, whereas **Malas comprise 29% (15.27 lakh)** of the **SC population** but were **given more reservation** despite being **more developed**.
  मंडा कृष्णा ने बताया कि मडिगा उप-जाति की जनसंख्या **सबसे अधिक 62% (32.33 लाख)** है, जबकि **माला समुदाय 29% (15.27 लाख)** की एससी आबादी का हिस्सा है, लेकिन **इन्हें अधिक आरक्षण दिया गया**, जबकि वे **हर क्षेत्र में अधिक विकसित हैं।**

- He demanded that the **most socially, economically, educationally, and politically backward** sub-castes be **placed in Group-3**, whereas **Malas, who have already benefitted** in terms of **education, employment, and finances**, should be **classified as Group-4**.
  उन्होंने मांग की कि **सबसे सामाजिक, आर्थिक, शैक्षणिक और राजनीतिक रूप से पिछड़ी उप-जातियों** को **ग्रुप-3 में रखा जाए**, जबकि **माला समुदाय, जो पहले ही शिक्षा, रोजगार और वित्तीय लाभ पा चुका है**, उसे **ग्रुप-4 में रखा जाए।**

CM's Response: 'Approach Panel'
मुख्यमंत्री की प्रतिक्रिया: 'पैनल से संपर्क करें'

- **CM A. Revanth Reddy** asked members of the **Scheduled Caste communities, particularly the Madigas**, to **submit their concerns** regarding **SC categorisation** to the **Cabinet subcommittee and judicial commission**.
  मुख्यमंत्री ए. रेवंत रेड्डी ने अनुसूचित जाति समुदायों, विशेष रूप से मडिगाओं से कहा कि वे एससी वर्गीकरण से संबंधित अपनी आपत्तियां मंत्रिमंडलीय उपसमिति और न्यायिक आयोग को प्रस्तुत करें।

- He assured that the **State government is committed to justice** for the **Madiga community and other SC sub-castes** without **political considerations**.
  उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया कि **राज्य सरकार मडिगा समुदाय और अन्य एससी उप-जातियों के लिए न्याय दिलाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है**, और इसमें **कोई राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप नहीं होगा।**

- **CM briefed the delegation** about the **discussions held in the Assembly** and the **formation of the Cabinet panel and judicial commission** to **expedite the classification process**.

मुख्यमंत्री ने प्रतिनिधिमंडल को बताया कि विधानसभा में इस मुद्दे पर चर्चा की गई थी और मंत्रिमंडलीय पैनल व न्यायिक आयोग का गठन किया गया ताकि वर्गीकरण प्रक्रिया को तेजी से लागू किया जा सके।

- **Mr. Reddy stated that the official process taken up by the government** helped in **avoiding legal implications** for the **classification of SC sub-castes**.

रेड्डी ने कहा कि सरकार द्वारा अपनाई गई आधिकारिक प्रक्रिया ने एससी उप-जातियों के वर्गीकरण से संबंधित कानूनी जटिलताओं को टालने में मदद की।

'OPS bought land meant for SC/STs'

GS Paper II: Social Justice

Mohamed Imranullah of CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has found that former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam purchased a piece of land that could be owned only by those belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs), and also obtained a *patta* for it in his name.

The commission's Third Bench, comprising advocate S. Kumaradevan and social worker K.M. Leelavathi Dhanraj, said it could not be denied that Mr. Panneerselvam had obtained the *patta* using his political influence and ordered its cancellation.

After holding quasi-judicial proceedings on a complaint lodged by M. Balakrishnan and M. Muthumani of Theni district, the commission found that the State government had originally assigned the land to the first complainant's father M. Mookan, belonging to a Scheduled Caste, in 1991.

As per the conditions, the assignee should not transfer land ownership for a period of 15 years. Even thereafter, the land could be transferred only to a person belonging to SC/STs.

In violation of the assignment condition, Moo-

Former T.N. Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam.

kan had entered into a deed of exchange with one R. Harishankar, who did not belong either to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, in 2008. Thereafter, Mookan went missing in 2015 and could not be traced till date, though an FIR was registered regarding that.

Subsequently, Mr. Panneerselvam bought the land from Mr. Harishankar and also transferred the *patta* to his name in 2023. The commission called for status reports from the Theni Tahsildar, the District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officer, and other officials.

Stating that the purchaser of a property must be vigilant and thoroughly check the mother documents, the commission recommended the transfer of the *patta* in the name of the original assignee.

'OPS bought land meant for SC/STs'
'ओ. पन्नीरसेल्वम ने एससी/एसटी के लिए आरक्षित जमीन खरीदी'

- The **Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** found that **former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam** purchased a **piece of land meant exclusively for SC/STs** and also obtained a **patta** for it in his name.

तमिलनाडु राज्य अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग ने पाया कि पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री ओ. पन्नीरसेल्वम ने केवल एससी/एसटी के लिए आरक्षित भूमि खरीदी और उसका पट्टा अपने नाम पर प्राप्त किया।

Commission's Findings and Orders
आयोग की जांच और आदेश

- The **Third Bench of the commission**, comprising **advocate S. Kumaradevan and social worker K.M. Leelavathi Dhanraj**, stated that **Mr. Panneerselvam used his political influence** to obtain the patta and **ordered its cancellation**.

आयोग की तीसरी पीठ, जिसमें अधिवक्ता एस. कुमारदेवन और समाजसेवी के.एम. लीलावती धनराज शामिल थे, ने कहा कि ओ. पन्नीरसेल्वम ने अपने राजनीतिक प्रभाव का उपयोग करके पट्टा प्राप्त किया और इसके रद्दीकरण का आदेश दिया।

- After holding **quasi-judicial proceedings** on a complaint lodged by **M. Balakrishnan and M. Muthumani** from **Theni district**, the commission found that the **land was originally assigned** to **M. Mookan**, a Scheduled Caste member, in **1991**.

थेनी जिले के एम. बालकृष्णन और एम. मुथुमणि द्वारा दर्ज की गई शिकायत पर न्यायिक कार्रवाई के बाद, आयोग ने पाया कि भूमि मूल रूप से 1991 में एक अनुसूचित जाति के सदस्य एम. मूकन को आवंटित की गई थी।

Violation of Land Assignment Rules
भूमि आवंटन नियमों का उल्लंघन

- As per the **assignment conditions**, the **assignee was not allowed to transfer ownership** for **15 years**. Even after that period, the land **could only be transferred to an SC/ST person**.
  आवंटन की शर्तों के अनुसार, भूमि धारक को 15 वर्षों तक भूमि का स्वामित्व हस्तांतरित करने की अनुमति नहीं थी। उसके बाद भी, यह **केवल एससी/एसटी व्यक्ति को ही हस्तांतरित की जा सकती थी**।

- In **2008**, violating these conditions, **Mookan exchanged the land with R. Harishankar**, who **did not belong to SC/ST**.
  2008 में, इन शर्तों का उल्लंघन करते हुए, **मूकन ने यह भूमि आर. हरीशंकर के साथ बदल दी**, जो एससी/एसटी समुदाय से नहीं थे।

- **Mookan went missing in 2015**, and an **FIR was registered**, but he **could not be traced till date**.
  मूकन 2015 में लापता हो गए, और एफआईआर दर्ज की गई, लेकिन **आज तक उनका कोई पता नहीं चला**।

Purchase by O. Panneerselvam
ओ. पन्नीरसेल्वम द्वारा भूमि की खरीद

- After **Mookan's disappearance**, O. Panneerselvam purchased the land from R. Harishankar and **transferred the patta to his name in 2023**.
  मूकन के लापता होने के बाद, ओ. पन्नीरसेल्वम ने यह भूमि आर. हरीशंकर से खरीदी और 2023 में पट्टा अपने नाम स्थानांतरित कर लिया।

- The **commission sought status reports** from the **Theni Tahsildar, District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officer, and other officials**.
  आयोग ने थेनी तहसीलदार, जिला आदिद्रविड़ और जनजातीय कल्याण अधिकारी, और अन्य अधिकारियों से स्थिति रिपोर्ट मांगी।

Commission's Recommendations
आयोग की सिफारिशें

- The commission stated that **buyers must be vigilant** and thoroughly **verify mother documents** before purchasing a property.

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आयोग ने कहा कि **खरीदारों को सतर्क रहना चाहिए** और संपत्ति खरीदने से पहले **मूल दस्तावेजों की अच्छी तरह से जांच करनी चाहिए।**

- The commission **recommended transferring the patta back to the original assignee's name**.
  आयोग ने **पट्टा को मूल आवंटित व्यक्ति के नाम पर वापस स्थानांतरित करने की सिफारिश की।**

A role for India in South-South climate cooperation

COP29, at Baku, Azerbaijan, aptly referred to as the 'Climate Finance COP,' has played a crucial role in operationalising core elements of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (PA). The adoption of Article 6 at Baku represents a renewed focus on the market mechanism which could help countries that are often constrained by limited resources and face difficulties in achieving an economy-wide transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

Article 6 has the potential to meet climate ambitions through cooperative approaches. Its key component, Article 6.2, facilitates the transfer of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) between host and partner country to help countries meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), by offering flexibility for tailored agreements. The process not only supports emissions reductions in the host country (developing country) but also fosters technology exchange, promotes capacity building, and facilitates financial resources from the partner country (developed country), helping in the transition to a low-carbon economy and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Article 6.2 and India's climate policies

India, which is considered to the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG), though in absolute terms only, and a rapidly growing economy, is well-positioned to draw benefits from Article 6.2. The country has had a challenge in balancing its developmental goals with its climate commitments due to a lack of adequate finance and also a lack of support from developed countries. India's NDCs, *inter alia*, include ambitious targets, such as reducing emissions intensity by 45% by 2030. However, the financial and technical constraints are considerable, as just before COP29, India reiterated its call for the developed nations to mobilise at least $1 trillion annually in climate finance for developing countries to meet the challenges of global warming.

It is an opportune time for India as it moves to its own domestic emissions trading scheme (ETS), launched as a Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) in 2023, with the aim of integrating market mechanisms into national policy. While not directly linked to Article 6.2, the CCTS proposes to strengthen India's institutions by providing a framework for transparent carbon credit tracking and verification. India's prior experience with the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), voluntary carbon market (VCM), Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts) and Renewable Energy Certificates (REC), has laid the groundwork for effective engagement with

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India can position itself as a leader in the global transition to a low carbon pathway, through transparent processes and equitable partnerships

international carbon markets under Article 6.2, unlocking opportunities for emission reduction projects and climate finance.

India has identified 14 key activities for international collaboration under Article 6.2, which include Renewable Energy (RE), energy storage, and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage programme. These technologies, such as green hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuel, require advanced expertise, research and significant investment, which India seeks through partnerships with leading nations such as South Korea, the European Union, and Japan.

Engaging in ITMO transactions under Article 6.2 gives India the opportunity to meet its SDGs by transferring surplus emissions reductions certificates to partner countries through different unique project implementations. There are also co-benefits such as reducing health problems and enhancing income through green jobs. On other hand, by encouraging South-South cooperation India can also generate ITMOs while facilitating investments in key sectors, in which India has extensive experience such as RE and sustainable infrastructure.

Opportunities for the country

Article 6.2 offers India an opportunity to unlock large-scale climate finance through South-South cooperation. Countries under pressure to meet stringent NDCs can purchase ITMOs from India, generating financial resources for climate-resilient projects and green technology development. For example, India's renewable energy sector attracted over $10 billion in foreign direct investment in 2022. Further, ITMO transactions could scale up these efforts for other developing countries. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) also encourages such South-South cooperation as developing countries have been extending climate finance to other developing countries on a voluntary basis; however, their contributions are often unreported. Hence, Article 6.2 may foster such partnerships beyond the traditional North-South dynamic, enabling India to lead South-South cooperation, through the transfer of technology, and building capacity in developing countries (Africa) to help them meet their NDCs.

While India signs memorandums of understanding with developed countries to facilitate ITMO transfers, there is also a strong case for India to focus on building partnerships with African nations (India as partner country and Africa as host country). Africa, with its vast renewable energy potential and urgent climate vulnerabilities, is ideal for South-South cooperation. Many African nations face severe impacts from climate change, particularly in agriculture and water resources. India's close

partnership with African governments, extending to trade, investment, and developmental projects, strengthens this case. Under the 10 principles for India-Africa engagement enunciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a key pillar is economic cooperation – emphasising sustained engagement, creating local capabilities, enhancing agricultural productivity, and addressing climate change. With its expertise in RE deployment, digital tools, and sustainable agriculture, India is well-positioned to help the region. This can also help India meet its NDCs while also accessing carbon market opportunities to fund sustainable development projects across the African continent.

The sharing of ITMOs between India and partner countries will depend on agreement specifics, reflecting India's role as the host country and the developed partner's contributions to technology and capacity building, which are also aligned with the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). The share ratio may vary based on each party's contributions – India could claim a larger share if it extends significant financial or technical inputs. A similar approach is seen in the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), where credit allocation is decided through mutual consultation based on contributions to GHG reductions. Japan typically offers technology, funding, and capacity building, while the host country implements the project. The JCM Joint Committee reviews and issues credits, ensuring transparency by publicly sharing allocation details.

The challenges

ITMO sharing offers opportunities for international cooperation. But, at the same time, it also presents challenges for India. Developed nations might rely on low-cost emission reductions from India, potentially avoiding significant domestic decarbonisation efforts and shifting costly mitigation burdens onto India. For India, ITMO transfers could involve opportunity costs, as these reductions might otherwise support its own climate targets or sustainability goals.

Additionally, inadequate transparency and governance in ITMO mechanisms may lead to inefficiencies and can accentuate inequities, affecting India's interests. Over-reliance on ITMO transfers by partner nations could also hinder India's broader priorities, such as capacity building, green technology deployment, and climate-aligned economic growth. To address these risks, India must ensure ITMO agreements include safeguards for equitable benefit-sharing, transparency, and alignment with national and global climate ambitions.

Page

A role for India in South-South climate cooperation
दक्षिण-दक्षिण जलवायु सहयोग में भारत की भूमिका

COP29 at Baku, Azerbaijan, referred to as the 'Climate Finance COP', played a crucial role in operationalising core elements of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (PA).

बकу, अज़रबैजान में आयोजित COP29, जिसे 'जलवायु वित्त COP' कहा जाता है, ने पेरिस समझौते (PA) के अनुच्छेद 6 के प्रमुख तत्वों को लागू करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

- The adoption of **Article 6 at Baku** renewed focus on the **market mechanism**, helping **resource-constrained countries transition to a carbon-neutral economy**.
  बकу में अनुच्छेद 6 को अपनाने से **बाज़ार तंत्र** पर नया ध्यान केंद्रित हुआ, जिससे **संसाधन-सीमित देशों को कार्बन-न्यूट्रल अर्थव्यवस्था में स्थानांतरित होने में मदद मिली।**

Article 6 and its Climate Ambitions
अनुच्छेद 6 और इसकी जलवायु महत्वाकांक्षाएँ

- **Article 6.2** facilitates the **transfer of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs)** between a **host and partner country**, helping in achieving **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.
  अनुच्छेद 6.2 **मेज़बान और साझेदार देश** के बीच **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय रूप से हस्तांतरित शमन परिणामों (ITMOs) का स्थानांतरण** सक्षम बनाता है, जिससे **राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDCs) को** पूरा करने में सहायता मिलती है।

- This process **supports emissions reductions in the host country (developing nation)** while fostering **technology exchange, capacity building, and financial support from the partner country (developed nation)**.
  यह प्रक्रिया **मेज़बान देश (विकासशील देश) में उत्सर्जन में कमी** का समर्थन करती है, साथ ही **प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण, क्षमता निर्माण और साझेदार देश (विकसित देश) से वित्तीय सहायता को बढ़ावा देती है।**

- **Article 6.2** helps in the **transition to a low-carbon economy and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
  अनुच्छेद 6.2 **कम-कार्बन अर्थव्यवस्था में बदलाव और सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDGs) को प्राप्त** करने में सहायता करता है।

Article 6.2 and India's Climate Policies
अनुच्छेद 6.2 और भारत की जलवायु नीतियाँ

- **India is the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG)** in absolute terms, but as a **rapidly growing economy**, it can benefit from **Article 6.2**.
  भारत ग्रीनहाउस गैसों (GHG) का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा उत्सर्जक है, लेकिन एक **तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के रूप में** यह **अनुच्छेद 6.2 से लाभ उठा सकता है।**

- **India's NDCs** include **reducing emissions intensity by 45% by 2030**, but financial and technical constraints pose challenges.
  भारत के NDCs में 2030 तक उत्सर्जन तीव्रता को 45% तक कम करना शामिल है, लेकिन वित्तीय और तकनीकी बाधाएँ चुनौती बनी हुई हैं।

- Before **COP29, India reiterated its call for developed nations to mobilize at least $1 trillion annually in climate finance for developing countries**.
  COP29 से पहले, भारत ने विकसित देशों से यह अपील दोहराई कि वे विकासशील देशों के लिए जलवायु वित्त में प्रति वर्ष कम से कम $1 ट्रिलियन जुटाएँ।

India's Domestic Carbon Trading Initiatives

भारत की घरेलू कार्बन ट्रेडिंग पहल

- In **2023, India launched the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**, aiming to integrate **market mechanisms into national policy**.
  2023 में, भारत ने कार्बन क्रेडिट ट्रेडिंग योजना (CCTS) शुरू की, जिसका उद्देश्य **बाज़ार तंत्र को राष्ट्रीय नीति में एकीकृत करना** है।

- Though **not directly linked to Article 6.2**, CCTS provides a **transparent framework for carbon credit tracking and verification**.
  हालांकि यह सीधे अनुच्छेद 6.2 से जुड़ा नहीं है, लेकिन CCTS कार्बन क्रेडिट ट्रैकिंग और सत्यापन के लिए एक पारदर्शी ढांचा प्रदान करता है।

- India's past experiences with **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM), Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts), and Renewable Energy Certificates (REC)** help in effective engagement with **international carbon markets under Article 6.2**.
  भारत का स्वच्छ विकास तंत्र (CDM), स्वैच्छिक कार्बन बाज़ार (VCM), ऊर्जा बचत प्रमाणपत्र (ESCerts), और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा प्रमाणपत्र (REC) के साथ पिछला अनुभव अनुच्छेद 6.2 के तहत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कार्बन बाज़ार में प्रभावी भागीदारी में सहायक होगा।

India's Key Activities Under Article 6.2

अनुच्छेद 6.2 के तहत भारत की प्रमुख गतिविधियाँ

- **India identified 14 key activities** for **international collaboration**, including **Renewable Energy (RE), energy storage, and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)**.

भारत ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग के लिए 14 प्रमुख गतिविधियों की पहचान की, जिनमें **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (RE), ऊर्जा भंडारण और कार्बन कैप्चर, उपयोग और भंडारण (CCUS)** शामिल हैं।

- Technologies like **green hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuel** require **advanced expertise, research, and significant investment**, which India seeks through partnerships with **South Korea, the European Union, and Japan**.
  ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन और सतत विमानन ईंधन जैसी तकनीकों के लिए **उन्नत विशेषज्ञता, अनुसंधान और महत्वपूर्ण निवेश** की आवश्यकता है, जिसे भारत **दक्षिण कोरिया, यूरोपीय संघ और जापान** के साथ साझेदारी के माध्यम से प्राप्त करना चाहता है।

Benefits of Engaging in ITMO Transactions
ITMO लेनदेन में भाग लेने के लाभ

- **ITMO transactions under Article 6.2** enable India to **meet SDGs** by transferring **surplus emissions reductions certificates to partner countries**.
  अनुच्छेद 6.2 के तहत ITMO लेनदेन, भारत को **अतिरिक्त उत्सर्जन कटौती प्रमाणपत्रों को साझेदार देशों में स्थानांतरित करके सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDGs)** को पूरा करने में सक्षम बनाता है।
- Co-benefits include **reducing health issues and generating income through green jobs**.
  इसके सह-लाभों में स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं को कम करना और हरित नौकरियों के माध्यम से आय उत्पन्न करना शामिल है।
- **By promoting South-South cooperation, India can generate ITMOs while facilitating investments in key sectors like RE and sustainable infrastructure**.
  दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग को बढ़ावा देकर, भारत **ITMOs** उत्पन्न कर सकता है और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और सतत बुनियादी ढांचे जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में निवेश को सक्षम बना सकता है।

Opportunities for the country
देश के लिए अवसर

Article 6.2 offers India an opportunity to unlock large-scale climate finance through South-South cooperation.
अनुच्छेद 6.2 भारत को दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग के माध्यम से बड़े पैमाने पर जलवायु वित्त प्राप्त करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है।

- Countries under pressure to meet **stringent NDCs** can purchase **ITMOs** from **India**, generating **financial resources** for **climate-resilient projects** and **green technology development**.
  कड़े NDCs को पूरा करने के दबाव में देश **भारत** से **ITMOs** खरीद सकते हैं, जिससे **जलवायु अनुकूल परियोजनाओं** और **हरित प्रौद्योगिकी विकास** के लिए **वित्तीय संसाधन** उत्पन्न होंगे।

- For example, India's **renewable energy sector** attracted over **$10 billion** in **foreign direct investment (FDI)** in **2022**.

  उदाहरण के लिए, भारत के **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्र** ने 2022 में **$10 बिलियन** से अधिक का **प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI)** आकर्षित किया।

- **ITMO transactions** could scale up these efforts for **other developing countries**.

  ITMO लेनदेन अन्य **विकासशील देशों** के लिए इन प्रयासों को बढ़ा सकता है।

- The **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** encourages **South-South cooperation** as developing countries have been extending **climate finance** to others on a **voluntary basis**.

  न्यू कलेक्टिव क्वांटिफाइड गोल (NCQG), **दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग** को प्रोत्साहित करता है, क्योंकि विकासशील देश **स्वैच्छिक रूप से** अन्य देशों को **जलवायु वित्त** प्रदान कर रहे हैं।

- **Article 6.2** may foster partnerships beyond the **traditional North-South dynamic**, enabling **India** to lead **South-South cooperation**.

  अनुच्छेद 6.2 पारंपरिक **उत्तर-दक्षिण सहयोग** से आगे बढ़कर **भारत** को **दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग** में अग्रणी बना सकता है।

- India can facilitate the **transfer of technology** and **capacity building** in **developing countries like Africa**, helping them meet their **NDCs**.

  भारत **अफ्रीका जैसे विकासशील देशों** में **प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण** और **क्षमता निर्माण** की सुविधा प्रदान कर सकता है, जिससे वे अपने **NDCs** को पूरा कर सकें।

- India's **partnership with Africa** extends to **trade, investment, and developmental projects**, strengthening its position in **climate finance**.

  भारत की **अफ्रीका के साथ साझेदारी व्यापार, निवेश, और विकास परियोजनाओं** तक फैली हुई है, जो **जलवायु वित्त** में इसकी स्थिति को मजबूत करती है।

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** 10 principles for **India-Africa engagement** emphasize **economic cooperation, local capability creation, and climate change mitigation**.

  प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के **भारत-अफ्रीका सहयोग** के 10 सिद्धांत आर्थिक सहयोग, स्थानीय क्षमताओं का निर्माण, और जलवायु परिवर्तन शमन पर जोर देते हैं।

- India's expertise in **renewable energy deployment, digital tools, and sustainable agriculture** can help the region while also enabling India to access **carbon market opportunities**.

  नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा तैनाती, डिजिटल उपकरणों और सतत कृषि में भारत की विशेषज्ञता इस क्षेत्र को मदद कर सकती है, साथ ही भारत को **कार्बन बाजार के अवसरों** तक पहुंचने में सक्षम बना सकती है।

Challenges
चुनौतियां

ITMO sharing offers opportunities for international cooperation, but it also presents challenges for India.

ITMO साझाकरण अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग के अवसर प्रदान करता है, लेकिन यह भारत के लिए चुनौतियां भी प्रस्तुत करता है।

- Developed nations might rely on **low-cost emission reductions** from **India**, avoiding their **domestic decarbonization efforts**.
  विकसित देश **भारत से कम लागत वाले उत्सर्जन कटौती** पर निर्भर रह सकते हैं और अपनी **घरेलू डीकार्बोनाइजेशन प्रयासों** से बच सकते हैं।

- **India's ITMO transfers** could involve **opportunity costs**, as these reductions might otherwise support **India's own climate targets**.
  भारत के **ITMO स्थानांतरण** में **अवसर लागत** शामिल हो सकती है, क्योंकि ये कटौती **भारत के अपने जलवायु लक्ष्यों** का समर्थन कर सकती थीं।

- Inadequate **transparency and governance** in **ITMO mechanisms** may lead to **inefficiencies** and **inequities**, affecting India's interests.
  ITMO तंत्र में अपर्याप्त **पारदर्शिता और शासन अप्रभावशीलता** और **असमानताओं** को जन्म दे सकता है, जिससे भारत के हित प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।

- Over-reliance on **ITMO transfers** by partner nations could hinder India's broader priorities such as **capacity building, green technology deployment, and climate-aligned economic growth**.
  भागीदार देशों द्वारा **ITMO स्थानांतरण** पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता, भारत की **क्षमता निर्माण, हरित प्रौद्योगिकी तैनाती और जलवायु-संरेखित आर्थिक वृद्धि** जैसी व्यापक प्राथमिकताओं को बाधित कर सकती है।

- **To address these risks, India must ensure ITMO agreements** include safeguards for **equitable benefit-sharing, transparency, and alignment with national and global climate ambitions**.
  इन जोखिमों को कम करने के लिए, भारत को यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि **ITMO समझौतों** में समान लाभ साझा करने, पारदर्शिता और राष्ट्रीय व वैश्विक जलवायु महत्वाकांक्षाओं के साथ संरेखण के लिए सुरक्षा उपाय शामिल हों।

A legal 'remedy' that perpetuates survivor trauma

GS Paper II: Social Justice

The Allahabad High Court, in *Atul Gautam vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (2025), recently granted bail to a man who has been accused of raping his inter-faith live-in partner on the 'promise of marriage'. The bail was granted on the condition of his marrying the survivor under the Special Marriage Act and arranging for a deposit of ₹5 lakh.

In another case, *Abhishek vs State of Uttar Pradesh and Ors.* (2024), the same High Court had granted bail to a rape accused on the condition that he marry the survivor and care for both her and their newborn child. This reasoning aligns with a precedent set in *Ramashankar vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (2022), wherein bail was granted on similar grounds.

On the court and state

These cases raise key issues: first, whether courts can impose bail conditions requiring a rape accused to marry the survivor and assume responsibility for her and the child. And, second, whether the state is neglecting its responsibility to provide welfare measures for survivors and children born out of such crimes.

In *Aparna Bhat vs State of Madhya Pradesh* (2021), the Supreme Court of India, while issuing guidelines for bail conditions, lay emphasis on the point that courts must ensure that the conditions of bail strictly prohibit any contact between the accused and the survivor to avoid secondary trauma. The bail conditions which mandate that the accused marry the survivor, violate this guideline.

The Court also directed that the bail conditions should not reinforce gender stereotypes and patriarchal notions on women and must strictly comply with the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. While dealing with Section 437(3)(c) of the Code, the Court, in *Kunal Kumar Tiwari vs State of*

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The judiciary offering bail on the condition of marriage to the perpetrator of sexual violence is problematic

Bihar (2017), observed that the courts may impose bail conditions in the interest of justice. However, such conditions cannot be arbitrary or extend beyond the ends of the provision. However, the approach adopted by courts (*Atul Gautam*) appears to stem from regressive societal perceptions that equate a woman's dignity with her marital status.

Impact on survivor

Such reasoning perpetuates the problematic belief that marriage is a remedy for rape, restoring an alleged loss of purity or honour. This not only violates the autonomy of the survivor but also legitimises an unequal and coercive marital relationship. Such conditions create a perverse incentive for the accused to manipulate the survivor, furthering the possibility of abuse under the guise of reconciliation. The courts inadvertently reinforce a narrative where survivor is forced into a dependent relationship with the accused, often without genuine consent. In such cases, marriage might result in abusive behaviour under legal protection. The prospect of marriage often becomes a strategic escape route for the accused, allowing bail, compromises, or even leniency during sentencing.

Courts that suggest or facilitate such marriages inadvertently risk legitimising the heinous act under the guise of matrimony. Such conditions undermine the integrity of the trial process and the survivor's quest for justice.

The responsibility of ensuring the welfare of survivors and their children lies squarely with the state. In *Re: Right to Privacy of Adolescents* (2024), the Court held that the state must provide essential support such as shelter, food, education, and counselling for victims. The lack of an adequate support system often leaves survivors

with no choice but to rely on their perpetrators. This reliance not only perpetuates cycles of exploitation but also violates their fundamental right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution. By failing to provide holistic support to victims, the state shifts its responsibility to the judiciary, leading to solutions that may conflict with constitutional principles. This creates a perverse mechanism where victims are coerced into dependence on the accused, with the courts further enabling the state's neglect.

A conflict of interest

Granting bail on the condition of marriage during the pendency of a trial is particularly problematic. While considering the question of granting bail, courts are not supposed to look into the merits of the case, as the accused's guilt is not to be determined at this stage. Bail hearings and conditions should not influence the trial. However, imposing marriage between the accused and the survivor as a bail condition has irreversible effects, altering their relationship and interpersonal dynamics. Such conditions may affect the trial's outcome and the survivor's ability to testify freely.

Moreover, if marriage is deemed as a measure for the survivor's welfare, it raises concerns about the court's impartiality in convicting and sentencing the accused, as this could conflict with the survivor's welfare if she becomes dependent on the accused. These practices demand a critical re-evaluation of the judiciary's approach to cases involving rape and other forms of sexual violence. Justice must not be diluted by societal norms or convenience; it must prioritise the rights, the dignity, and the autonomy of survivors, ensuring that legal remedies do not perpetuate their trauma or compromise the principles of fairness.

A legal 'remedy' that perpetuates survivor trauma

एक कानूनी 'उपाय' जो पीड़िता के आघात को बनाए रखता है

The Allahabad High Court, in Atul Gautam vs State of Uttar Pradesh (2025), recently granted bail to a man accused of raping his inter-faith live-in partner on the 'promise of marriage'.

इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय, अतुल गौतम बनाम उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य (2025) में, हाल ही में एक व्यक्ति को 'विवाह के वादे' पर अपनी अंतर्धार्मिक लिव-इन पार्टनर से बलात्कार के आरोप में जमानत दी।

- The bail was granted on the condition that he marry the survivor under the **Special Marriage Act** and arrange for a deposit of **₹5 lakh**.

  जमानत इस शर्त पर दी गई कि वह पीड़िता से **विशेष विवाह अधिनियम** के तहत विवाह करे और **₹5 लाख** की जमा राशि की व्यवस्था करे।

- In another case, **Abhishek vs State of Uttar Pradesh and Ors. (2024)**, the same High Court granted bail to a rape accused on the condition that he marry the survivor and take responsibility for their **newborn child**.

  एक अन्य मामले में, **अभिषेक बनाम उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य एवं अन्य (2024)** में, इसी उच्च न्यायालय ने बलात्कार के आरोपी को इस शर्त पर जमानत दी कि वह पीड़िता से विवाह करे और उनके **नवजात शिशु** की जिम्मेदारी ले।

- This reasoning aligns with a precedent set in **Ramashankar vs State of Uttar Pradesh (2022)**, wherein bail was granted on similar grounds.

  यह तर्क **रामाशंकर बनाम उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य (2022)** में निर्धारित एक मिसाल के अनुरूप है, जिसमें समान आधार पर जमानत दी गई थी।

On the court and state
न्यायालय और राज्य पर प्रभाव

- These cases raise key issues: **Can courts impose bail conditions requiring a rape accused to marry the survivor?** And, **Is the state neglecting its responsibility** to provide welfare measures for survivors and children born out of such crimes?

  ये मामले महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे उठाते हैं: **क्या अदालतें बलात्कार के आरोपी को पीड़िता से विवाह करने की शर्त लगा सकती हैं?** और **क्या राज्य ऐसे अपराधों से जन्मे बच्चों और पीड़िताओं के लिए कल्याणकारी उपायों की जिम्मेदारी से बच रहा है?**

- In **Aparna Bhat vs State of Madhya Pradesh (2021)**, the **Supreme Court of India** emphasized that **bail conditions must prohibit any contact between the accused and the survivor** to avoid **secondary trauma**.

  अर्पणा भट बनाम मध्य प्रदेश राज्य (2021) में, **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने जोर देकर कहा कि **जमानत की शर्तों में आरोपी और पीड़िता के बीच किसी भी संपर्क को रोकना चाहिए** ताकि **द्वितीयक आघात** से बचा जा सके।

- The Court also ruled that bail conditions **must not reinforce gender stereotypes and patriarchal notions** about women.

  अदालत ने यह भी निर्देश दिया कि जमानत की शर्तें **लैंगिक रूढ़ियों और पितृसत्तात्मक धारणाओं को मजबूत नहीं करनी चाहिए।**

- In **Kunal Kumar Tiwari vs State of Bihar (2017)**, the Supreme Court held that **bail conditions must serve the interests of justice but cannot be arbitrary**.

  कुनाल कुमार तिवारी बनाम बिहार राज्य (2017) में, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि **जमानत की शर्तें न्याय के हित में होनी चाहिए, लेकिन मनमानी नहीं हो सकतीं।**

- However, the approach in **Atul Gautam's case** seems rooted in **regressive societal perceptions** that equate a **woman's dignity with her marital status**.

  हालांकि, **अतुल गौतम के मामले** में अपनाई गई प्रवृत्ति **पिछड़ी सामाजिक धारणाओं** पर आधारित लगती है, जो **महिला की गरिमा को उसकी वैवाहिक स्थिति से जोड़ती है।**

Impact on Survivor
पीड़ित पर प्रभाव

- Such reasoning perpetuates the **problematic belief** that **marriage is a remedy for rape**, restoring an alleged **loss of purity or honour**.

  इस तरह की सोच **समस्या उत्पन्न करने वाले विश्वास** को बढ़ावा देती है कि **विवाह बलात्कार का समाधान है**, जो कथित रूप से **पवित्रता या सम्मान की हानि** को बहाल कर सकता है।

- This not only **violates the autonomy** of the survivor but also **legitimises an unequal and coercive marital relationship**.

  यह न केवल पीड़ित की **स्वायत्तता का उल्लंघन** करता है, बल्कि **असमान और जबरदस्ती विवाह संबंध** को भी वैधता प्रदान करता है।

- Such conditions create a **perverse incentive** for the accused to **manipulate the survivor**, furthering the possibility of **abuse under the guise of reconciliation**.

  इस तरह की स्थितियाँ आरोपी को **पीड़ित को नियंत्रित करने** के लिए **एक विकृत प्रोत्साहन** देती हैं, जिससे **सुलह के नाम पर दुर्व्यवहार** की संभावना बढ़ जाती है।

- The courts **inadvertently reinforce a narrative** where the survivor is **forced into a dependent relationship with the accused, often without genuine consent**.

  न्यायालय अनजाने में **एक ऐसी सोच को बढ़ावा देते हैं**, जहाँ पीड़ित को **आरोपी पर निर्भर रहने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है, अक्सर बिना वास्तविक सहमति के।**

- In such cases, **marriage might result in abusive behaviour under legal protection**.

  ऐसे मामलों में, **विवाह कानूनी संरक्षण के तहत दुर्व्यवहार में बदल सकता है।**

- The **prospect of marriage** often becomes a **strategic escape route** for the accused, allowing **bail, compromises, or even leniency during sentencing**.

  विवाह की संभावना अक्सर आरोपी के लिए **रणनीतिक बचाव का रास्ता** बन जाती है, जिससे उसे **जमानत, समझौते या सजा में नरमी** मिल सकती है।

- Courts that suggest or facilitate such marriages **risk legitimising the heinous act under the guise of matrimony**.

  जो न्यायालय इस तरह के विवाहों का सुझाव देते हैं या उन्हें बढ़ावा देते हैं, वे **विवाह के नाम पर जघन्य अपराध को वैधता देने का जोखिम** उठाते हैं।

- Such conditions **undermine the integrity of the trial process** and the survivor's **quest for justice**.

  इस तरह की स्थितियाँ **न्यायिक प्रक्रिया की निष्पक्षता को कमजोर करती हैं** और पीड़ित के **न्याय पाने के प्रयासों को बाधित करती हैं।**

- The **responsibility of ensuring the welfare of survivors and their children lies squarely with the state**.

  पीड़ितों और उनके बच्चों के कल्याण की जिम्मेदारी पूरी तरह से राज्य पर होती है।

- In **Re: Right to Privacy of Adolescents (2024)**, the Court held that the **state must provide essential support such as shelter, food, education, and counselling for victims**.

  Re: Right to Privacy of Adolescents (2024) में, न्यायालय ने माना कि **राज्य को पीड़ितों के लिए आश्रय, भोजन, शिक्षा और परामर्श जैसी आवश्यक सहायता प्रदान करनी चाहिए।**

- The **lack of an adequate support system** often leaves survivors **with no choice but to rely on their perpetrators**.

  पर्याप्त समर्थन प्रणाली की कमी अक्सर पीड़ितों को **अपने अपराधियों पर निर्भर होने के लिए मजबूर कर देती है।**

- This reliance **not only perpetuates cycles of exploitation** but also **violates their fundamental right to live with dignity under Article 21** of the Constitution.

  यह निर्भरता **शोषण के चक्र को जारी रखती है** और संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत गरिमा के साथ जीने के मौलिक अधिकार का उल्लंघन करती है।**

- By failing to provide holistic support to victims, **the state shifts its responsibility to the judiciary**, leading to solutions that may **conflict with constitutional principles**.

  पीड़ितों को संपूर्ण समर्थन देने में असफल रहकर, **राज्य अपनी जिम्मेदारी न्यायपालिका पर डाल देता है**, जिससे ऐसे समाधान निकलते हैं जो **संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों से टकरा सकते हैं।**

- This creates a **perverse mechanism** where victims are **coerced into dependence on the accused, with the courts further enabling the state's neglect**.

  यह **एक विकृत व्यवस्था** बनाता है, जहाँ पीड़ितों को **आरोपी पर निर्भर रहने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है, और न्यायालय राज्य की उपेक्षा को बढ़ावा देते हैं।**

A Conflict of Interest
हितों का टकराव

- **Granting bail on the condition of marriage** during the pendency of a trial is particularly **problematic**.

  मुकदमे की प्रक्रिया के दौरान विवाह की शर्त पर जमानत देना विशेष रूप से **समस्याग्रस्त** है।

- While considering the question of **granting bail**, courts are **not supposed to look into the merits of the case**, as the accused's **guilt is not to be determined at this stage**.

  जमानत देने के सवाल पर विचार करते समय, न्यायालय को **मामले की योग्यता नहीं देखनी चाहिए**, क्योंकि इस चरण में **आरोपी की दोषसिद्धि तय नहीं की जाती।**

- **Bail hearings and conditions should not influence the trial.**

  जमानत की सुनवाई और उसकी शर्तें मुकदमे को प्रभावित नहीं करनी चाहिए।

- However, **imposing marriage between the accused and the survivor as a bail condition** has **irreversible effects**, altering their relationship and **interpersonal dynamics**.

हालाँकि, **जमानत की शर्त के रूप में आरोपी और पीड़ित के बीच विवाह थोपना अप्रतिवर्तनीय प्रभाव** डालता है, जिससे उनके संबंध और **आपसी समीकरण बदल जाते हैं।**

- Such conditions **may affect the trial's outcome** and the survivor's **ability to testify freely**.

  ऐसी स्थितियाँ **मुकदमे के परिणाम को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं** और पीड़ित की **स्वतंत्र रूप से गवाही देने की क्षमता को बाधित कर सकती हैं।**

- Moreover, if **marriage is deemed as a measure for the survivor's welfare**, it raises concerns about the **court's impartiality in convicting and sentencing the accused**.

  इसके अलावा, यदि **विवाह को पीड़ित के कल्याण का उपाय माना जाता है**, तो यह **आरोपी को दोषी ठहराने और सजा देने में न्यायालय की निष्पक्षता** पर सवाल खड़ा करता है।

- This could **conflict with the survivor's welfare if she becomes dependent on the accused**.

  यह **पीड़ित के कल्याण से टकरा सकता है** यदि वह आरोपी पर निर्भर हो जाती है।

- These practices demand a **critical re-evaluation of the judiciary's approach** to cases involving **rape and other forms of sexual violence**.

  इन प्रथाओं को **बलात्कार और अन्य प्रकार की यौन हिंसा से जुड़े मामलों में न्यायपालिका के दृष्टिकोण की गंभीर पुनर्समीक्षा** की आवश्यकता है।

- **Justice must not be diluted by societal norms or convenience**; it must **prioritise the rights, the dignity, and the autonomy of survivors**.

  न्याय को सामाजिक मानदंडों या सुविधा के कारण कमजोर नहीं होना चाहिए; इसे **पीड़ितों के अधिकारों, गरिमा और स्वायत्तता को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।**

- Legal remedies must **not perpetuate survivors' trauma** or **compromise the principles of fairness**.

  कानूनी उपायों को **पीड़ितों के आघात को बनाए नहीं रखना चाहिए** और **न्याय की निष्पक्षता के सिद्धांतों से समझौता नहीं करना चाहिए।**

Elector surge in Maharashtra and Delhi polls is par for the course

Data show that the net addition of 39.6 lakh electors in Maharashtra in about seven months is not unusually high

GS Paper II: Elections

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Sambavi Parthasarathy

The surge in the number of electors during the recent Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Delhi is not unusually high, an analysis of Election Commission data shows.

The spurt in electors in Maharashtra became a subject of controversy after the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, raised the issue at a recent press conference. In Maharashtra, between the Lok Sabha polls held on April 19, 2024, and the Assembly elections held on November 20, 2024 – a period of 215 days – there was a net addition of 39.6 lakh electors. However, between the Assembly elections on October 21, 2019, and the Lok Sabha polls in April 2024 – a period of 1,642 days – there was a net addition of only 32.2 lakh electors. "Why did the Election Commission add more voters in Maharashtra in five months than it did in five years," Mr. Gandhi asked.

Table 1 shows the number of electors recorded across various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra. Data show that the net addition of 39.6 lakh electors in 215 days is not unusually high. Between the Lok Sabha polls on April 20, 2004, and the Assembly elections on October 13, 2004 – a period of 176 days – there was a net addition of 29.5 lakh electors. A similar analysis of 2009, 2014, and 2019 shows net additions of 30 lakh, 27.2 lakh, and 11.6 lakh electors, respectively.

In fact, if the increases are expressed as electors added per day, the context becomes clearer. The net addition of 39.6 lakh electors in 215 days amounts to 18,434 net electors added per day. This figure is not a far cry from the 16,782 net electors added per day in the 176 days in 2004.

Table 2 shows similar informa-

tion for elections in Delhi. Between the Lok Sabha polls on May 25, 2024, and the Assembly elections on February 5, 2025 – a period of 256 days – there was a net addition of 3.9 lakh electors. However, between the Assembly elections on February 8, 2020, and the Lok Sabha polls in May 2024 – 1,568 days – there was a net addition of only 4.16 lakh electors.

As with Maharashtra, past data for Delhi also show that such surges in electors during brief periods are not unusual. In fact, the net additions have often been much higher. For instance, between the Lok Sabha polls on May 12, 2019, and the Assembly elections on February 8, 2020 – a period of 272 days – there was a net addition of 4.7 lakh electors. Between April 2014 and February 2015, there was a net addition of 6.02 lakh electors. And between December 2013 and April 2014, in just 127 days, there was an addition of 7.7 lakh net electors.

It is intriguing that a significant number of electors were added during the brief periods between two elections, while longer gaps did not result in substantially higher additions. But the elector surge during the recent State elections in Maharashtra and Delhi, over a short period, is not a new phenomenon; it is part of a long-standing trend in these States.

Tables 3 and 4 provide data for Jharkhand and Haryana. Departing from the trends observed in Maharashtra and Delhi, in these two States, shorter intervals between elections resulted in smaller net additions of electors, whereas longer intervals lead to significantly higher elector additions.

These contrasting patterns suggest that the effectiveness of Chief Electoral Officers assigned to these States, population demographics, and migration patterns might significantly influence voter additions. Political reasons such as welfare measures might help in higher voter registration but that requires a deeper study.

Not far away from the trend

The data for the tables were sourced from the Election Commission of India

Table 1: Number of electors recorded across various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra

	Year	Electors	Poll date	Elector difference	Gap in days	Voters per day
LS	1999	5,68,53,196	Sept. 6, 1999			
LS	2004	6,30,12,208	Apr. 20, 2004	61,59,012	1,688	3,649
AE	2004	6,59,65,792	Oct. 13, 2004	29,53,584	176	16,782
LS	2009	7,29,54,058	Apr. 16, 2009	69,88,266	1,646	4,246
AE	2009	7,59,68,312	Oct. 13, 2009	30,14,254	180	16,746
LS	2014	8,07,98,823	Apr. 10, 2014	4,830,511	1,640	2,945
AE	2014	8,35,28,310	Oct. 15, 2014	27,29,487	188	14,519
LS	2019	8,86,76,946	Apr. 11, 2019	51,48,636	1,639	3,141
AE	2019	8,98,38,267	Oct. 21, 2019	11,61,321	193	6,017
LS	2024	9,30,61,760	Apr. 19, 2024	32,23,493	1,642	1,963
AE	2024	9,70,25,119	Nov. 20, 2024	39,63,359	215	18,434

Table 2: Number of electors recorded across various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Delhi

	Year	Electors	Poll date	Elector difference	Gap in days	Voters per day
LS	1999	87,12,530	Sep. 5, 1999			
AE	2003	84,48,324	Dec. 1, 2003	-2,64,206	1,548	-171
LS	2004	87,63,475	May 10, 2004	3,15,151	161	1,957
AE	2008	1,07,26,573	Nov. 29, 2008	19,63,098	1,664	1,180
LS	2009	1,10,96,854	May. 7, 2009	3,70,281	159	2,329
AE	2013	1,19,36,360	Dec. 4, 2013	8,39,506	1,672	502
LS	2014	1,27,11,164	Apr. 10, 2014	7,74,804	127	6,101
AE	2015	1,33,13,295	Feb. 7, 2015	6,02,131	303	1,987
LS	2019	1,43,27,649	May 12, 2019	10,14,354	1,555	652
AE	2020	1,47,97,990	Feb. 8, 2020	4,70,341	272	1,729
LS	2024	1,52,14,638	May 25, 2024	4,16,648	1,568	266
AE	2025	1,56,14,000	Feb. 5, 2025	3,99,362	256	1,560

Table 3: Number of electors recorded across various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Jharkhand

	Year	Electors	Poll date	Elector difference	Gap in days	Voters per day
LS	2004	1,68,12,339	Apr. 20, 2004			
AE	2005	1,77,66,202	Feb. 3, 2005	9,53,863	289	3,301
LS	2009	1,79,34,095	Apr. 20, 2009	1,67,893	1,537	109
AE	2009	1,80,45,638	Nov. 25, 2009	1,11,543	219	509
LS	2014	2,03,49,796	Apr. 10, 2014	23,04,158	1,597	1,443
AE	2014	2,08,52,808	Nov. 25, 2014	5,03,012	229	2,197
LS	2019	2,24,04,856	Apr. 29, 2019	15,52,048	1,616	960
AE	2019	2,30,58,035	Nov. 30 2019	6,53,179	215	3,038
LS	2024	2,58,77,892	May 13, 2024	28,19,857	1,626	1,734
AE	2024	2,60,87,698	Nov. 13, 2024	2,09,806	184	1,140

Table 4: Number of electors recorded across various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Haryana

	Year	Electors	Poll date	Elector difference	Gap in days	Voters per day
LS	2004	1,23,20,557	May 10, 2004			
AE	2005	1,27,35,888	Feb. 3, 2005	4,15,331	269	1,544
LS	2009	1,20,87,710	May 7, 2009	-6,48,178	1,554	-417
AE	2009	1,31,17,142	Oct. 13, 2009	10,29,432	159	6,474
LS	2014	1,60,97,233	Apr. 10, 2014	29,80,091	1,640	1,817
AE	2014	1,63,03,742	Oct. 15, 2014	2,06,509	188	1,098
LS	2019	1,80,57,010	May 12, 2019	17,53,268	1,670	1,050
AE	2019	1,83,86,682	Oct. 21, 2019	3,29,672	162	2,035
LS	2024	2,01,87,911	May 25, 2024	18,01,229	1,678	1,073
AE	2024	2,04,63,841	Oct. 5, 2024	2,75,930	133	2,075

AE: Assembly elections
LS: Lok Sabha elections

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Elector Surge in Maharashtra and Delhi Polls is Par for the Course

महाराष्ट्र और दिल्ली चुनावों में मतदाताओं की संख्या में वृद्धि सामान्य है

Data show that the net addition of 39.6 lakh electors in Maharashtra in about seven months is not unusually high.

आंकड़े बताते हैं कि महाराष्ट्र में सात महीनों में 39.6 लाख मतदाताओं का शुद्ध इज़ाफा असामान्य रूप से अधिक नहीं है।

- The **surge in electors** during the **recent Assembly elections** in **Maharashtra and Delhi** is **not unusually high**, as per the **Election Commission data**.

  हाल ही में महाराष्ट्र और दिल्ली के विधानसभा चुनावों के दौरान मतदाताओं की संख्या में वृद्धि चुनाव आयोग के आंकड़ों के अनुसार **असामान्य रूप से अधिक नहीं है।**

- The **spurt in electors** in **Maharashtra** became a **controversy** after **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi,** raised the issue in a **press conference**.

  महाराष्ट्र में मतदाताओं की संख्या में वृद्धि विवाद का विषय बन गई, जब लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी ने इसे एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में उठाया।

- In **Maharashtra**, between the **Lok Sabha polls on April 19, 2024**, and the **Assembly elections on November 20, 2024** (a period of **215 days**), there was a **net addition of 39.6 lakh electors**.

  महाराष्ट्र में, 19 अप्रैल 2024 के लोकसभा चुनावों और 20 नवंबर 2024 के विधानसभा चुनावों के बीच (215 दिनों की अवधि में), मतदाताओं की संख्या में 39.6 लाख का शुद्ध इज़ाफा हुआ।

- However, between the **Assembly elections on October 21, 2019**, and the **Lok Sabha polls in April 2024** (a period of **1,642 days**), there was a **net addition of only 32.2 lakh electors**.

  हालांकि, 21 अक्टूबर 2019 के विधानसभा चुनावों और अप्रैल 2024 के लोकसभा चुनावों के बीच (1,642 दिनों की अवधि में), मतदाताओं की संख्या में केवल 32.2 लाख का शुद्ध इज़ाफा हुआ।

- **Rahul Gandhi questioned**: "Why did the **Election Commission add more voters in Maharashtra in five months** than it did in **five years**?"

  राहुल गांधी ने सवाल किया: "चुनाव आयोग ने पाँच महीनों में महाराष्ट्र में अधिक मतदाता क्यों जोड़े, जबकि पाँच वर्षों में कम संख्या में जोड़ें?"

- **Table 1** shows the **number of electors** recorded across **various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections** in Maharashtra.

  तालिका 1 महाराष्ट्र में विभिन्न विधानसभा और लोकसभा चुनावों के दौरान दर्ज किए गए मतदाताओं की संख्या दिखाती है।

- **Between April 20, 2004 (Lok Sabha polls)** and **October 13, 2004 (Assembly elections)** (a period of **176 days**), there was a **net addition of 29.5 lakh electors**.

  20 अप्रैल 2004 (लोकसभा चुनाव) और 13 अक्टूबर 2004 (विधानसभा चुनाव) के बीच (176 दिनों की अवधि में), मतदाताओं की संख्या में 29.5 लाख का शुद्ध इज़ाफा हुआ।

- A similar analysis for **2009, 2014, and 2019** shows net additions of **30 lakh, 27.2 lakh, and 11.6 lakh electors**, respectively.

2009, 2014 और 2019 के लिए इसी तरह के विश्लेषण में क्रमशः 30 लाख, 27.2 लाख और

11.6 लाख मतदाताओं का शुद्ध इज़ाफा हुआ।

- When expressed as **electors added per day**, the context becomes **clearer**:

जब इसे प्रति दिन जोड़े गए मतदाताओं के रूप में व्यक्त किया जाता है, तो संदर्भ अधिक स्पष्ट

हो जाता है:

- o **39.6 lakh electors in 215 days → 18,434 per day**.

215 दिनों में 39.6 लाख मतदाता → प्रति दिन 18,434।

- o **29.5 lakh electors in 176 days (2004) → 16,782 per day**.

176 दिनों में 29.5 लाख मतदाता (2004) → प्रति दिन 16,782।

- **Table 2** shows similar data for **Delhi**:

तालिका 2 दिल्ली के लिए समान आंकड़े दिखाती है:

- o **Between May 25, 2024 (Lok Sabha polls), and February 5, 2025 (Assembly elections)** (256 days), there was a **net addition of 3.9 lakh electors**.

25 मई 2024 (लोकसभा चुनाव) और 5 फरवरी 2025 (विधानसभा चुनाव) के बीच (256

दिनों की अवधि में), मतदाताओं की संख्या में 3.9 लाख का शुद्ध इज़ाफा हुआ।

- o **Between February 8, 2020 (Assembly elections), and May 2024 (Lok Sabha polls)** (1,568 days), the net addition was **only 4.16 lakh electors**.

8 फरवरी 2020 (विधानसभा चुनाव) और मई 2024 (लोकसभा चुनाव) के बीच (1,568

दिनों की अवधि में), मतदाताओं की संख्या में केवल 4.16 लाख का शुद्ध इज़ाफा हुआ।

- **Past data for Delhi** also shows that such **elector surges in short periods are not unusual**:

दिल्ली के पिछले आंकड़े भी दिखाते हैं कि कम समय में मतदाताओं की संख्या में वृद्धि

असामान्य नहीं है:

- o **Between May 12, 2019 (Lok Sabha polls), and February 8, 2020 (Assembly elections)** (272 days), there was a **net addition of 4.7 lakh electors**.

12 मई 2019 (लोकसभा चुनाव) और 8 फरवरी 2020 (विधानसभा चुनाव) के बीच (272

दिनों की अवधि में), मतदाताओं की संख्या में 4.7 लाख का शुद्ध इज़ाफा हुआ।

- o **Between April 2014 and February 2015**, there was a **net addition of 6.02 lakh electors**.

अप्रैल 2014 और फरवरी 2015 के बीच, मतदाताओं की संख्या में 6.02 लाख का शुद्ध

इज़ाफा हुआ।

- o **Between December 2013 and April 2014** (just **127 days**), there was an **addition of 7.7 lakh electors**.

दिसंबर 2013 और अप्रैल 2014 के बीच (सिर्फ 127 दिनों में), मतदाताओं की संख्या में

7.7 लाख का इज़ाफा हुआ।

- **Tables 3 and 4** show contrasting patterns in **Jharkhand and Haryana**:

तालिका 3 और 4 झारखंड और हरियाणा में विपरीत पैटर्न दिखाती हैं:

- o **Shorter election intervals** resulted in **smaller voter additions**.

  कम चुनावी अंतराल में मतदाताओं की संख्या में कम वृद्धि देखी गई।

- o **Longer gaps led to significantly higher elector additions**.

  लंबे अंतराल में मतदाताओं की संख्या में काफी अधिक वृद्धि हुई।

- • Factors such as **Chief Electoral Officers' effectiveness, population demographics, and migration patterns** might play a significant role.

  मुख्य चुनाव अधिकारियों की प्रभावशीलता, जनसंख्या जनसांख्यिकी, और प्रवासन पैटर्न महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकते हैं।

How will freeze on USAID affect the world?

Why is the U.S. administration halting foreign assistance and scaling back personnel in the United States Agency for International Development? What will happen if the agency stops funding development projects in many countries? Which are the key sectors it is involved in? What will be the fallout in the Global South?

GS Paper II: US Policies and its impact
EXPLAINER

Ramya Kannan

The story so far:

On January 20, his first day in office for a second term, U.S. President Donald Trump put in place a 90-day freeze on foreign assistance. The executive order read, [There will be a] "90-day pause in United States foreign development assistance for assessment of programmatic efficiencies and consistency with United States foreign policy." Consequently, personnel of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) were stopped from disbursing assistance across the world. By late last week, the website of USAID also wiped content, leaving just a message that all USAID personnel (about 10,000 globally) would be placed on administrative leave, with a few exceptions for mission-critical personnel. Shortly before the plans to scale back personnel were to take effect, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order till February 14, but that does not extend to the freeze on funds disbursal.

What is the USAID?

The U.S. Agency for International Aid was set up as an independent agency, through an Act of Congress in 1961. It was an attempt to align all U.S. efforts to administer civilian foreign aid and development assistance. Its mission is "to promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world" while advancing the U.S.'s security and prosperity. In pushing this agenda, it provides financial aid across various sectors in over 100 countries worldwide. Broadly, it works in the sectors of economic development, health, education, food security, humanitarian assistance, climate change, and democracy and governance.

It works in partnerships with governments, NGOs, businesses, and other international organisations, primarily providing grants, technical assistance, and funding for development projects that are in sync with its goals. Notable among its flagship schemes are the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Feed the Future (addressing hunger and food security issues), Power Africa (expanding access to electricity across Africa) and Water for the World Act (improving water, sanitation, and hygiene services).

It receives funding allocated in the U.S. budget. In 2024, USAID received a total of $44.20 billion, which is 0.4% of the U.S. federal budget for FY 2024 (as per the official website USAspending.gov). In the same year, the agency had distributed $44.20 billion among its four sub-components. Media reports claim it contributed to nearly 42% of all humanitarian aid tracked by the United Nations in 2024.
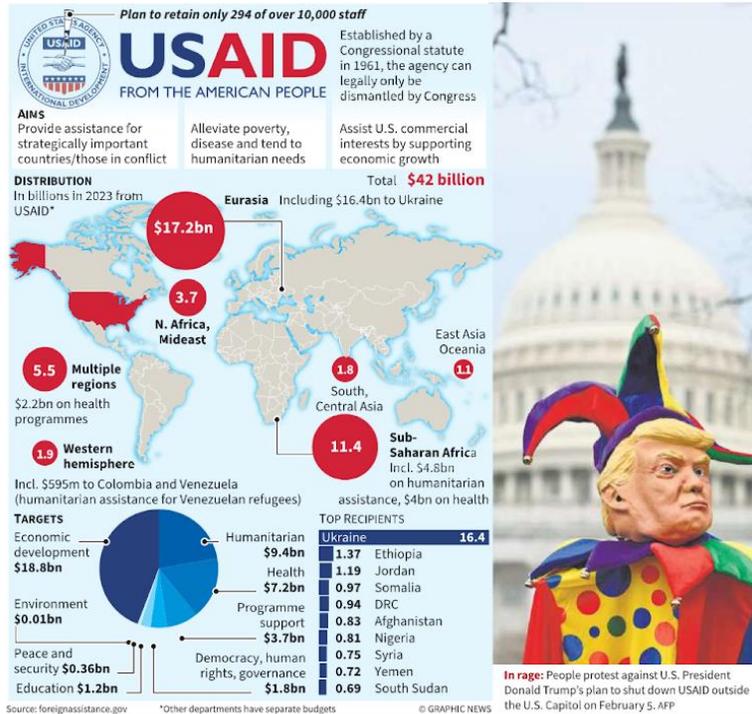
What has Elon Musk said?

Elon Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has threatened that the agency would be shut down, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio who is now the acting administrator of USAID, has talked about 'restructuring' it.

How will this impact countries?

According to the official U.S. foreign assistance website, the top countries the USAID engages with are Ukraine, Ethiopia, Jordan, Somalia, Congo

Dismantling aid from the U.S.

The withdrawal of USAID, arising out of a decision born of petulance, might severely impact the fortunes of many nations, as a number of projects will have to be dropped, in the light of aid being stopped through an executive decision by the Donald Trump administration

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Plan to retain only 294 of over 10,000 staff

Established by a Congressional statute in 1961, the agency can legally only be dismantled by Congress

AIMS
Provide assistance for strategically important countries/those in conflict | Alleviate poverty, disease and tend to humanitarian needs | Assist U.S. commercial interests by supporting economic growth

DISTRIBUTION
In billions in 2023 from USAID*

Total **$42 billion**

- $17.2bn — Eurasia Including $16.4bn to Ukraine
- 3.7 — N. Africa, Mideast
- 5.5 — Multiple regions ($2.2bn on health programmes)
- 1.9 — Western hemisphere (Incl. $595m to Colombia and Venezuela (humanitarian assistance for Venezuelan refugees))
- 1.8 — South, Central Asia
- 1.1 — East Asia Oceania
- 11.4 — Sub-Saharan Africa (Incl. $4.8bn on humanitarian assistance, $4bn on health)

TARGETS
- Economic development $18.8bn
- Environment $0.01bn
- Peace and security $0.36bn
- Education $1.2bn
- Humanitarian $9.4bn
- Health $7.2bn
- Programme support $3.7bn
- Democracy, human rights, governance $1.8bn

TOP RECIPIENTS

Ukraine	16.4
1.37	Ethiopia
1.19	Jordan
0.97	Somalia
0.94	DRC
0.83	Afghanistan
0.81	Nigeria
0.75	Syria
0.72	Yemen
0.69	South Sudan

Source: foreignassistance.gov   *Other departments have separate budgets   © GRAPHIC NEWS

In rage: People protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to shut down USAID outside the U.S. Capitol on February 5. AFP

(Kinshasa), Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Yemen and South Sudan.

The withdrawal of these funds, arising out of a decision born out of petulance, might severely impact the fortunes of these nations, as a number of projects will have to be dropped, in the light of aid being stopped. This will have an impact not only on the quality of life of beneficiaries of these schemes, but may even pose a danger to life in these nations. More than six million people could die from HIV and AIDS in the next four years if Mr. Trump's administration pulls its global funding for programmes, the United Nations AIDS agency said on February 7.

Media reports stated that while a freeze was ordered on the $13.3 million in aid for Haiti, the U.S. State Department issued a waiver, allowing $40.7 million in foreign assistance for the nation's police department. Also, the agency has said, in its note on the website, that exceptions would be made for "mission-critical functions, core leadership and specially designated programs", but no details are available yet on what these may be or the grounds for exception.

Meanwhile, foreign agency reports speculate that only 294 employees of the total of 10,000 would remain, including 12 in the Africa bureau and eight in the Asia bureau, because these are areas that are critical to combating poverty, disease, and conflict.

While Mr. Rubio has told the media that "this is not about ending foreign aid, but about structuring it in a way that furthers the national interests of the United States," there are not too many takers for this defence. Mr. Trump has made no secret of the fact that he has always advanced his point of view of America, a stand his critics see as rendering the nation in isolation from the rest of the world. Even as a front-runner for the President's seat, he said: "We're rebuilding other countries while weakening our own. Ending the theft of American jobs will give us the resources we need to rebuild our military, which has to happen and regain our financial independence and strength." His trusted aide Mr. Musk poured vitriol over USAID, calling it a 'criminal organisation' and 'a viper's nest of radical-left Marxists who hate America'.

Andrew Natsios, former USAID administrator, in an interview with PBS News Hour, said USAID was one of the great humanitarian powers in the world, to protect the U.S. and people in the developing world from hunger and disease. "The programmes they are attacking now are Biden-era programmes," he said, hinting at political vengeance being the driving force behind the move. The withdrawal, he claimed, would be a "disaster for the U.S. and for the Global South".

Will projects in India suffer?

In India, the quantum of funding has reduced over the years, with the government of India objecting to certain

aspects of the conditions for the agreement for grants. In the last decade, India is said to have received around $1.5 billion from USAID – about 0.2 % to 0.4 % of USAID's total global funding (as per the foreign assistance website).

The association between India and USAID began in 1951 when President Harry Truman signed the India Emergency Food Aid Act. Over the decades, USAID's role has evolved from food aid to infrastructure development, capacity building, economic reforms, and more. In the early years, the agency weighed in strongly in the education sector, immunisation and health care. While health remains the main sector where USAID has been involved in India (including HIV/AIDS, TB, maternal and child health, and immunisation programmes) with a funding of $79.3 million in 2024, it also has interests in economy, energy, water supply and sanitation, and environmental health.

In this sense, pundits in the development sector feel that the withdrawal of USAID may not affect India in a major way.

However, it remains to be seen how these existing projects, particularly in healthcare fare now, and whether Central or State governments will be able to pick up the tab to keep these projects, and beneficiaries going.

Meanwhile, USAID has directed all organisations implementing projects in India to suspend operations for the time being.

THE GIST

- The U.S. Agency for International Aid was set up as an independent agency, through an Act of Congress in 1961. It was an attempt to align all U.S. efforts to administer civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

- In India, the quantum of funding has reduced over the years, with the government of India objecting to certain aspects of the conditions for the agreement for grants.

- While health remains the main sector where USAID has been involved in India, with a funding of $79.3 million in 2024, it also has interests in economy, energy, water supply and sanitation, and environmental health.

Freeze on USAID and Its Global Impact
USAID पर रोक और इसका वैश्विक प्रभाव

Why is the U.S. administration halting foreign assistance and scaling back personnel in USAID?
अमेरिकी प्रशासन विदेशी सहायता रोक रहा है और USAID के कर्मचारियों की संख्या क्यों घटा रहा है?

- On January 20, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing a 90-day freeze on foreign assistance.
  20 जनवरी को अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने एक कार्यकारी आदेश पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे विदेशी सहायता पर 90-दिन की रोक लगा दी गई।

- The order states there will be a "90-day pause" to assess programmatic efficiencies and alignment with U.S. foreign policy.
  आदेश में कहा गया है कि 90-दिन की रोक के दौरान कार्यक्रम की दक्षता और अमेरिकी विदेश नीति के साथ तालमेल की समीक्षा की जाएगी।

- Consequently, USAID personnel (around 10,000 globally) were placed on administrative leave, except for mission-critical roles.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप, USAID के लगभग 10,000 कर्मचारी प्रशासनिक अवकाश पर भेजे गए, सिवाय मिशन-क्रिटिकल भूमिकाओं के।

- The USAID website removed its content, leaving only a message about the freeze and staffing changes.
  USAID वेबसाइट से सभी सामग्री हटा दी गई, और केवल रोक और कर्मचारियों में कटौती का संदेश छोड़ा गया।

- A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order until February 14, but this does not apply to the funds freeze.
  एक संघीय न्यायाधीश ने 14 फरवरी तक अस्थायी रोक लगाई, लेकिन यह निधि रोक पर लागू नहीं होती।

What is USAID?
USAID क्या है?

- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) was created in 1961 to align U.S. civilian foreign aid and development assistance.
  USAID (अमेरिकी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी) 1961 में अमेरिकी नागरिक विदेशी सहायता और विकास सहायता को व्यवस्थित करने के लिए स्थापित की गई थी।

- It aims to promote democratic values and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world.

इसका उद्देश्य लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों को बढ़ावा देना और स्वतंत्र, शांतिपूर्ण और समृद्ध दुनिया को आगे बढ़ाना है।

- The agency operates in over 100 countries and works in sectors such as economic development, health, education, food security, humanitarian aid, climate change, and governance.
यह एजेंसी 100 से अधिक देशों में काम करती है और आर्थिक विकास, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, खाद्य सुरक्षा, मानवीय सहायता, जलवायु परिवर्तन और शासन जैसे क्षेत्रों में योगदान देती है।

Some flagship programs include:
कुछ प्रमुख कार्यक्रम:

- PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) - HIV/AIDS कार्यक्रम
- Feed the Future - भूख और खाद्य सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम
- Power Africa - अफ्रीका में बिजली पहुंचाने का कार्यक्रम
- Water for the World Act - जल, स्वच्छता और स्वच्छता सुधार कार्यक्रम

- In 2024, USAID received $44.20 billion, which is 0.4% of the U.S. federal budget.
2024 में, USAID को 44.20 अरब डॉलर मिले, जो अमेरिकी संघीय बजट का 0.4% है।
- The agency accounted for 42% of all humanitarian aid tracked by the United Nations in 2024.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा 2024 में ट्रैक की गई मानवीय सहायता का 42% USAID से आया।

What has Elon Musk said?
एलन मस्क ने क्या कहा?

- Elon Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has threatened that USAID may be shut down.
एलन मस्क, जो डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ गवर्नमेंट एफिशिएंसी (DOGE) के प्रमुख हैं, ने धमकी दी है कि USAID बंद किया जा सकता है।
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio, now acting administrator of USAID, has talked about restructuring the agency.
विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो, जो अब USAID के कार्यवाहक प्रशासक हैं, उन्होंने एजेंसी के पुनर्गठन की बात कही है।

How will this impact countries?
इसका विभिन्न देशों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा?

- According to official U.S. foreign assistance records, top recipient countries include Ukraine, Ethiopia, Jordan, Somalia, Congo (Kinshasa), Afghanistan,

Nigeria, Syria, Yemen, and South Sudan.

अमेरिकी विदेशी सहायता रिकॉर्ड के अनुसार, शीर्ष प्राप्तकर्ता देश यूक्रेन, इथियोपिया, जॉर्डन, सोमालिया, कांगो (किन्शासा), अफगानिस्तान, नाइजीरिया, सीरिया, यमन और दक्षिण सूडान हैं।

- **Aid withdrawal could lead to the cancellation of critical projects, affecting millions of lives.**
  सहायता वापस लेने से महत्वपूर्ण परियोजनाएं रद्द हो सकती हैं, जिससे लाखों लोगों का जीवन प्रभावित होगा।

- **The United Nations AIDS agency estimates that 6 million people may die from HIV/AIDS in the next four years if funding is halted.**
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र एड्स एजेंसी का अनुमान है कि अगले चार वर्षों में 60 लाख लोग HIV/AIDS से मर सकते हैं यदि निधि रोक दी गई।

- **The State Department issued a waiver allowing $40.7 million for Haiti's police department, but $13.3 million in aid remains frozen.**
  राज्य विभाग ने हाइती के पुलिस विभाग के लिए 40.7 मिलियन डॉलर की अनुमति दी, लेकिन 13.3 मिलियन डॉलर की सहायता अभी भी रोकी गई है।

- **Foreign agencies report that only 294 employees out of 10,000 will remain, with 12 in the Africa bureau and 8 in the Asia bureau.**
  विदेशी एजेंसियों की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 10,000 में से केवल 294 कर्मचारी रहेंगे, जिनमें अफ्रीका ब्यूरो में 12 और एशिया ब्यूरो में 8 शामिल होंगे।

- **These regions are critical for combating poverty, disease, and conflict.**
  ये क्षेत्र गरीबी, बीमारी और संघर्ष से लड़ने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

Freeze on USAID and Its Global Impact
USAID पर रोक और इसका वैश्विक प्रभाव

Why is the U.S. administration halting foreign assistance and scaling back personnel in USAID?
अमेरिकी प्रशासन विदेशी सहायता रोक रहा है और USAID के कर्मचारियों की संख्या क्यों घटा रहा है?

- **On January 20, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing a 90-day freeze on foreign assistance.**
  20 जनवरी को अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने एक कार्यकारी आदेश पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे विदेशी सहायता पर 90-दिन की रोक लगा दी गई।

- **The order states there will be a 90-day pause to assess programmatic efficiencies and alignment with U.S. foreign policy.**
  आदेश में कहा गया है कि 90-दिन की रोक के दौरान कार्यक्रम की दक्षता और अमेरिकी विदेश नीति के साथ तालमेल की समीक्षा की जाएगी।

- **Consequently, USAID personnel (around 10,000 globally) were placed on administrative leave, except for mission-critical roles.**
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप, USAID के लगभग 10,000 कर्मचारी प्रशासनिक अवकाश पर भेजे गए, सिवाय मिशन-क्रिटिकल भूमिकाओं के।

- **The USAID website removed its content, leaving only a message about the freeze and staffing changes.**
  USAID वेबसाइट से सभी सामग्री हटा दी गई, और केवल रोक और कर्मचारियों में कटौती का संदेश छोड़ा गया।

- **A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order until February 14, but this does not apply to the funds freeze.**
  एक संघीय न्यायाधीश ने 14 फरवरी तक अस्थायी रोक लगाई, लेकिन यह निधि रोक पर लागू नहीं होती।

What is USAID?

USAID क्या है?

- **The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) was created in 1961 to align U.S. civilian foreign aid and development assistance.**
  USAID (अमेरिकी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी) 1961 में अमेरिकी नागरिक विदेशी सहायता और विकास सहायता को व्यवस्थित करने के लिए स्थापित की गई थी।

- **It aims to promote democratic values and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world.**
  इसका उद्देश्य लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों को बढ़ावा देना और स्वतंत्र, शांतिपूर्ण और समृद्ध दुनिया को आगे बढ़ाना है।

- **The agency operates in over 100 countries and works in sectors such as economic development, health, education, food security, humanitarian aid, climate change, and governance.**
  यह एजेंसी 100 से अधिक देशों में काम करती है और आर्थिक विकास, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, खाद्य सुरक्षा, मानवीय सहायता, जलवायु परिवर्तन और शासन जैसे क्षेत्रों में योगदान देती है।

- **Some flagship programs include:**
  कुछ प्रमुख कार्यक्रम:
  - **PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) - HIV/AIDS कार्यक्रम**
  - **Feed the Future - भूख और खाद्य सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम**
  - **Power Africa - अफ्रीका में बिजली पहुंचाने का कार्यक्रम**
  - **Water for the World Act - जल, स्वच्छता और स्वच्छता सुधार कार्यक्रम**

- **In 2024, USAID received $44.20 billion, which is 0.4% of the U.S. federal budget.**
  2024 में, USAID को 44.20 अरब डॉलर मिले, जो अमेरिकी संघीय बजट का 0.4% है।

- The agency accounted for 42% of all humanitarian aid tracked by the United Nations in 2024.
  एजेंसी संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा 2024 में ट्रैक की गई मानवीय सहायता का 42% प्रदान करती है।

What has Elon Musk said?

एलन मस्क ने क्या कहा?

- Elon Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has threatened that USAID may be shut down.
  एलन मस्क, जो डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ गवर्नमेंट एफिशिएंसी (DOGE) के प्रमुख हैं, उन्होंने धमकी दी है कि USAID बंद किया जा सकता है।
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio, now acting administrator of USAID, has talked about restructuring the agency.
  विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो, जो अब USAID के कार्यवाहक प्रशासक हैं, उन्होंने एजेंसी के पुनर्गठन की बात कही है।

How will this impact countries?

इसका विभिन्न देशों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा?

- According to official U.S. foreign assistance records, top recipient countries include Ukraine, Ethiopia, Jordan, Somalia, Congo (Kinshasa), Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Yemen, and South Sudan.
  अमेरिकी विदेशी सहायता रिकॉर्ड के अनुसार, शीर्ष प्राप्तकर्ता देश यूक्रेन, इथियोपिया, जॉर्डन, सोमालिया, कांगो (किन्शासा), अफगानिस्तान, नाइजीरिया, सीरिया, यमन और दक्षिण सूडान हैं।
- Aid withdrawal could lead to the cancellation of critical projects, affecting millions of lives.
  सहायता वापस लेने से महत्वपूर्ण परियोजनाएं रद्द हो सकती हैं, जिससे लाखों लोगों का जीवन प्रभावित होगा।
- The United Nations AIDS agency estimates that 6 million people may die from HIV/AIDS in the next four years if funding is halted.
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र एड्स एजेंसी का अनुमान है कि अगले चार वर्षों में 60 लाख लोग HIV/AIDS से मर सकते हैं यदि निधि रोक दी गई।
- The State Department issued a waiver allowing $40.7 million for Haiti's police department, but $13.3 million in aid remains frozen.
  राज्य विभाग ने हाइती के पुलिस विभाग के लिए 40.7 मिलियन डॉलर की अनुमति दी, लेकिन 13.3 मिलियन डॉलर की सहायता अभी भी रोकी गई है।
- Foreign agencies report that only 294 employees out of 10,000 will remain, with 12 in the Africa bureau and 8 in the Asia bureau.

विदेशी एजेंसियों की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 10,000 में से केवल 294 कर्मचारी रहेंगे, जिनमें अफ्रीका ब्यूरो में 12 और एशिया ब्यूरो में 8 शामिल होंगे।

- **These regions are critical for combating poverty, disease, and conflict.**
  ये क्षेत्र गरीबी, बीमारी और संघर्ष से लड़ने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

Bharatiya Influencers Association to organise online content creators

GS Paper II: Online Content Regulation

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Among those who have come out strongly against the offensive comments made by podcaster Ranveer Allahabadia aka 'Beer-Biceps', on the show 'India's Got Latents', is the little known Bharatiya Influencers Association (BIA), in what appears to be a first in the dispersed field of online influencers and podcasters.

Rajshree Rai, editor the APN TV channel, is the president of the BIA and Neelkant Bakshi, a communications professional who was part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Delhi communications team between 2017-19, its general secretary.

"We formed the associa-

We formed the association in November 2023, says BIA general secretary Neelkant Bakshi.

tion in November 2023, after the Manish Kashyap incident, when he was arrested for videos about north Indian migrants in Tamil Nadu," Mr. Bakshi said. Mr. Kashyap later joined the BJP in the midst of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The vastness of the online field of influencing and content, say the founders

of the association, led them to form the body to push for self-regulation, take on big data platforms, and face of instances of legal action being taken by State governments on offensive content.

"Our simple view is that we need an association that can come up with a self-regulation code for this field. The kind of offensive and vulgar comments that Ranveer Allahabadia made need to be checked. We also want to provide help to individual influencers in terms of their issues with platforms like YouTube and others, on any problems regarding payments, etc.," Mr. Bakshi told The Hindu.

The BIA has a membership of around 350 or so in-

fluencers, including Tech Guruji and Ankit Bayanpuria (who appeared with the Prime Minister as part of a campaign for physical fitness), as well as some lawyers who specialise in laws related to online content. Their initiative received encouragement from the then Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Puri.

"We also want a concerted effort by influencers on positive campaigns like 'Tobacco Free India' or 'Mission Road Safety,'" Mr. Bakshi said. While media bodies are now quite established in India, it appears that the online content space may also be becoming organised.

Bharatiya Influencers Association to organise online content creators

भारतीय प्रभावक संघ ऑनलाइन सामग्री निर्माताओं को संगठित करेगा

Bharatiya Influencers Association (BIA) and its Formation
भारतीय इन्फ्लुएंसर्स एसोसिएशन (BIA) और इसका गठन

- **Bharatiya Influencers Association (BIA)** has come out strongly against the offensive comments made by **podcaster Ranveer Allahabadia** aka **'BeerBiceps'** on the show **'India's Got Latents'**.
  भारतीय इन्फ्लुएंसर्स एसोसिएशन (BIA) ने पॉडकास्टर रणवीर अलाहाबादिया उर्फ 'BeerBiceps' द्वारा 'इंडिया's गॉट लेटेंट्स' शो पर किए गए **आपत्तिजनक** टिप्पणियों के खिलाफ कड़ा रुख अपनाया है।

- The BIA, formed in **November 2023**, was established after the **Manish Kashyap incident**, when he was arrested for videos about north Indian migrants in **Tamil Nadu**.
  BIA, **नवंबर 2023** में गठित हुआ, जब **मनीष कश्यप घटना** घटी, जिसमें उन्हें **तमिलनाडु** में उत्तर भारतीय प्रवासियों के बारे में वीडियो बनाने के कारण गिरफ्तार किया गया था।

- **Rajshree Rai**, the editor of APN TV channel, is the **president** of BIA, and **Neelkant Bakshi**, a former member of the **BJP Delhi communications team** (2017-2019), is the **general secretary**.

  राजश्री राय, एपीएन टीवी चैनल की संपादक, BIA की **राष्ट्रपति** हैं और **नीलकांत बक्शी**, जो **BJP दिल्ली कम्युनिकेशन्स टीम** (2017-2019) के सदस्य थे, **महासचिव** हैं।

- The association was formed to push for **self-regulation**, tackle issues with **big data platforms**, and deal with instances of **legal action** taken by state governments against **offensive content**.

  यह एसोसिएशन **स्व-नियमन** के लिए, **बड़े डेटा प्लेटफॉर्म** के साथ मुद्दों को सुलझाने, और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा **आपत्तिजनक सामग्री** पर **कानूनी कार्रवाई** के उदाहरणों का सामना करने के लिए बनाया गया था।

- **Neelkant Bakshi** said, "We need an association that can create a **self-regulation code** for the field and ensure checks on **offensive and vulgar comments** like those made by Ranveer Allahabadia."

  नीलकांत बक्शी ने कहा, "हमें एक ऐसे एसोसिएशन की आवश्यकता है जो इस क्षेत्र के लिए एक **स्व-नियमन कोड** तैयार कर सके और **आपत्तिजनक और अश्लील टिप्पणियों** पर जैसे रणवीर अलाहाबादिया द्वारा की गई टिप्पणियों पर जांच कर सके।"

- The association aims to provide help to **individual influencers** with issues such as **payments** and other **platform-related** problems.

  एसोसिएशन का उद्देश्य **व्यक्तिगत इन्फ्लुएंसर्स** को **भुगतान** और अन्य **प्लेटफॉर्म से संबंधित** समस्याओं में मदद प्रदान करना है।

- The BIA currently has a membership of around **350 influencers**, including popular names like **Tech Guruji** and **Ankit Bayanpuria**.

  BIA के पास वर्तमान में लगभग **350 इन्फ्लुएंसर्स** का सदस्यता है, जिनमें **Tech Guruji** और **Ankit Bayanpuria** जैसे लोकप्रिय नाम शामिल हैं।

- The association has received support from **Anurag Thakur**, then **Information and Broadcasting Minister**, and **Hardeep Puri**, **Minister for Petroleum**.

  एसोसिएशन को **अनुराग ठाकुर**, तत्कालीन **सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री**, और **हारदीप पुरी**, **पेट्रोलियम मंत्री** से समर्थन प्राप्त हुआ है।

- **Neelkant Bakshi** expressed the need for a concerted effort by influencers on **positive campaigns** like **'Tobacco Free India'** or **'Mission Road Safety'**.

  नीलकांत बक्शी ने **'तंबाकू मुक्त भारत'** या **'मिशन रोड सेफ्टी'** जैसे **सकारात्मक अभियानों** में इन्फ्लुएंसर्स द्वारा एकजुट प्रयास की आवश्यकता व्यक्त की।

- Media bodies are well-established in India, and it seems the **online content** space may be **becoming organised** as well.

  भारत में मीडिया निकाय अच्छी तरह से स्थापित हैं, और ऐसा लगता है कि **ऑनलाइन कंटेंट** क्षेत्र भी **संगठित** हो सकता है।

Cannot monitor from Delhi, SC says on mob lynching prosecutions

GS Paper :

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it cannot "micro-manage" criminal prosecutions of mob lynchings and violence in "different areas or different States" across the country sitting in Delhi while urging victims to approach the local courts and State authorities to comply with the top court's directions in a 2018 judgment to prevent and fairly investigate hate crimes and communal violence.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, hearing a petition filed by National Federation of Women, disagreed with a plea for payment of "uniform" amount of compensation to victims of mob lynchings.

Justice Gavai, in the order, reasoned that injuries would be different from case to case. Ordering uniform compensation would be unjust to the victims. Compensation should be fixed by States according to the seriousness of the injuries.

The 2018 judgment in the *Tehseen Poonawala* case had issued a series of guidelines to the States and their police forces to take steps to prevent communal violence and lynchings.

"When directions are issued by the Supreme Court, they are binding on all courts and authorities across the country under Article 141 of the Constitution. Sitting here in Delhi, we cannot monitor incidents in different areas of different States. Such a micro-management is not feasible," the court observed, disposing of the case.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said mob lynching was a separate offence under the new criminal law. Any violation, the law would take its own course.

Advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for the petitioner, submitted the directions were being complied more in breach. Private bodies, armed with police powers, were behind mob lynchings of minority community members in the name of cow protection.

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awarding **uniform compensation** would be unjust to victims.

न्यायमूर्ति गवई ने कहा कि **mob lynching** मामलों में **चोटें** मामले दर मामले अलग-अलग होती हैं, इसलिए **समान मुआवजा** देना पीड़ितों के साथ अन्याय होगा।

- Compensation should be determined by **States** based on the **seriousness of injuries** in each case.

  मुआवजा प्रत्येक मामले में **चोटों की गंभीरता** के आधार पर **राज्य** द्वारा निर्धारित किया जाना चाहिए।

- The **2018 judgment** in the **Tehseen Poonawala case** issued guidelines for **States** and their police forces to prevent communal violence and lynchings.

  2018 का निर्णय तेहीसीन पूनावाला मामले में **राज्यों** और उनके पुलिस बलों को सांप्रदायिक हिंसा और lynchings को रोकने के लिए दिशा-निर्देश जारी किया गया था।

- The **Supreme Court** mentioned that when directions are issued, they are **binding** on all courts and authorities under **Article 141 of the Constitution**, but monitoring incidents in different areas of different States is not feasible.

  सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि जब दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए जाते हैं, तो वे **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 141** के तहत सभी अदालतों और अधिकारियों पर **आवश्यक** होते हैं, लेकिन विभिन्न राज्यों के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में घटनाओं की निगरानी करना संभव नहीं है।

- **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta** clarified that **mob lynching** is a separate offense under the new **criminal law**, and any violation would follow its own legal course.

  सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने स्पष्ट किया कि **mob lynching** नया **आपराधिक कानून** के तहत एक अलग अपराध है, और कोई भी उल्लंघन उसके **कानूनी** रास्ते पर चलेगा।

- **Advocate Nizam Pasha**, representing the petitioner, claimed that the directions were being complied with in **breach** and that **private bodies**, with police powers, were behind mob lynchings of **minority community members** in the name of **cow protection**.

  अधिवक्ता निज़ाम पशा, याचिकाकर्ता की ओर से, ने कहा कि दिशा-निर्देशों का अनुपालन **उल्लंघन** में किया जा रहा था और **निजी निकाय**, जिनके पास पुलिस शक्तियां थीं, **गाय सुरक्षा** के नाम पर **नम समुदाय के सदस्य** के खिलाफ mob lynchings के पीछे थे।

'Digitisation doesn't mean deregulation'

GS Paper II: Digital Governance

MUMBAI

There is a "misperception" among the administration around deregulation, wherein digitisation is confused with deregulation, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Tuesday.

Speaking at an event organised by alternative investment industry's lobby grouping IVCA here, Mr. Nageswaran stressed that what is essential is to do away with needless regulations, whether they are to be complied with online or offline. "There is a misperception that the moment a government department across the country ...they put something on the digital platform, they think it is deregulation. But that is

V. Anantha Nageswaran

not deregulation, you just made it online rather than offline," Nageswaran said.

"Digitisation per se is not deregulation," the CEA, whose Economic Survey presented recently focused on the need to deregulate to help expand GDP growth, added.

Any country which has attained developed status has to look at small businesses and unclogging challenges like regulations

which can help ensure that such enterprises do not waste bandwidth on compliance. India has to depend on domestic economy to drive much of the growth going forward, the academic-turned-policymaker said, explaining that globalisation is not expected to deliver gains the same way it did in the past.

The de-globalisation is part of a cyclical trend seen over a century, he said, adding that as people realise the limitations of the current model a decade from now, a new trend may emerge.

In the current cycle across the globe, inflation is likely to be more sticky than it was in the past as the ability to drive efficiencies goes down, he said.

However, if India can re-

duce its inflation to the 3-4% level from the 4-5 % over the last few years, it will help to contain the rupee depreciation, he said.

Mr. Nageswaran explained that over a long term, we can see that the rupee has depreciated at 3% per annum, which is the differential between the inflation rate between India and the U.S.

He also said that India cannot sacrifice energy security as energy transition to greener sources assumes greater focus, and added that we should be pragmatic and not make green energy into a "religion" as some countries in Europe have done.

The CEA also said that nuclear energy has to play a much important role in energy transition.

- **Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran** stated on **Tuesday** that there is a **misperception** about deregulation, where **digitisation** is being confused with **deregulation**.

  मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार (CEA) वी. अनंथा नागेश्वरन ने मंगलवार को कहा कि विनियमन के बारे में एक गलत धारणा है, जहां डिजिटलीकरण को विनियमन के हटाने के साथ भ्रमित किया जा रहा है।

- Speaking at an event organized by the **IVCA** (alternative investment industry's lobby group), Mr. Nageswaran emphasized that what is important is to remove **needless regulations**, whether they apply **online** or **offline**.

  IVCA (वैकल्पिक निवेश उद्योग की लॉबी समूह) द्वारा आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में बोलते हुए, मि. नागेश्वरन ने कहा कि जो महत्वपूर्ण है वह है अनावश्यक विनियमों को हटाना, चाहे वे ऑनलाइन हों या ऑफलाइन।

- Mr. Nageswaran explained that when a government department puts something on the **digital platform**, it does not mean **deregulation**, it is simply **moving online** instead of offline.

  मि. नागेश्वरन ने समझाया कि जब कोई सरकारी विभाग कुछ को डिजिटल प्लेटफ़ॉर्म पर डालता है, तो इसका मतलब विनियमन के हटाने का नहीं है, यह सिर्फ ऑफलाइन से ऑनलाइन स्थानांतरित करना है।

- "**Digitisation per se** is not deregulation," the CEA added, emphasizing the need to **deregulate** to help expand **GDP growth**.

"**डिजिटलीकरण** स्वयमेव **विनियमन के हटाने** के समान नहीं है," CEA ने जोड़ा, और **GDP वृद्धि** को बढ़ाने के लिए **विनियमन के हटाने** की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

- Any country that has attained **developed status** must address challenges such as **regulations** that clog small businesses, helping them avoid wasting resources on compliance.

  जो भी देश **विकसित स्थिति** प्राप्त कर चुका है, उसे **विनियमों** जैसे चुनौतियों का समाधान करना होगा, ताकि छोटे व्यवसायों को अनुपालन पर संसाधन बर्बाद न करना पड़े।

- Mr. Nageswaran stressed that **India** needs to depend on its **domestic economy** to drive future growth, as **globalisation** is not expected to deliver the same benefits as in the past.

  मि. नागेश्वरन ने जोर दिया कि **भारत** को भविष्य की वृद्धि को प्रेरित करने के लिए अपनी **घरेलू अर्थव्यवस्था** पर निर्भर रहना होगा, क्योंकि **वैश्वीकरण** से अब वही लाभ मिलने की उम्मीद नहीं है जैसा पहले था।

- He mentioned that **de-globalisation** is part of a **cyclical trend** seen over a century, and a new trend may emerge as people realize the limitations of the current model.

  उन्होंने कहा कि **डिग्लोबलाइजेशन** एक **संचारी प्रवृति** का हिस्सा है जो एक शतक से देखी जा रही है, और एक नया रुझान उभर सकता है क्योंकि लोग वर्तमान मॉडल की सीमाओं को समझने लगेंगे।

- In the current global cycle, **inflation** is expected to be more **sticky** than before due to a decline in the ability to drive efficiencies.

  वर्तमान वैश्विक चक्र में, **मुद्रास्फीति** पहले की तुलना में अधिक **जमने वाली** होने की संभावना है, क्योंकि दक्षताओं को बढ़ाने की क्षमता में गिरावट आई है।

- Mr. Nageswaran stated that if **India** can reduce **inflation** to **3-4%** from the **4-5%** range over the past few years, it will help **contain the rupee depreciation**.

  मि. नागेश्वरन ने कहा कि यदि **भारत मुद्रास्फीति** को पिछले कुछ वर्षों में **4-5%** से **3-4%** तक कम कर सकता है, तो यह **रुपये की अवमूल्यन** को काबू में करने में मदद करेगा।

- He explained that over the long term, the **rupee** has depreciated at an average rate of **3% per annum**, due to the **inflation rate differential** between **India** and the **U.S.**

  उन्होंने समझाया कि लंबी अवधि में, **रुपया** औसतन **3% प्रति वर्ष** की दर से अवमूल्यन हुआ है, जो **भारत** और **अमेरिका** के बीच **मुद्रास्फीति दर के अंतर** के कारण है।

- Mr. Nageswaran emphasized that **India** cannot **sacrifice energy security** as the focus on **energy transition** to **greener sources** increases.

  मि. नागेश्वरन ने जोर दिया कि **भारत** को **ऊर्जा सुरक्षा** का **बलिदान** नहीं करना चाहिए क्योंकि **हरित स्रोतों** की ओर **ऊर्जा संक्रमण** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जा रहा है।

- He stated that **nuclear energy** must play a significant role in the **energy transition**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **न्यूक्लियर ऊर्जा** को **ऊर्जा संक्रमण** में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभानी चाहिए।

Maldives to finalise free trade pact with India soon, says Minister Saeed

GS Paper II: India-Maldives

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Maldives will soon finalise a trade pact with India, a senior Maldivian Minister has said, barely two weeks after New Delhi appeared to caution the island nation over possible "revenue loss" from similar deals inked with other countries, including China.

According to Maldivian media, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed confirmed the move on Monday night in an interview to a local television channel. Mr. Saeed had said President Mohamed Muizzu – during his state visit to India in October 2024 – and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "expressed keen interest" in signing the Free Trade Agreement. Official sources based in

Mohamed Saeed

capital Male, who are familiar with the developments, told *The Hindu* that bilateral negotiations on the FTA are scheduled to begin soon.

Mr. Muizzu is focused on securing trade agreements with major global markets, ensuring that such arrangements benefit Maldivians, Mr. Saeed noted, pointing to the preferential trade agreement signed with Turkiye in November 2024 and the FTA

with China that came into effect on January 1, 2025. "Most of the aquatic products" originating in the Maldives exported to China will enjoy zero tariff treatment, China's Ministry of Commerce said following the signing of the agreement.

'Revenue loss'
Mr. Saeed's announcement assumes significance, coming soon after New Delhi's rare comment on a neighbour's trade partnership choices. Addressing the weekly media briefing of the Ministry of External Affairs on January 31, 2025, spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "Recent agreements that are likely to result in revenue loss for the Maldives government are obviously a matter of concern and do not bode well for the long-term fiscal sta-

bility of the country."

While he didn't name the two countries, he flagged possible implication to India's Maldives policy and noted: "We would, obviously, need to take that into account while framing our own policies."

Meanwhile, Mr. Saeed said in his television interview that such trade pacts would help the Maldives boost its exports and become less reliant on imports.

The Indian Ocean archipelago is currently negotiating a foreign currency crisis amid low foreign reserves and high public debt. In its October 2024 update, the World Bank said the Maldives faces "heightened external and fiscal vulnerabilities" that require urgent implementation of comprehensive economic reforms.

Maldives to finalise free trade pact with India soon, says Minister Saeed

मालदीव जल्द ही भारत के साथ मुक्त व्यापार समझौता करेगा: मंत्री सईद

Maldives to Finalize Trade Pact with India
मालदीव भारत के साथ व्यापार समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने वाला है

- The **Maldives** will soon **finalize** a **trade pact** with **India**, according to a senior **Maldivian Minister**, just **two weeks** after **New Delhi** cautioned the island nation over possible **"revenue loss"** from similar deals with other countries, including **China**.
  मालदीव जल्द ही **भारत** के साथ एक **व्यापार समझौता** अंतिम रूप देने वाला है, जैसा कि एक वरिष्ठ **मालदीव मंत्री** ने कहा, केवल **दो हफ्ते** बाद जब **नई दिल्ली** ने अन्य देशों, जिसमें **चीन** भी शामिल है, के साथ किए गए समान समझौतों से **"राजस्व हानि"** पर द्वीप राष्ट्र को चेतावनी दी थी।

- According to **Maldivian media**, **Minister of Economic Development and Trade**, **Mohamed Saeed**, confirmed the move on **Monday night** in an interview to a local television channel.
  मालदीव मीडिया के अनुसार, **आर्थिक विकास और व्यापार मंत्री**, **मोहमद सईद**, ने **सोमवार रात** एक स्थानीय टीवी चैनल से साक्षात्कार में इस कदम की पुष्टि की।

- Mr. Saeed mentioned that **President Mohamed Muizzu** — during his **state visit to India in October 2024** — and **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** had expressed **keen interest** in signing the **Free Trade Agreement**.

  मि. **सईद** ने उल्लेख किया कि **राष्ट्रपति मोहमद मुइज्जू** — अपने **भारत दौरे में अक्टूबर 2024** में — और **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने **फ्री ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट** पर हस्ताक्षर करने में **गहरी रुचि** व्यक्त की थी।

- **Bilateral negotiations** on the **FTA** are scheduled to begin soon, according to official sources based in the capital **Male**.

  एफटीए पर **द्विपक्षीय वार्ताएँ** जल्द शुरू होने वाली हैं, जैसा कि **Male** में स्थित सरकारी सूत्रों ने बताया।

- **Mr. Muizzu** is focused on securing trade agreements with **major global markets**, ensuring that such arrangements benefit **Maldivians**, Mr. Saeed noted.

  मि. **मुइज्जू** प्रमुख **वैश्विक बाजारों** के साथ व्यापार समझौतों को सुरक्षित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं, यह सुनिश्चित करते हुए कि ऐसे समझौते **मालदीववासियों** को लाभ पहुँचाते हैं, जैसा कि मि. सईद ने बताया।

- The **Maldives** signed a **preferential trade agreement** with **Turkiye** in **November 2024** and an **FTA with China** that came into effect on **January 1, 2025**.

  मालदीव ने **नवंबर 2024** में **तुर्की** के साथ एक **प्राथमिक व्यापार समझौता** और **चीन के साथ एफटीए** पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जो **1 जनवरी 2025** से प्रभावी हुआ।

- "Most of the **aquatic products** originating in the **Maldives** exported to **China** will enjoy **zero tariff treatment**," according to **China's Ministry of Commerce** following the signing of the agreement.

  "**मालदीव** से उत्पन्न होने वाले अधिकांश **जल उत्पाद** जो **चीन** को निर्यात किए जाएंगे, उन्हें **शून्य शुल्क उपचार** मिलेगा," यह **चीन के वाणिज्य मंत्रालय** के अनुसार है, समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर के बाद।

- Mr. Saeed's announcement is significant, coming soon after **New Delhi's rare comment** on a neighbour's trade partnership choices.

  मि. सईद की घोषणा महत्वपूर्ण है, जो **नई दिल्ली की दुर्लभ टिप्पणी** के तुरंत बाद आई है, जो एक पड़ोसी के व्यापार साझेदारी विकल्पों पर दी गई थी।

- On **January 31, 2025**, spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** of the **Ministry of External Affairs** said, "**Recent agreements** that are likely to result in **revenue loss** for the **Maldives government** are obviously a matter of concern and do not bode well for the long-term **fiscal stability** of the country."

  31 जनवरी 2025 को **विदेश मंत्रालय** के प्रवक्ता **रंधीर जैसवाल** ने कहा, "**हाल की समझौतों** से जो संभवतः **मालदीव सरकार** के लिए **राजस्व हानि** का कारण बन सकते हैं, यह स्पष्ट रूप से चिंता का विषय है और यह देश की लंबी अवधि की **आर्थिक स्थिरता** के लिए अच्छा संकेत नहीं है।"

- Mr. Jaiswal did not name the two countries but flagged the possible **implications** for **India's Maldives policy**.

  मि. जैसवाल ने दो देशों का नाम नहीं लिया, लेकिन उन्होंने **भारत की मालदीव नीति** पर संभावित **परिणामों** की चेतावनी दी।

- Meanwhile, Mr. Saeed said in his interview that such trade pacts would help the Maldives boost its **exports** and become less reliant on **imports**.

इस बीच, मि. सईद ने अपने साक्षात्कार में कहा कि ऐसे व्यापार समझौते **मालदीव** को अपनी **निर्यात** को बढ़ाने और **आयातों** पर कम निर्भर बनने में मदद करेंगे।

- The **Maldives** is currently negotiating a **foreign currency crisis** amid low foreign reserves and high public debt.

  मालदीव वर्तमान में **नकदी संकट** पर बातचीत कर रहा है, जो निम्न **विदेशी भंडार** और उच्च **सार्वजनिक ऋण** के बीच है।

- In its **October 2024** update, the **World Bank** said the **Maldives** faces "heightened **external and fiscal vulnerabilities**" that require urgent implementation of comprehensive economic reforms.

  विश्व बैंक ने अपनी **अक्टूबर 2024** की अपडेट में कहा कि **मालदीव** "**बढ़ी हुई बाहरी और वित्तीय संवेदनशीलताएँ**" का सामना कर रहा है, जिसे तत्काल व्यापक **आर्थिक सुधारों** के कार्यान्वयन की आवश्यकता है।

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

1. **History shows technology won't take away work: PM / इतिहास गवाह है कि तकनीक काम नहीं छीन सकती: प्रधानमंत्री**

2. **IIT Madras develops indigenous Shakti semiconductor chip / आईआईटी मद्रास ने स्वदेशी शक्ति सेमीकंडक्टर चिप विकसित की**

3. **Self-inflicted injury / आत्म-प्रहारित चोट**

4. **Addressing the growing threat of forest fires / वन संरक्षण के बढ़ते खतरे को संबोधित करते हुए**

5. **Economy on speedy rebound, India to remain fastest growing nation: FM / अर्थव्यवस्था में तेजी से सुधार, भारत सबसे तेजी से विकास करने वाला देश बना रहेगा: वित्त मंत्री**

6. **Just not confident of HAL, says IAF chief over delivery delays / वायुसेना प्रमुख ने डिलीवरी में देरी पर कहा, 'मैं HAL से संतुष्ट नहीं हूं'**

7. **Rajnath tells global firms to co-develop advanced defence systems in India** / राजनाथ ने वैश्विक कम्पनियों से भारत में उन्नत रक्षा प्रणालियों का सह-विकास करने को कहा

8. **Russia offers to partner with India for joint production of Su-57 fighter** / रूस ने Su-57 लड़ाकू विमानों के संयुक्त उत्पादन के लिए भारत के साथ साझेदारी करने की पेशकश की

9. **Products developed in-house by service innovators catch eyeballs** / सेवा नवप्रवर्तकों द्वारा इन-हाउस विकसित उत्पाद लोगों का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हैं

10. **India, 57 countries call for inclusive and sustainable AI** / भारत समेत 57 देशों ने समावेशी और टिकाऊ एआई का आह्वान किया

11. **CCI may buy over 100 lakh bales at MSP** / सीसीआई एमएसपी पर 100 लाख गांठ से अधिक खरीद सकता है

12. **Asian elephants change scientists' minds on why they trumpet** / एशियाई हाथियों ने वैज्ञानिकों की सोच बदल दी है कि वे क्यों तुरही बजाते हैं

13. **Why is Hawaii ideal for rainbows?** / हवाई इंद्रधनुष के लिए आदर्श क्यों है?

History shows technology won't take away work: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Governance frameworks for artificial intelligence are "not just about managing risks and rivalries", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday, calling for a collective approach to set standards for AI that benefit everyone, especially the Global South. India is co-chairing the summit with France this year.

Mr. Modi acknowledged the fear of widespread job losses from AI, but asserted that "history has shown that work does not disappear due to technology. New types of jobs are created". Reskilling workforce was important to prepare it for the changes AI would bring about, he said.

'Global efforts needed'
"There is ... a deep interdependence across borders"

Tech talk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a plenary session of the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday. AFP

when it comes to AI, Mr. Modi said. "Therefore there is a need for collective global efforts to establish governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks, and build trust. Governance is also about ensuring access to all, especially in the Global South. It is where the capabilities are most lacking, be it compute, power talent, data, or financial resources."

Mr. Modi called for pooling together of resources and talent, and developing open source systems for improving trust in AI systems.

"We must build quality datasets, free from biases," he said, referring to the data on which AI models are trained. "We must democratise technology and create people-centric applications."

History shows technology won't take away work: PM
इतिहास गवाह है कि तकनीक काम नहीं छीन सकती: प्रधानमंत्री

Governance frameworks for artificial intelligence
कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के लिए शासकीय ढांचे

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** emphasized that AI governance frameworks are **"not just about managing risks and rivalries."**
प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि AI के लिए शासकीय ढांचे **"सिर्फ जोखिमों और प्रतिद्वंद्विताओं को प्रबंधित करने के बारे में नहीं हैं।"**

- He called for a **collective approach** to set standards for AI, especially benefiting the **Global South.**
उन्होंने **सामूहिक दृष्टिकोण** का आह्वान किया, ताकि AI के लिए मानक स्थापित किए जा सकें, खासकर **वैश्विक दक्षिण** के लाभ के लिए।

- India is co-chairing the summit with **France** this year.
इस वर्ष भारत **फ्रांस** के साथ शिखर सम्मेलन का सह-अध्यक्ष है।

- Mr. Modi acknowledged the fear of widespread **job losses** from AI but said that history shows **new types of jobs are created**.
श्री मोदी ने AI से व्यापक **नौकरी की हानि** का डर स्वीकार किया, लेकिन कहा कि इतिहास ने यह दिखाया है कि **नई प्रकार की नौकरियाँ बनती हैं।**

- He emphasized **reskilling** the workforce to prepare it for the changes AI will bring.
उन्होंने **कर्मचारी पुनः कौशल विकास** पर जोर दिया, ताकि वह AI से होने वाले परिवर्तनों के लिए तैयार हो सके।

'Global efforts needed'
'वैश्विक प्रयासों की आवश्यकता'

- "There is a deep **interdependence** across borders in AI," Mr. Modi stated.
  "AI में देशों के बीच गहरी **आधारित निर्भरता** है," श्री मोदी ने कहा।

- He called for **collective global efforts** to establish governance and standards that uphold shared values, address risks, and build trust.
  उन्होंने **सामूहिक वैश्विक प्रयासों** का आह्वान किया ताकि शासकीय ढांचे और मानकों की स्थापना की जा सके, जो साझा मूल्यों की रक्षा करें, जोखिमों का समाधान करें और विश्वास निर्माण करें।

- Mr. Modi emphasized the importance of ensuring **access to all**, especially in the **Global South**, where **capabilities** are lacking.
  श्री मोदी ने **सभी तक पहुँच सुनिश्चित करने** के महत्व पर जोर दिया, खासकर **वैश्विक दक्षिण** में, जहाँ **क्षमताओं** की कमी है।

- The **Global South** faces a lack of **compute, power, talent, data**, or **financial resources**.
  वैश्विक दक्षिण को **संगणना, शक्ति, प्रतिभा, डेटा**, या **वित्तीय संसाधनों** की कमी का सामना करना पड़ता है।

- Mr. Modi proposed **pooling together of resources and talent** and developing **open-source systems** to improve trust in AI systems.
  श्री मोदी ने **संसाधनों और प्रतिभाओं को एक साथ लाने** का प्रस्ताव रखा और AI प्रणालियों में विश्वास बढ़ाने के लिए **ओपन-सोर्स सिस्टम्स** विकसित करने की बात की।

- "We must build **quality datasets**, free from biases," he said, referring to the data on which AI models are trained.
  "हमें **गुणवत्ता पूर्ण डेटासेट्स** बनानी चाहिए, जो पक्षपाती न हों," उन्होंने कहा, जो AI मॉडलों के प्रशिक्षण के लिए डेटा पर आधारित होते हैं।

- He emphasized the need to **democratize technology** and create **people-centric applications.**
  उन्होंने **प्रौद्योगिकी का लोकतंत्रीकरण** करने और **लोगों-केंद्रित अनुप्रयोग** बनाने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

IIT Madras develops indigenous Shakti semiconductor chip

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the Indian Space Research Organisation have developed an indigenous aerospace quality Shakti-based semiconductor chip.

IIT Madras director V. Kamakoti led the Shakti microprocessor project at Prathap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure hardware Architecture (PSCDISHA) in the institute's Computer Science and Engineering department.

Shakti is backed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under its Digital India RISC-V initiative (DIRV). It aims to promote indigenous development of mi-croprocessor-based products that offer best-in-class security and visibility for users adopting RISC-V technology.

The indigenous RISCV controller for space applications chip was developed from Shakti processor baseline.

It can be used in diverse domains from IoT and computer systems for strategic needs.

The development is part of the effort to indigenise semiconductors used by ISRO for its applications aligning with its march towards self-reliance in space technologies.

ISRO chairman V. Narayanan said the indigenously manufactured chip marked a milestone in the Make in India efforts in semiconductor design and fabrication.

IIT Madras develops indigenous Shakti semiconductor chip
आईआईटी मद्रास ने स्वदेशी शक्ति सेमीकंडक्टर चिप विकसित की

Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Indian Space Research Organisation Develop Indigenous Semiconductor Chip
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मद्रास और भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन ने स्वदेशी सेमीकंडक्टर चिप का विकास किया

• The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** (IIT Madras) and the **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) have developed an indigenous aerospace-quality **Shakti-based semiconductor chip**.
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मद्रास (IIT मद्रास) और भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) ने एक स्वदेशी एयरोस्पेस गुणवत्ता वाली **शक्ति-आधारित सेमीकंडक्टर चिप** विकसित की है।

• **IIT Madras** director **V. Kamakoti** led the **Shakti microprocessor project** at the **Prathap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure Hardware Architecture (PSCDISHA)** in the institute's **Computer Science and Engineering department**.
IIT मद्रास के निदेशक **वी. कमकोटी** ने संस्थान के **कंप्यूटर विज्ञान और इंजीनियरिंग विभाग में प्रथाप सुब्रहमण्यम केंद्र फॉर डिजिटल इंटेलिजेंस एंड सिक्योर हार्डवेयर आर्किटेक्चर (PSCDISHA)** में **शक्ति माइक्रोप्रोसेसर परियोजना** का नेतृत्व किया।

• **Shakti** is supported by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, under its **Digital India RISC-V initiative (DIRV)**.
शक्ति को **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय** द्वारा **डिजिटल इंडिया RISC-V पहल (DIRV)** के तहत समर्थन प्राप्त है।

• The aim of **DIRV** is to promote the **indigenous development** of microprocessor-based products offering **best-in-class security** and **visibility** for users adopting **RISC-V technology**.
DIRV का उद्देश्य **स्वदेशी विकास** को बढ़ावा देना है, ताकि **RISC-V प्रौद्योगिकी** अपनाने वाले

उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए **बेहतर सुरक्षा** और **दृश्यता** प्रदान करने वाले माइक्रोप्रोसेसर-आधारित उत्पादों का विकास किया जा सके।

- The indigenous **RISC-V controller** for space applications chip was developed from the **Shakti processor baseline**.

  स्वदेशी **RISC-V कंट्रोलर** को अंतरिक्ष अनुप्रयोगों के लिए चिप को **शक्ति प्रोसेसर बेसलाइन** से विकसित किया गया था।

- This chip can be used in various fields like **IoT** and **computer systems** for **strategic needs**.

  यह चिप **IoT** और **कंप्यूटर सिस्टम्स** से लेकर **रणनीतिक आवश्यकताओं** तक विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उपयोग की जा सकती है।

- The development is part of the effort to **indigenize semiconductors** used by **ISRO** for its applications, aligning with its march towards **self-reliance in space technologies**.

  यह विकास **ISRO** द्वारा अपनी अनुप्रयोगों के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले **सेमीकंडक्टरों** को **स्वदेशी बनाने** के प्रयास का हिस्सा है, जो अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकियों में **आत्मनिर्भरता** की दिशा में इसका कदम है।

- **ISRO chairman V. Narayanan** stated that the **indigenously manufactured chip** marks a milestone in the **Make in India** efforts for **semiconductor design and fabrication**.

  ISRO के अध्यक्ष **वी. नारायणन** ने कहा कि **स्वदेशी निर्मित चिप सेमीकंडक्टर डिजाइन और निर्माण** में **मेक इन इंडिया** प्रयासों में एक मील का पत्थर है।

Self-inflicted injury

आत्म-प्रहारित चोट

Trump's tariffs will not spare the United States from economic damage

ट्रम्प की नीतियां अमेरिका को आर्थिक नुकसान से नहीं बचा पाएंगी

Economic Impact of Tariffs during Donald Trump's Presidency
डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की राष्ट्रपतिावधि के दौरान शुल्कों का आर्थिक प्रभाव

- **Economic estimates** from President **Donald Trump's first term** suggest that the sweeping **tariffs** his administration imposed on nearly **$400 billion** worth of goods hurt the **American economy**.

राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की पहली अवधि** से **आर्थिक अनुमान** बताते हैं कि उनके प्रशासन द्वारा लगभग **$400 बिलियन** मूल्य के सामानों पर लगाए गए व्यापक **शुल्कों** ने **अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्था** को नुकसान पहुंचाया।

- These tariffs resulted in a **net loss** in **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, a decline in annual **household income**, and **job losses** in the **manufacturing sector**.

इन शुल्कों के परिणामस्वरूप **वास्तविक सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP)** में **शुद्ध हानि**, वार्षिक **घरेलू आय** में **गिरावट**, और **निर्माण क्षेत्र** में **नौकरी का नुकसान** हुआ।

- A **2019 discussion paper** by the **Federal Reserve Board** found that industries most exposed to **tariff increases** saw relative **reductions in employment**.

फेडरल रिजर्व बोर्ड द्वारा **2019 में प्रकाशित** एक चर्चा पत्र ने पाया कि जिन उद्योगों को **शुल्कों में वृद्धि** का सबसे अधिक सामना करना पड़ा, उनमें रोजगार में **सापेक्ष कमी** आई।

- The negative effects of **rising input costs** and **retaliatory tariffs** outweighed the benefits of **import protection**, leading to a **net decline** in **manufacturing jobs**, with an estimated **0.6% loss**, or about **75,000 fewer jobs**.

इनपुट लागत में वृद्धि और **प्रतिशोधात्मक शुल्कों** के नकारात्मक प्रभावों ने **आयात सुरक्षा** के लाभों को पछाड़ दिया, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **निर्माण नौकरियों** में **शुद्ध कमी** आई, जिसमें अनुमानित **0.6% की हानि**, या लगभग **75,000 कम नौकरियाँ** थीं।

- A **2019 report** from the **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)** projected that **trade barriers** would reduce **U.S. economic output**.

Self-inflicted injury

Trump's tariffs will not spare the United States from economic damage

Economic estimates from United States President Donald Trump's first term suggest that the sweeping tariffs his administration imposed on nearly $400 billion worth of goods hurt the American economy. They also resulted in a net loss in real (inflation-adjusted) Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a decline in annual household income, and job losses in the manufacturing sector. A 2019 discussion paper by the Federal Reserve Board, 'Disentangling the Effects of the 2018-2019 Tariffs on a Globally Connected U.S. Manufacturing Sector', found that industries most exposed to tariff increases saw relative reductions in employment. The negative effects of rising input costs and retaliatory tariffs outweighed the benefits of import protection, leading to a net decline in manufacturing jobs, an estimated 0.6% loss, or about 75,000 fewer jobs than would have existed without the tariffs. Similarly, a 2019 report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), 'An Update to the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2019 to 2029', projected that trade barriers would reduce U.S. economic output. By 2020, the CBO estimated a 0.3% decline in real GDP and a $580 reduction in average real household income (in 2019 dollars).

The 25% tariff on iron and steel imports by Mr. Trump, in his second term, mirrors a similar policy from March 2018. In his first term, Canada, Mexico and the European Union were initially exempted until June 2018, after which retaliatory tariffs followed until a truce was reached in May 2019 through a revised North American trade agreement. Economists have pointed to these tariffs, which continued to a large extent under the Biden administration, being one of the factors that contributed to high inflation in recent years. In 2023, China dominated global steel production with 1,019 million metric tons per annum (mmtpa), accounting for 54% of global output, followed by India (140.8 mmtpa, 7%) and the U.S. (81.4 mmtpa, 4%). Despite its domestic production, the U.S. relies heavily on imports from Canada, Mexico, and Brazil. Steel is a critical material across industries, including automotive, construction, appliances, and oil and gas. While the American steel industry has welcomed the new tariffs, imports are unlikely to decrease immediately, as a global surplus, driven by China, keeps prices competitive. Even a slight increase in steel prices could ripple across the economy, raising costs for consumers struggling with affordability. If history is any indication, Mr. Trump's tariffs may be the start of another round of self-inflicted economic damage for an already strained U.S. economy, albeit still the world's largest.

कांग्रेशनल बजट ऑफिस (CBO) की 2019 की रिपोर्ट में अनुमानित किया गया कि वाणिज्यिक बाधाएँ अमेरिकी आर्थिक उत्पादन को कम करेंगी।

- By 2020, the CBO estimated a 0.3% decline in real GDP and a $580 reduction in average real household income (in 2019 dollars).

  2020 तक, CBO ने वास्तविक GDP में 0.3% की गिरावट और औसत वास्तविक घरेलू आय में $580 की कमी (2019 डॉलर में) का अनुमान लगाया।

- The 25% tariff on iron and steel imports imposed by Trump in his second term mirrors a similar policy from March 2018.

  ट्रम्प द्वारा अपने दूसरे कार्यकाल में आयरन और स्टील आयात पर 25% शुल्क मार्च 2018 से एक समान नीति को दर्शाता है।

- In his first term, Canada, Mexico, and the European Union were initially exempted until June 2018, after which retaliatory tariffs followed until a truce was reached in May 2019.

  उनकी पहली अवधि में, कनाडा, मैक्सिको, और यूरोपीय संघ को पहले जून 2018 तक छूट दी गई, उसके बाद प्रतिशोधात्मक शुल्क लगाए गए जब तक कि मई 2019 में एक समझौता नहीं हो गया।

- Economists have pointed to these tariffs, which continued to a large extent under the Biden administration, as one of the factors that contributed to high inflation in recent years.

  अर्थशास्त्रियों ने इन शुल्कों की ओर इशारा किया है, जो बाइडन प्रशासन के तहत बड़ी हद तक जारी रहे, को पिछले वर्षों में उच्च मुद्रास्फीति के एक कारक के रूप में।

- In 2023, China dominated global steel production with 1,019 million metric tons per annum (mmtpa), accounting for 54% of global output.

  2023 में, चीन ने वैश्विक स्टील उत्पादन में 1,019 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष (mmtpa) के साथ वैश्विक उत्पादन का 54% हिस्सा लिया।

- India produced 140.8 mmtpa, accounting for 7%, and the U.S. produced 81.4 mmtpa, accounting for 4%.

  भारत ने 140.8 mmtpa का उत्पादन किया, जो 7% था, और अमेरिका ने 81.4 mmtpa का उत्पादन किया, जो 4% था।

- Despite domestic production, the U.S. relies heavily on imports from Canada, Mexico, and Brazil.

  घरेलू उत्पादन के बावजूद, अमेरिका कनाडा, मैक्सिको, और ब्राज़ील से आयात पर भारी निर्भर करता है।

- Steel is a critical material across industries, including automotive, construction, appliances, and oil and gas.

  स्टील एक महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री है जो विभिन्न उद्योगों में उपयोग होती है, जैसे ऑटोमोटिव, निर्माण, उपकरण, और तेल और गैस।

- While the American steel industry has welcomed the new tariffs, imports are unlikely to decrease immediately, as a global surplus, driven by China, keeps prices competitive.

  जबकि अमेरिकी स्टील उद्योग ने नए शुल्कों का स्वागत किया है, आयात तुरंत कम होने की

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संभावना नहीं है, क्योंकि **चीन** द्वारा संचालित **वैश्विक अधिकता** कीमतों को प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाए रखती है।

- Even a slight increase in **steel prices** could ripple across the economy, raising costs for **consumers** struggling with **affordability**.

  स्टील की कीमतों में थोड़ी वृद्धि भी अर्थव्यवस्था में हलचल पैदा कर सकती है, जिससे **सस्ती कीमतों** के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे **उपभोक्ताओं** के लिए लागत बढ़ सकती है।

- If history is any indication, Mr. Trump's **tariffs** may be the start of another round of **self-inflicted economic damage** for an already strained **U.S. economy**, albeit still the world's largest.

  यदि इतिहास कोई संकेत है, तो श्री ट्रंप के **शुल्क** एक और दौर की **स्वयं-निर्मित आर्थिक क्षति** की शुरुआत हो सकते हैं, जो पहले से ही दबाव में चल रही **अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्था** के लिए हो सकता है, हालांकि यह अभी भी दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है।

Addressing the growing threat of forest fires

GS Paper III: Environment

Suryaprabha Sadasivan

Senior Vice President, Chase India

As wildfires swept throughout Los Angeles last month, destroying homes and causing casualties and displacements, the urgency of addressing and preventing forest fires took centre stage once again. Unfortunately, forest fires become a point of conversation only when some major incident causes irrevocable damage and captures media and public attention. The fires are a stark reminder that no place is immune from their impacts and that we need a clear pathway to prevent and manage them as their frequency increases.

In India, the situation is equally alarming. According to the Forest Survey of India, more than 36% of the country's forest cover is prone to fire. An analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water states that there has been a 10-fold increase in forest fire incidences in the last two decades, whereas the total forest cover has increased by merely 1.12%.

Living on the fringes of the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand, I see the immense value of India's forests, not just as critical enablers of wildlife conservation and sources of biodiversity, but as lifelines for local communities that live around them. While Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh often capture headlines for forest fires, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Karnataka, among others, are also grappling with the frequency and intensity of forest fires.

Devastating consequences
According to various reports, nearly 90% of these fires are caused by human activities such as deliberate land clearing, slash-and-burn agriculture, and unattended campfires. These factors, coupled with climate change-driven factors such as rising temperatures and extended dry spells, intensify the risk of forest fires.

Forest fires have widespread consequences – natural, social, and economic – that are all interconnected. Besides the direct loss of trees, wildlife, and biodiversity, they contribute significantly to carbon emissions. A report by the World Resources Institute estimates that Indian forest fires emit approximately 69 million tonnes of CO_2 annually. Forest fires result in the loss of timber and non-timber forest products, essential for forest-dependent communities, contributing to direct economic losses. A 2018 report by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change estimated that forest degradation (including forest fires) results in an annual economic loss of approximately ₹1.74 lakh crore. Forest fires also disrupt the water cycle, cause soil fertility degradation, and worsen human-wildlife conflict as animals seek refuge in human settlements.

India has put in place several policies and schemes to address forest fire management, such as the National Action Plan on Forest Fires and the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FFPMS). The centrally sponsored FFPMS assists State governments in strengthening their forest fire prevention and management capabilities.

A more robust response
However, given the growing intensity of forest fires in India, much more remains to be done. First, Budget constraints have proven to be an obstacle. For example, the FFPMS's funding allotment has fluctuated over time. In 2019-2020, it received ₹46.40 crore, followed by ₹32.47 crore in 2020-2021, ₹34.26 crore in 2021-2022, and ₹28.25 crore in 2022-2023. The budget projection for 2023-2024 was ₹51 crore, which was revised to ₹40 crore. The planned allocation for 2024-2025 is ₹50 crore. This shows the need for more steady support.

On the technology front, the existing Forest Fire Alert System cannot distinguish between forest fires and other types of fires, delaying ground-level validation and response. India could use advanced predictive modelling to help identify high-risk areas based on climatic and geographic data. This must be supplemented by using drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras to monitor fire-prone areas, assess damage, and guide firefighting efforts. States such as Tamil Nadu and Odisha have already piloted such initiatives, which could be scaled nationally. In addition, there is merit in also exploring how relevant and existing data from the Forest Survey of India, the India Meteorological Department, and the Indian Space Research Organisation can be integrated and analysed for better forest fire management.

Equipping more and more local communities to collect and share real-time data to report fires as soon as they are sighted through mobile applications, toll-free helplines, and SMS-based systems can strengthen early warning systems and ensure rapid, localised response. In Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, self-help groups, primarily women, collect pine needles to blunt future fires. India can also draw from Nepal's Community Forest User Groups and Indonesia's Fire-Free Village Program to strengthen community forest fire management. Empowering communities with awareness, training, and resources and engaging youth as 'forest fire scouts' can foster stewardship, combining local knowledge with modern tools like fire risk mapping and controlled burns.

Forest fires are not just an environmental issue – they are societal and economic, affecting livelihoods, health, and the foundation of our ecosystems. Addressing this challenge requires the collaboration of policymakers, scientists, civil society groups, and communities. From creating supporting infrastructure through policy intervention, improved budgeting, technology adoption, and building a cadre of trained personnel to empowering communities – all measures must go hand-in-hand to turn the tide.

> India has put in place several policies and schemes to address forest fire management, but needs to do much more

Addressing the growing threat of forest fires
वन संरक्षण के बढ़ते खतरे को संबोधित करते हुए

Forest Fires in Los Angeles and India
लॉस एंजेलिस और भारत में वन अग्नि

- As **wildfires** swept throughout **Los Angeles** last month, destroying homes and causing casualties and displacements, the urgency of addressing and preventing forest fires took **centre stage** once again.

  पिछले महीने **लॉस एंजेलिस** में **वन अग्नियों** ने घरों को नष्ट कर दिया और जनहानि और विस्थापन का कारण बना, जिससे वन अग्नियों को संबोधित करने और उन्हें रोकने की **तत्कालता** फिर से महत्वपूर्ण बन गई।

- Unfortunately, **forest fires** become a point of conversation only when some major incident causes **irrevocable damage** and captures media and public attention.

  दुर्भाग्यवश, **वन अग्नियाँ** केवल तब ही चर्चा का विषय बनती हैं जब कोई बड़ा हादसा **अपरिवर्तनीय क्षति** उत्पन्न करता है और मीडिया और सार्वजनिक ध्यान आकर्षित करता है।

- These fires are a **stark reminder** that no place is immune from their impacts and that we need a **clear pathway** to prevent and manage them as their frequency increases.

  ये आगे **स्पष्ट संकेत** हैं कि कोई भी स्थान इनके प्रभावों से अछूता नहीं है और हमें इन्हें रोकने और प्रबंधित करने के लिए एक **स्पष्ट मार्ग** की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि इनकी आवृत्ति बढ़ रही है।

- In **India**, the situation is equally alarming. According to the **Forest Survey of India**, more than **36%** of the country's forest cover is prone to fire.

  भारत में, स्थिति equally चिंताजनक है। **भारत के वन सर्वेक्षण** के अनुसार, देश के **36%** से अधिक वन क्षेत्र अग्नि के प्रति संवेदनशील है।

- An analysis by the **Council on Energy, Environment, and Water** states that there has been a **10-fold increase** in forest fire incidences in the last two decades, whereas the total forest cover has increased by merely **1.12%**.

  ऊर्जा, पर्यावरण और जल परिषद द्वारा किए गए एक विश्लेषण के अनुसार, पिछले दो दशकों में वन अग्नि की घटनाओं में **10 गुना वृद्धि** हुई है, जबकि कुल वन क्षेत्र में केवल **1.12%** की वृद्धि हुई है।

- Living on the fringes of the **Corbett Tiger Reserve** in **Uttarakhand**, I see the immense value of India's forests, not just as critical enablers of **wildlife conservation** and sources of **biodiversity**, but as lifelines for **local communities**.

  उत्तराखंड में **कॉर्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व** के किनारे रहते हुए, मैं भारत के वनों की महत्ता को देखता हूँ, केवल **वन्यजीव संरक्षण** और **जैव विविधता** के स्रोतों के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि **स्थानीय समुदायों** के लिए जीवन रेखा के रूप में।

- While **Uttarakhand** and **Himachal Pradesh** often capture headlines for forest fires, **Madhya Pradesh**, **Maharashtra**, **Odisha**, and **Karnataka** are also grappling with the

frequency and intensity of forest fires.

जबकि **उत्तराखंड** और **हिमाचल प्रदेश** अक्सर वन अग्नियों के कारण सुर्खियों में रहते हैं, **मध्य प्रदेश**, **महाराष्ट्र**, **ओडिशा**, और **कर्नाटका** भी वन अग्नियों की आवृत्ति और तीव्रता से जूझ रहे हैं।

- According to various reports, nearly **90%** of these fires are caused by **human activities** such as deliberate **land clearing**, **slash-and-burn agriculture**, and unattended **campfires**.

  विभिन्न रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, इन आगों में से लगभग **90%** आगें **मानव गतिविधियों** के कारण होती हैं, जैसे जानबूझकर **भूमि की सफाई**, **छोटे-छोटे कृषि कार्य**, और अनियंत्रित **अग्निकांडी**।

- These factors, coupled with **climate change-driven factors** such as rising **temperatures** and extended **dry spells**, intensify the risk of forest fires.

  इन कारणों के साथ-साथ **जलवायु परिवर्तन** से जुड़े कारण, जैसे बढ़ती **तापमान** और विस्तारित **सूखा** अवधि, वन अग्नियों के जोखिम को बढ़ाते हैं।

- **Forest fires** have widespread consequences — **natural**, **social**, and **economic** — that are all interconnected.

  वन अग्नियाँ के व्यापक परिणाम होते हैं – **प्राकृतिक**, **सामाजिक**, और **आर्थिक** — जो सभी आपस में जुड़े हुए हैं।

- Besides the direct loss of **trees**, **wildlife**, and **biodiversity**, they contribute significantly to **carbon emissions**.

  वृक्षों, **वन्यजीवों**, और **जैव विविधता** की प्रत्यक्ष हानि के अलावा, ये **कार्बन उत्सर्जन** में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान करते हैं।

- A report by the **World Resources Institute** estimates that **Indian forest fires** emit approximately **69 million tonnes of CO2** annually.

  वर्ल्ड रिसोर्सेज इंस्टीट्यूट की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **भारतीय वन अग्नियाँ** लगभग **69 मिलियन टन CO2** का उत्सर्जन करती हैं।

- Forest fires result in the loss of **timber** and **non-timber forest products**, essential for forest-dependent communities, contributing to direct **economic losses**.

  वन अग्नियाँ **लकड़ी** और **गैर-लकड़ी वन उत्पादों** की हानि का कारण बनती हैं, जो वन-निर्भर समुदायों के लिए आवश्यक हैं, और सीधे **आर्थिक हानियाँ** उत्पन्न करती हैं।

- A **2018 report** by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** estimated that **forest degradation** (including forest fires) results in an annual economic loss of approximately **₹1.74 lakh crore**.

  पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की **2018 की रिपोर्ट** में अनुमानित किया गया कि **वन गिरावट** (जिसमें वन अग्नियाँ शामिल हैं) **₹1.74 लाख करोड़** की वार्षिक **आर्थिक हानि** का कारण बनती है।

- **Forest fires** also disrupt the **water cycle**, cause **soil fertility degradation**, and worsen **human-wildlife conflict** as animals seek refuge in human settlements.

  वन अग्नियाँ जल चक्र को बाधित करती हैं, **मृदा उर्वरता गिरावट** का कारण बनती हैं, और **मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष** को बढ़ाती हैं क्योंकि जानवर मानव बस्तियों में शरण लेने के लिए मजबूर होते हैं।

- India has put in place several policies and schemes to address forest fire management, such as the **National Action Plan on Forest Fires** and the **Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FFPMS)**.

  भारत ने वन अग्नि प्रबंधन के लिए कई नीतियाँ और योजनाएँ बनाई हैं, जैसे **राष्ट्रीय वन अग्नि कार्य योजना** और **वन अग्नि रोकथाम और प्रबंधन योजना (FFPMS)**।

- The centrally sponsored **FFPMS** assists **State governments** in strengthening their forest fire prevention and management capabilities.

  केंद्र सरकार द्वारा प्रायोजित **FFPMS** राज्य सरकारों को उनके वन अग्नि रोकथाम और प्रबंधन क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने में सहायता करता है।

A More Robust Response
एक अधिक मजबूत प्रतिक्रिया

- However, given the growing **intensity of forest fires** in India, much more remains to be done.

  हालांकि, भारत में **वन अग्नियों** की बढ़ती **तीव्रता** को देखते हुए, अभी बहुत कुछ किया जाना बाकी है।

- First, **budget constraints** have proven to be an obstacle.

  पहले, **बजट प्रतिबंध** एक रुकावट साबित हुए हैं।

- For example, the **FFPMS's funding allotment** has fluctuated over time.

  उदाहरण के लिए, **FFPMS की फंडिंग आवंटन** समय के साथ उतार-चढ़ाव करती रही है।

- In **2019-2020**, it received **₹46.40 crore**, followed by **₹32.47 crore** in **2020-2021**, **₹34.26 crore** in **2021-2022**, and **₹28.25 crore** in **2022-2023**.

  2019-2020 में इसे **₹46.40 करोड़** प्राप्त हुए, इसके बाद **2020-2021** में **₹32.47 करोड़**, **2021-2022** में **₹34.26 करोड़**, और **2022-2023** में **₹28.25 करोड़** मिले।

- The **budget projection for 2023-2024** was **₹51 crore**, which was revised to **₹40 crore**.

  2023-2024 के बजट प्रक्षेपण में **₹51 करोड़** का अनुमान था, जिसे संशोधित करके **₹40 करोड़** कर दिया गया।

- The **planned allocation for 2024-2025** is **₹50 crore**.

  2024-2025 के लिए निर्धारित आवंटन **₹50 करोड़** है।

- This shows the need for more steady support.

  यह अधिक स्थिर समर्थन की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।

- On the **technology front**, the existing **Forest Fire Alert System** cannot distinguish between forest fires and other types of fires, delaying ground-level validation and response.

  प्रौद्योगिकी के मोर्चे पर, मौजूदा **वन अग्नि अलर्ट सिस्टम** वन अग्नियों और अन्य प्रकार की आग के बीच अंतर नहीं कर सकता, जिससे ज़मीन स्तर पर सत्यापन और प्रतिक्रिया में देरी होती है।

- **India** could use **advanced predictive modelling** to help identify high-risk areas based on **climatic** and **geographic data**.

भारत प्रेडिक्टिव मॉडलिंग का उपयोग कर सकता है ताकि **जलवायु** और **भौगोलिक डेटा** के आधार पर उच्च-जोखिम वाले क्षेत्रों की पहचान की जा सके।

- This must be supplemented by using **drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras** to monitor fire-prone areas, assess damage, and guide firefighting efforts.

  इसे **थर्मल इमेजिंग कैमरों** से सुसज्जित **ड्रोन** का उपयोग करके आग-प्रवण क्षेत्रों की निगरानी, नुकसान का आकलन और अग्निशमन प्रयासों का मार्गदर्शन करने से समर्थन मिलना चाहिए।

- States such as **Tamil Nadu** and **Odisha** have already piloted such initiatives, which could be scaled nationally.

  राज्य जैसे **तमिलनाडु** और **ओडिशा** पहले ही इस तरह की पहलों की शुरुआत कर चुके हैं, जिन्हें राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

- In addition, there is merit in also exploring how relevant and existing data from the **Forest Survey of India**, the **India Meteorological Department**, and the **Indian Space Research Organisation** can be integrated and analysed for better forest fire management.

  इसके अतिरिक्त, यह भी महत्वपूर्ण है कि यह जांचें कि **भारत के वन सर्वेक्षण**, **भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग**, और **भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन** से संबंधित और मौजूदा डेटा को कैसे एकीकृत और विश्लेषित किया जा सकता है ताकि वन अग्नि प्रबंधन को बेहतर किया जा सके।

- Equipping more and more **local communities** to collect and share **real-time data** to report fires as soon as they are sighted through **mobile applications**, **toll-free helplines**, and **SMS-based systems** can strengthen early warning systems and ensure rapid, localised response.

  अधिक से अधिक **स्थानीय समुदायों** को **रियल-टाइम डेटा** इकट्ठा करने और साझा करने के लिए सक्षम करना, ताकि आग को तुरंत **मोबाइल एप्लिकेशन**, **टोल-फ्री हेल्पलाइन**, और **SMS आधारित सिस्टम** के माध्यम से रिपोर्ट किया जा सके, शुरुआती चेतावनी प्रणालियों को मजबूत कर सकता है और त्वरित, स्थानीय प्रतिक्रिया सुनिश्चित कर सकता है।

- In **Uttarakhand** and **Himachal Pradesh**, self-help groups, primarily **women**, collect **pine needles** to blunt future fires.

  उत्तराखंड और **हिमाचल प्रदेश** में, स्व-सहायता समूह, मुख्य रूप से **महिलाएं**, भविष्य की आगों को रोकने के लिए **पाइन सुइयाँ** इकट्ठा करती हैं।

- **India** can also draw from **Nepal's Community Forest User Groups** and **Indonesia's Fire-Free Village Program** to strengthen community forest fire management.

  भारत नेपाल के सामुदायिक वन उपयोगकर्ता समूहों और **इंडोनेशिया के आग-मुक्त गांव कार्यक्रम** से भी सीख सकता है, ताकि सामुदायिक वन अग्नि प्रबंधन को मजबूत किया जा सके।

- Empowering communities with awareness, training, and resources and engaging youth as '**forest fire scouts**' can foster stewardship, combining local knowledge with modern tools like fire risk mapping and controlled burns.

  समुदायों को **जागरूकता**, **प्रशिक्षण**, और **संसाधनों** से सशक्त करना और युवाओं को '**वन अग्नि स्काउट्स**' के रूप में शामिल करना, देखभाल को बढ़ावा दे सकता है, स्थानीय ज्ञान को **अग्नि जोखिम मानचित्रण** और नियंत्रित जलन जैसे आधुनिक उपकरणों के साथ जोड़कर।

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS
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- **Forest fires** are not just an **environmental issue** — they are **societal** and **economic**, affecting **livelihoods**, **health**, and the foundation of our **ecosystems**.

  वन अग्नियाँ केवल एक **पर्यावरणीय मुद्दा** नहीं हैं – ये **सामाजिक** और **आर्थिक** भी हैं, जो **आजीविका**, **स्वास्थ्य**, और हमारे **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्रों** की नींव को प्रभावित करती हैं।

- Addressing this challenge requires the collaboration of **policymakers**, **scientists**, **civil society groups**, and **communities**.

  इस चुनौती का समाधान करने के लिए **नीति निर्धारकों**, वैज्ञानिकों, **सामाजिक संगठन समूहों**, और **समुदायों** का सहयोग आवश्यक है।

- From creating supporting infrastructure through **policy intervention**, improved **budgeting**, **technology adoption**, and building a cadre of trained personnel to empowering communities — all measures must go hand-in-hand to turn the tide.

  नीति हस्तक्षेप, सुधारित **बजटिंग**, **प्रौद्योगिकी अपनाने**, और प्रशिक्षित कर्मचारियों का एक दल बनाने से लेकर समुदायों को सशक्त बनाने तक – सभी उपायों को **ताकत बढ़ाने** के लिए एक साथ काम करना चाहिए।

Economy on speedy rebound, India to remain fastest growing nation: FM

Nirmala Sitharaman admits global uncertainties may impact Indian economy, but says strong foundations and Budget announcements will assist in rebound; she pushes back against claims of lower capex, claiming that outlays have gone up

GS Paper III: External Sector

NEW DELHI

India's economy is in the midst of "a speedy rebound" after a brief moderation in the second quarter of this year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday, asserting that the Union Budget 2025-26 has sought to address the immediate challenges facing the national economy amid "immense" global uncertainties.

Responding to the discussion on the Budget in the Lok Sabha, Ms. Sitharaman said the Budget very clearly spoke of the various means through which the Centre wants to increase the liquidity available to the people, and aims to uplift households' sentiments, spur private sector investments, and accelerate growth.

Stressing that India's economy grew by an average of about 8% in the three years prior to 2024-25, Ms. Sitharaman said: "Only in two of the last 12 quarters has the growth rate touched 5.4% or remained below it. I want to inform the members that on account of strong economic foundations, a speedy rebound is happening and we shall take measures

Backing the Budget: Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

which will, going forward, help keep our economy as the fastest growing economy as it has in the last few years."

Rural demand
Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), the Minister pointed out, is expected to grow 7.3% in 2024-25, driven by rural demand. Overall, PFCE is estimated to be at 61.8% of nominal GDP, the highest level since 2002-03.

The Budget has come at a time of immense uncertainties and changes in the global macro-economic environment, when issues like persistent conflicts, stagnation in global GDP, and sticky inflation in the emerging markets also have an impact on India's budget, she said. These are "vitiating the atmosphere" for all developing economies, she noted.

While these uncertainties have weighed on the Budget-making process, the government has sought to balance national developmental priorities with fiscal imperatives, Ms. Sitharaman underlined. She also addressed some members' concerns about money being denied for capital expenditure projects.

"I heard occasionally this argument being put forward, saying, has the paradigm shifted from capital expending because that gives a greater multiplier effect to giving people, the taxpayers, some money in their hands... No, capital expenditure outlays have not come down at all. On the contrary, they have gone up," she said.

The effective capital expenditure for 2025-26 is pegged at 4.3% of GDP, which is 0.1% lower than the fiscal deficit of 4.4% of GDP, Ms. Sitharaman pointed out.
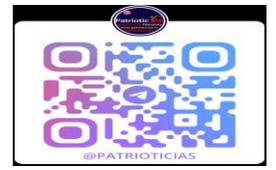
"What does it indicate? The government is using almost the entire borrowed resources for financing effective capital expenditure. The borrowings are not going for revenue or other committed expenditure... It's going only for creating capital assets," she emphasised.

Economy on speedy rebound, India to remain fastest growing nation: FM

अर्थव्यवस्था में तेजी से सुधार, भारत सबसे तेजी से विकास करने वाला देश बना रहेगा: वित्त मंत्री

Nirmala Sitharaman admits global uncertainties may impact Indian economy, but says strong foundations and Budget announcements will assist in rebound; she pushes back against claims of lower capex, claiming that outlays have gone up

निर्मला सीतारमण ने माना कि वैश्विक अनिश्चितताओं का भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर असर पड़ सकता है, लेकिन उनका कहना है कि मजबूत नींव और बजट घोषणाएं सुधार में सहायक होंगी; उन्होंने कम पूंजीगत व्यय के दावों को खारिज करते हुए दावा किया कि व्यय में वृद्धि हुई है

India's economy is in the midst of "a speedy rebound"
भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था "तेज पुनरुत्थान" के बीच है

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** stated that after a brief moderation in the second quarter of this year, India's economy is now recovering swiftly.
  वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि इस वर्ष की दूसरी तिमाही में थोड़ी मंदी के बाद, अब भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था तेजी से उबर रही है।
- The **Union Budget 2025-26** aims to address the immediate challenges faced by the national economy amid global uncertainties.
  संघीय बजट 2025-26 का उद्देश्य वैश्विक अनिश्चितताओं के बीच राष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था द्वारा सामना की जा रही तात्कालिक चुनौतियों को संबोधित करना है।
- **Ms. Sitharaman** emphasized that the Budget seeks to increase liquidity for the people, uplift household sentiments, spur private sector investments, and accelerate growth.
  सुश्री सीतारमण ने बल दिया कि बजट का उद्देश्य लोगों के लिए तरलता बढ़ाना, घरेलू भावना को प्रोत्साहित करना, निजी क्षेत्र में निवेश को बढ़ावा देना और वृद्धि को तेज करना है।

India's economy grew by an average of about 8% in the last three years
भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था पिछले तीन वर्षों में औसतन लगभग 8% बढ़ी

- **India's economy** grew at an average of about **8%** in the three years prior to 2024-25.
  भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था 2024-25 से पहले के तीन वर्षों में औसतन लगभग **8%** बढ़ी।
- **Only in two of the last 12 quarters** has the growth rate fallen below **5.4%**.
  पिछले 12 तिमाहियों में से केवल दो तिमाहियों में वृद्धि दर **5.4%** से नीचे रही।
- **Ms. Sitharaman** assured that due to strong economic foundations, India's economy is seeing a **speedy rebound** and will remain the fastest-growing economy.

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सुश्री सीतारमण ने आश्वासन दिया कि मजबूत आर्थिक बुनियादी ढांचे के कारण, भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था **तेज पुनरुत्थान** देख रही है और यह सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था बनी रहेगी।

Rural demand and PFCE growth
ग्रामीण मांग और पीएफसीई वृद्धि

- **Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)** is expected to grow by **7.3%** in 2024-25, driven by rural demand.
  निजी अंतिम उपभोग व्यय (पीएफसीई) 2024-25 में **7.3%** बढ़ने की उम्मीद है, जो ग्रामीण मांग से प्रेरित है।
- Overall, **PFCE is estimated at 61.8%** of nominal GDP, the highest since **2002-03**.
  कुल मिलाकर, **पीएफसीई का अनुमान है कि यह नाममात्र जीडीपी का 61.8%** होगा, जो **2002-03** के बाद का सबसे उच्चतम स्तर है।

Global uncertainties and changes in the macro-economic environment
वैश्विक अनिश्चितताएँ और मैक्रो-आर्थिक पर्यावरण में परिवर्तन

- The Budget has been presented amid **immense uncertainties** in the global macro-economic environment, including persistent conflicts, stagnation in global GDP, and inflation in emerging markets.
  बजट को वैश्विक मैक्रो-आर्थिक वातावरण में **विशाल अनिश्चितताओं** के बीच पेश किया गया है, जिसमें निरंतर संघर्ष, वैश्विक जीडीपी में ठहराव और उभरते बाजारों में महंगाई शामिल हैं।
- These uncertainties have **vitiated the atmosphere** for developing economies.
  इन अनिश्चितताओं ने विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के लिए **वातावरण को प्रदूषित किया** है।

Balancing national priorities with fiscal imperatives
राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं को राजकोषीय आवश्यकता के साथ संतुलित करना

- Despite these uncertainties, the government has worked to **balance national developmental priorities with fiscal imperatives**.
  इन अनिश्चितताओं के बावजूद, सरकार ने **राष्ट्रीय विकासात्मक प्राथमिकताओं को राजकोषीय आवश्यकताओं के साथ संतुलित करने** का प्रयास किया है।
- Ms. Sitharaman responded to concerns that money was being denied for **capital expenditure projects**.
  सुश्री सीतारमण ने **पूंजीगत व्यय परियोजनाओं** के लिए पैसे न दिए जाने पर उठाए गए चिंता के सवालों का जवाब दिया।
- She clarified that **capital expenditure outlays have not come down**, but have actually increased.
  उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि **पूंजीगत व्यय में कटौती नहीं की गई है**, बल्कि यह वास्तव में बढ़ी है।

Effective capital expenditure for 2025-26
2025-26 के लिए प्रभावी पूंजीगत व्यय

- **Effective capital expenditure** for **2025-26** is pegged at **4.3% of GDP**, 0.1% lower than the fiscal deficit of **4.4% of GDP**.

  2025-26 के लिए प्रभावी पूंजीगत व्यय जीडीपी के 4.3% पर निर्धारित किया गया है, जो **जीडीपी के 4.4%** के राजकोषीय घाटे से 0.1% कम है।

- Ms. Sitharaman emphasized that almost all borrowed resources are being used for **financing capital expenditure**, not for revenue or other committed expenses.

  सुश्री सीतारमण ने जोर दिया कि लगभग सभी उधारी संसाधनों का उपयोग **पूंजीगत व्यय** के लिए किया जा रहा है, न कि राजस्व या अन्य प्रतिबद्ध खर्चों के लिए।

Just not confident of HAL, says IAF chief over delivery delays

GS Paper III: Defence

Dinakar Peri
BENGALURU

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh

In sharp remarks over delays in the deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh on Tuesday said that at the moment, he was "just not confident" of HAL, which was a "very wrong" thing to happen.

HAL Chairman and Managing Director D. K. Sunil, responding to questions on the comments by the Indian Air Force chief, said the concerns over delays were well understood but were "simply not attributable to the laziness of the industry", while stating that 12 LCA-Mk1A would be ready soon.

"HAL is our company, we have all worked there. But I find that HAL is just not in mission mode," the Air chief said.

"I was promised that when I come here in February, 11 Tejas Mk1As would be ready. And not a single one is ready," he told two HAL employees while inspecting a jet trainer at the Aero India here.

A video of the comments was posted on YouTube and later went viral on X.

"The aircraft that you flew, calling it Mk1A. It is not Mk1A. It cannot happen just by change of one software or by looks. When the weapons come and the capability comes, then it's a Mk1A," Mr. Singh said.

The Air chief said he would be the happiest person if "proved wrong".

"I feel that only a few are putting in any effort. Or maybe everyone is putting in effort in their own silos without looking at the overall picture. Something has to change. Some drastic change. This needs a magic wand so everything gets aligned. It's high time," he said.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Sunil asserted that the supply chain issue by General Electric (GE), which delayed engine deliveries, had been resolved and they would receive 12 F-404 engines for the LCA-Mk1A this year.

"GE has stabilised its manufacturing process for the F404 engines. We have already made three aircraft, and by the end of this year, 11 will be manufactured. As the engines start coming in, our delivery to the IAF will start," Mr. Sunil said.

Just not confident of HAL, says IAF chief over delivery delays

वायुसेना प्रमुख ने डिलीवरी में देरी पर कहा, 'मैं HAL से संतुष्ट नहीं हूं'

Remarks over delays in deliveries of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A
लाइट कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (LCA)-Mk1A की डिलीवरी में देरी पर टिप्पणी

- **Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh** expressed his lack of confidence in **HAL** due to delays in **LCA-Mk1A** deliveries, calling it a "very wrong" situation.
  एयर चीफ मार्शल ए.पी. सिंह ने HAL में LCA-Mk1A की डिलीवरी में देरी के कारण अपनी विश्वासहीनता व्यक्त की, इसे "बहुत गलत" स्थिति बताया।

- **HAL Chairman D. K. Sunil** acknowledged concerns about delays but stated that the issues were not due to the industry's laziness.
  HAL के अध्यक्ष डी. के. सुनील ने देरी के बारे में चिंताओं को स्वीकार किया, लेकिन कहा कि ये समस्याएं उद्योग की आलस्य के कारण नहीं थीं।

- **12 LCA-Mk1A** aircraft are expected to be ready soon, as per Mr. Sunil.
  12 LCA-Mk1A विमान जल्द तैयार होने की उम्मीद है, जैसा कि श्री सुनील ने कहा।

- **Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh** mentioned that **HAL is not in mission mode** and expressed disappointment over the delay in the delivery of **Tejas Mk1As**.
  एयर चीफ मार्शल ए.पी. सिंह ने कहा कि HAL मिशन मोड में नहीं है और तेजस Mk1A की डिलीवरी में देरी पर निराशा व्यक्त की।

- **Mr. Singh** was promised that **11 Tejas Mk1As** would be ready by February, but **none were ready**.
  श्री सिंह को वादा किया गया था कि 11 तेजस Mk1A फरवरी तक तैयार होंगे, लेकिन कोई भी तैयार नहीं था।
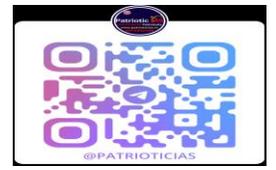
- A **video** of Mr. Singh's comments went viral on **YouTube** and **X**.
  श्री सिंह की टिप्पणियों का एक वीडियो YouTube और X पर वायरल हो गया।

- **Mr. Singh** clarified that the aircraft flown was not a **Mk1A**, as it could not just be changed by software or appearance, but required weapons and capability.
  श्री सिंह ने स्पष्ट किया कि जो विमान उड़ाया गया वह Mk1A नहीं था, क्योंकि इसे केवल सॉफ़्टवेयर या रूप से बदलकर Mk1A नहीं कहा जा सकता, बल्कि इसके लिए हथियार और क्षमता की आवश्यकता होती है।

- **Mr. Singh** expressed that he would be the happiest person if proven wrong.
  श्री सिंह ने व्यक्त किया कि अगर वे गलत साबित होते हैं तो वह सबसे खुश व्यक्ति होंगे।

- **Mr. Singh** criticized that only a few are putting in efforts or everyone is working in **isolated silos** without a holistic approach, requiring drastic change.
  श्री सिंह ने आलोचना की कि कुछ ही लोग प्रयास कर रहे हैं या सभी **अलग-अलग हिस्सों में काम कर रहे हैं** बिना समग्र दृष्टिकोण के, और इसको **गंभीर बदलाव** की आवश्यकता है।

Supply chain issue resolved, F-404 engines delivery for LCA-Mk1A
सप्लाई चेन मुद्दा हल, LCA-Mk1A के लिए F-404 इंजन की डिलीवरी

- **Mr. Sunil** addressed the **supply chain issue** with **General Electric (GE)**, stating that it was resolved, and **12 F-404 engines** for **LCA-Mk1A** will be delivered this year.
  श्री सुनील ने **जनरल इलेक्ट्रिक (GE)** के साथ **सप्लाई चेन मुद्दा** उठाया, यह कहते हुए कि इसे हल कर दिया गया है, और LCA-Mk1A के लिए **12 F-404 इंजन** इस वर्ष डिलीवर किए जाएंगे।

- **GE has stabilized its manufacturing process** for the **F-404 engines**, and **three aircraft** have already been made, with **11 more** to be manufactured by the end of this year.
  GE ने अपने निर्माण प्रक्रिया को स्थिर कर लिया है F-404 इंजन के लिए, और **तीन विमान** पहले ही बना लिए गए हैं, जबकि **11 और** इस वर्ष के अंत तक निर्मित होंगे।

- As the engines begin arriving, **HAL's deliveries** to IAF will commence.
  जैसे-जैसे इंजन आना शुरू होंगे, **HAL की डिलीवरी IAF** को शुरू हो जाएगी।

Rajnath tells global firms to co-develop advanced defence systems in India

India seeks global partnerships based on equality, trust, mutual respect, international law, says the Defence Minister; niche tech developed by DRDO licensed to companies to boost manufacturing

GS Paper III: Defence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh invited the global community to co-develop and co-produce advanced systems in India as the country looks to scale up defence exports. He was addressing a conclave of Defence Ministers at Aero India, an exhibition of military aviation, on Tuesday.

At another event, 35 licensing agreements to transfer 19 niche technologies developed by 16 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories were handed over to 32 companies, in an initiative to nurture indigenous technologies in the defence sector.

"India does not believe in transactional relationships; its approach emphasises mutual capacity building, prosperity and security of partner nations," Mr. Singh said, addressing the conclave on "Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement" at Aero India.

"Our commitment extends beyond the Indian Ocean Region. It serves as a blueprint for fostering global partnerships on [the basis of] equality, trust, mutual respect, and adherence to international law."

"An increasing number of conflicts, new power plays, new methods and means of weaponisation, the growing role of non-state actors, and the emergence of disruptive technologies have made the world order more fragile. The distinction between border security and internal security is getting blurred as hybrid warfare has the ability to target critical national infrastructure even during peace time. Cyberspace and outer space are challenging the established definition of sovereignty," he said.

The Defence Ministry said that delegates had conveyed their desire for the transfer of technology, co-development, and co-production of the latest equipment and products, terming India as a partner in a resilient supply chain.

"They acknowledged India's role in peacekeeping and its efforts towards upgrading the capabilities of many countries in various fields, including defence, health and education," the Ministry said in a statement.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth released a revised DRDO policy aiming to further streamline the process of transferring technologies from the DRDO to industry players, the statement said.
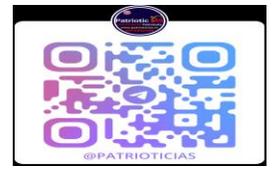
Mr. Seth released an updated compendium, titled "DRDO Products for Export", which includes more than 200 products and systems showcasing India's cutting-edge defence capabilities to friendly nations. An Airworthiness Policy Framework (IMAP-23) was released during the event along with an Airworthiness Certification Kit.

Kissing the sky: Hawk Mk-132 jets of the IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team showcase breathtaking manoeuvres on the second day of the Aero India event in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

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Rajnath tells global firms to co-develop advanced defence systems in India

राजनाथ ने वैश्विक कम्पनियों से भारत में उन्नत रक्षा प्रणालियों का सह-विकास करने को कहा

India seeks global partnerships based on equality, trust, mutual respect, international law, says the Defence Minister; niche tech developed by DRDO licensed to companies to boost manufacturing

रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत समानता, विश्वास, आपसी सम्मान और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून पर आधारित वैश्विक साझेदारी चाहता है; डीआरडीओ द्वारा विकसित विशेष तकनीक विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कंपनियों को लाइसेंस दी गई

Defence Minister's Invitation for Global Co-Development and Co-Production
रक्षा मंत्री का वैश्विक सह-विकास और सह-निर्माण के लिए निमंत्रण

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** invited the global community to **co-develop** and **co-produce advanced systems** in **India** as the country looks to scale up **defence exports**.
  रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने वैश्विक समुदाय को भारत में उन्नत प्रणालियों के सह-विकास और सह-निर्माण के लिए आमंत्रित किया, क्योंकि देश रक्षा निर्यात को बढ़ाने की योजना बना रहा है।

- He addressed a **conclave of Defence Ministers** at **Aero India**, a military aviation exhibition, on **Tuesday**.
  उन्होंने एरो इंडिया में रक्षा मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन को संबोधित किया, जो एक सैन्य विमानन प्रदर्शनी है, मंगलवार को।

- At another event, **35 licensing agreements** to transfer **19 niche technologies** developed by **16 DRDO laboratories** were handed over to **32 companies**.
  एक अन्य कार्यक्रम में, 16 DRDO प्रयोगशालाओं द्वारा विकसित 19 विशिष्ट प्रौद्योगिकियों के 35 लाइसेंसिंग समझौते 32 कंपनियों को सौंपे गए।

- The initiative aimed at nurturing **indigenous technologies** in the **defence sector**.
  इस पहल का उद्देश्य रक्षा क्षेत्र में स्वदेशी प्रौद्योगिकियों को बढ़ावा देना था।

- **Mr. Singh** emphasized that **India does not believe in transactional relationships** but focuses on **mutual capacity building**, **prosperity**, and **security** of partner nations.
  श्री सिंह ने कहा कि भारत लेन-देन के रिश्तों में विश्वास नहीं करता, बल्कि भागीदार देशों की सामूहिक क्षमता निर्माण, समृद्धि, और सुरक्षा पर जोर देता है।

- **India's commitment** extends beyond the **Indian Ocean Region** and aims to foster **global partnerships** based on **equality**, **trust**, **mutual respect**, and **international law**.

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भारत की प्रतिबद्धता भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र से परे है और **समानता**, **विश्वास**, **आपसी सम्मान**, और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून** के आधार पर **वैश्विक साझेदारियों** को बढ़ावा देने का लक्ष्य है।

- **Mr. Singh** highlighted the increasing number of **conflicts**, new **power plays**, and **disruptive technologies** that have made the world order more fragile.
  श्री सिंह ने बढ़ते हुए **संघर्षों**, नए **शक्ति संघर्षों**, और **विघटनकारी प्रौद्योगिकियों** को रेखांकित किया, जो विश्व व्यवस्था को अधिक नाजुक बना रहे हैं।

- He mentioned that **hybrid warfare** is blurring the lines between **border security** and **internal security**, with the ability to target critical national infrastructure even during peacetime.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **हाइब्रिड युद्ध सीमा सुरक्षा** और **आंतरिक सुरक्षा** के बीच की रेखाओं को धुंधला कर रहा है, जो शांति काल में भी महत्वपूर्ण राष्ट्रीय बुनियादी ढांचे को लक्षित कर सकता है।

- He pointed out that **cyberspace** and **outer space** are challenging the established definition of **sovereignty**.
  उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि **साइबरस्पेस** और **बाहरी अंतरिक्ष संप्रभुता** की स्थापित परिभाषा को चुनौती दे रहे हैं।

- **Delegates** conveyed their desire for **technology transfer**, **co-development**, and **co-production** of the latest equipment and products, recognizing India as a partner in a **resilient supply chain**.
  प्रतिनिधियों ने नवीनतम उपकरणों और उत्पादों के **प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण**, **सह-विकास**, और **सह-निर्माण** की इच्छा व्यक्त की, और भारत को **लचीले आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** में एक भागीदार के रूप में स्वीकार किया।

- They acknowledged India's role in **peacekeeping** and its efforts towards **upgrading the capabilities** of many countries in **defence**, **health**, and **education**.
  उन्होंने भारत की **शांति निर्माण** में भूमिका और कई देशों की **रक्षा**, **स्वास्थ्य**, और **शिक्षा** में क्षमताओं को उन्नत करने के प्रयासों की सराहना की।

Revised DRDO Policy and Exportable Defence Products
संपादित DRDO नीति और निर्यात योग्य रक्षा उत्पाद

- **Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth** released a revised **DRDO policy** to streamline the process of transferring technologies from **DRDO to industry players**.
  राज्य मंत्री रक्षा, संजय सेठ ने **DRDO नीति** को संशोधित किया, जिससे **DRDO से उद्योग के खिलाड़ियों** तक प्रौद्योगिकियों के हस्तांतरण की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाया जा सके।

- He also released an updated **compendium**, titled **"DRDO Products for Export"**, which showcases over **200 products and systems** highlighting India's cutting-edge defence capabilities.
  उन्होंने **"DRDO उत्पादों के लिए निर्यात"** नामक एक अद्यतन **संग्रह** भी जारी किया, जिसमें **200 से अधिक उत्पादों और प्रणालियों** को प्रदर्शित किया गया, जो भारत की अत्याधुनिक रक्षा क्षमताओं को प्रदर्शित करते हैं।

- An **Airworthiness Policy Framework (IMAP-23)** and **Airworthiness Certification Kit** were also released during the event.

  कार्यक्रम के दौरान **एयरवर्थीनेस पॉलिसी फ्रेमवर्क (IMAP-23)** और **एयरवर्थीनेस प्रमाणन किट** भी जारी की गई।

Russia offers to partner with India for joint production of Su-57 fighter

GS Paper III: Defence

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Rosoboronexport, Russia's state-owned defence exports company, a participant in the ongoing Aero India 2025, has offered to partner with India on the the Su-57, Russian fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA).

"Rosoboronexport, together with United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), proposes to localise FGFA aircraft in India. This production of the FGFA at the HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) plant might take place as early as 2025. It can be provided this year itself," a representative of Rosoboronexport said on the second day of the air show. The UAC is the ma-

Standing tall: Russia's fifth generation Su-57 fighter jet on the second day of the event in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

nufacturer of the aircraft.

The representative further said that fifth-generation technologies would be provided to India. "Additionally, Rosoboronexport offers technological development in terms of fifth generation technologies comprising engine, Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars, optics, AI elements, software communication means, and air weapons that might also boost the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) national programme of India," the representative said.

He added that India can manufacture these critical technologies without any fear of sanctions.

'No threat of sanctions'
"There shall be no fears in terms of potential threat of sanctions or a decision from above that some parts or components of the aircraft won't be delivered to India," he said.

He also said that Russia offered long-term cooperation to India, including partnership in the upgrading the aircraft's capabilities.

"The Russian side proposes to continue 60 years of successful cooperation in terms of aircraft production between our countries," he said.

Russia offers to partner with India for joint production of Su-57 fighter

रूस ने Su-57 लड़ाकू विमानों के संयुक्त उत्पादन के लिए भारत के साथ साझेदारी करने की पेशकश की

Rosoboronexport Offers Partnership for Su-57 FGFA Production
रोसओबोरोनएक्सपोर्ट ने एसयू-57 एफजीएफए उत्पादन के लिए साझेदारी का प्रस्ताव दिया

- **Rosoboronexport**, Russia's state-owned defence exports company, has offered to partner with **India** on the **Su-57**, a Russian **fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA)**.
  रोसओबोरोनएक्सपोर्ट, रूस की राज्य-स्वामित्व वाली रक्षा निर्यात कंपनी, ने **भारत** के साथ **एसयू-57**, एक रूसी **पाँचवीं पीढ़ी के लड़ाकू विमान (एफजीएफए)** पर साझेदारी का प्रस्ताव दिया है।

- The production of the **FGFA** at the **HAL** (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) plant could start as early as **2025**, with the aircraft possibly being provided in **this year** itself.
  एफजीएफए का उत्पादन **एचएएल** (हिंदुस्तान एरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड) संयंत्र में **2025** तक शुरू हो सकता है, और विमान को **इस वर्ष** में ही उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है।

- The **United Aircraft Corporation (UAC)**, the manufacturer of the aircraft, is collaborating with **Rosoboronexport**.
  विमान के निर्माता **यूनाइटेड एयरोस्पेस कॉर्पोरेशन (UAC)**, **रोसओबोरोनएक्सपोर्ट** के साथ सहयोग कर रहा है।

- **Fifth-generation technologies** like **engine**, **Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA)** radars, **optics**, **AI elements**, **software communication means**, and **air weapons** will be provided to **India**.

पाँचवीं पीढ़ी की प्रौद्योगिकियाँ, जैसे **इंजन**, **एक्टिव इलेक्ट्रॉनिकली स्कैन किए गए एरे (AESA)** रडार, **ऑप्टिक्स**, **AI तत्व**, **सॉफ़्टवेयर संचार साधन**, और **हवाई हथियार भारत** को प्रदान किए जाएंगे।

- These technologies could also support India's **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** national programme.

  यह प्रौद्योगिकियाँ **भारत के एडवांस्ड मीडियम कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (AMCA)** राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम को भी समर्थन दे सकती हैं।

- **Rosoboronexport** assured that **India** can manufacture these critical technologies without any fear of sanctions.

  रोसओबोरोनएक्सपोर्ट ने आश्वस्त किया कि **भारत** इन महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकियों का उत्पादन बिना किसी **सैंक्शंस** के डर के कर सकता है।

No Threat of Sanctions
सैंक्शंस का कोई खतरा नहीं

- The representative stated that there would be no fears regarding the **potential threat of sanctions** or decisions that might prevent the delivery of parts or components of the aircraft to **India**.
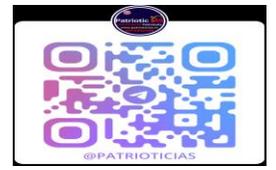
  प्रतिनिधि ने कहा कि **संभावित सैंक्शंस के खतरे** या ऐसे निर्णयों के बारे में कोई डर नहीं होगा, जो **भारत** को विमान के भागों या घटकों की आपूर्ति से रोक सकें।

- **Russia** offered **long-term cooperation** to **India**, including partnership in upgrading the aircraft's capabilities.

  रूस ने **भारत** को **दीर्घकालिक सहयोग** का प्रस्ताव दिया, जिसमें विमान की क्षमताओं को उन्नत करने में साझेदारी भी शामिल है।

- The representative mentioned that **Russia** proposes to continue **60 years** of successful cooperation in aircraft production between the two countries.

  प्रतिनिधि ने कहा कि **रूस** दोनों देशों के बीच विमान उत्पादन में **60 वर्षों** के सफल सहयोग को जारी रखने का प्रस्ताव देता है।

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Products developed in-house by service innovators catch eyeballs

An artificial intelligence weapon system developed in-house by Army personnel has been receiving a stream of visitors.

It is being seen as a path-breaking weapon system that has completed field trials, promises to enhance border surveillance, especially to prevent infiltration of terrorists.

The movement of terrorists in the bushy and jungle terrain in Kashmir, which is difficult to capture, can now be done through secondary vision technology. The Ten AI Weapon System (TAIWS), developed by Colonel Ashish Dogra and Lieutenant Colonel Prashanth Agrawal

Colonel Ashish Dogra and Lieutenant Colonel Prashanth Agrawal with the Ten AI Weapon System in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of EME in association with IIT Bombay and students of MIET, Jammu, has completed field trials and after certain modifications is expected to be deployed along the Line of Control.

These are products developed in-house by "service innovators" based on the need, enhance operational requirements and improve efficiency, an officer in the Army Design Bureau said.

The secondary vision technology is integrated with the medium machine gun, which has a killing range of 2 km. "The gun is already available with the Army. Even the gun can be changed if needed. The ground reality on the border spurred the development of the new system," said Col. Dogra.

Among the others being readied for induction are the 50-metre footbridge which can be laid across an water body in less than one hour. Another 9mm submachine gun has also been developed by a serving Indian Army officer, and about 550 guns have been inducted already.

The Army Design Bureau has filed for the registration of 75 IPRs of which 12 have been granted the IPR, officials said.

Currently, the board is funding 100 projects of which 75 are in final stages.

Products developed in-house by service innovators catch eyeballs

सेवा नवप्रवर्तकों द्वारा इन-हाउस विकसित उत्पाद लोगों का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हैं

Artificial Intelligence Weapon System Developed by Army
सेना द्वारा विकसित कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता हथियार प्रणाली

- An **artificial intelligence weapon system** developed in-house by **Army personnel** has completed field trials and is expected to enhance **border surveillance**, especially to prevent **terrorist infiltration**.
  सेना के कर्मचारियों द्वारा इन-हाउस विकसित की गई एक **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता हथियार प्रणाली** ने क्षेत्र परीक्षण पूरे कर लिए हैं और यह **सीमा निगरानी** को बढ़ाने की उम्मीद है, विशेष रूप से **आतंकी घुसपैठ** को रोकने के लिए।

- The system can now track the **movement of terrorists** in the **bushy and jungle terrain** in **Kashmir**, which is difficult to capture, using **secondary vision technology**.
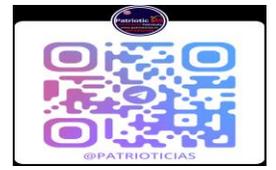 अब यह प्रणाली **कश्मीर** में **झाड़ी और जंगल की ज़मीन** पर **आतंकी गतिविधियों** को **सांकेतिक दृष्टि प्रौद्योगिकी** के माध्यम से पकड़ने में सक्षम है, जो पकड़ना कठिन है।

- The **Ten AI Weapon System (TAIWS)** was developed by **Colonel Ashish Dogra** and **Lieutenant Colonel Prashanth Agrawal** of **EME**, in association with **IIT Bombay** and students of **MIET, Jammu**.
  टेन एआई वेपन सिस्टम (TAIWS) को **कर्नल आशीष डोगरा** और **लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल प्रशांत अग्रवाल** द्वारा **ईएमई** में, **आईआईटी बॉम्बे** और **एमआईईटी, जम्मू** के छात्रों के सहयोग से विकसित किया गया था।

- After modifications, the system is expected to be deployed along the **Line of Control**.
  संशोधनों के बाद, यह प्रणाली **लाइन ऑफ कंट्रोल** के साथ तैनात होने की उम्मीद है।

- These systems are developed by **service innovators** to enhance operational requirements and improve efficiency.
  यह प्रणालियाँ **सेवा नवप्रवर्तकों** द्वारा विकसित की गई हैं ताकि परिचालन आवश्यकताओं को बढ़ाया जा सके और दक्षता में सुधार हो सके।

- The **secondary vision technology** is integrated with a **medium machine gun**, which has a **killing range of 2 km**.
  सांकेतिक दृष्टि प्रौद्योगिकी को एक **मध्यम मशीन गन** के साथ एकीकृत किया गया है, जिसकी **मारक सीमा 2 किमी** है।

- The **medium machine gun** is already available with the **Army**, and can be changed if needed.
  मध्यम मशीन गन पहले से ही **सेना** के पास उपलब्ध है, और अगर आवश्यकता हो तो इसे बदला भी जा सकता है।

- The development of the system was spurred by **ground reality on the border**.
  प्रणाली के विकास को **सीमा पर वास्तविकता** ने प्रेरित किया।

- A **50-meter footbridge** is being developed, which can be laid across a water body in less than **one hour**.
  एक **50 मीटर का फुटब्रिज** विकसित किया जा रहा है, जिसे एक जल निकाय के ऊपर **एक घंटे से कम समय में** बिछाया जा सकता है।

- A **9mm submachine gun** has also been developed by a serving **Indian Army officer**, with about **550 guns** already inducted.
  एक **9 मिमी सबमशीन गन** भी एक कार्यरत **भारतीय सेना अधिकारी** द्वारा विकसित की गई है, और लगभग **550 गन** पहले ही शामिल की जा चुकी हैं।

- The **Army Design Bureau** has filed for the registration of **75 IPRs**, of which **12 IPRs** have been granted.
  आर्मी डिज़ाइन ब्यूरो ने **75 IPRs** के पंजीकरण के लिए आवेदन किया है, जिनमें से **12 IPRs** को मंज़ूरी मिल चुकी है।

- The **Army Design Bureau** is currently funding **100 projects**, of which **75 projects** are in the final stages.
  आर्मी डिज़ाइन ब्यूरो वर्तमान में **100 परियोजनाओं** को वित्त पोषित कर रहा है, जिनमें से **75 परियोजनाएँ** अंतिम चरणों में हैं।

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India, 57 countries call for inclusive and sustainable AI

U.S. and U.K. have not signed the joint statement at the Paris summit; U.S. Vice-President Vance rails against 'excessive regulation' of the AI sector

GS Paper III: Environmental Governance

NEW DELHI

Fifty-eight countries, including India, China, Brazil, France, and Australia, signed a joint statement on "Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet" at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday, with more signatories possible after the summit ends.

The statement was not signed by the U.S. and the U.K. The statement calls for promoting accessibility of AI and ensuring trust and safety in deploying the technology.

India and France are co-chairing the summit. The statement calls for making "innovation in AI thrive by enabling conditions for its development and avoiding market concentration driving industrial recovery and development", and fostering the tech in a way that "positively shapes the future of work and labour markets".

This is the third such international statement,

United effort: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday. AP

with previous ones being issued after the summits in the U.K. and South Korea. It calls for AI "to be human rights based, human-centric, ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy while also stressing the need and urgency to narrow the inequalities and assist developing countries in artificial intelligence capacity-building so they can build AI capacities".

The U.S. did not immediately explain its reasons for not signing the statement.

Earlier in the day, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance struck a defiant tone

against the themes highlighted in the statement. "I'm not here this morning to talk about AI safety, which was the title of the conference a couple of years ago," Mr. Vance said. "I'm here to talk about AI opportunity."

"...We believe that excessive regulation of the AI sector could kill a transformative industry just as it's taking off, and we'll make every effort to encourage pro-growth AI policies, and I'd like to see that deregulatory flavour making its way into a lot of the conversations at this conference," Mr. Vance said.

India, 57 countries call for inclusive and sustainable AI

भारत समेत 57 देशों ने समावेशी और टिकाऊ एआई का आह्वान किया

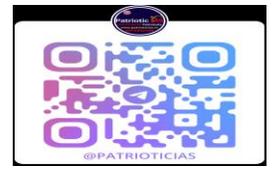**U .S. and U.K. have not signed the joint statement at the Paris summit; U.S. Vice-President Vance rails against 'excessive regulation' of the AI sector**

AI Action Summit in Paris
पेरिस में एआई एक्शन समिट

• **Fifty-eight countries**, including **India, China, Brazil, France,** and **Australia**, signed a joint statement on **"Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet"** at the **AI Action Summit** in Paris on **Tuesday**, with more signatories possible after the summit ends.

पचास-आठ देशों, जिनमें भारत, चीन, ब्राज़ील, फ्रांस, और ऑस्ट्रेलिया शामिल हैं, ने "लोगों और ग्रह के लिए समावेशी और सतत कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता" पर एक संयुक्त बयान पर पेरिस में एआई एक्शन समिट में मंगलवार को हस्ताक्षर किए, और समिट के बाद और हस्ताक्षरकर्ता हो सकते हैं।

• The statement was not signed by the **U.S.** and the **U.K.**

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और संयुक्त राज्य ने इस बयान पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं किए।

• The statement calls for promoting **accessibility of AI** and ensuring **trust** and **safety** in deploying the technology.

बयान में **एआई की पहुंच** को बढ़ावा देने और प्रौद्योगिकी के **विश्वास** और **सुरक्षा** को सुनिश्चित करने की बात कही गई है।

- **India** and **France** are co-chairing the summit.

  भारत और **फ्रांस** समिट के सह-अध्यक्ष हैं।

- The statement calls for making "**innovation in AI thrive** by enabling conditions for its development and avoiding market concentration driving industrial recovery and development", and fostering the tech in a way that "**positively shapes the future of work** and labour markets".

  बयान में कहा गया है कि "**एआई में नवाचार को बढ़ावा दिया जाए** इसके विकास के लिए परिस्थितियाँ बनाकर और औद्योगिक पुनर्निर्माण और विकास के लिए बाजार एकाग्रता से बचते हुए", और इस प्रौद्योगिकी को इस तरह से बढ़ावा देना चाहिए कि "**काम और श्रम बाजारों का भविष्य सकारात्मक रूप से आकार ले**।"

- This is the third such international statement, with previous ones being issued after the summits in the **U.K.** and **South Korea**.

  यह तीसरी ऐसी अंतरराष्ट्रीय घोषणा है, इससे पहले की घोषणाएँ **यू.के.** और **दक्षिण कोरिया** में समिट के बाद जारी की गई थीं।

- It calls for AI to be **human rights-based**, **human-centric**, **ethical**, **safe**, **secure**, and **trustworthy**, while also stressing the need and urgency to narrow the **inequalities** and assist **developing countries** in **artificial intelligence capacity-building** so they can build **AI capacities**.

  यह मांग करता है कि एआई **मानवाधिकार-आधारित**, **मानव-केंद्रित**, **नैतिक**, **सुरक्षित**, **विश्वसनीय** हो, साथ ही यह आवश्यकता और आपातकाल पर जोर देता है कि **असमानताओं** को कम किया जाए और **विकसित हो रहे देशों** को कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता क्षमता निर्माण में मदद की जाए ताकि वे **एआई क्षमताएँ** बना सकें।

- The **U.S.** did not immediately explain its reasons for not signing the statement.

  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने बयान पर हस्ताक्षर न करने के अपने कारणों का तुरंत कोई स्पष्टीकरण नहीं दिया।

- Earlier in the day, **U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance** struck a defiant tone against the themes highlighted in the statement.

  दिन के पहले हिस्से में, **यू.एस. उपराष्ट्रपति जे.डी. वांस** ने बयान में उल्लेखित थीमों के खिलाफ एक विरोधी स्वर अपनाया।

- "I'm not here this morning to talk about **AI safety**, which was the title of the conference a couple of years ago," **Mr. Vance** said.

  "मैं इस सुबह यहाँ **एआई सुरक्षा** के बारे में बात करने के लिए नहीं हूँ, जो कुछ साल पहले सम्मेलन का शीर्षक था," **श्री वांस** ने कहा।

- "I'm here to talk about **AI opportunity**."

  "मैं यहाँ **एआई अवसर** के बारे में बात करने के लिए हूँ।"

- "We believe that **excessive regulation** of the AI sector could kill a **transformative industry** just as it's taking off, and we'll make every effort to encourage **pro-growth AI**

policies, and I'd like to see that **deregulatory flavour** making its way into a lot of the conversations at this conference," **Mr. Vance** said.

"हम मानते हैं कि एआई क्षेत्र पर **अत्यधिक नियमन** एक **परिवर्तनीय उद्योग** को मार सकता है जब यह उड़ान भर रहा है, और हम **विकास समर्थक एआई नीतियों** को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास करेंगे, और मैं चाहता हूँ कि **नियमों में ढील** का प्रभाव इस सम्मेलन की कई चर्चाओं में दिखे," **श्री वांस** ने कहा।

CCI may buy over 100 lakh bales at MSP

GS Paper III: MSP

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is likely to buy more than 100 lakh bales of cotton at minimum support price (MSP) during the current cotton year ending on September 30.

CCI had purchased almost 88 lakh bales since the beginning of the cotton season on October 1, 2024 and would continue to be active in the market, Lalit Kumar Gupta, CMD, CCI, told *The Hindu* .

Daily arrivals used to be about 2.5 lakh bales and this had reduced to almost 1.75 lakh bales now. In Maharashtra and Gujarat, only 55%-60 % of the cotton produced had come to the market. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the

arrivals are almost over, he said, adding out of the total arrivals, the CCI was buying almost 60,000 bales.

The committee on cotton production and consumption estimated total output this year at 300 lakh bales of which 210 lakh arrived in the market. International cotton prices improved on Monday and Tuesday and the CCI was likely to decide in a week how it would liquidate the cotton stocks with it.

CCI may buy over 100 lakh bales at MSP
सीसीआई एमएसपी पर 100 लाख गांठ से अधिक खरीद सकता है

Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to Buy More Cotton
भारत के कपास निगम (CCI) को अधिक कपास खरीदने की संभावना

- The **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)** is likely to buy more than **100 lakh bales** of cotton at **minimum support price (MSP)** during the current cotton year ending on **September 30**.
भारत के कपास निगम (CCI) को वर्तमान कपास वर्ष के दौरान **न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP)** पर **100 लाख से अधिक गांठों** कपास खरीदने की संभावना है, जो **30 सितंबर** को समाप्त होगा।

- CCI had purchased almost **88 lakh bales** since the beginning of the cotton season on **October 1, 2024**, and would continue to be active in the market, **Lalit Kumar Gupta**, CMD, CCI, told **The Hindu**.
CCI ने **1 अक्टूबर 2024** से कपास सीजन की शुरुआत के बाद से लगभग **88 लाख गांठों** कपास खरीदी है और वह बाज़ार में सक्रिय रहना जारी रखेगा, **ललित कुमार गुप्ता**, CMD, CCI, ने **द हिंदू** से कहा।

- Daily arrivals used to be about **2.5 lakh bales**, and this had reduced to almost **1.75 lakh bales** now.
पहले रोज़ाना लगभग **2.5 लाख गांठों** की आवक होती थी, और अब यह लगभग **1.75 लाख गांठों** तक घट गई है।

- In **Maharashtra** and **Gujarat**, only **55%-60%** of the cotton produced had come to the market.

  महाराष्ट्र और **गुजरात** में, उत्पादित कपास का केवल **55%-60%** ही बाजार में आया था।

- In **Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana**, the arrivals are almost over, he said, adding out of the total arrivals, the CCI was buying almost **60,000 bales**.

  आंध्र प्रदेश और **तेलंगाना** में, आवक लगभग समाप्त हो चुकी है, उन्होंने कहा, और कुल आवक में से CCI लगभग **60,000 गांठों** कपास खरीद रहा था।

- The committee on cotton production and consumption estimated total output this year at **300 lakh bales**, of which **210 lakh** arrived in the market.

  कपास उत्पादन और खपत पर समिति ने इस वर्ष का कुल उत्पादन **300 लाख गांठों** का अनुमानित किया है, जिसमें से **210 लाख** गांठें बाजार में आई हैं।

- International cotton prices improved on **Monday** and **Tuesday**, and the CCI was likely to decide in a week how it would liquidate the cotton stocks with it.

  अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कपास की कीमतें **सोमवार** और **मंगलवार** को सुधरीं, और CCI संभावना है कि एक सप्ताह में यह निर्णय लेगा कि वह अपने पास मौजूद कपास स्टॉक्स को कैसे समाप्त करेगा।

Asian elephants change scientists' minds on why they trumpet

Most of what we know about elephants' use of sounds to communicate comes from studies of African elephants. We don't know much about Asian elephants, the species native to India and other tropical and subtropical forests of Asia. African and Asian elephants are entirely different species with unique habits, habitats, and adaptations

Sanjukta Mondal

GS Paper III: S&T

Vocal communication plays an outsized role in how social animals survive in the wild. A loud cry from a baby attracts the attention of a parent. A scream can warn others of a predator lurking nearby.

Humans have developed thousands of languages, spoken and signed, to share information, ideas, and emotions – yet they're not alone among the earth's life forms in communicating in complicated ways and out loud.

Elephants live long lives, up to around 70 years, and in this time their herds often split and merge. To navigate these changes, these giants have developed a complex system of sounds, from low-frequency rumbles and roars to high-frequency squeaks and chirps, to stay in touch with each other.

Most of what we know about elephants' use of sounds to communicate comes from studies of African elephants (genus *Loxodonta*). We don't know much about Asian elephants (genus *Elephas*), the species native to India and other tropical and subtropical forests of Asia.

Understanding the differences in vocal communication between elephant species is nontrivial because African and Asian elephants aren't just distant cousins roaming different lands. They are entirely different species with unique habits, habitats, and adaptations.

In a study published in the journal *Mammalian Biology* on December 23, 2024, researchers compared the calls of Asian elephants based on their age, sex, and behaviour. They found the duration of trumpets remained fairly consistent across all age classes for both male and female Asian elephants, but roars and roar-rumbles got longer with age.

"Every behaviour of [Asian] elephants is fascinating to witness, and their acoustic communication makes it even more remarkable because of elephants' capabilities to switch between very high-frequency and very low-frequency sounds," Nachiketha Sharma, the study's first author and a Ph.D. student at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, said.

A vocal repertoire

Through thick forests and rough terrain, the researchers set out in pursuit of the secrets of the vocal communications of Asian elephants.

These animals roam freely in the outdoors and talk to each other using four main types of calls: trumpets, roars, rumbles, and chirps. They combine them

A cow, juveniles, and a calf in Yala National Park, Sri Lanka, February 2022. CHARLES J. SHARP (CC BY-SA 4.0)

in different ways, called combination calls, to convey different messages.

The researchers divided the vocalisations into high and low frequencies based on whether human ears could hear them.

Translating the trumpet

Each call carries a specific meaning and function. The most common high-frequency vocalisations, which both the Asian and the African savannah elephants can produce, are trumpets – the iconic sound uniquely associated with elephants.

According to some mathematical models, these elephants may be producing the trumpets by blowing air in sudden bursts through the trunk, a form of "second voice" that doesn't require the vocal cords to be involved.

Researchers had previously believed Asian elephants trumpeted chiefly to communicate disturbances caused by humans and other troublesome species. The new study isn't so sure. "Our study reveals that trumpets are generated in a variety of contexts, including social interactions, play, and agonistic interactions both within and between groups," Sharma said.

He also added that the study documented the first instance of combination calls in a southern Indian

The study laid the groundwork to understand sounds Asian elephants use and to explore the acoustic behaviours of herds. Researchers are curating an 'Asian Elephant Sound Library' that will soon be accessible to the public for education and scientific research

population of Asian elephants. The researchers found the roar-rumble in particular to possibly serve multiple functions, including maintaining contact and signalling disturbances.

'As quiet as possible'

The team also tackled a fundamental question: whether Asian elephants' high-frequency vocalisations differed by age and sex.

"For a holistic understanding of any communication system, it is vital to address fundamental questions such as age and sex differences," Sharma said. "Once we know these basic differences, we can dig deeper or ask more questions related to the possible reasons behind such variations as well as the functions associated with a particular call type."

The team set up recording equipment

in the protected areas of Bandipur National Park and Mudumalai National Park, which are 75 km apart. Both parks are home to large populations of Asian elephants, with an estimated 1,025 in the former and 300 in the latter.

The study focused on elephants that moved freely between these parks.

"Recording vocalisations can be quite a challenge," Sharma said. "We spent hours following elephants, trying to stay as quiet as possible to avoid any background noise that could interfere with [the] recordings," Sharma said.

The team also collected data on elephant vocalisations recorded over two years from diverse habitats, including grasslands, forests, saltlicks, and water bodies.

Putting them together, the team stumbled upon an intriguing pattern.

Younger elephants, both male and female, produced calls of a higher pitch to attract the attention of their herd mates and establish their presence. On the other hand, the older ones used lower-pitched calls for the same purpose.

According to the paper, these differences could be shaped by changes in body size and vocalisation mechanisms as the elephants aged.

The researchers also found that the role of roars issued by Asian elephant calves closely mirrored those of their African cousins. The infants used these powerful calls to get the attention of the adults in a herd and signal their emotional states.

To the researchers, this meant the roar serves a universal purpose that could be highly conserved across elephant species.

A sound library

This study laid the groundwork for scientists to understand the various sounds Asian elephants use and set the stage for further exploring the acoustic behaviours of free-ranging populations.

The researchers also said this work is just the beginning. "There is a lot more for us to uncover to truly appreciate the complex world of elephant acoustic communication," Sharma added.

The team also plans to launch a project to explore and understand the soundscapes of Asian elephants in both wild and captive environments.

As part of this initiative, the researchers are curating an 'Asian Elephant Sound Library' that will soon be accessible to the public for education and scientific research.

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

THE GIST

▼
Elephants live up to around 70 years, and herds often split and merge. To manage this reshaping of the herd, they have developed a system of sounds, from low-frequency rumbles and roars to high-frequency squeaks and chirps, to stay in touch

▼
The most common high-frequency vocalisations are trumpets. Researchers found 'that trumpets are generated in a variety of contexts, including social interactions, play, and agonistic interactions both within and between groups'

▼
Younger elephants produce calls of a higher pitch to attract the attention of their mates and establish their presence. On the other hand, the older ones used lower-pitched calls for the same purpose

Asian elephants change scientists' minds on why they trumpet

एशियाई हाथियों ने वैज्ञानिकों की सोच बदल दी है कि वे क्यों तुरही बजाते हैं

Most of what we know about elephants' use of sounds to communicate comes from studies of African elephants. We don't know much about Asian elephants, the species native to India and other tropical and subtropical forests of Asia. African and Asian elephants are entirely different species with unique habits, habitats,and adaptations

हाथियों द्वारा संवाद करने के लिए ध्वनियों के उपयोग के बारे में हम जो कुछ भी जानते हैं, वह अफ्रीकी हाथियों के अध्ययन से आता है। हम एशियाई हाथियों के बारे में ज़्यादा नहीं जानते हैं, जो भारत और एशिया के अन्य उष्णकटिबंधीय और उपोष्णकटिबंधीय जंगलों की मूल प्रजाति है। अफ्रीकी और एशियाई हाथी पूरी तरह से अलग-अलग प्रजातियाँ हैं, जिनकी आदतें, आवास और अनुकूलन अद्वितीय हैं।

Vocal Communication in Elephants
हाथियों में ध्वनिक संचार

- **Vocal communication** plays an outsized role in how **social animals survive in the wild**. A **loud cry** from a baby attracts the attention of a parent, and a **scream** can warn others of a **predator** lurking nearby.
  ध्वनिक संचार सामाजिक जानवरों के लिए जंगली में जीवित रहने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। एक बच्चे का **जोरदार रोना** एक माता-पिता का ध्यान आकर्षित करता है, और एक **चिल्लाहट** पास में छिपे **शिकारी** से दूसरों को चेतावनी दे सकती है।
- **Humans** have developed thousands of languages, spoken and signed, to share information, ideas, and emotions — yet they're not alone in communicating in complicated ways and out loud.
  मानवों ने जानकारी, विचारों और भावनाओं को साझा करने के लिए हजारों भाषाओं का विकास किया है, बोली और संकेतित, लेकिन वे जटिल तरीकों से और जोर से संवाद करने में अकेले नहीं हैं।
- **Elephants** live long lives, up to around **70 years**, and their herds often **split and merge**. To navigate these changes, they have developed a **complex system of sounds** to stay in touch with each other.
  हाथी लंबी उम्र जीते हैं, लगभग **70 साल** तक, और उनके झुंड अक्सर **बंटते और मिलते** हैं। इन परिवर्तनों को संभालने के लिए, उन्होंने एक **जटिल ध्वनि प्रणाली** विकसित की है ताकि वे एक-दूसरे से जुड़े रहें।

- Most of what we know about elephants' use of sounds to communicate comes from studies of **African elephants (Loxodonta)**. We don't know much about **Asian elephants (Elephas)**, the species native to **India** and other tropical and subtropical forests of **Asia**.

  हाथियों द्वारा संचार के लिए ध्वनियों के उपयोग के बारे में हमें जो कुछ भी पता है, वह **अफ्रीकी हाथियों (Loxodonta)** के अध्ययन से आता है। हम **एशियाई हाथियों (Elephas)** के बारे में ज्यादा नहीं जानते, जो **भारत** और एशिया के अन्य उष्णकटिबंधीय और उपोष्णकटिबंधीय वनस्पतियों में पाए जाते हैं।

- **Understanding the differences in vocal communication** between elephant species is nontrivial because **African and Asian elephants** aren't just distant cousins, they are entirely different species with unique habits, habitats, and adaptations.

  हाथी प्रजातियों के बीच ध्वनिक संचार में अंतर को समझना महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि **अफ्रीकी और एशियाई हाथी** केवल दूर के रिश्तेदार नहीं हैं, वे पूरी तरह से अलग प्रजातियाँ हैं जिनकी अपनी आदतें, आवास और अनुकूलन होते हैं।

- A **study** published in the journal **Mammalian Biology** on **December 23, 2024**, compared the **calls of Asian elephants** based on **age, sex**, and **behaviour**.

  23 दिसंबर 2024 को **मैमालियन बायोलॉजी** पत्रिका में प्रकाशित एक **अध्यान** ने एशियाई हाथियों की **आवाजों** की तुलना की, जो **उम्र, लिंग** और **व्यवहार** पर आधारित थी।

- The study found the **duration of trumpets** remained fairly consistent across all age classes for both **male** and **female Asian elephants**, but **roars and roar-rumbles** got longer with age.

  अध्यान में पाया गया कि **सुरों की अवधि** सभी आयु वर्गों में **पुरुष** और **महिला एशियाई हाथियों** के लिए समान रूप से बनी रही, लेकिन **गर्जना और गर्जना-गड़गड़ाहट** उम्र के साथ लंबी होती गई।

- **Nachiketha Sharma**, the study's first author and a Ph.D. student at the **Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru**, said, "Every behaviour of [Asian] elephants is fascinating, and their acoustic communication makes it even more remarkable because of elephants' capabilities to switch between very high-frequency and very low-frequency sounds."

  नचिकेठ शर्मा, अध्ययन के पहले लेखक और **इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस, बेंगलुरु** के सेंटर फॉर **इकोलॉजिकल साइंसेज** में पीएचडी छात्र, ने कहा, "**[एशियाई] हाथियों** का हर व्यवहार अद्भुत है, और उनका ध्वनिक संचार इसे और भी अधिक चमत्कारी बनाता है क्योंकि हाथी **बहुत उच्च-आवृत्ति** और **बहुत निम्न-आवृत्ति** ध्वनियों के बीच स्विच करने की क्षमता रखते हैं।"

A Vocal Repertoire of Asian Elephants
एशियाई हाथियों का ध्वनिक भंडार

- The researchers set out in pursuit of the **secrets of vocal communications** of Asian elephants through thick forests and rough terrain.

  शोधकर्ताओं ने घने जंगलों और कठिन इलाकों के माध्यम से **एशियाई हाथियों के ध्वनिक संचार** के रहस्यों की तलाश में कदम रखा।
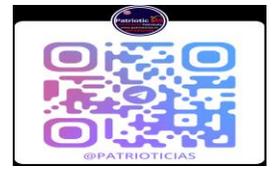
- **Asian elephants** talk to each other using four main types of calls: **trumpets**, **roars**, **rumbles**, and **chirps**. These calls are combined in different ways, called **combination calls**, to convey different messages.

  एशियाई हाथी एक-दूसरे से बात करने के लिए चार प्रमुख प्रकार की आवाजों का उपयोग करते हैं: सुर, गर्जना, गड़गड़ाहट, और चिरप। इन आवाजों को विभिन्न तरीकों से जोड़ा जाता है, जिसे संयोजन आवाजें कहा जाता है, ताकि विभिन्न संदेश व्यक्त किए जा सकें।

- The researchers divided the vocalisations into **high** and **low frequencies** based on whether **human ears** could hear them.

  शोधकर्ताओं ने ध्वनियों को उच्च और निम्न आवृत्तियों में बांटा, यह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि मानव कान उन्हें सुन सकते हैं या नहीं।

Translating the Trumpet

सुर का अनुवाद

- Each call carries a **specific meaning and function**. The most common **high-frequency vocalisations**, which both the **Asian** and the **African savannah elephants** can produce, are **trumpets** — the iconic sound uniquely associated with elephants.

  प्रत्येक आवाज़ का विशिष्ट अर्थ और कार्य होता है। सबसे सामान्य उच्च-आवृत्ति की ध्वनियाँ, जिन्हें एशियाई और अफ्रीकी सवाना हाथी उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं, वे हैं सुर — यह विशेष ध्वनि हाथियों से जुड़ी एक पहचान है।

- According to some **mathematical models**, these elephants may be producing the trumpets by blowing air in sudden bursts through the trunk, a form of "second voice" that doesn't require the **vocal cords** to be involved.

  कुछ गणितीय मॉडल के अनुसार, ये हाथी सुर उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं, जब वे अपनी सूंड से अचानक हवा को फेंकते हैं, यह एक प्रकार की "दूसरी आवाज़" है जिसमें स्वर यंत्र की आवश्यकता नहीं होती।

- Researchers had previously believed Asian elephants trumpeted chiefly to communicate **disturbances** caused by humans and other troublesome species.

  शोधकर्ताओं का पहले यह मानना था कि एशियाई हाथी मुख्य रूप से मानवों और अन्य परेशान करने वाली प्रजातियों द्वारा उत्पन्न विघ्नों के बारे में संवाद करने के लिए सुर बजाते हैं।

- The **new study** isn't so sure. "Our study reveals that trumpets are generated in a variety of **contexts**, including **social interactions**, **play**, and **agonistic interactions** both within and between groups," Sharma said.

  नया अध्ययन इतना सुनिश्चित नहीं है। "हमारा अध्ययन यह दर्शाता है कि सुर विभिन्न संदर्भों में उत्पन्न होते हैं, जिनमें सामाजिक इंटरएक्शन, खेल, और आक्रामक इंटरएक्शन दोनों ही समूहों के भीतर और उनके बीच शामिल हैं," शर्मा ने कहा।

- He also added that the study documented the **first instance of combination calls** in a southern Indian population of Asian elephants.

  उन्होंने यह भी जोड़ा कि अध्ययन ने संयोजन आवाजों के पहले उदाहरण को दक्षिण भारतीय क्षेत्र में एशियाई हाथियों की जनसंख्या में दस्तावेज किया।
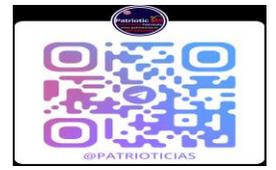
- The researchers found the **roar-rumble** in particular to possibly serve multiple functions, including maintaining **contact** and signalling **disturbances**.

  शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि विशेष रूप से **गर्जना-गड़गड़ाहट** संभवतः कई कार्यों को सेवा देती है, जिसमें **संपर्क बनाए रखना** और **विघ्नों** का संकेत देना शामिल है।

'As Quiet as Possible'
'जितना संभव हो सके शांत'

- The team also tackled a fundamental question: whether **Asian elephants' high-frequency vocalisations** differed by **age** and **sex**.

  टीम ने एक मूलभूत सवाल भी उठाया: क्या **एशियाई हाथियों की उच्च-आवृत्ति की ध्वनियाँ** उम्र और **लिंग** के आधार पर भिन्न होती हैं?

- "For a **holistic understanding** of any communication system, it is vital to address fundamental questions such as **age** and ****sex differences**," Sharma said.

  "किसी भी संचार प्रणाली की **समग्र समझ** के लिए, यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि **उम्र** और **लिंग** के अंतर जैसे बुनियादी सवालों को संबोधित किया जाए," शर्मा ने कहा।

- "Once we know these basic differences, we can dig deeper or ask more questions related to the possible reasons behind such variations as well as the functions associated with a particular call type."

  "एक बार जब हम इन बुनियादी भिन्नताओं को जान लेते हैं, तो हम और गहरी जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं या ऐसी भिन्नताओं के पीछे के **संभावित कारणों** और किसी विशेष आवाज़ प्रकार से जुड़े **कार्य** के बारे में अधिक सवाल पूछ सकते हैं।"

- The team set up **recording equipment** in the protected areas of **Bandipur National Park** and **Mudumalai National Park**, which are 75 km apart.

  टीम ने **बांदीपुर राष्ट्रीय उद्यान** और **मुदुमलई राष्ट्रीय उद्यान** के संरक्षित क्षेत्रों में **रिकॉर्डिंग उपकरण** स्थापित किए, जो 75 किलोमीटर दूर हैं।

- Both parks are home to large populations of **Asian elephants**, with an estimated **1,025** in Bandipur and **300** in Mudumalai.

  दोनों पार्कों में **एशियाई हाथियों** की बड़ी आबादी है, जिनकी अनुमानित संख्या **1,025** बांदीपुर में और **300** मुदुमलई में है।

- The study focused on elephants that moved freely between these parks.

  अध्ययन ने उन हाथियों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जो इन पार्कों के बीच स्वतंत्र रूप से घूमते थे।

- "Recording **vocalisations** can be quite a challenge," Sharma said. "We spent hours following elephants, trying to stay as **quiet as possible** to avoid any background noise that could interfere with the recordings."

  "**ध्वनियों का रिकॉर्डिंग** करना एक बड़ा चुनौती हो सकता है," शर्मा ने कहा। "हमने घंटों हाथियों का पीछा किया, यह कोशिश करते हुए कि हम जितना संभव हो सके शांत रहें ताकि कोई **पृष्ठभूमि शोर** न हो जो रिकॉर्डिंग में विघ्न डाल सके।"

- The team also collected data on **elephant vocalisations** recorded over **two years** from diverse habitats, including **grasslands**, **forests**, **saltlicks**, and **water bodies**.

टीम ने **दो वर्षों** में विभिन्न आवासों से रिकॉर्ड की गई **हाथियों की ध्वनियों** का डेटा भी एकत्रित किया, जिसमें **घास के मैदान**, **जंगल**, **नमक के टीले**, और **जलाशय** शामिल थे।

Putting them together, the team stumbled upon an intriguing pattern
उन्हें एक साथ मिलाकर, टीम ने एक दिलचस्प पैटर्न पाया

- **Younger elephants**, both male and female, produced **calls of a higher pitch** to attract the attention of their **herd mates** and establish their **presence**.
  युवा हाथियों, पुरुष और महिला दोनों ने **उच्च स्वर में आवाज़ें** उत्पन्न कीं, ताकि वे अपने **झुंड के साथियों** का ध्यान आकर्षित कर सकें और अपनी **मौजूदगी** स्थापित कर सकें।
- On the other hand, the **older elephants** used **lower-pitched calls** for the same purpose.
  वहीं दूसरी ओर, **बड़े हाथियों** ने वही उद्देश्य पूरा करने के लिए **निचे स्वर में आवाज़ें** दीं।
- According to the paper, these **differences** could be shaped by changes in **body size** and **vocalisation mechanisms** as the elephants aged.
  कागज के अनुसार, ये **भिन्नताएँ** हाथियों के बढ़ने के साथ **शरीर के आकार** और **ध्वनि उत्पन्न करने की प्रक्रियाओं** में बदलाव से आकार ले सकती हैं।
- The researchers also found that the role of **roars** issued by **Asian elephant calves** closely mirrored those of their **African cousins**.
  शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी पाया कि **एशियाई हाथी के बछड़ों** द्वारा दी गई **गर्जनाओं** की भूमिका उनके **अफ्रीकी रिश्तेदारों** से मिलती-जुलती थी।
- The **infants** used these **powerful calls** to get the attention of the **adults** in a herd and signal their **emotional states**.
  शिशु इन **शक्तिशाली आवाज़ों** का इस्तेमाल झुंड में **वयस्कों** का ध्यान आकर्षित करने और अपनी **भावनात्मक स्थिति** का संकेत देने के लिए करते थे।
- To the researchers, this meant the **roar** serves a **universal purpose** that could be highly conserved across **elephant species**.
  शोधकर्ताओं के लिए, इसका मतलब यह था कि **गर्जना** एक **सार्वभौमिक उद्देश्य** की सेवा करती है, जो सभी **हाथी प्रजातियों** में अच्छी तरह से संरक्षित हो सकती है।

A Sound Library
एक ध्वनि पुस्तकालय

- This study laid the groundwork for scientists to understand the **various sounds** Asian elephants use and set the stage for further exploring the **acoustic behaviours** of free-ranging populations.
  इस अध्ययन ने वैज्ञानिकों को एशियाई हाथियों द्वारा उपयोग की जाने वाली **विभिन्न ध्वनियों** को समझने के लिए आधार तैयार किया और मुक्त-प्रवृत जनसंख्या के **ध्वनिक व्यवहारों** की आगे की खोज के लिए मंच तैयार किया।

- The researchers also said this work is just the **beginning**. "There is a lot more for us to uncover to truly appreciate the **complex world** of **elephant acoustic communication**," Sharma added.

  शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी कहा कि यह काम सिर्फ **शुरुआत** है। "हमें अभी और बहुत कुछ खोजना है ताकि हम **हाथी ध्वनिक संचार** की **जटिल दुनिया** को सही तरीके से समझ सकें," शर्मा ने जोड़ा।

- The team also plans to launch a project to explore and understand the **soundscapes** of **Asian elephants** in both **wild** and **captive environments**.

  टीम का यह भी योजना है कि वे एक परियोजना शुरू करें ताकि **एशियाई हाथियों** के **जंगली** और **कैदी वातावरणों** में **ध्वनिपट** का अन्वेषण और समझ सकें।

- As part of this initiative, the researchers are curating an '**Asian Elephant Sound Library**' that will soon be accessible to the public for **education** and **scientific research**.

  इस पहल के तहत, शोधकर्ता एक '**एशियाई हाथी ध्वनि पुस्तकालय**' बना रहे हैं, जो जल्द ही **शिक्षा** और **वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान** के लिए जनता के लिए उपलब्ध होगा।

GS Paper III: Agriculture

A pile of harvested cocoa pods at a farm in Assin Foso, Ghana, in November 2024. A lack of rain in most of Ivory Coast's cocoa-growing regions could delay the start of the April-to-September mid-crop, potentially leading to a shortage of beans, the main ingredient in chocolate, farmers said on Monday. REUTERS

Why is Hawaii ideal for rainbows?

Q: Where is the 'rainbow capital' of the world?

Hawaii's regular sunshine, short rain showers, and clean air come together to create some of the planet's best conditions for viewing rainbows. They're such a frequent sight that a University of Hawaii professor calls the state the "rainbow capital of the world."

Rainbows form when raindrops refract sunlight into a spectrum of colours. The brighter the sun, the clearer the rainbow. Look for them when it is both sunny and raining at the same time. They will appear opposite the sun. They will seem larger and higher in the sky in the early morning and late afternoon, when the sun is lower on the horizon.

Steven Businger, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, says the archipelago's trade winds bring many small showers with enough blue sky between them for the sun to shine through.

Hawaii's clean air also helps. Other places tend to have more air particles from dust, pollen, and cars. Conditions improve

Joseph Heher photographs rainbows at Shipwreck's Beach, Grand Hyatt Kauai, Hawaii, July 2, 2010. AP

further during the rainy season from October to April.

When Kimberly Carlson was a professor at Manoa, she saw a rainbow outside her apartment window that made her wonder how climate change would affect them. Now a New York University environmental studies professor, she's studied the impact over the next century. Her team's analysis, published in a paper two years ago, predicts Brazil, the Mediterranean and parts of Central Africa will have fewer rainbows by 2100. They found places that currently get lots of snow but that will instead receive more rain will likely see more rainbows.

- Associated Press

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

Why is Hawaii ideal for rainbows?
हवाई इंद्रधनुष के लिए आदर्श क्यों है?

Q: Where is the 'rainbow capital' of the world?
प्रश्न: दुनिया का 'इंद्रधनुष राजधानी' कहाँ है?

• Hawaii's regular sunshine, short rain showers, and clean air come together to create some of the planet's best conditions for viewing rainbows.
हवाई की नियमित धूप, छोटी बारिश और स्वच्छ हवा मिलकर इंद्रधनुष देखने के लिए ग्रह पर सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्थितियाँ बनाती हैं।

• They're such a frequent sight that a University of Hawaii professor calls the state the "rainbow capital of the world."
यह इतने सामान्य दृश्य हैं कि हवाई विश्वविद्यालय के एक प्रोफेसर ने राज्य को "दुनिया का इंद्रधनुष राजधानी" कहा।

• Rainbows form when raindrops refract sunlight into a spectrum of colours. The brighter the sun, the clearer the rainbow.
इंद्रधनुष तब बनते हैं जब बारिश की बूँदें सूर्य की रोशनी को रंगों के स्पेक्ट्रम में मोड़ती हैं। जितनी तेज धूप होगी, उतना ही स्पष्ट इंद्रधनुष होगा।

• Look for them when it is both sunny and raining at the same time. They will appear opposite the sun.
इन्हें तब देखें जब धूप और बारिश एक साथ हो रही हो। ये सूरज के विपरीत दिखाई देंगे।

• They will seem larger and higher in the sky in the early morning and late afternoon, when the sun is lower on the horizon.
ये सुबह के शुरुआती समय और शाम के देर समय में आकाश में बड़े और ऊँचे दिखाई देंगे, जब सूरज क्षितिज के नीचे होता है।

• Steven Businger, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, says the archipelago's trade winds bring many small showers with enough blue sky between them for the sun to shine through.
स्टीवन बूसिंगर, हवाई विश्वविद्यालय, मैनोआ में वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान के प्रोफेसर, कहते हैं कि द्वीपसमूह की वाणिज्यिक हवाएँ बहुत सी छोटी बारिशें लाती हैं, जिनमें नीला आकाश होता है, ताकि सूरज रोशनी दे सके।

- **Hawaii's clean air** also helps. Other places tend to have more **air particles** from **dust, pollen, and cars**.

  हवाई की स्वच्छ हवा भी मदद करती है। अन्य स्थानों पर **धूल, पराग और कारों** से अधिक **हवा कण** होते हैं।

- Conditions improve further during the **rainy season** from **October to April**.

  वर्षा ऋतु के दौरान स्थितियाँ **अक्टूबर से अप्रैल** तक और भी बेहतर हो जाती हैं।

- When **Kimberly Carlson** was a professor at Manoa, she saw a rainbow outside her apartment window that made her wonder how **climate change** would affect them.

  जब **किम्बर्ली कार्लसन** मैनोआ में एक प्रोफेसर थीं, उन्होंने अपनी अपार्टमेंट की खिड़की के बाहर एक इंद्रधनुष देखा, जिससे उन्हें यह सोचने पर मजबूर किया कि **जलवायु परिवर्तन** उनका कैसे असर करेगा।

- Now a **New York University environmental studies professor**, she's studied the **impact over the next century**.

  अब एक **न्यू यॉर्क विश्वविद्यालय के पर्यावरण अध्ययन प्रोफेसर**, उन्होंने **अगले शताब्दी** में इसके **प्रभाव** का अध्ययन किया है।

- Her team's analysis, published in a paper **two years ago**, predicts **Brazil**, the **Mediterranean**, and parts of **Central Africa** will have **fewer rainbows** by **2100**.

  उनकी टीम का विश्लेषण, जो **दो साल पहले** एक पेपर में प्रकाशित हुआ था, यह भविष्यवाणी करता है कि **ब्राज़ील**, **भूमध्यसागर**, और **केंद्रीय अफ्रीका** के कुछ हिस्सों में **2100** तक **कम इंद्रधनुष** होंगे।

- They found places that currently get lots of **snow** but will instead receive more **rain** will likely see **more rainbows**.

  उन्होंने पाया कि जिन स्थानों पर वर्तमान में बहुत **बर्फ** पड़ती है, लेकिन भविष्य में वहाँ अधिक **बारिश** होगी, वहाँ शायद **अधिक इंद्रधनुष** देखे जाएंगे।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. The banality of evil: learning about Gaza from Nazi history / बुराई की सामान्यता: नाजी इतिहास से गाजा के बारे में सीखना

The banality of evil: learning about Gaza from Nazi history

What a moral philosopher's view of the life and career of Nazi officer Adolf Eichmann can tell us about our own beleaguered age, especially in the backdrop of the Israel-Palestine war

Essay

Prathmesh Kher

Neither perverted nor sadistic', but 'terrifyingly normal' is how historian and philosopher Hannah Arendt had described Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi officer in charge of the mass deportation of millions of Jews to the extermination camps across Nazi-occupied Europe. Arendt had reported on the trial of Eichmann, and described it in her seminal work *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. The subtitle of the book has achieved independent notoriety, with the expression 'banality of evil' often being employed to describe the "innumerable men in the federal and state administrations and, generally, in public office whose careers had bloomed under the Hitler regime".

Normal people, evil deeds

The expression was coined to describe the behaviour of the proverbial "cautious bureaucrat" whose "deeds were monstrous" and yet the doer "quite ordinary, commonplace, and neither demonic nor monstrous". The description was apt not merely for Nazi-era bureaucrats but also for the many "good Germans" who stood by haplessly as millions were sent to death. Furthermore, the very decade that witnessed the barbarism of the Holocaust witnessed the profound dereliction of the British government in famine afflicted India or the purges in erstwhile USSR.

These were well-oiled states that allowed their individual members to acquiesce their personal responsibility to allow for the commission of crimes so vast and heinous that they beggar the imagination. What is further beleaguering is the realisation that many of the people who had to partake in these cruelties were perfectly civil and courteous in private life. By all accounts, Eichmann was a family man. His last words were reportedly: "I greet my wife, my family and my friends. I am ready. We'll meet again soon, as is the fate of all men. I die believing in God."

During his trial, half a dozen psychologists, who had examined Eichmannn, had submitted that "his whole psychological outlook, his attitude toward his wife and children, mother and father, brothers, sisters, and friends," was "not only normal but most desirable". Another contemporaneous figure said that he was "a man with very positive ideas." His last moments were not the wrangling of some deranged lunatic but rather a modest drink of dry wine. Not exactly the bloodlust of a psychopath. But the 'banality of evil' was not meant to be a mere insight into one man but rather a look into what drove hundreds and thousands of administrative officials to engage in what they knew would lead to the death of millions.

During his trial, Eichmann had referred back to Immanuel Kant's idea of a categorical imperative in defence of his actions, and argued that that he had always done his "duty" without reference to other considerations. Arendt was shocked at the rather tenuous use of an enlightenment concept of ethics in defence of a horrifying genocide. In Arendt's understanding Eichmann "was

not stupid". It was "sheer thoughtlessness" not "identical with stupidity" that inclined him to become "one of the greatest criminals of that period".

A stark contrast to Arendt's observations, in the book *Eichmann Before Jerusalem*, the German historian Bettina Stangneth explores another side to the man besides the banal, apparently apolitical administrator, merely working as any other career bureaucrat.

Through a careful consideration of the audiotapes of Eichmann's interviews by the Nazi collaborator and journalist William Sassen, Eichmann is revealed as a sworn ideologue strongly committed to National Socialist dogma. He expresses neither remorse nor guilt for his role in the Holocaust. This is no simple bureaucratic officer merely following distasteful orders but a radically extremist functionary living behind the mask of an unglamorous official.

These notions of otherwise good Germans who simply followed orders

takes a particularly stark appraisal in our own day and age.

Here and now

The incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump has advocated for the ownership of the Gazan enclave by the Americans, and has proposed its transformation into an "international city". He has in the past made remarks about "cleaning out" Gaza and has suggested that Gazans "should not be going back to Gaza" since it has been "very unlucky for them", where they have "lived like hell".

He has proposed that Gaza could be made "a good, fresh, beautiful piece of land" as it is a "phenomenal location, on the sea, the best weather", and has called it effectively a "Riviera" of West Asia that "could be so magnificent". Trump said the U.S. would play the lead role in this real estate development that would make Gaza into "an international, unbelievable place". But it would not have the Palestinians getting back to Gaza; most of them would be relocated in other

countries, while "representatives from all over the world would live there". Under his plan, Trump said that Gazans "would have already been resettled in far safer and more beautiful communities, with new and modern homes, in the region".

Trump's words echo the "sheer thoughtlessness" that Arendt spoke of with regards to Eichmann. It is not some sadistic act with malice writ large but rather something done with the sheer bluster of someone hoping to make their mark on the pages of history.

There are many who also feel that Palestinians as a whole must pay for Hamas' crimes. This too reverberates a pernicious idea of the 'blood libel' that was affixed onto the Jews as a whole by bigoted Christians – an idea which became the fount of the hate that allowed for the callous murder of millions of innocents during the Holocaust. The doctrine of collective guilt necessarily leads to collective punishment, and with it a denial of the autonomy that individuals have in the face of social control. Human history is littered with such mass violations of innocents lives, and in all cases a political machinery manned by bureaucrats and administrators becomes requisite to eliminate those fellow human lives.

Whence and wherefore

It must be noted that under international law, attempts to forcibly transfer a population from occupied territory are strictly prohibited. It must also be mentioned that 15 months of sustained fighting have left the Gaza Strip, largely uninhabitable, with nigh 50,000 people having been killed and nearly twice as many injured. It must be pointed out that it was the Democrats, who had allowed President Biden to provision Israel with massive arms sales, to continue its war with Hamas.

These observations are important to remind us that the many bureaucrats and officials working in these disparate nation states are faced with the prospect of "following orders". They can as Eichmann did, choose to further their own careers while forcing out hapless victims out of their homes in order to make way for condominiums and casinos, with the best prospect of the victims' return being in the form of factotums employed to serve the very people who forced them out in the first place. The bureaucrats and officers in charge of these programmes that are being put forth must judge for themselves how they wish to conduct in the face of these "orders" from high above.

These choices are not easy, particularly for those who still retain a conscience while being employed while still having to worry about their own survival.

While the idea that so many individuals who had participated in the Holocaust were merely "following orders" came under much criticism, many could not imagine what sort of resistance a meagre bureaucrat could offer against the state, particularly a dictatorial one.

Responding to the criticism in a speech titled 'Personal responsibility under dictatorship', Arendt argues that an "adult consents where a child obeys". George Sabine once wrote that "even the most despotic government cannot hold a society together by sheer force".

Arendt similarly recalls the Madisonian dictum that even the worst of tyrannies "rest on consent". Arendt argues that in such a situation it is "better to suffer than to do wrong" even when doing wrong is the law.

By suffering through the rejection of a law that is evil, one might in Arendt's words recover a "measure of self-confidence and even pride" and "regain what former times called the dignity or the honour" of "being human".

In absolute ruin: Displaced Palestinians walk through a muddy road amid the destruction in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on February 6. AFP

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The banality of evil: learning about Gaza from Nazi history

बुराई की सामान्यता: नाजी इतिहास से गाजा के बारे में सीखना

What a moral philosopher's view of the life and career of Nazi officer Adolf Eichmann can tell us about our own beleaguered age, especially in the backdrop of the Israel-Palestine war

नाजी अधिकारी एडोल्फ इचमैन के जीवन और करियर के बारे में एक नैतिक दार्शनिक का दृष्टिकोण हमें हमारे अपने संकटग्रस्त युग के बारे में क्या बता सकता है, खासकर इजरायल-फिलिस्तीन युद्ध की पृष्ठभूमि में

'Neither perverted nor sadistic', but 'terrifyingly normal'
'न तो विकृत और न ही क्रूर', बल्कि 'भयावह रूप से सामान्य'

- Historian and philosopher **Hannah Arendt** described **Adolf Eichmann**, the Nazi officer in charge of the mass deportation of millions of Jews to extermination camps, as "terrifyingly normal".
  इतिहासकार और दार्शनिक **हन्ना अरेंड्ट** ने **एडोल्फ आइखमैन**, जो नाजी अधिकारी था और जो लाखों यहूदियों को विनाश शिविरों में भेजने के लिए जिम्मेदार था, को "भयावह रूप से सामान्य" के रूप में वर्णित किया।

- Arendt had reported on the trial of Eichmann, which she described in her seminal work **"Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil"**.
  अरेंड्ट ने आइखमैन के परीक्षण पर रिपोर्ट की थी, जिसे उन्होंने अपनी महत्वपूर्ण कृति **"Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil"** में वर्णित किया था।

- The subtitle of the book, **'banality of evil'**, has achieved independent notoriety, describing the "innumerable men in the federal and state administrations" whose careers bloomed under Hitler's regime.
  पुस्तक का उपशीर्षक, **'बुराई की सामान्यता'**, ने स्वतंत्र रूप से कुख्याति प्राप्त की, जो "संघीय और राज्य प्रशासनों में अनगिनत पुरुषों" का वर्णन करता है, जिनके करियर हिटलर के शासन के तहत फले-फूले।

Normal people, evil deeds
सामान्य लोग, बुरे कार्य

- The expression **'banality of evil'** was coined to describe the behaviour of the "cautious bureaucrat" whose "deeds were monstrous" but the doer was "quite ordinary, commonplace, and neither demonic nor monstrous."
  'बुराई की सामान्यता' शब्द का प्रयोग उस "सतर्क नौकरशाह" के व्यवहार को वर्णित करने के लिए

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किया गया था, जिनके "कार्य भयानक" थे लेकिन कर्ता "काफी सामान्य, सामान्य और न तो राक्षसी और न ही भयंकर था।"

- The expression was not just apt for Nazi-era bureaucrats but also for the many "good Germans" who stood by helplessly as millions were sent to death.

  यह शब्द केवल नाजी-काल के नौकरशाहों के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं था, बल्कि उन कई "अच्छे जर्मनों" के लिए भी था जो लाखों लोगों को मौत के घाट उतारते हुए बेबस खड़े थे।

- The same decade that witnessed the barbarism of the **Holocaust** also saw the profound dereliction of the British government in famine-stricken **India** and the purges in the former **USSR**.

  वही दशक जिसने **होलोकॉस्ट** की बर्बरता को देखा, उसने **भारत** में अकाल से जूझ रही ब्रिटिश सरकार की गहरी उपेक्षा और पूर्व **सोवियत संघ** में नरसंहारों को भी देखा।

- These were well-oiled states that allowed their members to shirk personal responsibility, leading to crimes so vast and heinous that they beggar imagination.

  यह वे सुव्यवस्थित राज्य थे जिन्होंने अपने सदस्यों को व्यक्तिगत जिम्मेदारी से बचने की अनुमति दी, जिससे अपराध इतने विशाल और भयानक हुए कि वे कल्पना से परे थे।

- What is further troubling is the realisation that many people who participated in these cruelties were perfectly civil and courteous in private life.

  जो और भी चिंताजनक है, वह यह है कि यह एहसास कि इन क्रूरताओं में भाग लेने वाले कई लोग निजी जीवन में पूरी तरह से सभ्य और विनम्र थे।

- By all accounts, **Eichmann** was a family man. His last words were reportedly: "I greet my wife, my family and my friends. I am ready. We'll meet again soon, as is the fate of all men. I die believing in God."

  सभी रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, **आइखमैन** एक पारिवारिक व्यक्ति था। उसकी आखिरी बातें थीं: "मैं अपनी पत्नी, अपने परिवार और अपने दोस्तों को नमस्कार करता हूं। मैं तैयार हूं। हम जल्दी फिर मिलेंगे, जैसे कि सभी पुरुषों का भाग्य है। मैं ईश्वर में विश्वास करते हुए मरता हूं।"

Normal behaviour in private life
निजी जीवन में सामान्य व्यवहार

- During his trial, **half a dozen psychologists** who had examined **Eichmann** submitted that his psychological outlook, attitude towards family, and friends was "not only normal but most desirable".

  अपने परीक्षण के दौरान, **आइखमैन** का परीक्षण करने वाले **आधा दर्जन मनोवैज्ञानिकों** ने यह प्रस्तुत किया कि उसका मानसिक दृष्टिकोण, परिवार और दोस्तों के प्रति उसका दृष्टिकोण "केवल सामान्य नहीं बल्कि अत्यधिक इच्छनीय" था।

- One contemporaneous figure mentioned that Eichmann was "a man with very positive ideas."

  एक समकालीन व्यक्ति ने कहा कि आइखमैन "बहुत सकारात्मक विचारों वाला व्यक्ति था।"

- His last moments were not the wrangling of a deranged lunatic but rather a modest drink of dry wine, not exactly the bloodlust of a psychopath.
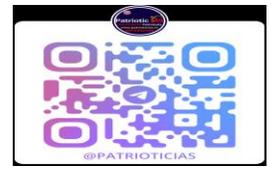
उसके अंतिम क्षण कुछ पागल व्यक्ति की झगड़े नहीं थे, बल्कि सूखी शराब की एक मामूली चुस्की थी, जो एक मानसिक रूप से विकृत व्यक्ति की रक्तपिपासा नहीं थी।

- However, the '**banality of evil**' was not meant to be an insight into one man but rather a look into what drove hundreds and thousands of administrative officials to engage in actions they knew would lead to the death of millions.

हालांकि, '**बुराई की सामान्यता**' का उद्देश्य एक व्यक्ति की समझ नहीं थी, बल्कि यह यह देखने का था कि क्या कारण था कि सैकड़ों और हजारों प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों को ऐसी क्रियाओं में शामिल होने के लिए प्रेरित किया, जिन्हें वे जानते थे कि इससे लाखों लोगों की मृत्यु होगी।

Eichmann's defense
आइखमैन का बचाव

- During his trial, Eichmann referred to **Immanuel Kant's categorical imperative** to defend his actions, arguing that he had always done his "duty" without regard to other considerations.

अपने परीक्षण के दौरान, आइखमैन ने **इमैनुएल कांट के श्रेणीबद्ध आदेश** का हवाला दिया ताकि वह अपनी क्रियाओं का बचाव कर सके, यह तर्क करते हुए कि उसने हमेशा अपने "कर्तव्य" को बिना किसी अन्य विचार के किया था।

- Arendt was shocked at the use of an enlightenment concept of ethics in defence of a horrifying genocide.

अरेंड्ट इस भयावह नरसंहार के बचाव में एक प्रबोधनात्मक नैतिकता के सिद्धांत के प्रयोग से चकित थीं।

- Arendt understood Eichmann as "not stupid". It was "sheer thoughtlessness", not stupidity, that made him "one of the greatest criminals of that period".

अरेंड्ट ने आइखमैन को "मूर्ख नहीं" के रूप में समझा। यह "सिर्फ लापरवाही" थी, न कि मूर्खता, जिसने उसे "उस अवधि के सबसे बड़े अपराधियों में से एक" बना दिया।

Eichmann Before Jerusalem
Eichmann से पहले यरूशलम

- In contrast to Arendt's observations, the **German historian Bettina Stangneth** in her book *Eichmann Before Jerusalem* explores another side of Eichmann, revealing him as a committed ideologue rather than a banal bureaucrat.

अरेंड्ट के अवलोकनों के विपरीत, जर्मन इतिहासकार **बेट्टीना स्टांगनेथ** ने अपनी पुस्तक *Eichmann Before Jerusalem* में आइखमैन के एक और पहलू की खोज की, जिसमें उसे एक सामान्य नौकरशाह से अधिक एक कट्टर विचारधारा का व्यक्ति दिखाया गया है।

- Through an examination of **Eichmann's audiotapes** from interviews with Nazi collaborator and journalist **William Sassen**, Eichmann is shown to be strongly committed to National Socialist dogma.

आइखमैन की ऑडियो टेप्स और नाजी सहयोगी और पत्रकार **विलियम सैस्सेन** के साथ साक्षात्कार

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के माध्यम से, आइखमैन को नेशनल सोशलिस्ट सिद्धांतों के प्रति दृढ़ प्रतिबद्धता का व्यक्ति दिखाया गया है।

- Eichmann expresses neither **remorse** nor **guilt** for his role in the Holocaust, showing him as a radically extremist functionary, not just a simple bureaucrat.

  आइखमैन अपने द्वारा किए गए होलोकॉस्ट में अपनी भूमिका के लिए न तो **पश्चाताप** और न ही **अपराधबोध** व्यक्त करता है, जिससे वह एक कट्टरपंथी कार्यकारी के रूप में सामने आता है, न कि केवल एक साधारण नौकरशाह।

- Eichmann's portrayal is of someone living behind the mask of an unglamorous official, as opposed to a mere bureaucrat following orders.

  आइखमैन का चित्रण एक ऐसे व्यक्ति के रूप में किया गया है जो एक अप्रभावी अधिकारी के मुखौटे के पीछे जीवन जी रहा है, न कि केवल आदेशों का पालन करने वाला एक नौकरशाह।

Here and now

यहां और अब

- **U.S. President Donald Trump** has advocated for **American ownership of Gaza**, proposing its transformation into an "international city."

  अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने **गाजा के अमेरिकी स्वामित्व** का समर्थन किया है, और इसके रूपांतरण को एक "अंतरराष्ट्रीय शहर" के रूप में प्रस्तावित किया है।

- Trump has previously made remarks about "cleaning out" Gaza, suggesting that Gazans "should not be going back to Gaza" since it has been "very unlucky for them," where they have "lived like hell."

  ट्रम्प ने पहले गाजा को "साफ करने" के बारे में टिप्पणी की थी, यह सुझाव देते हुए कि गाजावासियों को "गाजा नहीं लौटना चाहिए" क्योंकि यह उनके लिए "काफी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण" रहा है, जहाँ वे "नर्क जैसी जिंदगी जी रहे हैं।"

- He has proposed that Gaza could be made "a good, fresh, beautiful piece of land" and has called it the "Riviera" of **West Asia**.

  उसने प्रस्तावित किया है कि गाजा को "एक अच्छा, ताजा, सुंदर भूमि का टुकड़ा" बनाया जा सकता है और इसे **पश्चिम एशिया** की "रिवेरा" कहा है।

- Trump emphasized that the U.S. would play the lead role in this real estate development, turning Gaza into an "international, unbelievable place."

  ट्रम्प ने इस रियल एस्टेट विकास में अमेरिकी भूमिका को प्रमुख रूप से निभाने की बात की, जिससे गाजा को "अंतरराष्ट्रीय, अविश्वसनीय स्थान" में बदल दिया जाएगा।

- Under his plan, most Gazans would be relocated to safer, more beautiful communities, and representatives from around the world would live there.

  उसकी योजना के तहत, अधिकांश गाजावासियों को सुरक्षित और सुंदर समुदायों में पुनः बसाया जाएगा, और दुनिया भर से प्रतिनिधि वहां रहेंगे।

- Trump's proposal echoes **Arendt's idea of "sheer thoughtlessness"** with regard to Eichmann, where the actions are done without malice but with the intention of making a
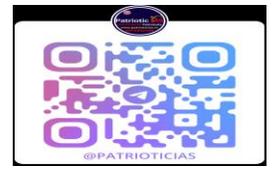
historical impact.

ट्रम्प का प्रस्ताव **अरेंड्ट के "सिर्फ लापरवाही"** के विचार की गूंज है, जहां क्रियाएँ द्वेष के बिना की जाती हैं, लेकिन इतिहास पर प्रभाव डालने के इरादे से।
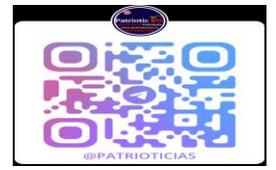
Collective guilt and punishment
सामूहिक अपराधबोध और सजा

- There are those who believe that **Palestinians** as a whole must pay for **Hamas' crimes**, which recalls the **blood libel** that was attributed to Jews during the Holocaust.
  कुछ लोग मानते हैं कि **फिलिस्तीनी** समुदाय को **हमास के अपराधों** के लिए सामूहिक रूप से सजा मिलनी चाहिए, जो होलोकॉस्ट के दौरान यहूदियों पर आरोपित **खून के झूठे आरोप** की याद दिलाता है।

- The doctrine of **collective guilt** leads to **collective punishment**, denying individuals their autonomy in the face of social control.
  सामूहिक अपराधबोध का सिद्धांत **सामूहिक सजा** की ओर ले जाता है, जो सामाजिक नियंत्रण के सामने व्यक्तियों की स्वायत्तता को नकारता है।

- Human history is filled with mass violations of innocent lives, with a political machinery manned by bureaucrats and administrators required to carry out these crimes.
  मानव इतिहास निर्दोष जीवन के सामूहिक उल्लंघनों से भरा पड़ा है, जिसमें इन अपराधों को अंजाम देने के लिए एक राजनीतिक मशीनरी की आवश्यकता होती है, जिसे नौकरशाहों और प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों द्वारा चलाया जाता है।

Whence and wherefore
कहां से और क्यों

- Under **international law**, attempts to forcibly transfer a population from occupied territory are strictly prohibited.
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के तहत, कब्जे वाले क्षेत्र से जनसंख्या को बलात्कारी तरीके से स्थानांतरित करने के प्रयास पूरी तरह से निषेध हैं।

- The **Gaza Strip** has been left largely uninhabitable after **15 months of sustained fighting**, with nearly **50,000 people** killed and almost **twice as many injured**.
  गाजा पट्टी को **15 महीनों तक जारी संघर्ष** के बाद बड़े पैमाने पर अनुपयोगी बना दिया गया है, जिसमें **50,000 लोग** मारे गए और लगभग **दोहरी संख्या में घायल** हुए हैं।

- **Democrats** allowed **President Biden** to provide **Israel with massive arms sales**, continuing its war with Hamas.
  डेमोक्रेट्स ने **राष्ट्रपति बाइडन** को **इज़राइल को भारी हथियारों की बिक्री** करने की अनुमति दी, जिससे हमास के साथ युद्ध जारी रहा।

- Many bureaucrats and officials working in disparate nation states face the prospect of "**following orders**" and can choose to advance their careers while causing harm to others.

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विभिन्न राष्ट्रों में काम करने वाले कई नौकरशाह और अधिकारी "**आदेशों का पालन करने**" के संभावनाओं का सामना करते हैं और दूसरों को नुकसान पहुँचाने के बावजूद अपने करियर को बढ़ावा देने का चुनाव कर सकते हैं।

- Like Eichmann, they may choose to force out **hapless victims** from their homes to make way for **condominiums and casinos**, with no prospect of their return.
  आइखमैन की तरह, वे **बेहद दुर्बल पीड़ितों** को उनके घरों से बाहर करने का चुनाव कर सकते हैं ताकि **कांडोमिनियम और कैसिनो** के लिए जगह बन सके, बिना उनके लौटने की कोई संभावना के।

- Bureaucrats and officers must judge for themselves how they want to act in the face of these "**orders**" from above.
  नौकरशाहों और अधिकारियों को यह स्वयं निर्णय करना होगा कि वे **ऊपर से** आने वाले इन "आदेशों" के सामने किस तरह से कार्य करना चाहते हैं।

- These choices are difficult, particularly for those who still retain a conscience while worrying about their own survival.
  ये निर्णय कठिन होते हैं, विशेष रूप से उनके लिए जो अभी भी अपनी अंतरात्मा को बनाए रखते हैं और अपनी खुद की जीवित रहने की चिंता करते हैं।

Personal responsibility under dictatorship
तानाशाही के तहत व्यक्तिगत जिम्मेदारी

- The idea that many who participated in the **Holocaust** were merely "following orders" was widely criticized, as it's hard to imagine what resistance a bureaucrat could offer against the state, especially a **dictatorial one**.
  यह विचार कि जिन्होंने **होलोकॉस्ट** में भाग लिया था वे केवल "आदेशों का पालन कर रहे थे" व्यापक आलोचना का विषय था, क्योंकि यह कल्पना करना मुश्किल है कि एक नौकरशाह राज्य के खिलाफ क्या प्रतिरोध दे सकता था, विशेष रूप से एक **तानाशाही सरकार** के खिलाफ।

- Arendt, in her speech **'Personal responsibility under dictatorship'**, argues that "**an adult consents where a child obeys**."
  अरेंड्ट अपनी स्पीच **'तानाशाही के तहत व्यक्तिगत जिम्मेदारी'** में तर्क करती हैं कि "**एक वयस्क सहमति देता है जहाँ बच्चा आज्ञा पालन करता है**।"

- George Sabine wrote that "even the most **despotic government** cannot hold a society together by sheer force."
  जॉर्ज सैबिन ने लिखा था कि "यहां तक कि सबसे **तानाशाही सरकार** भी केवल बल से समाज को एकजुट नहीं रख सकती।"

- Arendt recalls the **Madisonian dictum** that even the worst of tyrannies "**rest on consent**."
  अरेंड्ट **मैडिसनियन सिद्धांत** को याद करती हैं कि यहां तक कि सबसे खराब तानाशाहियां भी "**सहमति पर आधारित होती हैं**।"

- Arendt argues that in such situations, it is **"better to suffer than to do wrong,"** even when doing wrong is the law.

अरेंड्ट का तर्क है कि ऐसी स्थितियों में, यह **"गलत करने से बेहतर है सहना,"** भले ही गलत करना कानून हो।

- By suffering through the rejection of an **evil law**, one might recover a "measure of self-confidence and even pride," regaining **"the dignity or honor"** of "being human."

एक बुरे कानून को अस्वीकार करके कष्ट सहने से, कोई व्यक्ति "आत्म-विश्वास और यहां तक कि गर्व की एक माप" हासिल कर सकता है, और "मानव होने" की **"सम्मान या गरिमा"** को फिर से पा सकता है।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Sonam edges National champion Ananya to top women's air rifle / सोनम ने राष्ट्रीय चैंपियन अन्न्या को पछाड़कर महिला एयर राइफल में शीर्ष स्थान हासिल किया

Sonam edges National champion Ananya to top women's air rifle

SHOOTING

PCS

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

World Cup Final silver medallist, Sonam Maskar asserted her class yet again as she topped the women's air rifle event with a score of 253.2, beating the national champion Ananya Naidu by 1.3 points, in the National shooting trials on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Sonam had earlier topped qualification with 633.9.

Arya Borse placed third ahead of former World No. 1, Olympian Elavenil Valarivan, who shot the second best qualification score of

Podium finish: Ananya Naidu, topper Sonam Maskar and Arya Borse . SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

632.6. Sanjeeta Das, Rajshree Sancheti, Olympian Ayonika Paul and Hitexa Parmar were the others to make the final.

World Championship silver medallist Mehuli Ghosh shot 629.8 and missed the final by half point, the same as Shriyanka Sa-

dangi. Asian Games medallist Ramita Jindal also missed the final by 0.6 point.

In men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, Olympian Anish Bhanwala was brilliant, shooting 590 in qualification.

Incidentally, the qualification scores play a signifi-

cant part in the selection of the shooters for the national team. Anish had won the first trial after qualifying with 581.

Neeraj Kumar who had qualified with a modest score of 579, was unstoppable in the final and beat Anish 34-31 for the first place. Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu placed third ahead of Bhavesh Shekhawat, Omkar Singh and Raajwardan Patil.

The results:
10m air rifle: Women: 1. Sonam Maskar 253.2 (633.9); 2. Ananya Naidu 251.9 (632.1); 3. Arya Borse 229.8 (632.3).
25m rapid fire pistol: Men: 1. Neeraj Kumar 34 (579); 2. Anish Bhanwala 31 (590); 3. Vijayveer Sidhu 27 (580).

Sonam Maskar Wins Women's Air Rifle Event
सोना मस्कर ने महिला एयर राइफल इवेंट जीता

- **Sonam Maskar**, the **World Cup Final silver medallist**, topped the **women's air rifle** event with a score of **253.2**, beating **national champion Ananya Naidu** by **1.3 points**, in the **National shooting trials** on **Tuesday**.

सोना मस्कर, वर्ल्ड कप फाइनल सिल्वर मेडलिस्ट, ने महिला एयर राइफल इवेंट में 253.2 अंक के साथ टॉप किया, और राष्ट्रीय चैंपियन अनन्या नायडू को 1.3 अंक से हराया, यह राष्ट्रीय शूटिंग ट्रायल्स में मंगलवार को हुआ।

- The **22-year-old Sonam** had earlier topped qualification with **633.9**.
  22 वर्षीय सोना ने पहले 633.9 के साथ क्वालीफिकेशन में टॉप किया था।

- **Arya Borse** placed third ahead of former **World No. 1**, Olympian **Elavenil Valarivan**, who shot the second-best qualification score of **632.6**.
  आरिया बोर्से ने तीसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया, पूर्व वर्ल्ड नंबर 1, ओलंपियन एलेवनिल वालारिवन, जिन्होंने 632.6 का दूसरा सबसे अच्छा क्वालीफिकेशन स्कोर किया।

- **Sanjeeta Das**, **Rajshree Sancheti**, Olympian **Ayonika Paul**, and **Hitexa Parmar** were the others to make the final.
  संजीता दास, राजश्री संचेती, ओलंपियन अयनिका पॉल, और हिटेक्षी परमार अन्य लोग थे जो फाइनल में पहुंचे।

- World Championship silver medallist Mehuli Ghosh shot **629.8** and missed the final by **half point**, the same as **Shriyanka Sadangi**.
  वर्ल्ड चैंपियनशिप सिल्वर मेडलिस्ट महुली घोष ने 629.8 अंक के साथ फाइनल में आधा अंक से चूकीं, जैसे कि श्रीयंका सादंगी।

- Asian Games medallist Ramita Jindal also missed the final by **0.6 point**.
  एशियाई खेल मेडलिस्ट रामिता जिंदल भी 0.6 अंक से फाइनल में नहीं पहुंच पाई।

Anish Bhanwala Dominates in Men's 25-metre Rapid Fire Pistol
अनीश भंवाला ने पुरुषों के 25 मीटर रैपिड फायर पिस्टल में दबदबा बनाया

- **Olympian Anish Bhanwala** was brilliant, shooting **590** in qualification.
  ओलंपियन अनीश भंवाला शानदार रहे, उन्होंने क्वालीफिकेशन में 590 अंक बनाए।

- The qualification scores play a significant part in the selection of shooters for the national team.
  क्वालीफिकेशन स्कोर राष्ट्रीय टीम के लिए शूटरों के चयन में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

- **Anish** had won the first trial after qualifying with **581**.
  अनीश ने पहले ट्रायल में 581 के साथ क्वालीफाई कर जीत हासिल की थी।

- **Neeraj Kumar**, who had qualified with a modest score of **579**, was unstoppable in the final and beat **Anish 34-31** for the first place.
  नीरज कुमार, जिन्होंने 579 के मामूली स्कोर के साथ क्वालीफाई किया था, फाइनल में अपराजेय थे और उन्होंने अनीश को 34-31 से हराकर पहला स्थान प्राप्त किया।

- **Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu** placed third ahead of **Bhavesh Shekhawat**, **Omkar Singh**, and **Raajwardan Patil**.
  ओलंपियन विजयवीर सिद्धू ने तीसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया, भवेश शेखावत, ओंकार सिंह, और राजवर्धन पटेल से आगे।