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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



# PATRIOTIC IAS

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Quakes may well sharpen India's seismic readiness / भूकंप से भारत की भूकंपीय तैयारी और भी बेहतर हो सकती है
2. A planet on the edge: are Saturn's rings older than they look? / किनारे पर एक ग्रह: क्या शनि के छल्ले दिखने से ज़्यादा पुराने हैं?
3. Can't stop shaking / हिलना बंद नहीं कर सकते

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



# Quakes may well sharpen India's seismic readiness

GS Paper I: Earth Quake  
GS Paper III: DM

**T**wo years ago, on February, 6, 2023, the people of Türkiye and Syria were jolted out of their sleep. At least 17,000 were killed, with their numbers mounting within minutes, as a great earthquake shook those countries in the early hours after 4 a.m., at 7.8 on a scale of 0 to 10. A second jolt came like a collaborator of the first, nine hours later, destroying whatever buildings stood on or around the scene of the first trauma.

'Fault lines' is an expression that we come across and use as we might 'glaciers' or 'deserts'. That is, without realising that it refers to an intensely volatile and totally unpredictable phenomenon, like the temper of the proverbial sleeping dragon or demon. Fault lines lie between the 15 log-jammed major tectonic plates on which the earth's thin crust sits.

These lines can slumber for decades, even centuries, quietly, one may say so 'sweetly', that their very existence can be forgotten by all except seismologists. Until...the fault line stir, rise, shake and then go on to mutilate, destroy and kill whatever lies on and along those lines. Depending on the degree of the awakened one's temper, the fury lasts or abates till such time as it lasts or abates.

## Nature's brewing tension

India's Indian Plate pressing onto the Eurasian Plate sculpted the Himalaya. The fault line involved runs right along the great Himalayan arc that stretches from Kashmir to the North East. It also implicates adjacent tracts in Pakistan, the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, Nepal and Bhutan.

We are but dimly aware of this. For those of us who do not live in those stunningly beautiful tracts, that region means and evokes snow, pure air, clear waters, holidays and leisure. But we must know, must understand, the concurrent 'scene' which is about potential rubble, ravaged hill sides, mutilated river courses. And trauma.

We must shake ourselves out of our dangerous illusion, our perilous innocence about the reality beneath our feet. Seismologists tell us that the two great tectonic plates, the Indian and the Eurasian, have now slept their really deep sleep long enough now and that the built-up pressure inside their folds cannot be expected to hold its tension much longer.

Sure enough, a little over just one month ago, on January 7, 2025 at 9:05 a.m., an earthquake measuring Mw 7.1 struck Shigatse city of the Tibet



**Gopalkrishna Gandhi**

is a former administrator, diplomat and Governor

India must shake itself out of its perilous innocence and be prepared for the reality beneath the earth's crust

Autonomous Region of Southwestern China. Between 126 and 400 people were reported killed and 338 were injured. Unmindful of national borders and oblivious of lines of actual or notional control, the quake made itself felt in Nepal and in Northern India.

## In the media

On January 10, *The Hindu* had an editorial, "Damage control", that said, 'If the epicentre had been located closer to India, the damage could have been manifold.' And added, 'Earthquakes in the Himalayas evoke a special kind of dread in the country.' The comment was right. Dread they do cause. But have they occasioned the kind of intense and urgent planning that is needed? Have they occasioned national alertness, resolve and action? The Editorial went on to say, 'Unfortunately, predicting the day and time is outside the ambit of current science. Thus, the best we can hope for is insulation against the projected damage. It is in this context that infrastructure development in the Himalayan region must be viewed. While several of these projects are intended to smooth the movement of people and goods, the recurrent landslides and glacial lake outbursts that wash away dams, hydropower projects, and roads serve as a constant reminder of the inherent fragility of the region. Every form of infrastructure in the region – power plant or dam – must take into account the imminence of a major earthquake and the associated costs factored into planning.'

The Editorial said, 'Adhering to already existing building codes, not only in the Himalayas but in the surrounding Indo-Gangetic plains, can go a long way in limiting the inevitable damage.' If such adherence was good enough as a response one month ago, the earthquakes that shook the national capital on February 17, and within four hours, Siwan in Bihar, suggest that adherence to existing codes is not enough, Not enough by half.

Social media told us that there were people in Delhi who said they had never felt a tremor so big. This was impressionistic, perhaps, but impressions that come from real sensations under one's feet are real in a way that reports and reconstructed scenes are not. One post said 'today Delhi and Bihar, tomorrow West Bengal...'

It was salutary and sobering to see a post from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, barely back from his brief visit to the United States, reaching out to the people of Delhi, asking them to stay calm and take precautionary steps. The really meaningful

precautions are not within the means of the people. They must come from government, from the state.

We are now in a contingency that must take into account: high probability; high financial and physical cost if provided for, and incalculably higher if not provided for.

The principle is the same as in any insurance arrangement: the higher the risk the higher the premium.

## Time to act, and quickly

We need, not just quickly, not just urgently but quite immediately, to provide for state expense on, first, fore-closing and rolling back engineering enterprises that weaken the earth's crust, especially rocky terrain, in India's seismic risk zones in the ascending calibration of II, III and IV.

Second, super-imposing on the existing seismic zonation maps which are really x-ray plates, new carefully drawn mapped-plans for the protection (which can include evacuations, demolitions and re-building) of highly vulnerable structures, and assessing the seismic status of high follow-on secondary risk structures such as like hydel projects and atomic reactors (Narora in Uttar Pradesh is located in Zone IV).

Third, setting up a seismic building insurance scheme wherein premiums for insuring against collapse can be offered and encouraged.

Fourth, doing an assessment of the costs of rescue, temporary sheltering and rehabilitation zone-wise, of dislocated populations.

Fifth, fast-forwarding collaboration with countries that are experts in the field on earthquake anticipation through sensors, and architecture nostrums. This would involve expenses on hiring consultants.

All this sounds grim. But we should tell ourselves that there is the 'good news' that we are, as of this moment, ahead of the big seismic shock that has been anticipated by seismologists. We are capable of planning with some composure, even as we recover from the shock of February 17, not in a post-shock trauma accompanied by fiscal crippling. And, we have an institutional advantage in the shape of a Ministry of Earth Sciences and a Disaster Management Authority waiting to be harnessed in any scheme towards seismic resistance.

The 'motto' is brief: earthquakes are not to be prevented, they can scarcely be predicted, even in our age of Artificial Intelligence. But they can be prepared for. Is anyone doing that?

**Quakes may well sharpen India's seismic readiness**

**भूकंप से भारत की भूकंपीय तैयारी और भी बेहतर हो सकती है**



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Two years ago, on February 6, 2023, the people of Türkiye and Syria were jolted out of their sleep.

दो साल पहले, 6 फरवरी 2023 को, तुर्की और सीरिया के लोग अपनी नींद से हिल गए।

- At least 17,000 were killed, with their numbers mounting within minutes, as a great earthquake shook those countries in the early hours after 4 a.m., at 7.8 on a scale of 0 to 10.

कम से कम 17,000 लोग मारे गए, और उनकी संख्या कुछ ही मिनटों में बढ़ने लगी, क्योंकि एक बड़े भूकंप ने उन देशों को सुबह के 4 बजे के बाद हिला दिया, जिसका पैमाना 0 से 10 के बीच 7.8 था।

- A second jolt came like a collaborator of the first, nine hours later, destroying whatever buildings stood on or around the scene of the first trauma. दूसरी झटका पहले के सहयोगी की तरह, नौ घंटे बाद आया, जिसने पहले हादसे के स्थान पर खड़ी या आसपास की किसी भी इमारत को नष्ट कर दिया।

'Fault lines' is an expression that we come across and use as we might 'glaciers' or 'deserts'.

'फॉल्ट लाइन' एक ऐसा शब्द है जिसका हम सामना करते हैं और इसका उपयोग करते हैं जैसे हम 'ग्लेशियर्स' या 'रेगिस्तानों' का करते हैं।

- That is, without realising that it refers to an intensely volatile and totally unpredictable phenomenon, like the temper of the proverbial sleeping dragon or demon.

यानी, यह बिना यह समझे कि यह एक अत्यंत परिवर्तनशील और पूरी तरह से अप्रत्याशित घटना को संदर्भित करता है, जैसे कि प्रसिद्ध सोते हुए ड्रैगन या राक्षस का गुस्सा।

- Fault lines lie between the 15 log-jammed major tectonic plates on which the earth's thin crust sits.

फॉल्ट लाइन्स 15 अवरुद्ध प्रमुख टेक्टोनिक प्लेटों के बीच स्थित हैं, जिन पर पृथ्वी की पतली परत बैठी है।

- These lines can slumber for decades, even centuries, quietly, one may say so 'sweetly', that their very existence can be forgotten by all except seismologists.

यह लाइनें दशकों तक, यहां तक कि सदियों तक, शांतिपूर्वक सो सकती हैं, यहां तक कि कुछ इस तरह से कहा जा सकता है कि उनका अस्तित्व सभी द्वारा भूला जा सकता है, सिवाय सेस्मोलॉजिस्ट के।

- Until...the fault line stir, rise, shake and then go on to mutilate, destroy and kill whatever lies on and along those lines.

यहां तक कि...फॉल्ट लाइन हिलती है, उठती है, हिलती है और फिर जो कुछ भी उन लाइनों के ऊपर और आसपास होता है, उसे विकृत, नष्ट और मारे डालती है।

Depending on the degree of the awakened one's temper, the fury lasts or abates till such time as it lasts or abates.

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जागृत के गुस्से की डिग्री पर निर्भर करते हुए, उग्रता तब तक रहती है या घटती है जब तक यह रहती है या घटती है।

**India's Indian Plate pressing onto the Eurasian Plate sculpted the Himalaya.**  
भारत की भारतीय प्लेट ने यूरेशियन प्लेट पर दबाव डाला और हिमालय का निर्माण किया।

- **The fault line involved runs right along the great Himalayan arc that stretches from Kashmir to the North East.**  
संबंधित फॉल्ट लाइन सीधे महान हिमालयी आर्क के साथ चलती है, जो कश्मीर से लेकर उत्तर-पूर्व तक फैलती है।
- **It also implicates adjacent tracts in Pakistan, the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, Nepal, and Bhutan.**  
यह पाकिस्तान, चीन के तिब्बती स्वायत्त क्षेत्र, नेपाल और भूटान में आसन्न इलाकों को भी प्रभावित करता है।

**We are but dimly aware of this.**  
हम इसके बारे में केवल धुंधला सा जानते हैं।

- **For those of us who do not live in those stunningly beautiful tracts, that region means and evokes snow, pure air, clear waters, holidays and leisure.**  
हममें से जो लोग उन आश्चर्यजनक रूप से सुंदर इलाकों में नहीं रहते, उनके लिए यह क्षेत्र बर्फ, शुद्ध हवा, साफ पानी, छुट्टियां और आराम का प्रतीक है।
- **But we must know, must understand, the concurrent 'scene' which is about potential rubble, ravaged hill sides, mutilated river courses. And trauma.**  
लेकिन हमें जानना चाहिए, समझना चाहिए, उस साथ-साथ चलने वाले 'दृश्य' को, जो संभावित मलबे, नष्ट हुए पहाड़ी किनारे, विकृत नदियों के मार्ग और आघात से संबंधित है।
- **We must shake ourselves out of our dangerous illusion, our perilous innocence about the reality beneath our feet.**  
हमें अपनी खतरनाक भ्रांति, अपनी खतरे में डूबी मासूमियत को हमारे पैरों के नीचे की वास्तविकता के बारे में हिलाना होगा।

**Seismologists** tell us that the two great tectonic plates, the Indian and the Eurasian, have now slept their really deep sleep long enough now and that the built-up pressure inside their folds cannot be expected to hold its tension much longer.  
सेस्मोलॉजिस्ट हमें बताते हैं कि दो बड़ी टेक्टोनिक प्लेटें, भारतीय और यूरेशियन, अब अपनी गहरी नींद में काफी समय तक सो चुकी हैं और उनके बीच बने दबाव को अधिक समय तक अपने तनाव को रोकने की उम्मीद नहीं की जा सकती।

Sure enough, a little over just one month ago, on January 7, 2025 at 9:05 a.m., an earthquake measuring Mw 7.1 struck Shigatse city of the Tibet Autonomous Region of Southwestern China.

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यह सच है, एक महीने से थोड़ा अधिक समय पहले, 7 जनवरी 2025 को सुबह 9:05 बजे, एक भूकंप ने चीन के दक्षिण-पश्चिमी तिब्बत स्वायत्त क्षेत्र के शिगात्से शहर को मापा गया Mw 7.1 के पैमाने पर हिला दिया।

- Between 126 and 400 people were reported killed and 338 were injured. 126 से 400 लोग मारे गए और 338 घायल हुए।
- Unmindful of national borders and oblivious of lines of actual or notional control, the quake made itself felt in **Nepal and in Northern India.** राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं से बेखबर और वास्तविक या काल्पनिक नियंत्रण रेखाओं से अनजान, भूकंप ने नेपाल और उत्तर भारत में भी अपनी उपस्थिति महसूस कराई।

**In the media**  
मीडिया में

On January 10, The Hindu had an editorial, "Damage control", that said, 'If the **epicentre had been located closer to India, the damage could have been manifold.**'

10 जनवरी को, द हिंदू ने एक संपादकीय प्रकाशित किया, "डैमेज कंट्रोल", जिसमें कहा गया, 'यदि भूकंप का केंद्र भारत के करीब होता, तो नुकसान कई गुना बढ़ सकता था।'

- And added, 'Earthquakes in the Himalayas evoke a special kind of dread in the country.' और इसमें जोड़ा, 'हिमालय में भूकंप देश में एक विशेष प्रकार का डर उत्पन्न करते हैं।'
- The comment was right. Dread they do cause. यह टिप्पणी सही थी। वे सच में डर उत्पन्न करते हैं।
- But have they occasioned the kind of intense and urgent planning that is needed? क्या उन्होंने उस प्रकार की तीव्र और तात्कालिक योजना का कारण बना है जो आवश्यक है?
- Have they occasioned national alertness, resolve and action? क्या उन्होंने राष्ट्रीय सतर्कता, संकल्प और कार्रवाई का कारण बना है?

The Editorial went on to say, 'Unfortunately, predicting the day and time is outside the ambit of current science.

संपादकीय में यह भी कहा गया, 'दुर्भाग्यवश, दिन और समय की भविष्यवाणी वर्तमान विज्ञान के दायरे से बाहर है।

- Thus, the best we can hope for is insulation against the projected damage. इसलिए, हम जो सबसे अच्छा उम्मीद कर सकते हैं, वह अनुमानित नुकसान से सुरक्षा है।
- It is in this context that infrastructure development in the Himalayan region must be viewed. इसी संदर्भ में हिमालयी क्षेत्र में बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास को देखा जाना चाहिए।
- While several of these projects are intended to smooth the movement of people and goods, the recurrent landslides and glacial lake outbursts that wash away dams, hydropower projects, and roads serve as a constant reminder of the inherent fragility of the region.

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इनमें से कई परियोजनाएं लोगों और माल की आवाजाही को सुगम बनाने के लिए हैं, लेकिन पुनरावृत्त भूस्खलन और ग्लेशियर झील के विस्फोट जो बांधों, जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं और सड़कों को बहा देते हैं, क्षेत्र की अंतर्निहित नाजुकता की लगातार याद दिलाने के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

- Every form of infrastructure in the region — power plant or dam — must take into account the imminence of a major earthquake and the associated costs factored into planning.

क्षेत्र में बुनियादी ढांचे का प्रत्येक रूप — पावर प्लांट या बांध — को एक बड़े भूकंप की निकटता और उससे जुड़े लागतों को योजना में शामिल करते हुए विचार किया जाना चाहिए।

The Editorial said, 'Adhering to already existing building codes, not only in the Himalayas but in the surrounding **Indo-Gangetic plains**, can go a long way in limiting the inevitable damage.'

संपादकीय में कहा गया, 'पहले से मौजूद भवन कोड का पालन करना, न केवल हिमालय में बल्कि आसपास के Indo-Gangetic मैदानों में, अपरिहार्य क्षति को सीमित करने में लंबा रास्ता तय कर सकता है।'

- If such adherence was good enough as a response one month ago, the earthquakes that shook the national capital on February 17, and within four hours, Siwan in Bihar, suggest that adherence to existing codes is not enough, Not enough by half. यदि एक महीने पहले इस तरह का पालन प्रतिक्रिया के रूप में पर्याप्त था, तो 17 फरवरी को राष्ट्रीय राजधानी को हिला देने वाले भूकंप और चार घंटे के भीतर बिहार के सीवान में हुए भूकंप यह बताते हैं कि मौजूदा कोड्स का पालन पर्याप्त नहीं है, आधे से भी कम।
- Social media told us that there were people in Delhi who said they had never felt a tremor so big. सोशल मीडिया ने हमें बताया कि दिल्ली में ऐसे लोग थे जिन्होंने कहा कि उन्होंने कभी इतना बड़ा कंपन महसूस नहीं किया।
- This was impressionistic, perhaps, but impressions that come from real sensations under one's feet are real in a way that reports and reconstructed scenes are not. यह शायद प्रभावात्मक था, लेकिन जो संवेदनाएं किसी के पैरों के नीचे से वास्तविक रूप में आती हैं, वे रिपोर्टों और पुनर्निर्मित दृश्यों से अलग होती हैं।
- One post said 'today Delhi and Bihar, tomorrow West Bengal...' एक पोस्ट में कहा गया, 'आज दिल्ली और बिहार, कल पश्चिम बंगाल...'
- It was salutary and sobering to see a post from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, barely back from his brief visit to the United States, reaching out to the people of Delhi, asking them to stay calm and take precautionary steps. यह एक शिक्षाप्रद और गंभीर बात थी कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा एक पोस्ट देखी गई, जो अपनी संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की संक्षिप्त यात्रा से अभी-अभी लौटे थे, दिल्ली के लोगों से शांति बनाए रखने और सावधान कदम उठाने का अनुरोध कर रहे थे।
- The really meaningful precautions are not within the means of the people. They must come from government, from the state.



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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



वास्तव में महत्वपूर्ण सावधानियां लोगों के साधनों के भीतर नहीं हैं। इन्हें सरकार से, राज्य से आना चाहिए।

**We are now in a contingency that must take into account: high probability; high financial and physical cost if provided for, and incalculably higher if not provided for.**

हम अब एक ऐसी स्थिति में हैं जिसमें ध्यान में रखना चाहिए: उच्च संभावना; यदि इसे प्रदान किया गया तो उच्च वित्तीय और शारीरिक लागत, और यदि इसे प्रदान नहीं किया गया तो इसकी लागत कई गुना अधिक।

**The principle is the same as in any insurance arrangement: the higher the risk the higher the premium.**

सिद्धांत वही है जैसा किसी भी बीमा व्यवस्था में होता है: जितना अधिक जोखिम, उतना अधिक प्रीमियम।

**Time to act, and quickly**

कार्रवाई करने का समय, और जल्दी

- **We need, not just quickly, not just urgently but quite immediately, to provide for state expense on, first, fore-closing and rolling back engineering enterprises that weaken the earth's crust, especially rocky terrain, in India's seismic risk zones in the ascending calibration of II, III and IV.**  
हमें, न केवल जल्दी, न केवल तात्कालिक रूप से बल्कि तुरंत, राज्य खर्च की योजना बनानी चाहिए, सबसे पहले, उन इंजीनियरिंग उपक्रमों को बंद करने और पीछे खींचने के लिए जो पृथ्वी की परत को कमजोर करते हैं, विशेष रूप से चट्टानी इलाके में, भारत के भूकंपीय जोखिम क्षेत्रों में II, III और IV के बढ़ते मानक के अनुसार।
- **Second, super-imposing on the existing seismic zonation maps which are really x-ray plates, new carefully drawn mapped-plans for the protection (which can include evacuations, demolitions and re-building) of highly vulnerable structures, and assessing the seismic status of high follow-on secondary risk structures such as like hydel projects and atomic reactors (Narora in Uttar Pradesh is located in Zone IV).**  
दूसरे, मौजूदा भूकंपीय जोन नक्शों पर, जो असल में एक्स-रे प्लेट्स की तरह होते हैं, नए सावधानी से तैयार किए गए नक्शे-योजनाओं को डालना जो अत्यधिक संवेदनशील संरचनाओं की सुरक्षा (जिसमें निकासी, विध्वंस और पुनर्निर्माण शामिल हो सकते हैं) के लिए हैं, और उच्च जोखिम वाले संरचनाओं जैसे जलविद्युत परियोजनाएं और परमाणु रिएक्टरों की भूकंपीय स्थिति का मूल्यांकन करना (उत्तर प्रदेश में नरौरा जोन IV में स्थित है)।
- **Third, setting up a seismic building insurance scheme wherein premiums for insuring against collapse can be offered and encouraged.**  
तीसरे, एक भूकंपीय भवन बीमा योजना स्थापित करना जिसमें ढहने के खिलाफ बीमा करने के लिए प्रीमियम की पेशकश की जा सकती है और इसे प्रोत्साहित किया जा सकता है।
- **Fourth, doing an assessment of the costs of rescue, temporary sheltering and rehabilitation zone-wise, of dislocated populations.**  
चौथे, बचाव, अस्थायी आश्रय और पुनर्वास के लागत का आकलन करना, विस्थापित जनसंख्या के लिए क्षेत्रवार।

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

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

**Contact Number : 9971932488**

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



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- Fifth, fast-forwarding collaboration with countries that are experts in the field on earthquake anticipation through sensors, and architecture nostrums. This would involve expenses on hiring consultants.  
पांचवे, भूकंप की भविष्यवाणी के लिए विशेषज्ञ देशों के साथ सहयोग को तेज करना, सेंसर के माध्यम से, और वास्तुकला उपचारों पर। इसमें सलाहकारों को नियुक्त करने पर खर्च होगा।

All this sounds grim. But we should tell ourselves that there is the 'good news' that we are, as of this moment, ahead of the big seismic shock that has been anticipated by seismologists.

यह सब गंभीर लगता है। लेकिन हमें खुद से यह कहना चाहिए कि एक 'अच्छी खबर' है कि हम, इस क्षण के अनुसार, उस बड़े भूकंपीय झटके से आगे हैं जिसकी भविष्यवाणी सेस्मोलॉजिस्ट ने की है।

- We are capable of planning with some composure, even as we recover from the shock of February 17, not in a post-shock trauma accompanied by fiscal crippling. हम कुछ संयम के साथ योजना बनाने में सक्षम हैं, यहां तक कि 17 फरवरी के झटके से उबरने के दौरान, न कि पोस्ट-शॉक आघात में जो वित्तीय नुकसान के साथ हो।
- And, we have an institutional advantage in the shape of a Ministry of Earth Sciences and a Disaster Management Authority waiting to be harnessed in any scheme towards seismic resistance. और, हमारे पास एक संस्थागत लाभ है जो पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय और आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण के रूप में है, जो भूकंपीय प्रतिरोध के लिए किसी भी योजना में काम आने के लिए तैयार है।
- The 'motto' is brief: earthquakes are not to be prevented, they can scarcely be predicted, even in our age of Artificial Intelligence. But they can be prepared for. 'मोटो' संक्षिप्त है: भूकंपों को रोका नहीं जा सकता, वे शायद ही भविष्यवाणी किए जा सकते हैं, यहां तक कि हमारी आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस के युग में भी। लेकिन उनके लिए तैयार किया जा सकता है।



Is anyone doing that?  
क्या कोई ऐसा कर रहा है?

# A planet on the edge: are Saturn's rings older than they look?

The Solar System is constantly bombarded by dark pieces of fine dust. Astronomers expected this dust to be omnipresent in Saturn's rings, but this is not the case, so they surmised the rings are 100 million years old. This was a simple explanation, but it had a catch: scientists did not know how the rings could have formed so recently

GS Paper I: Geography

Unnati Ashar

**A** debate about the age of Saturn's resplendent rings has been raging for a few decades now, with no end in sight. A new study by researchers at the Institute of Science Tokyo and the Paris Institute of Planetary Physics has fresh spin to offer now that could recast the conversation.

Saturn's rings are an arresting sight even through modest telescopes. The planet is made mostly of hydrogen and helium, whereas the rings are billions of pieces of mostly bright-white water ice and rock. Some of these pieces are as small as a grain of salt; others are as big as a house.

Four spacecraft have visited Saturn thus far, all launched by NASA: Pioneer II and the twin Voyagers 1 and 2 flew by it while Cassini orbited Saturn from 2004 to 2017.

## Unusually clean

Cassini in particular found the rings to be squeaky clean, with very little dirt. This is unusual because everything in the Solar System, including the earth, is constantly bombarded by dark pieces of dust, each finer than a grain of sand. These particles are fragments of larger chunks of rock in space. Most of this debris burns up in the earth's atmosphere when they get too close and never reach the surface. Around Saturn, astronomers expected this dust to be omnipresent in the rings, but this is not the case.

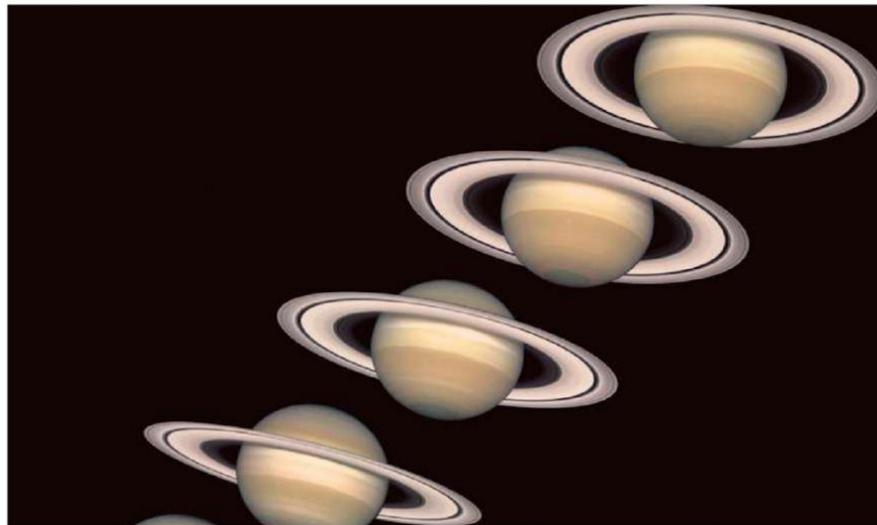
Based on this, scientists hypothesised that Saturn's rings are relatively new, only around 100 million years old – too young to have accumulated the dust. This was a simple explanation, which is good, but there is a catch: scientists do not know how the rings could have formed so recently.

## Rings out of time

In these last 100 million years, the Solar System has been pretty calm.

"In the very early stages of the formation of our solar system, around four billion years ago, the system was chaotic and unstable," Ryuki Hyodo, of the Institute of Science Tokyo, Chief Science Officer at Tokyo-based company SpaceData Inc., and a coauthor of the new study, said. "Therefore, there is a greater chance of a big, dynamical event happening then that could form Saturn's rings."

"Crater size distribution is used to constrain the age of solid bodies in the solar system," Sean Hsu, a research scientist at the University of Colorado Boulder who was not involved in the new



A view of Saturn's rings over time was captured by the Hubble Space Telescope in 2001. NASA

study, added. "For Saturn's rings, age determination is even more difficult – there are no craters, and the collisional nature of ring particles erases most of its history. Depending on which measurements you choose, it is not too surprising that people end up with very different age estimates."

"In my view, the 'blind men and an elephant' is not a bad metaphor here."

## Keep them out

In the new analysis, Hyodo's computer models showed that when dust particles collided with ice in Saturn's rings, they evaporated and dispersed into hundreds of even smaller flecks, which Cassini had also observed.

The models showed that these particles then smash into Saturn itself, beat the planet's gravitational pull, or are dragged into the planet's raging atmosphere. In other words, the pearly shine of Saturn's rings is not thanks to them being young but because they have a way to eject such foreign bodies that enter their delicate world. In sum, there's no reason for older rings to be darker (or vice versa).

In fact, the rings could be as old as the Solar System, according to Hyodo.

"The basic assumption in the debate about the age of the Saturnian rings centres around the water ice composition of the ring particles," Wing-Huen Ip, who studies the origins of the Solar System and

**NASA launched the Clipper mission to study Jupiter's moon Europa, which is dynamically linked to Jupiter and contains a subsurface ocean, in October 2024**

the formation of planets at the National Central University, Taiwan, and who was not a part of the new study, said. "We actually can't be 100% sure that this is true."

"Such an estimate is indeed questionable, because we do not know what the ring composition was when it formed," Hsu said. The new findings were published in the journal *Nature Geoscience* in December 2024.

## Europa, Enceladus, and beyond

Determining when Saturn got its signature rings isn't just a matter of curiosity. "The interest in probing the age of Saturn's rings is beyond the rings themselves – it is about the implications, and there are many," Hsu said. "Enceladus, the geologically active moon of Saturn, is a top-priority target to study habitability and astrobiology due to active plume activity from its subsurface ocean. The evolution of Saturn's rings has fundamental impacts on the evolution of Enceladus and other icy moons of Saturn, as they're dynamically coupled."

## THE GIST

According to researchers, determining the age of Saturn's rings is difficult – there are no craters, and the collisional nature of ring particles erases most of its history. It is not surprising that people end up with different estimates'

Computer models show that when dust collides with ice in Saturn's rings, they evaporate and are dispersed. So the pearly shine of the rings is not thanks to them being young. There is no reason for older rings to be darker. In fact, they could be as old as the Solar System

Determining the age of Saturn's rings is 'about the implications.' Enceladus, Saturn's moon, is a top-priority target to study habitability due to plume activity. The evolution of the rings has impacts on the evolution of Enceladus and other moons of Saturn'

In the mid-2000s, Cassini found plumes abundant in water molecules leaking from Enceladus's southern hemisphere. It also recorded evidence of cryovolcanoes, icy promontories spewing hydrogen, salt crystals, water vapour and ice, and volatile compounds like ammonia. The vapour condenses into solid flakes, not unlike snow on the earth, and drifts into one of Saturn's rings.

In 2014, NASA scientists reported finding evidence of a 10-km-thick ocean of liquid water under Enceladus's south pole region in Cassini data. Ip believes investigating how icy grains from the plumes of Enceladus affect the ring's composition could play a major role in determining the ring's age.

In related news, NASA launched the Clipper mission to study Jupiter's moon Europa, which is similarly dynamically linked to Jupiter and contains a subsurface ocean as well, in October 2024.

The new study could also help explain why the Solar System's four gas giants have such diverse ring systems. Either they were different by birth or diverged as they grew. The dynamics unveiled in the study could infuse fresh insight into this debate. "We may propose to send a spacecraft to Saturn's rings to study them in more detail," Hyodo said.

(Unnati Ashar is a freelance science journalist. [unnati\\_a@gmail.com](mailto:unnati_a@gmail.com))



## A planet on the edge: are Saturn's rings older than they look? किनारे पर एक ग्रह: क्या शनि के छल्ले दिखने से ज़्यादा पुराने हैं?

The **Solar System** is constantly bombarded by dark pieces of fine dust.

Astronomers expected this dust to be omnipresent in Saturn's rings, but this is not the case, so they surmised the rings are **100 million years old**. This was a simple explanation, but it had a catch: scientists did not know how the rings could have formed so recently

सौर मंडल में लगातार धूल के काले कणों की बौछार होती रहती है। खगोलविदों को उम्मीद थी कि यह धूल शनि के छल्लों में सर्वव्यापी होगी, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है, इसलिए उन्होंने अनुमान लगाया कि छल्ले 100 मिलियन वर्ष पुराने हैं। यह एक सरल व्याख्या थी, लेकिन इसमें एक पेंच था: वैज्ञानिकों को नहीं पता था कि छल्ले हाल ही में कैसे बन सकते हैं

### Debate About the Age of Saturn's Rings

शनि के वलयों की आयु पर बहस

- A debate about the **age of Saturn's resplendent rings** has been **raging for a few decades** now, with no end in sight.  
शनि के उज्ज्वल वलयों की आयु को लेकर पिछले कुछ दशकों से बहस जारी है, जिसका कोई अंत नजर नहीं आता।
- A new study by researchers at the **Institute of Science Tokyo** and the **Paris Institute of Planetary Physics** has **fresh spin to offer** now that could **recash the conversation**.  
टोक्यो विज्ञान संस्थान और पेरिस ग्रहों के भौतिकी संस्थान के शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा एक नई अध्ययन ने अब नई दिशा दी है, जिससे बातचीत को नया मोड़ मिल सकता है।

### Saturn's Rings

शनि के वलय

- Saturn's rings are an **arresting sight** even through modest telescopes.  
शनि के वलय आकर्षक दृश्य हैं, यहां तक कि साधारण टेलीस्कोपों से भी।
- The **planet is made mostly of hydrogen and helium**, whereas the rings are billions of pieces of mostly **bright-white water ice** and rock.  
ग्रह मुख्य रूप से हाइड्रोजन और हीलियम से बना है, जबकि वलय मुख्य रूप से चमकदार-सफेद पानी की बर्फ और चट्टानों के अरबों टुकड़ों से बने हैं।
- Some of these pieces are as small as a **grain of salt**; others are as big as a **house**.  
इन टुकड़ों में से कुछ नमक के दाने जितने छोटे हैं; जबकि अन्य घर जितने बड़े हैं।

### Spacecraft Visits to Saturn

शनि का दौरा करने वाले अंतरिक्ष यान



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- Four spacecraft have visited Saturn thus far, all launched by **NASA: Pioneer 11** and the twin **Voyagers 1 and 2** flew by it, while **Cassini** orbited Saturn from **2004 to 2017**. अब तक शनि का दौरा करने वाले चार अंतरिक्ष यान, सभी **नासा** द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए हैं: **पायोनियर 11** और जुड़वां **वॉयजर 1 और 2** ने शनि के पास से उड़ान भरी, जबकि **कैसिनी** ने शनि की परिक्रमा की **2004 से 2017** तक।

### Unusually Clean

असामान्य रूप से साफ

- **Cassini** in particular found the rings to be **squeaky clean**, with very little **dirt**. विशेष रूप से **कैसिनी** ने पाया कि वलय **बहुत साफ** थे, इनमें बहुत कम **मलिनता** थी।
- This is unusual because everything in the Solar System, including the Earth, is constantly bombarded by **dark pieces of dust**, each finer than a **grain of sand**. यह असामान्य है क्योंकि सौर मंडल में हर चीज, जिसमें पृथ्वी भी शामिल है, लगातार **काले धूल के टुकड़ों** से हमला होती है, जो **रेत के दाने** से भी पतले होते हैं।
- These particles are fragments of larger chunks of rock in space. ये कण अंतरिक्ष में बड़े चट्टानों के टुकड़े होते हैं।
- Around Saturn, astronomers expected this dark dust to be **omnipresent** in the rings, but this is not the case. शनि के आसपास, खगोलशास्त्रियों ने अपेक्षी की थी कि यह काली धूल वलयों में **हर जगह** होनी चाहिए, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है।

### Scientists' Hypothesis About the Age of Saturn's Rings

शनि के वलयों की आयु के बारे में वैज्ञानिकों का अनुमान

- Based on this, scientists **hypothesized** that Saturn's rings are **relatively new**, only around **100 million years old** — too young to have accumulated the dust. इसके आधार पर, वैज्ञानिकों ने अनुमान लगाया कि शनि के वलय **काफी नए** हैं, केवल लगभग **100 मिलियन वर्ष पुराने** हैं — इतने नए कि उन्होंने धूल इकट्ठा नहीं की होगी।
- This was a **simple explanation**, which is good, but there is a **catch**: scientists do not know how the rings could have formed so **recently**. यह एक **सरल व्याख्या** थी, जो अच्छी थी, लेकिन इसमें एक **पेंच** है: वैज्ञानिक यह नहीं जानते कि वलय इतने **हाल ही में** कैसे बन सकते हैं।

### Rings Out of Time

समय से बाहर वलय

- In these last **100 million years**, the **Solar System** has been pretty **calm**. पिछले **100 मिलियन वर्षों** में, **सौर मंडल** काफी शांत रहा है।
- "In the very early stages of the formation of our **solar system**, around **four billion years ago**, the system was chaotic and unstable," **Ryuki Hyodo**, from the Institute of Science Tokyo, Chief Science Officer at Tokyo-based company **SpaceData Inc.**, and a coauthor of

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

**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**

**Contact Number : 9971932488**

**Website : patrioticias.in**



the new study, said.

“हमारे सौर मंडल के निर्माण के पहले चरणों में, लगभग चार अरब साल पहले, यह प्रणाली अराजक और अस्थिर थी,” रयूकी ह्योदो, टोक्यो विज्ञान संस्थान से, टोक्यो स्थित कंपनी स्पेसडेटा इंक. के मुख्य वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी और नई अध्ययन के सह-लेखक ने कहा।

- “Therefore, there is a greater chance of a big, **dynamical event** happening then that could form Saturn’s rings.”

“इसलिए, उस समय बड़ी, गतिशील घटना होने की संभावना अधिक थी, जो शनि के वलयों का निर्माण कर सकती थी।”

### Challenges in Determining the Age of Saturn’s Rings

शनि के वलयों की आयु निर्धारित करने में चुनौतियां

- “**Crater size distribution** is used to constrain the age of **solid bodies** in the **solar system**,” **Sean Hsu**, a research scientist at the University of Colorado Boulder, who was not involved in the new study, added.  
“गड्ढे का आकार वितरण का उपयोग सौर मंडल में ठोस शरीरों की आयु निर्धारित करने के लिए किया जाता है,” सीन ह्सु, यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कोलोराडो बोल्डर के एक शोध वैज्ञानिक, जिन्होंने नई अध्ययन में भाग नहीं लिया, ने कहा।
- “For Saturn’s rings, age determination is even more difficult — there are no **craters**, and the **collisional nature** of ring particles erases most of its history.”  
“शनि के वलयों के लिए, आयु निर्धारण और भी अधिक कठिन है — क्योंकि यहां कोई गड्ढे नहीं हैं, और वलय कणों की टकराव प्रकृति अधिकांश इतिहास को मिटा देती है।”
- “Depending on which measurements you choose, it is not too surprising that people end up with very **different age estimates**.”  
“यह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि आप कौन-सी माप चुनते हैं, यह बहुत हैरान करने वाली बात नहीं है कि लोग बहुत अलग आयु अनुमान के साथ समाप्त होते हैं।”
- “In my view, the ‘**blind men and an elephant**’ is not a bad metaphor here.”  
“मेरे अनुसार, यहाँ ‘अंधे आदमी और हाथी’ एक बुरा रूपक नहीं है।”

### Keep them out

इन्हें बाहर रखें

- In the new analysis, **Hyodo’s computer models** showed that when **dust particles** collided with **ice in Saturn’s rings**, they evaporated and dispersed into hundreds of even smaller flakes, which **Cassini** had also observed.  
नई विश्लेषण में, ह्योदो के कंप्यूटर मॉडल ने दिखाया कि जब धूल कण शनि के वलयों में बर्फ से टकराते हैं, तो वे वाष्पित हो जाते हैं और सैकड़ों छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों में फैल जाते हैं, जिसे कैसिनी ने भी देखा था।
- The models showed that these particles then smash into **Saturn itself**, beat the planet’s **gravitational pull**, or are dragged into the planet’s raging **atmosphere**.  
मॉडल ने दिखाया कि ये कण फिर शनि पर टकराते हैं, ग्रह के गुरुत्वाकर्षण बल को हराते हैं, या ग्रह के उग्र वायुमंडल में खींचे जाते हैं।



- In other words, the **pearly shine** of Saturn's rings is not thanks to them being **young** but because they have a way to eject such **foreign bodies** that enter their delicate world. दूसरे शब्दों में, शनि के वलयों की **मोती जैसी चमक** इसका कारण नहीं है कि वे **युवा** हैं, बल्कि इसलिए है क्योंकि उनके पास ऐसे **विदेशी शरीरों** को बाहर निकालने का तरीका है जो उनके नाजुक संसार में प्रवेश करते हैं।
- In sum, there's no reason for older rings to be **darker** (or vice versa). संक्षेप में, पुरानी वलयों के **अंधेरे** होने का कोई कारण नहीं है (या इसके विपरीत)।
- In fact, the rings could be as **old as the Solar System**, according to **Hyodo**. वास्तव में, वलय **सौर मंडल** जितने पुराने हो सकते हैं, **ह्योदो** के अनुसार।

### The Debate About Saturn's Ring Age

#### शनि के वलयों की आयु पर बहस

- "The basic assumption in the debate about the age of the **Saturnian rings** centers around the **water ice composition** of the ring particles," **Wing-Huen Ip**, who studies the origins of the Solar System and the formation of planets at the **National Central University**, Taiwan, and who was not a part of the new study, said. "शनि के वलयों की आयु पर बहस में **शनि वलयों** की बर्फ के **जल संघटन** के बारे में बुनियादी मान्यता है," **विंग-हुएन इप**, जो सौर मंडल की उत्पत्ति और ग्रहों के निर्माण का अध्ययन करते हैं, **नेशनल सेंट्रल यूनिवर्सिटी**, ताइवान में, और जो नई अध्ययन का हिस्सा नहीं थे, ने कहा।
- "We actually can't be **100% sure** that this is true." "हम वास्तव में **100% सुनिश्चित** नहीं हो सकते कि यह सच है।"
- "Such an estimate is indeed **questionable**, because we do not know what the **ring composition** was when it formed," **Hsu** said. "इस तरह का अनुमान वास्तव में **संदेहास्पद** है, क्योंकि हम यह नहीं जानते कि जब वलय का निर्माण हुआ था तब **वलय का संघटन** क्या था," **हसु** ने कहा।
- The new findings were published in the journal **Nature Geoscience** in **December 2024**. नई खोजें **नेचर जियोसाइंस** पत्रिका में **दिसंबर 2024** में प्रकाशित हुईं।

### Europa, Enceladus, and Beyond

#### यूरोपा, एन्सेलेडस और उससे आगे

- Determining when Saturn got its signature rings isn't just a matter of curiosity. शनि के वलयों की पहचान कब बनी यह केवल जिज्ञासा का विषय नहीं है।
- "The interest in probing the age of Saturn's rings is beyond the rings themselves — it is about the **implications**, and there are many," **Hsu** said. "शनि के वलयों की आयु का अध्ययन करने में रुचि केवल वलयों तक सीमित नहीं है — यह इसके **प्रभावों** के बारे में है, और इसके बहुत सारे प्रभाव हैं," **हसु** ने कहा।
- "**Enceladus**, the **geologically active moon** of Saturn, is a top-priority target to study **habitability** and **astrobiology** due to active **plume activity** from its subsurface **ocean**." "एन्सेलेडस, शनि का **भूवैज्ञानिक रूप से सक्रिय चंद्रमा**, **आवासीयता** और **जीवविज्ञान** का अध्ययन



करने के लिए एक शीर्ष प्राथमिकता वाला लक्ष्य है, क्योंकि इसके भूमिगत महासागर से सक्रिय धुंआ उत्सर्जन होता है।”

- “The evolution of Saturn’s rings has **fundamental impacts** on the evolution of Enceladus and other **icy moons** of Saturn, as they’re dynamically coupled.”  
“शनि के वलयों का विकास मूलभूत प्रभाव डालता है एन्सेलेडस और शनि के अन्य बर्फीले चंद्रमाओं के विकास पर, क्योंकि ये गतिशील रूप से जुड़े हुए हैं।”
- In the **mid-2000s**, Cassini found **plumes** abundant in **water molecules** leaking from **Enceladus’s southern hemisphere**.  
मध्य 2000s में, कैसिनी ने एन्सेलेडस के दक्षिणी गोलार्ध से लीक होने वाली जल अणुओं से भरी धुंआ उत्सर्जन पाई।
- It also recorded evidence of **cryovolcanoes**, icy promontories spewing **hydrogen, salt crystals, water vapour**, and **ice**, and volatile compounds like **ammonia**.  
इसने क्रायोवोल्कैनो (बर्फीले ज्वालामुखी) के प्रमाण भी रिकॉर्ड किए, जो हाइड्रोजन, नमक के क्रिस्टल, जल वाष्प, और बर्फ तथा अस्थिर यौगिकों जैसे अमोनिया को उगल रहे थे।
- The **vapour** condenses into **solid flakes**, not unlike snow on the earth, and drifts into one of Saturn’s rings.  
वाष्प ठोस टुकड़ों में संकुचित हो जाता है, जो पृथ्वी पर बर्फ की तरह होते हैं, और शनि के एक वलय में तैरता है।
- In **2014**, **NASA scientists** reported finding evidence of a **10-km-thick ocean of liquid water** under **Enceladus’s south pole** region in **Cassini data**.  
2014 में, नासा के वैज्ञानिकों ने कैसिनी डेटा में एन्सेलेडस के दक्षिणी ध्रुव क्षेत्र के नीचे 10 किमी मोटा महासागर तरल जल का प्रमाण पाया।
- **Ip** believes investigating how **icy grains** from the plumes of **Enceladus** affect the ring’s **composition** could play a major role in determining the ring’s age.  
इप मानते हैं कि एन्सेलेडस के धुंआ उत्सर्जन से बर्फीले कणों का वलय के संघटन पर प्रभाव का अध्ययन वलय की आयु निर्धारित करने में प्रमुख भूमिका निभा सकता है।
- In related news, **NASA launched the Clipper mission** to study **Jupiter’s moon Europa**, which is similarly dynamically linked to **Jupiter** and contains a subsurface **ocean** as well, in **October 2024**.  
संबंधित समाचार में, नासा ने **जुपिटर के चंद्रमा यूरोपा** का अध्ययन करने के लिए **क्लिपर मिशन** लॉन्च किया, जो **जुपिटर** से गतिशील रूप से जुड़ा हुआ है और इसमें भूमिगत महासागर भी है, **अक्टूबर 2024** में।
- The new study could also help explain why the **Solar System’s four gas giants** have **such diverse ring systems**.  
नई अध्ययन यह भी मदद कर सकती है यह समझने में कि **सौर मंडल के चार गैस दिग्गज** के पास ऐसे विविध **वलय प्रणाली** क्यों हैं।
- Either they were different by **birth** or diverged as they grew.  
या तो वे **जन्म** से अलग थे या जैसे-जैसे वे बड़े हुए, वे अलग हो गए।
- The **dynamics** unveiled in the study could infuse fresh insight into this debate.  
अध्ययन में उजागर हुए **गतिकी** इस बहस में नई जानकारी डाल सकती है।



- "We may propose to send a **spacecraft** to Saturn's rings to study them in more detail," **Hyodo** said.

"हम शनि के वलयों का अध्ययन करने के लिए एक अंतरिक्ष यान भेजने का प्रस्ताव कर सकते हैं," ह्योदो ने कहा।

## Can't stop shaking

GS Paper I: Geography



**Q: What is an earthquake swarm?**

**A:** An earthquake swarm occurs when multiple seismic events of

comparable intensity strike a small area in relatively quick succession.

A state of emergency has been declared on Greece's Santorini and the nearby islands of Ios, Amorgos, and Anafi after a swarm of undersea earthquakes this month, sometimes every few minutes, prompted thousands of people to move to the mainland. Greece's chief seismologist has said the frequency of earthquakes affecting the area has eased in recent days, but that the outlook for continued tremors in the coming weeks remains uncertain.

"Unfortunately, for now, we must wait," seismologist Costas Papazachos told state-run ERT radio on February 17. Papazachos, a professor of geophysics at the University of Thessaloniki, is currently on two emergency committees that include scientists and officials from government, the military, and emergency services. He said Santorini, a volcanic island shaped by catastrophic eruptions, didn't face danger from its dormant volcano but noted that



Members of a Greek military geographical team conduct measurements to evaluate potential structural changes due to the ongoing seismic activity on the volcanic island of Nea Kameni in Greece. REUTERS

magma was affecting the tremors.

"The root cause of the activity is the interaction of tectonic and magmatic processes," he said. "That does not mean that the molten material will manage to break through 8 km of crust and cause a new volcanic eruption." Swarms have been reported in peninsular India. After heavy rain, water seeps into small fractures in underground rocks. A 2008 study estimated that for every 10 metre's rise in the water table, the pressure inside the rocks increased by almost 1 atm, and which is released in earthquake swarms.

— The Hindu Bureau (with inputs from agencies)

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- Greece's chief seismologist has said the frequency of earthquakes affecting the area has eased in recent days, but that the outlook for continued tremors in the coming weeks remains **uncertain**.

ग्रीस के प्रमुख भूकंपविज्ञानी ने कहा कि इस क्षेत्र में भूकंपों की आवृत्ति हाल के दिनों में कम हो गई है, लेकिन आगामी हफ्तों में जारी कंपन के लिए भविष्यवाणी अस्पष्ट बनी हुई है।

- "Unfortunately, for now, we must wait," seismologist **Costas Papazachos** told state-run **ERT radio** on **February 17**. "दुर्भाग्यवश, फिलहाल, हमें इंतजार करना होगा," भूकंपविज्ञानी **कोस्टास पापाजाचोस** ने **17 फरवरी** को राज्य संचालित **ईआरटी रेडियो** से कहा।

## Can't stop shaking

### हिलना बंद नहीं कर सकते

**What is an earthquake swarm?**

**भूकंप का झुंड क्या है?**

- An **earthquake swarm** occurs when multiple seismic events of **comparable intensity** strike a small area in relatively quick succession.

**भूकंप का झुंड** तब होता है जब **समान तीव्रता** के कई भूकंपीय घटनाएं एक छोटे क्षेत्र में जल्दी-जल्दी घटित होती हैं।

- A state of emergency has been declared on **Greece's Santorini** and the nearby islands of **Ios, Amorgos, and Anafi** after a swarm of undersea earthquakes this month, sometimes every few minutes, prompted thousands of people to move to the **mainland**.

इस महीने समुद्र के नीचे भूकंपों के झुंड के बाद, **ग्रीस के सेंटोरिनी** और पास के द्वीपों **Ios, Amorgos, और Anafi** पर आपातकाल घोषित किया गया है, कभी-कभी हर कुछ मिनटों में होने वाले भूकंपों ने हजारों लोगों को **मुख्यभूमि** की ओर पलायन करने के लिए मजबूर किया।



- Papazachos, a professor of **geophysics** at the **University of Thessaloniki**, is currently on two emergency committees that include scientists and officials from government, the military, and emergency services.  
पापाजाचोस, जो **थेसलोनिकी विश्वविद्यालय** में **भूभौतिकी** के प्रोफेसर हैं, वर्तमान में दो आपातकालीन समितियों में शामिल हैं, जिसमें सरकारी, सैन्य और आपातकालीन सेवाओं के अधिकारी और वैज्ञानिक शामिल हैं।
- He said **Santorini**, a volcanic island shaped by **catastrophic eruptions**, didn't face danger from its dormant volcano but noted that **magma** was affecting the tremors. उन्होंने कहा कि **सेंटोरिनी**, जो **आपत्तिजनक विस्फोटों** से आकार लिया एक ज्वालामुखी द्वीप है, अपने **निष्क्रिय ज्वालामुखी** से खतरे का सामना नहीं कर रहा था, लेकिन उन्होंने यह भी नोट किया कि **मग्मा** कंपन को प्रभावित कर रहा था।
- "The root cause of the activity is the interaction of **tectonic** and **magmatic** processes," he said.  
"गतिविधि का मूल कारण **भूकंपीय** और **मग्माटिक** प्रक्रियाओं का आपसी प्रभाव है," उन्होंने कहा।
- "That does not mean that the molten material will manage to break through **8 km** of crust and cause a new **volcanic eruption**."  
"इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि पिघला हुआ पदार्थ **8 किमी** की परत को तोड़कर एक नया **ज्वालामुखी विस्फोट** करेगा।"

## Swarms in India

### भारत में झुंड

- **Swarms** have been reported in **peninsular India**.  
**झुंड** की घटनाएं **दक्षिण भारत** में रिपोर्ट की गई हैं।
- After heavy rain, **water seeps** into small fractures in underground rocks.  
भारी बारिश के बाद, **जल** भूमिगत चट्टानों में छोटे-छोटे दरारों में रिसता है।
- A **2008 study** estimated that for every **10 metre's rise** in the water table, the pressure inside the rocks increased by almost **1 atm**, and which is released in earthquake swarms.  
एक **2008 अध्ययन** में अनुमानित किया गया था कि जल स्तर में हर **10 मीटर की वृद्धि** के लिए, चट्टानों के अंदर दबाव लगभग **1 एटीएम** बढ़ जाता है, और यह भूकंप के झुंड में रिलीज़ होता है।



This image combines data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory with an image previously released by the James Webb Space Telescope of the NGC 602 star cluster. The ring-like outline of the wreath seen in Webb data (in orange, yellow, green, and blue) is made up of dense clouds of dust. X-rays (red) emitted by young, massive stars illuminate the wreath. ESA/WEBB, NASA & CSA, P. ZEIDLER

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

1. **India, Qatar elevate ties to strategic partnership / भारत और कतर ने अपने संबंधों को रणनीतिक साझेदारी तक बढ़ाया**
2. **'Disrespectful' to appoint CEC at midnight, says Rahul / राहुल ने कहा, आधी रात को मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की नियुक्ति करना 'अपमानजनक'**
3. **Time and timing / समय और समय**
4. **Eroding federalism / संघवाद का क्षरण**
5. **What is the 'rarest of rare' doctrine? / 'दुर्लभतम' सिद्धांत क्या है?**



6. **Why are marriages in China on the decline? / चीन में विवाह में गिरावट क्यों आ रही है?**
7. **'Trump's plan for Gaza is unacceptable and completely inhumane' / 'गाजा के लिए ट्रम्प की योजना अस्वीकार्य और पूरी तरह से अमानवीय है'**
8. **At least 200 killed in Sudan RSF assault / सूडान में आरएसएफ के हमले में कम से कम 200 लोग मारे गए**

## India, Qatar elevate ties to strategic partnership

Modi, visiting Emir of Qatar discuss possibility of a bilateral FTA, and West Asian developments; both sides sign double taxation avoidance pact, agree to deepen relations in trade and security

**GS Paper II: India-Qatar**

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**Q**atar, a major energy supplier to India, on Tuesday signed an agreement to elevate India-Qatar relationship to the level of a strategic partnership, officials here said.

The Ministry of External Affairs announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the visiting Emir, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, discussed multiple issues, including the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict in the Gaza Strip. Both sides are also exploring the possibility of finalising a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

"Strategic partnership elevates the present state of bilateral relation to the strategic level. We are look-



**Warmer ties:** Narendra Modi with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ing at deepening cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, energy, security as well as in the regional and international fora," said Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary (CPV&OIA), while briefing the media following the bilateral discussion. The two sides also signed a double taxation

avoidance treaty.

"India and GCC are negotiating about having an FTA. Both India and Qatar are (also) exploring the signing of a FTA in the future," said Mr. Chatterjee, announcing that India is considering going ahead with a bilateral FTA with Qatar as discussion for an

India-GCC FTA continues.

The Indian side also said that the strategic partnership would have a security component, though a clear timeline for such a process was not articulated.

**Bilateral trade**

A total of 38 Qatari entities representing retail, finance, and energy sector participated in the deliberations where the two sides resolved to double bilateral trade to \$28 billion.

The visit also presented a challenge for both sides, as Purnendu Tiwary, an ex-Indian Navy commander, remains in Qatari custody, even though seven other detainees from the same 2022 case were repatriated in February 2024.

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**India, Qatar elevate ties to strategic partnership**

**भारत और कतर ने अपने संबंधों को रणनीतिक साझेदारी तक बढ़ाया**

**Modi, visiting Emir of Qatar discuss possibility of a bilateral FTA, and West Asian developments; both sides sign double taxation avoidance pact, agree to deepen relations in trade and security**

**मोदी और कतर के अमीर ने द्विपक्षीय एफटीए की संभावना**

**और पश्चिम एशियाई घटनाक्रमों पर चर्चा की; दोनों पक्षों ने दोहरे कराधान से बचाव के समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए, व्यापार और सुरक्षा में संबंधों को गहरा करने पर सहमति जताई**

**Qatar-India Strategic Partnership**

**कतर-भारत रणनीतिक साझेदारी**



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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- **Qatar**, a major energy supplier to **India**, on Tuesday signed an agreement to elevate India-Qatar relationship to the level of a **strategic partnership**, officials here said.  
**कतर**, जो **भारत** के लिए एक प्रमुख ऊर्जा आपूर्तिकर्ता है, ने मंगलवार को एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए ताकि भारत-कतर संबंधों को **रणनीतिक साझेदारी** के स्तर तक बढ़ाया जा सके, अधिकारियों ने यहां कहा।
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** announced that **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and the visiting **Emir, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani**, discussed multiple issues, including the ongoing **Israel-Palestine conflict** in the **Gaza Strip**.  
**विदेश मंत्रालय** ने घोषणा की कि **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** और आगंतुक **एमीर, शेख तमीम बिन हमद अल-थानी**, ने कई मुद्दों पर चर्चा की, जिसमें **गाजा पट्टी** में चल रहे **इस्राइल-फिलिस्तीन संघर्ष** को भी शामिल किया।
- Both sides are also exploring the possibility of finalizing a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.  
दोनों पक्ष **मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (एफटीए)** को अंतिम रूप देने की संभावना की भी जांच कर रहे हैं।
- "**Strategic partnership** elevates the present state of bilateral relations to the strategic level. We are looking at deepening cooperation in the fields of **trade, investment, energy, security** as well as in the **regional and international fora**," said **Arun Kumar Chatterjee**, Secretary (CPV&OIA), while briefing the media following the bilateral discussion.  
**"रणनीतिक साझेदारी** वर्तमान द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को रणनीतिक स्तर तक बढ़ाती है। हम **वाणिज्य, निवेश, ऊर्जा, सुरक्षा** के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग को गहरा करने के साथ-साथ **क्षेत्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंचों** में भी सहयोग बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं," **अरुण कुमार चटर्जी**, सचिव (सीपीवी और ओआईए), ने द्विपक्षीय चर्चा के बाद मीडिया को बताया।
- The two sides also signed a **double taxation avoidance treaty**.  
दोनों पक्षों ने **दोहरी कराधान से बचाव समझौते** पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए।
- "India and **GCC** are negotiating about having an FTA. Both India and Qatar are (also) exploring the signing of an FTA in the future," said Mr. Chatterjee, announcing that India is considering going ahead with a bilateral **FTA** with **Qatar** as discussion for an India-GCC FTA continues.  
**"भारत और जीसीसी एफटीए** के बारे में बातचीत कर रहे हैं। भारत और कतर (भी) भविष्य में एफटीए पर हस्ताक्षर करने की संभावना पर विचार कर रहे हैं," श्री चटर्जी ने कहा, और घोषणा की कि भारत **कतर** के साथ द्विपक्षीय **एफटीए** को आगे बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रहा है, क्योंकि भारत-जीसीसी एफटीए पर चर्चा जारी है।
- The **Indian side** also said that the strategic partnership would have a **security component**, though a clear timeline for such a process was not articulated.  
**भारतीय पक्ष** ने यह भी कहा कि रणनीतिक साझेदारी में एक **सुरक्षा घटक** होगा, हालांकि इस प्रक्रिया के लिए कोई स्पष्ट समयसीमा नहीं दी गई है।

### **Bilateral Trade** **द्विपक्षीय व्यापार**

- A total of **38 Qatari entities** representing retail, finance, and energy sector participated in the deliberations where the two sides resolved to **double bilateral trade to \$28**

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : patrioticias.in**



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



**billion.**

**38 कतर entities** ने खुदरा, वित्त और ऊर्जा क्षेत्र का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हुए विचार-विमर्श में भाग लिया, जहां दोनों पक्षों ने **द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को दोगुना करने** का निर्णय लिया और इसे **28 बिलियन डॉलर** तक पहुँचाने की योजना बनाई।

- The visit also presented a challenge for both sides, as **Purnendu Tiwary**, an ex-Indian Navy commander, remains in **Qatari custody**, even though seven other detainees from the same 2022 case were repatriated in **February 2024**.

इस यात्रा ने दोनों पक्षों के लिए एक चुनौती भी पेश की, क्योंकि **पूर्णदु तिवारी**, एक पूर्व भारतीय नौसेना कमांडर, **कतर की हिरासत** में हैं, जबकि उसी 2022 मामले के सात अन्य हिरासतियों को **फरवरी 2024** में वापस भेज दिया गया था।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Rahul Gandhi

## 'Disrespectful' to appoint CEC at midnight, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI  
**GS Paper II: Elections**

The Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday slammed the midnight appointment of Gyanesh Kumar as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), calling it "discourteous and disrespectful" amid an ongoing Supreme Court challenge to the selection process and committee composition.

Mr. Gandhi, a member of the selection committee alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, shared his dissent note on social media platform X.

"It is both disrespectful and discourteous for the PM and HM to make a midnight decision on selecting the new CEC when the committee's composition and the appointment process are under Supreme Court scrutiny and set to be heard in less than 48 hours," he wrote.

## 'Disrespectful' to appoint CEC at midnight, says Rahul

### राहुल ने कहा, आधी रात को मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की नियुक्ति करना 'अपमानजनक'

**Rahul Gandhi Slams Appointment of New Chief Election Commissioner**  
राहुल गांधी ने नए मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की नियुक्ति पर किया हमला

• The **Leader of the Opposition (LoP)** in the **Lok Sabha**, **Rahul Gandhi**, on Tuesday slammed the midnight appointment of **Gyanesh Kumar** as the new **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)**, calling it "**discourteous and disrespectful**" amid an ongoing **Supreme Court challenge** to the selection process and committee composition.

लोक सभा में विपक्ष के नेता (LoP), राहुल गांधी, ने मंगलवार को ग्यानेश कुमार को नए मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) के रूप में मध्यरात्रि में नियुक्ति की आलोचना करते हुए इसे "अवमाननापूर्ण और असम्मानजनक" कहा, जबकि इस चयन प्रक्रिया और समिति की संरचना को लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनौती चल रही है।

• **Mr. Gandhi**, a member of the **selection committee** alongside **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, shared his dissent note on social media platform **X**.

श्री गांधी, जो चयन समिति के सदस्य हैं, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह के साथ, ने अपनी असहमति की नोट सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X पर साझा की।

• "It is both disrespectful and discourteous for the **PM** and **HM** to make a midnight decision on selecting the new **CEC** when the committee's composition and the appointment process are under **Supreme Court scrutiny** and set to be heard in less than **48 hours**," he wrote.

"यह प्रधानमंत्री (PM) और गृह मंत्री (HM) के लिए मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) का चयन करते समय चयन समिति की संरचना और नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को सुप्रीम कोर्ट की निगरानी में रखकर और इसे 48 घंटों से कम समय में सुनवाई के लिए निर्धारित करके मध्यरात्रि में निर्णय लेना दोनों ही अवमाननापूर्ण और असम्मानजनक है," उन्होंने लिखा।



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CONTACT: 9971932488



GS Paper II: Elections

## Time and timing

The validity of the CEC selection process needs early adjudication

Once again, the manner of appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (EC) has become controversial, with the government going ahead with the process laid down in its December 2023 law, which is under challenge before the Supreme Court. Last week, the Court had deferred the hearing to February 19, while observing that if there was any development in the interregnum, it would meet the consequences of a subsequent decision on the validity of the Act. Ignoring a request from the Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Rahul Gandhi, the panel elevated Gyanesh Kumar as the CEC and inducted Vivek Joshi as the third member, following the retirement of CEC Rajiv Kumar. The question is whether the Act of 2023 goes against a 2022 Constitution Bench verdict that put in place a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the LoP and the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to select the persons to helm the Election Commission of India (ECI). The Act, however, includes a Union Minister in the committee instead of the CJI. The government argues that the Court's panel was only an ad hoc measure until Parliament came forward with its own law, as required in the Constitution. The petitioners maintain that the thrust of the 2022 judgment is that the appointment process should be insulated from executive interference so that its functioning will be truly independent.

Whether the CJI should be part of the selection committee is debatable, but there is little doubt that the 2:1 majority vested in the executive renders any selection vulnerable to the criticism that those chosen in that manner would not be seen as independent. The BJP-led government has been making appointments in the midst of court hearings. The Court has been declining to interfere in time, leading to such appointments becoming a fait accompli. The government had appointed Arun Goel as an EC in 2022, in the middle of the Constitution Bench hearing, and two ECs in March 2024 in the run-up to the general election to replace Mr. Goel, who had resigned, and another EC who had retired. Few will disagree that the public perception of the ECI as a fearless and fiercely independent institution has been on the decline. If elections are to be seen as free and fair by the whole electorate and not merely followers of the winners, the Court should not delay this matter any further. It has to adjudicate the question of whether the procedure set out in the law falls short of the level of independence envisaged in the Constitution Bench verdict for members of the ECI.

## Time and timing

### समय और समय

The validity of the CEC selection process needs early adjudication

सीईसी चयन प्रक्रिया की वैधता पर शीघ्र निर्णय की आवश्यकता है

### Controversy Over Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner

#### मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की नियुक्ति पर विवाद

Once again, the manner of appointment of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and **Election Commissioners (EC)** has become controversial, with the government going ahead with the process laid down in its **December 2023 law**, which is under challenge before the **Supreme Court**.

एक बार फिर, **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC)** और **चुनाव आयुक्तों (EC)** की नियुक्ति का तरीका विवादास्पद बन गया है, सरकार ने **दिसंबर 2023 के कानून** के तहत प्रक्रिया को आगे बढ़ाया है, जिसे **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में चुनौती दी गई है।

Last week, the Court had deferred the hearing to **February 19**, while observing that if there was any development in the interregnum, it would meet the consequences of a subsequent decision on the **validity of the Act**.

पिछले सप्ताह, अदालत ने **19 फरवरी** तक सुनवाई स्थगित कर दी थी, जबकि यह कहा था कि यदि इस दौरान कोई विकास होता है, तो वह **कानून की वैधता** पर बाद में लिए गए निर्णय के परिणामों का सामना करेगा।

Ignoring a request from the **Leader of the Opposition (LoP)**, **Rahul Gandhi**, the panel elevated **Gyanesh Kumar** as the **CEC** and inducted **Vivek Joshi** as the third member, following the retirement of CEC **Rajiv Kumar**.

**विपक्ष के नेता (LoP), राहुल गांधी** के अनुरोध को नजरअंदाज करते हुए, पैनल ने **ग्यानेश कुमार** को **CEC** के रूप में नियुक्त किया और **विवेक जोशी** को तीसरे सदस्य के रूप में शामिल किया, **CEC राजीव कुमार** के सेवानिवृत्त होने के बाद।

The question is whether the **Act of 2023** goes against a **2022 Constitution Bench** verdict that put in place a committee comprising the **Prime Minister**, the **LoP**, and the **Chief Justice of**

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

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

Contact Number : 9971932488

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



**India (CJI)** to select the persons to helm the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.  
सवाल यह है कि क्या **2023 का कानून 2022 के संविधान पीठ** के फैसले के खिलाफ है, जिसने **प्रधानमंत्री, LoP, और भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI)** की एक समिति बनाई थी, जो **भारत चुनाव आयोग (ECI)** के प्रमुखों का चयन करेगी।

- The **Act**, however, includes a **Union Minister** in the committee instead of the **CJI**. हालांकि, **कानून में CJI** के बजाय समिति में **केंद्रीय मंत्री** को शामिल किया गया है।
- The government argues that the Court's panel was only an ad hoc measure until Parliament came forward with its own law, as required in the **Constitution**. सरकार का तर्क है कि अदालत की समिति केवल अस्थायी उपाय थी जब तक कि संसद अपने स्वयं के कानून के साथ सामने नहीं आती, जैसा कि **संविधान में** आवश्यक है।
- The petitioners maintain that the thrust of the **2022 judgment** is that the **appointment process** should be insulated from executive interference so that its functioning will be truly independent.

याचिकाकर्ताओं का कहना है कि **2022 के फैसले** का मुख्य उद्देश्य यह था कि **नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया** को कार्यपालिका के हस्तक्षेप से बचाया जाना चाहिए ताकि इसका कार्य स्वतंत्र रूप से हो सके।

- Whether the **CJI** should be part of the **selection committee** is debatable, but there is little doubt that the **2:1 majority** vested in the executive renders any selection vulnerable to the criticism that those chosen in that manner would not be seen as independent.

यह बहस का विषय है कि क्या **CJI** को **चयन समिति** का हिस्सा होना चाहिए, लेकिन इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि **2:1 बहुमत** जो कार्यपालिका को दिया गया है, किसी भी चयन को इस आलोचना के प्रति संवेदनशील बनाता है कि उस तरीके से चुने गए लोग स्वतंत्र नहीं माने जाएंगे।

- The **BJP-led government** has been making appointments in the midst of court hearings. **बीजेपी-नेतृत्व वाली सरकार** अदालत की सुनवाई के बीच नियुक्तियाँ कर रही है।
- The Court has been declining to interfere in time, leading to such appointments becoming a **fait accompli**. अदालत समय रहते हस्तक्षेप करने से इनकार कर रही है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ऐसी नियुक्तियाँ **फैट एकोम्प्ली** बन जाती हैं।

- The government had appointed **Arun Goel** as an **EC** in **2022**, in the middle of the **Constitution Bench hearing**, and two **ECs** in **March 2024** in the run-up to the **general election** to replace Mr. Goel, who had resigned, and another EC who had retired. सरकार ने **2022 में अरुण गोयल** को **EC** नियुक्त किया था, **संविधान पीठ की सुनवाई** के बीच, और **मार्च 2024** में दो **ECs** को नियुक्त किया था **सामान्य चुनाव** के निकट, ताकि श्री गोयल, जिन्होंने इस्तीफा दे दिया था, और एक अन्य **EC** जिन्होंने सेवानिवृत्त हो गए थे, को बदला जा सके।

- Few will disagree that the **public perception** of the **ECI** as a **fearless and fiercely independent institution** has been on the decline.

कुछ ही लोग इस बात से असहमत होंगे कि **ECI** के बारे में **सार्वजनिक धारणा** एक **निर्भीक और दृढ़ स्वतंत्र संस्था** के रूप में घट रही है।

- If elections are to be seen as **free and fair** by the whole electorate and not merely followers of the winners, the **Court** should not delay this matter any further.



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CONTACT: 9971932488



अगर चुनाव को पूरे मतदाता वर्ग द्वारा **मुक्त और निष्पक्ष** के रूप में देखा जाना है, न कि केवल विजेताओं के अनुयायियों द्वारा, तो **अदालत** को इस मामले में और देर नहीं करनी चाहिए।

- It has to adjudicate the question of whether the **procedure** set out in the **law** falls short of the level of **independence** envisaged in the **Constitution Bench verdict** for members of the **ECI**.

इसे यह निर्णय करना होगा कि क्या **कानून** में निर्धारित **प्रक्रिया संविधान पीठ के फैसले** में निर्धारित **स्वतंत्रता** के स्तर से कम है जो **ECI** के सदस्यों के लिए है।

GS Paper II: Education

## Eroding federalism

Central funding for States in education should be delinked from the NEP

**B**y withholding Tamil Nadu's central share of Samagra Shiksha funds for rejecting the **National Education Policy (NEP 2020)**, the Union Government is flexing its muscles to coerce States into submission. This move also undermines the intent of the **Samagra Shiksha scheme (2018-19)**, which consolidated the **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and Teacher Education programmes**. The scheme was designed to ensure equitable access to quality education for all schoolchildren. Since last year, Tamil Nadu has repeatedly flagged the **non-disbursal of ₹2,152 crore**, warning that the funding shortfall has severely strained its school education infrastructure, affecting nearly **40 lakh students and 32,000 staff members**. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has explicitly blamed the State for the impasse, declaring that the funds will be released only if Tamil Nadu implements the NEP in "letter and spirit". Adding fuel to the fire, he has insisted that the State adopt the three-language formula, mandating Tamil, English, and a regional language in schools. This stance disregards Tamil Nadu's long-standing opposition to the trilingual system, dating back to 1937, and its firm commitment to a two-language policy of Tamil and English since 1968. Going a step further, Mr. Pradhan has accused Tamil Nadu's leadership of being divisive and politically motivated. He even suggested that the State needs to "come to terms with the Indian Constitution" and adhere to the "rule of law", implying, quite unwarrantedly, that the State was not being run in line with the statute.

Unsurprisingly, the response in Tamil Nadu has been swift and sharp, especially on the language issue, which remains non-negotiable for most political parties in the State. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has rightly questioned which constitutional provision mandates the three-language policy and warned that such blatant coercion will not be tolerated. While the NEP claims it does not "impose Hindi", successive Union Governments have, until now, respected Tamil Nadu's autonomy over its language policy. Policies governing subjects in the Concurrent List of the Constitution require flexibility and dialogue to ensure successful implementation across diverse regions. A rigid, one-size-fits-all approach risks undermining cooperative federalism and fostering resentment among States, which are equal stakeholders in central schemes. A more pragmatic approach would be to delink Samagra Shiksha and the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme from the NEP and instead tie funding to generic performance indicators. At the same time, Tamil Nadu would do well to finalise and roll out its long-pending State Education Policy as a viable alternative to the NEP, ensuring academic continuity and stability for its students.

## Eroding federalism

### संघवाद का क्षरण

**Central funding for States in education should be delinked from the NEP**

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में राज्यों को मिलने वाले केंद्रीय वित्त पोषण को एनईपी से अलग किया जाना चाहिए

**Withholding of Samagra Shiksha Funds in Tamil Nadu तमिलनाडु में समग्र शिक्षा फंड का निलंबन**

- By withholding **Tamil Nadu's central share of Samagra Shiksha funds** for rejecting the **National Education Policy (NEP 2020)**, the **Union Government** is flexing its muscles to coerce States into submission.

**तमिलनाडु के केंद्रीय हिस्से के समग्र शिक्षा फंड को राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP 2020) को अस्वीकार करने पर केंद्र सरकार राज्य सरकारों को दबाव में लाने के लिए अपनी ताकत दिखा रही है।**

- This move also undermines the intent of the **Samagra Shiksha scheme (2018-19)**, which consolidated the **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and Teacher Education programmes**.

**यह कदम समग्र शिक्षा योजना (2018-19) के उद्देश्य को भी कमजोर करता है, जिसने सर्व शिक्षा अभियान, राष्ट्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा अभियान, और शिक्षक शिक्षा कार्यक्रमों को एकजुट किया था।**

- The scheme was designed to ensure **equitable access to quality education** for all schoolchildren.

**इस योजना का उद्देश्य सभी स्कूल बच्चों के लिए गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा तक समान पहुंच सुनिश्चित करना था।**

- Since last year, Tamil Nadu has repeatedly flagged the **non-disbursal of ₹2,152 crore**, warning that the **funding shortfall** has severely strained its school education infrastructure, affecting nearly **40 lakh students and 32,000 staff members**.

**staff members.**

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

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

Contact Number : 9971932488

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



पिछले साल से, तमिलनाडु ने ₹2,152 करोड़ के न वितरित होने का लगातार मुद्दा उठाया है, और चेतावनी दी है कि फंड की कमी ने इसकी स्कूल शिक्षा संरचना को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित किया है, जिससे लगभग 40 लाख छात्र और 32,000 कर्मचारी सदस्य प्रभावित हुए हैं।

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** has explicitly blamed the State for the **impasse**, declaring that the funds will be released only if Tamil Nadu implements the **NEP** in "letter and spirit".

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने राज्य को गतिरोध के लिए स्पष्ट रूप से जिम्मेदार ठहराया है, यह घोषणा करते हुए कि फंड तभी जारी किए जाएंगे यदि तमिलनाडु **NEP** को "शब्द और भावना" में लागू करता है।

- Adding fuel to the fire, he has insisted that the State adopt the **three-language formula**, mandating **Tamil, English**, and a **regional language** in schools.
- This stance disregards Tamil Nadu's long-standing opposition to the **trilingual system**, dating back to **1937**, and its firm commitment to a **two-language policy** of **Tamil and English** since **1968**.

आग में घी डालते हुए, उन्होंने राज्य से **तीन-भाषा सूत्र** को अपनाने की मांग की है, जिसमें स्कूलों में **तमिल, अंग्रेजी**, और एक **क्षेत्रीय भाषा** अनिवार्य होगी। यह रुख तमिलनाडु के **तीन-भाषा प्रणाली** के प्रति **1937** से चले आ रहे विरोध को नज़रअंदाज करता है, और **1968** से **तमिल और अंग्रेजी** की **दो-भाषा नीति** के प्रति इसकी मजबूत प्रतिबद्धता को नजरअंदाज करता है।

- Going a step further, **Mr. Pradhan** has accused Tamil Nadu's leadership of being **divisive** and **politically motivated**.
- He even suggested that the State needs to "come to terms with the **Indian Constitution**" and adhere to the "**rule of law**", implying, quite unwarrantedly, that the State was not being run in line with the statute.
- Unsurprisingly, the response in Tamil Nadu has been swift and sharp, especially on the **language issue**, which remains non-negotiable for most political parties in the State.

एक कदम और आगे बढ़ते हुए, **श्री प्रधान** ने तमिलनाडु की नेतृत्व पर **विभाजनकारी** और **राजनीतिक रूप से प्रेरित** होने का आरोप लगाया है। उन्होंने यह भी सुझाव दिया कि राज्य को **भारतीय संविधान** के साथ "सौहार्द्रपूर्ण संबंध स्थापित करने" की आवश्यकता है और **कानून के शासन** का पालन करना चाहिए, यह परोक्ष रूप से यह implying किया कि राज्य को कानून के अनुरूप नहीं चलाया जा रहा है।

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** has rightly questioned which **constitutional provision** mandates the **three-language policy** and warned that such blatant coercion will not be tolerated.

जैसा कि अपेक्षित था, तमिलनाडु में प्रतिक्रिया तेज और तीव्र रही है, विशेष रूप से **भाषा मुद्दे** पर, जो राज्य के अधिकांश राजनीतिक दलों के लिए **नसिबी** है।

**मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन** ने सही रूप से सवाल किया है कि कौन सा **संविधानिक प्रावधान** **तीन-भाषा नीति** को अनिवार्य करता है और चेतावनी दी है कि ऐसी स्पष्ट दबाव डालने की कोशिशों को सहन नहीं किया जाएगा।

- While the **NEP** claims it does not "impose **Hindi**", successive **Union Governments** have, until now, respected Tamil Nadu's **autonomy** over its **language policy**.



जबकि **NEP** यह दावा करता है कि वह "हिंदी नहीं थोपता", अब तक लगातार **केंद्र सरकारों** ने तमिलनाडु की **भाषा नीति** पर **स्वायत्तता** का सम्मान किया है।

- Policies governing subjects in the **Concurrent List** of the Constitution require **flexibility** and **dialogue** to ensure successful implementation across diverse regions. संविधान की **संविधान सूची** में विषयों को नियंत्रित करने वाली नीतियों को विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में सफल कार्यान्वयन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **लचीलापन** और **संवाद** की आवश्यकता होती है।
- A rigid, **one-size-fits-all approach** risks undermining **cooperative federalism** and fostering resentment among **States**, which are **equal stakeholders** in central schemes. एक कठोर, **एक आकार सभी के लिए उपयुक्त दृष्टिकोण सहकारी संघवाद** को कमजोर करने और **राज्यों** में नाराजगी बढ़ाने का जोखिम उठाता है, जो केंद्रीय योजनाओं में **समान हितधारक** हैं।
- A more **pragmatic approach** would be to delink **Samagra Shiksha** and the **Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)** scheme from the **NEP** and instead tie funding to **generic performance indicators**. एक अधिक **व्यावहारिक दृष्टिकोण** यह होगा कि **समग्र शिक्षा** और **प्रधानमंत्री स्कूल फॉर राइजिंग इंडिया (PM SHRI)** योजना को **NEP** से अलग किया जाए और इसके बजाय **सामान्य प्रदर्शन संकेतकों** से फंडिंग को जोड़ा जाए।
- At the same time, **Tamil Nadu** would do well to finalise and roll out its long-pending **State Education Policy** as a **viable alternative** to the **NEP**, ensuring **academic continuity** and **stability** for its students.

साथ ही, **तमिलनाडु** को अपनी लंबित **राज्य शिक्षा नीति** को अंतिम रूप देने और लागू करने में सफलता मिलेगी, जो **NEP** के लिए **व्यावहारिक विकल्प** के रूप में काम करेगी, इसके द्वारा अपने छात्रों के लिए **शैक्षिक निरंतरता** और **स्थिरता** सुनिश्चित की जा सकेगी।



# What is the 'rarest of rare' doctrine?

What was the sentence meted out to the accused in the R.G. Kar Medical College case and the Sharon murder case? How were they different from each other? Is the death penalty constitutionally valid? In what circumstances can the death sentence be given and does judicial discretion play a part in it?

GS Paper II: FRs

## EXPLAINER

Smriti S.

### The story so far:

**O**n January 22, two separate murder convictions resulted in sharply contrasting verdicts, highlighting how the Indian courts apply the death penalty. While one case led to capital punishment, the other saw the accused sentenced to life imprisonment, reigniting questions about the judiciary's approach to the 'rarest of rare' doctrine, which till now does not have a statutory definition.

### What were the cases?

On August 9, 2024, a second-year female postgraduate trainee doctor, who was on duty, was raped and murdered inside a seminar room at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer, was arrested and convicted on January 20, based on forensic evidence linking him to the crime. During sentencing, the Additional district and sessions judge said, "this doesn't fall into the category of rarest of rare" crimes, and Roy was sentenced to life imprisonment with a fine.

In contrast, the Sharon murder case, did invite the death penalty, the courts decided. Sharon Raj, a 23-year-old student from Kerala, was poisoned on October 14, 2022 by his partner, Greeshma, who mixed poison in an Ayurvedic concoction that she offered him to drink. Eleven days later, Sharon succumbed to multiple organ failures. The Neyyattinkara Additional Sessions Court, imposed the death penalty, and classified it as one of the "rarest of rare" cases.

### What are the origins of the doctrine?

The debate on the discretion given to judges to award the death sentence dates back to 1972, when the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty in *Jagmohan Singh versus State of U.P.* The petitioner argued that the death



**In rage:** Junior doctors raise slogans in protest against the alleged rape and murder of a woman medic at the R.G Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata, on October 30, 2024. PTI

sentence puts an end to all fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 19 and, therefore, the law with regard to the capital sentence is unreasonable and not in the interest of the general public. He also pointed out that judges have no clear guidelines for deciding between the death penalty and life imprisonment, which he believes is an unfair delegation of power. Lastly, he argued that the lack of clear rules for judges violates Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law.

However, the court disagreed, explaining that the accused is aware of the potential for a death sentence, and during the trial, all relevant facts, including mitigating circumstances, are considered. The court dismissed the appeal and affirmed the death sentence was constitutional under Article 21. At this

stage, there were no clear guidelines on when the death penalty should be used, which meant judges had wide discretion to decide.

In 1980, the Supreme Court in *Bachan Singh versus State of Punjab*, established the 'rarest of rare' doctrine, marking a turning point. A five-judge Bench heard the case, and held that the death penalty should be used only in exceptional cases. However, it did not embellish what the 'rarest of rare' meant, leading to further confusion. It was finally in *Machhi Singh versus State of Punjab* (1983), that the Supreme Court provided a framework for the 'rarest of rare' doctrine.

The court identified five categories of crimes where such a punishment is justified.

The criteria are – a) manner of committing the murder; when the murder

is committed in an extremely brutal and dastardly manner so as to arouse extreme indignation within the community, b) motive of the murder; when the murder is committed for a motive which reveals total depravity, c) socially abhorrent nature of the crime; that is when a murder occurs of someone belonging to a minority community and is committed not for personal reasons but in circumstances which arouse social wrath, d) magnitude of the crime, and e) personality of the offender; when the victim of murder is a child, a helpless woman, a person rendered helpless by old age or infirmity etc.

### Were there any revisions?

Despite the framework set in *Machhi Singh versus State of Punjab*, the Supreme Court in 1983, in *Mithu versus State of Punjab*, struck down Section 303 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which prescribed mandatory death penalty for anyone who commits murder while serving a life sentence. The court ruled that it was against Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. Hence, all the cases regarding murder shall be dealt with as per Section 302 of the IPC which says whoever commits murder shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to a fine.

In September 2022, the Supreme Court, referred to a Constitution Bench on the question of how to provide a "meaningful, real and effective" hearing on mitigating circumstances in cases that attract the death penalty. When this is *suo motu* taken up, the court may set out a uniform approach to giving an opportunity to the accused to present mitigating circumstances in the trial stage itself before their crime is deemed one which is "rarest of rare".

The application of the death penalty in India remains complex and controversial. While the Supreme Court has given a certain framework, the unclear, universally agreed-upon definition for what qualifies as 'rarest of rare' continues to leave room for judicial discretion.

## THE GIST

On January 22, two separate murder convictions resulted in sharply contrasting verdicts, highlighting how the Indian courts apply the death penalty.

The debate on the discretion given to judges to award the death sentence dates back to 1972, when the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty in *Jagmohan Singh versus State of U.P.*

In 1980, the Supreme Court in *Bachan Singh versus State of Punjab*, established the 'rarest of rare' doctrine. A five-judge Bench heard the case, and held that the death penalty should be used only in exceptional cases. However, it did not embellish what the 'rarest of rare' meant, leading to further confusion.

## What is the 'rarest of rare' doctrine?

## 'दुर्लभतम' सिद्धांत क्या है?

What was the sentence meted out to the accused in the R.G. Kar Medical College case and the Sharon murder case? How were they different from each other? Is the death penalty constitutionally valid? In what circumstances can the death sentence be given and does judicial discretion play a part in it?



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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



आर.जी. कर मेडिकल कॉलेज मामले और शेरोन हत्या मामले में अभियुक्तों को क्या सज़ा सुनाई गई? वे एक दूसरे से किस तरह अलग थे? क्या मृत्युदंड संवैधानिक रूप से वैध है? किन परिस्थितियों में मृत्युदंड दिया जा सकता है और क्या इसमें न्यायिक विवेक की भूमिका होती है?

### Contrasting Murder Verdicts Highlight Death Penalty Application

हत्या के विपरीत फैसले मृत्यु दंड के आवेदन को उजागर करते हैं

- On **January 22**, two separate **murder convictions** resulted in sharply contrasting **verdicts**, highlighting how the **Indian courts** apply the **death penalty**.  
22 जनवरी को दो अलग-अलग हत्या दोषसिद्धियों के परिणामस्वरूप तीव्र विपरीत फैसले आए, जो यह दर्शाते हैं कि भारतीय न्यायालय मृत्युदंड को कैसे लागू करते हैं।
- While one case led to **capital punishment**, the other saw the accused sentenced to **life imprisonment**, reigniting questions about the judiciary's approach to the '**rarest of rare**' doctrine, which till now does not have a **statutory definition**.  
जहां एक मामले में मृत्युदंड हुआ, वहीं दूसरे मामले में आरोपी को जीवनभर की सजा सुनाई गई, जिससे न्यायपालिका के 'सबसे दुर्लभ' सिद्धांत के प्रति सवाल उठने लगे, जिसका अब तक कोई कानूनी परिभाषा नहीं है।

### What were the cases?

यह मामले क्या थे?

- On **August 9, 2024**, a **second-year female postgraduate trainee doctor**, who was on duty, was **raped and murdered** inside a seminar room at **Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital**.  
9 अगस्त 2024 को एक दूसरे वर्ष की महिला पोस्टग्रेजुएट प्रशिक्षु डॉक्टर, जो ड्यूटी पर थी, को कोलकाता के आर.जी. कर मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल के एक सेमिनार रूम में बलात्कार और हत्या कर दी गई।
- **Sanjay Roy**, a civic volunteer, was arrested and convicted on **January 20**, based on **forensic evidence** linking him to the crime.  
संजय रॉय, एक नागरिक स्वयंसेवक, को 20 जनवरी को फॉरेंसिक साक्ष्य के आधार पर गिरफ्तार और दोषी ठहराया गया, जिसने उसे अपराध से जोड़ा।
- During sentencing, the **Additional District and Sessions Judge** said, "this doesn't fall into the category of **rarest of rare** crimes," and Roy was sentenced to **life imprisonment** with a fine.  
सजा के दौरान, अतिरिक्त जिला और सत्र न्यायाधीश ने कहा, "यह सबसे दुर्लभ अपराधों की श्रेणी में नहीं आता," और रॉय को जीवनभर की सजा और जुर्माने से दंडित किया गया।
- In contrast, the **Sharon murder case**, did invite the **death penalty**, the courts decided.  
इसके विपरीत, शारोन हत्या मामले में मृत्युदंड सुनाया गया, यह निर्णय न्यायालयों ने लिया।
- **Sharon Raj**, a **23-year-old student** from **Kerala**, was poisoned on **October 14, 2022** by his partner, **Greeshma**, who mixed poison in an Ayurvedic concoction that she offered him to drink.

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

**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**

**Contact Number : 9971932488**

**Website : patrioticias.in**



शारोन राज, एक 23 वर्षीय छात्र केरल से, को 14 अक्टूबर 2022 को उसकी साथी ग्रीष्मा ने जहर देकर मार डाला, जिसने एक आयुर्वेदिक मिश्रण में जहर मिलाया था और उसे पीने के लिए दिया था।

- Eleven days later, Sharon succumbed to **multiple organ failures**. ग्यारह दिन बाद, शारोन कई अंगों की विफलता के कारण मर गया।
- The **Neyyattinkara Additional Sessions Court**, imposed the **death penalty**, and classified it as one of the “**rarest of rare**” cases.

नेयट्टिकारा अतिरिक्त सत्र न्यायालय ने मृत्युदंड लागू किया, और इसे “सबसे दुर्लभ” मामलों में से एक के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया।

### What are the origins of the doctrine?

#### सिद्धान्त की उत्पत्ति क्या है?

- The debate on the **discretion** given to judges to award the **death sentence** dates back to **1972**, when the **Supreme Court** upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty in **Jagmohan Singh versus State of U.P.**  
न्यायाधीशों को मृत्युदंड देने का विकल्प देने पर बहस 1972 से शुरू होती है, जब सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जगमोहन सिंह बनाम राज्य उत्तर प्रदेश में मृत्युदंड की संवैधानिकता को बरकरार रखा।
- The petitioner argued that the **death sentence** puts an end to all **fundamental rights** guaranteed under **Article 19**, and, therefore, the law with regard to the **capital sentence** is unreasonable and not in the interest of the general public.  
याचिकाकर्ता ने तर्क किया कि मृत्युदंड अनुच्छेद 19 के तहत सभी मूल अधिकारों को समाप्त कर देता है, और इसलिए, मृत्युदंड से संबंधित कानून अव्यावहारिक है और सार्वजनिक हित में नहीं है।
- He also pointed out that judges have no **clear guidelines** for deciding between the **death penalty** and **life imprisonment**, which he believes is an unfair delegation of power.  
उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि न्यायाधीशों के पास मृत्युदंड और जीवनभर की सजा के बीच निर्णय लेने के लिए स्पष्ट दिशानिर्देश नहीं हैं, जिसे उनका मानना है कि यह शक्ति का असमान वितरण है।
- Lastly, he argued that the lack of **clear rules** for judges violates **Article 14** of the **Constitution**, which guarantees **equality before the law**.  
अंत में, उन्होंने यह तर्क दिया कि न्यायाधीशों के लिए स्पष्ट नियमों की कमी संविधान के अनुच्छेद 14 का उल्लंघन करती है, जो कानून के समक्ष समानता की गारंटी देता है।
- However, the court disagreed, explaining that the accused is aware of the potential for a **death sentence**, and during the trial, all relevant facts, including **mitigating circumstances**, are considered.  
हालांकि, अदालत ने असहमत होते हुए कहा कि आरोपी मृत्युदंड की संभावना से अवगत होता है, और मुकदमे के दौरान सभी संबंधित तथ्यों, जिसमें कम करने वाली परिस्थितियाँ भी शामिल हैं, पर विचार किया जाता है।
- The court dismissed the appeal and affirmed the **death sentence** was constitutional under **Article 21**.  
अदालत ने याचिका खारिज कर दी और मृत्युदंड को अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत संवैधानिक घोषित किया।
- At this stage, there were no **clear guidelines** on when the **death penalty** should be used, which meant judges had **wide discretion** to decide.



इस चरण में, मृत्युदंड का उपयोग कब किया जाना चाहिए, इस पर कोई स्पष्ट दिशानिर्देश नहीं थे, जिसका मतलब था कि न्यायाधीशों को निर्णय लेने के लिए व्यापक विकल्प था।

### Supreme Court's Establishment of the 'Rarest of Rare' Doctrine सुप्रीम कोर्ट का 'सबसे दुर्लभ' सिद्धांत की स्थापना

- In 1980, the Supreme Court in **Bachan Singh versus State of Punjab**, established the 'rarest of rare' doctrine, marking a turning point.  
1980 में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बचन सिंह बनाम राज्य पंजाब मामले में 'सबसे दुर्लभ' सिद्धांत की स्थापना की, जो एक मोड़ साबित हुआ।
- A five-judge Bench heard the case, and held that the death penalty should be used only in exceptional cases.  
एक पाँच सदस्यीय पीठ ने मामले की सुनवाई की, और कहा कि मृत्युदंड का उपयोग केवल विशेष मामलों में किया जाना चाहिए।
- However, it did not embellish what the 'rarest of rare' meant, leading to further confusion.  
हालांकि, इसने 'सबसे दुर्लभ' का क्या मतलब है, इसे स्पष्ट नहीं किया, जिससे और अधिक गड़बड़ी हुई।
- It was finally in **Machhi Singh versus State of Punjab (1983)**, that the Supreme Court provided a framework for the 'rarest of rare' doctrine.  
अंत में मच्छी सिंह बनाम राज्य पंजाब (1983) में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 'सबसे दुर्लभ' सिद्धांत के लिए एक ढांचा प्रदान किया।
- The court identified five categories of crimes where such a punishment is justified.  
अदालत ने पाँच श्रेणियों की अपराधों की पहचान की, जहाँ इस तरह की सजा उचित है।

#### The criteria are — मानदंड हैं —

- a) **Manner of committing the murder**; when the murder is committed in an extremely brutal and dastardly manner so as to arouse extreme indignation within the community,  
a) हत्या करने का तरीका; जब हत्या अत्यधिक क्रूर और नीच तरीके से की जाती है जिससे समुदाय में अत्यधिक आक्रोश उत्पन्न हो।
- b) **Motive of the murder**; when the murder is committed for a motive which reveals total depravity,  
b) हत्या का उद्देश्य; जब हत्या ऐसे उद्देश्य के लिए की जाती है जो पूर्ण भ्रष्टता को उजागर करती है।
- c) **Socially abhorrent nature of the crime**; that is when a murder occurs of someone belonging to a minority community and is committed not for personal reasons but in circumstances which arouse social wrath,  
c) अपराध की सामाजिक निंदा योग्य प्रकृति; अर्थात् जब किसी न्यूनतम समुदाय के व्यक्ति की हत्या होती है और यह व्यक्तिगत कारणों के लिए नहीं, बल्कि उन परिस्थितियों में की जाती है जो सामाजिक क्रोध उत्पन्न करती हैं।



- d) **Magnitude of the crime**, and  
d) अपराध का पैमाना, और
- e) **Personality of the offender**; when the victim of murder is a **child**, a **helpless woman**, a person rendered helpless by **old age or infirmity**, etc.  
e) अपराधी का व्यक्तित्व; जब हत्या का शिकार बच्चा, निर्बल महिला, बुजुर्गता या शारीरिक कमजोरी से अक्षम व्यक्ति आदि हो।

Were there any revisions?

क्या कोई संशोधन हुए थे?

- Despite the framework set in **Machhi Singh versus State of Punjab**, the **Supreme Court** in **1983**, in **Mithu versus State of Punjab**, struck down **Section 303** of the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, which prescribed mandatory **death penalty** for anyone who commits murder while serving a **life sentence**.  
मच्छी सिंह बनाम राज्य पंजाब में निर्धारित ढांचे के बावजूद, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 1983 में मिथु बनाम राज्य पंजाब में भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC) की धारा 303 को रद्द कर दिया, जिसमें किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति के लिए अनिवार्य मृत्युदंड की व्यवस्था थी जो जीवन भर की सजा काटते हुए हत्या करता है।
- The court ruled that it was against **Articles 14 and 21** of the **Constitution**.  
अदालत ने यह फैसला सुनाया कि यह संविधान के अनुच्छेद 14 और 21 के खिलाफ था।
- Hence, all the cases regarding murder shall be dealt with as per **Section 302 of the IPC**, which says whoever commits murder shall be punished with **death**, or **imprisonment for life**, and shall also be liable to a **fine**.  
इसलिए, हत्या से संबंधित सभी मामलों को IPC की धारा 302 के अनुसार निपटाया जाएगा, जिसमें कहा गया है कि जो कोई हत्या करेगा, उसे मृत्युदंड या जीवनभर की सजा दी जाएगी, और उसे जुर्माना भी होगा।
- In **September 2022**, the **Supreme Court**, referred to a **Constitution Bench** on the question of how to provide a "**meaningful, real and effective**" hearing on **mitigating circumstances** in cases that attract the **death penalty**.  
सितंबर 2022 में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने संविधान पीठ को यह प्रश्न भेजा कि मृत्युदंड के मामलों में कम करने वाली परिस्थितियों पर "अर्थपूर्ण, वास्तविक और प्रभावी" सुनवाई कैसे प्रदान की जाए।
- When this is **suo motu** taken up, the court may set out a **uniform approach** to giving an opportunity to the accused to present **mitigating circumstances** in the **trial stage** itself before their crime is deemed one which is "**rarest of rare**".  
जब इसे स्वयं द्वारा लिया जाएगा, तो अदालत एक समान दृष्टिकोण तय कर सकती है ताकि आरोपी को मुकदमे के चरण में ही कम करने वाली परिस्थितियाँ प्रस्तुत करने का अवसर दिया जाए, इससे पहले कि उनका अपराध "सबसे दुर्लभ" माना जाए।
- The application of the **death penalty** in **India** remains **complex** and **controversial**.  
भारत में मृत्युदंड का आवेदन जटिल और विवादास्पद बना हुआ है।



- While the **Supreme Court** has given a certain framework, the unclear, universally agreed-upon **definition** for what qualifies as '**rarest of rare**' continues to leave room for **judicial discretion**.

जबकि **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने एक निश्चित ढांचा दिया है, '**सबसे दुर्लभ**' के रूप में क्या योग्य है, इसके लिए अस्पष्ट, सार्वभौमिक रूप से सहमति प्राप्त **परिभाषा** अब भी **न्यायिक विकल्प** के लिए जगह छोड़ती है।

# Why are marriages in China on the decline?

Did the one-child policy play a role in the current population demography of China? How has the Communist Party of China and Xi Jinping tried to solve the crisis?

GS Paper II: Society  
Essay

## The story so far:

**T**here has been a major decline in the number of couples who are registering to marry in China. As per the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs, in 2024, across China, only 6.1 million couples registered, a drop of 20.3% compared to 2023 figures. This is the lowest number of registrations since 1986. As the general cost of living and urban unemployment has risen, with almost 44% of urban women not wanting to marry, marriages in China are declining.

## What is the problem?

While stand-alone this may not appear as a very pertinent challenge, coupled with the consistent decline in population, it gets compounded. China's population has been declining consistently for the last

three years and in 2022 the number of deaths exceeded birthrates. The primary reason for this is the one-child policy, introduced in the 1980s and implemented with great zeal. Chinese President Xi Jinping has tried to reverse the trend by introducing the two-child policy in 2016, which was later modified to a three-child policy in 2021. However, the policy shift has failed to have any major impact. Furthermore, the desire for a male child has led to an unbalanced sex-ratio as well.

## Does China have an ageing people?

The declining population has now become a demographic challenge for Mr. Xi. As a result of these policies, China has witnessed a steady decline in the number of working age people (19-59 years). People above 60 years make up 22% of the Chinese population today and maybe 50% by 2050. This has also intensified the pension pressure, as the Chinese

Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) predicts that the pension fund may run out by 2035. In order to postpone such reality, the government has increased the retirement age from 60 to 63 for men and to 55 for women. This would be a temporary solution because if the gap continues to rise, it will provide only a limited respite. The falling birthrates have also increased the demand for care giving and healthcare, while a lot of kindergartens have been shutting down.

The reducing population and the challenges which this leads to directly impacts the economic future and stability of the Chinese government. Even though the government has been attempting to lure people with financial support, the cost of raising a child is proving an insurmountable deterrent to the people.

**What is Chinese government doing?**  
Rather than accepting the reality of the

situation and its far-reaching impact, the Xi government is still attempting to resolve this with policies and diktats. Such an approach showcases that the government is still looking for ways to change ground realities with the help of top-down processes without acknowledging that these issues need to be accepted as social reality, and thus need people-centric solutions which echo with Chinese society today.

For example, while delivering a speech at the Women's Federation of China, Mr. Xi called on the women to, "actively cultivate a new culture of marriage and childbearing and strengthen guidance on young people's view on marriage, childbirth and family". This statement underscores the gap between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and society in China today. The CPC has a long history of interfering in the lives of Chinese women, with the most prominent example being the one-child policy. The CPC under Mr. Xi is still looking at ways to control and command society. It strongly believes that the people should undertake tasks which are commanded by the party with the premise that it knows what is best for the nation. These policies seem to be directed towards safeguarding the power of the party, and not to the needs of the larger society.

*Gunjan Singh is Associate Professor at OP Jindal Global University.*

## THE GIST

As per the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs, in 2024, across China, only 6.1 million couples registered, a drop of 20.3% compared to 2023 figures.

While stand-alone this may not appear as a very pertinent challenge, coupled with the consistent decline in population, it gets compounded.

China has witnessed a steady decline in the number of working age people (19-59 years). People above 60 years make up 22% of the Chinese population today and maybe 50% by 2050.

## Why are marriages in China on the decline?

## चीन में विवाह में गिरावट क्यों आ रही है?

Did the one-child policy play a role in the current population demography of China? How has the Communist Party of China and Xi Jinping tried to solve the crisis?

क्या चीन की वर्तमान जनसंख्या जनसांख्यिकी में एक-बच्चा नीति की कोई भूमिका है? चीन की कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी और शी जिनपिंग ने इस संकट को हल करने का क्या प्रयास किया है?

## Decline in the Number of Marriages in China

## चीन में विवाहों की संख्या में गिरावट



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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- There has been a major **decline** in the number of couples who are registering to marry in **China**.  
चीन में विवाह के लिए पंजीकरण कराने वाले जोड़ों की संख्या में एक बड़ी गिरावट आई है।
- As per the **Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs**, in **2024**, only **6.1 million couples** registered, a drop of **20.3%** compared to **2023** figures.  
चीनी नागरिक मामले मंत्रालय के अनुसार, **2024** में, केवल **6.1 मिलियन जोड़े** पंजीकरण कराए, जो **2023** के आंकड़ों की तुलना में **20.3%** की गिरावट है।
- This is the **lowest** number of registrations since **1986**.  
यह **1986** के बाद से पंजीकरण की **न्यूनतम** संख्या है।
- As the general **cost of living** and **urban unemployment** has risen, with almost **44%** of **urban women** not wanting to marry, marriages in **China** are declining.  
सामान्य जीवन यापन की लागत और शहरी बेरोज़गारी के बढ़ने के कारण, लगभग **44%** शहरी महिलाएं विवाह नहीं करना चाहती हैं, जिसके कारण चीन में विवाह घट रहे हैं।

### What is the problem?

#### समस्या क्या है?

- While stand-alone this may not appear as a very **pertinent** challenge, coupled with the consistent decline in **population**, it gets compounded.  
जबकि अकेले यह एक बहुत प्रासंगिक चुनौती नहीं लग सकती, लेकिन जनसंख्या में लगातार गिरावट के साथ यह जटिल हो जाती है।
- **China's population** has been declining consistently for the last **three years** and in **2022**, the number of **deaths** exceeded **birthrates**.  
चीन की जनसंख्या पिछले तीन सालों से लगातार घट रही है और **2022** में, मृत्यु दर ने जन्म दर को पार कर लिया।
- The primary reason for this is the **one-child policy**, introduced in the **1980s** and implemented with great zeal.  
इसका मुख्य कारण एक-child नीति है, जिसे **1980 के दशक** में पेश किया गया था और इसे बड़े उत्साह से लागू किया गया।
- **Chinese President Xi Jinping** has tried to reverse the trend by introducing the **two-child policy** in **2016**, which was later modified to a **three-child policy** in **2021**.  
चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग ने इस प्रवृत्ति को पलटने की कोशिश की है, **2016** में दो-child नीति पेश करके, जिसे बाद में **2021** में तीन-child नीति में बदला गया।
- However, the policy shift has failed to have any major **impact**.  
हालांकि, नीति में बदलाव का कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है।
- Furthermore, the desire for a **male child** has led to an **unbalanced sex-ratio** as well.  
इसके अलावा, पुरुष संतान की इच्छा ने लिंग अनुपात में भी असंतुलन उत्पन्न किया है।

### Does China have an ageing population?

#### क्या चीन में वृद्ध होती जनसंख्या है?



- The **declining population** has now become a **demographic challenge** for Mr. Xi. जनसंख्या में गिरावट अब श्री शी के लिए एक जनसांख्यिकीय चुनौती बन गई है।
- As a result of these policies, **China** has witnessed a steady decline in the number of **working age people (19-59 years)**. इन नीतियों के परिणामस्वरूप, चीन ने कामकाजी आयु के लोगों (19-59 वर्ष) की संख्या में लगातार गिरावट देखी है।
- People above **60 years** make up **22%** of the **Chinese population** today and may be **50%** by **2050**. 60 वर्ष से ऊपर के लोग आज चीन की जनसंख्या का 22% बनाते हैं और 2050 तक यह 50% हो सकते हैं।
- This has also intensified the **pension pressure**, as the **Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)** predicts that the **pension fund** may run out by **2035**. इससे पेंशन दबाव भी बढ़ गया है, क्योंकि चीनी सामाजिक विज्ञान अकादमी (CASS) का अनुमान है कि पेंशन कोष 2035 तक खत्म हो सकता है।
- In order to postpone such reality, the government has increased the **retirement age** from **60 to 63** for men and to **55** for women. ऐसी वास्तविकता को टालने के लिए सरकार ने पुरुषों के लिए रिटायरमेंट आयु को 60 से 63 और महिलाओं के लिए 55 कर दिया है।
- This would be a temporary solution because if the gap continues to rise, it will provide only a **limited respite**. यह एक अस्थायी समाधान होगा क्योंकि अगर यह अंतर बढ़ता रहा, तो यह केवल सीमित राहत प्रदान करेगा।
- The **falling birthrates** have also increased the demand for **care giving** and **healthcare**, while a lot of **kindergartens** have been shutting down. गिरती जन्म दरें ने देखभाल और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की मांग भी बढ़ा दी है, जबकि कई अंग्रेजी स्कूल बंद हो रहे हैं।
- The reducing population and the challenges which this leads to directly impact the **economic future** and **stability** of the **Chinese government**. घटती जनसंख्या और इससे उत्पन्न होने वाली चुनौतियाँ सीधे तौर पर चीनी सरकार के आर्थिक भविष्य और स्थिरता को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- Even though the government has been attempting to lure people with **financial support**, the cost of raising a child is proving an **insurmountable deterrent** to the people. हालांकि सरकार वित्तीय समर्थन के साथ लोगों को आकर्षित करने की कोशिश कर रही है, लेकिन एक बच्चे को पालने की लागत लोगों के लिए एक अतिक्रमण योग्य बाधा बन रही है।

### What is the Chinese government doing?

#### चीनी सरकार क्या कर रही है?

- Rather than accepting the reality of the situation and its far-reaching impact, the **Xi government** is still attempting to resolve this with **policies and diktats**.



स्थिति की वास्तविकता और इसके दूरगामी प्रभाव को स्वीकार करने के बजाय, **शी सरकार** अभी भी इसे **नीतियों और आदेशों** के साथ हल करने की कोशिश कर रही है।

- Such an approach showcases that the government is still looking for ways to change **ground realities** with the help of **top-down processes** without acknowledging that these issues need to be accepted as **social reality**, and thus need **people-centric solutions** which echo with **Chinese society** today.  
इस प्रकार की नीति यह दर्शाती है कि सरकार अभी भी **नीचे से ऊपर** प्रक्रियाओं की मदद से **भूमिकाओं की वास्तविकता** को बदलने के तरीकों की तलाश कर रही है, बिना यह स्वीकार किए कि इन मुद्दों को **सामाजिक वास्तविकता** के रूप में स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिए, और इसलिए **लोगों-केंद्रित समाधान** की आवश्यकता है जो आज की **चीनी समाज** के अनुरूप हों।
- For example, while delivering a speech at the **Women's Federation of China**, **Mr. Xi** called on the women to, "**actively cultivate a new culture of marriage and childbearing** and strengthen guidance on young people's view on marriage, childbirth, and family."  
उदाहरण के लिए, **चीन के महिला संघ** में भाषण देते हुए, **श्री शी** ने महिलाओं से कहा, "**विवाह और संतानोत्पत्ति की एक नई संस्कृति को सक्रिय रूप से बढ़ावा दें** और विवाह, संतानोत्पत्ति और परिवार पर युवा लोगों की दृष्टि को मजबूत करें।"
- This statement underscores the **gap** between the **Communist Party of China (CPC)** and society in **China** today.  
यह बयान आज के **चीनी समाज** और **चीन की कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी (CPC)** के बीच के अंतर को रेखांकित करता है।
- The **CPC** has a long history of interfering in the lives of **Chinese women**, with the most prominent example being the **one-child policy**.  
**CPC** का **चीनी महिलाओं** के जीवन में हस्तक्षेप करने का एक लंबा इतिहास है, जिसमें सबसे प्रमुख उदाहरण **एक-child नीति** है।
- The **CPC under Mr. Xi** is still looking at ways to **control** and **command society**.  
**श्री शी के तहत CPC** अभी भी **समाज को नियंत्रित और आज्ञा देना** के तरीके तलाश रही है।
- It strongly believes that the people should undertake tasks which are commanded by the party with the premise that it knows what is best for the nation.  
यह दृढ़ता से मानती है कि लोग उन कार्यों को करें जो पार्टी द्वारा आदेशित हों, यह मानते हुए कि यह जानती है कि राष्ट्र के लिए सबसे अच्छा क्या है।
- These policies seem to be directed towards safeguarding the **power of the party**, and not to the needs of the larger society.  
ये नीतियाँ **पार्टी की शक्ति** को सुरक्षित रखने की ओर निर्देशित होती दिखाई देती हैं, न कि बड़े समाज की आवश्यकताओं की ओर।



# ‘Trump’s plan for Gaza is unacceptable and completely inhumane’

Iranian Foreign Minister says he hopes all countries respect the rights of Palestinian people; India is in consultation with U.S. on sanctions, he adds

GS Paper II: Regional Groupings

INTERVIEW

**Abbas Araghchi**

**Suhasini Haidar**  
MUSCAT



How do you respond to the U.S. President’s proposal for Gaza, and was this part of your conversation as well?

This is something that all countries are speaking to each other about because it is a totally unbelievable and totally unacceptable proposal. It is completely inhumane and against the principles of international law to displace a whole people from their own homeland...send them to other places. We know that all Arab countries and all Islamic countries have a joint position, and we propose to speak in a united voice at an Organisation for Islamic Cooperation ministerial conference that is being convened soon. I have discussed this with everyone I have met, including the Indian Foreign Minister and we hope that all countries respect the rights of Palestinian people for self-determination.

Given India’s strong ties with the U.S., PM Modi’s recent visit to Washington, should India play a role on the issue?

That is up to India, right? Of course, Indians have always been very constructive and positive on international developments, and we appreciate any country, that plays any role, to help the Palestinian people.

terested to invest in this port and we are quite satisfied with the level of cooperation we have on this. We have a 10-year agreement with India, they had received waivers and were able to proceed on the port without facing any problems from the U.S.. To your question, I would say, first of all, we are not sure how much the situation has changed, it is not clear yet [whether sanctions will be rescinded]. We are still interested to work with our Indian friends, and it is up to them to work on this question [sanctions waiver], and we know that India is in close consultation with the U.S. on this.

When Mr. Trump was last in power, India cut all its oil imports from Iran, due to sanctions threats. Did you discuss the possibility of India resuming its oil intake?

It’s totally an Indian decision. We have enough customers for our oil.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean conference here on Sunday, spoke about Chabahar port and Trump’s Gaza proposal. Excerpts:

**Will the U.S. President’s decision to rescind or review sanctions waivers for Iran, specifically on Chabahar port, impact India-Iran cooperation, and did you discuss this with Mr. Jaishankar during your meeting in Muscat?**

Yes, we had a lengthy discussion with the Minister. Iran attaches great importance to its relations with India, it is a very old relationship. The case of Chabahar is not just between Iran and India. This is between Iran and the whole Indian Ocean Region. It connects the Indian Ocean Region to the Eurasian region through Iran and then from Eurasia to Europe. And this is a much faster and cheaper route using Iranian railroad.

This is why India is in-

**‘Trump’s plan for Gaza is unacceptable and completely inhumane’**

**‘गाजा के लिए ट्रम्प की योजना अस्वीकार्य और पूरी तरह से अमानवीय है’**

Iranian Foreign Minister says he hopes all countries respect the rights of Palestinian people; India is in consultation with U.S. on sanctions, he adds

ईरानी विदेश मंत्री ने कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि सभी देश फिलिस्तीनी लोगों के अधिकारों का सम्मान करेंगे; उन्होंने कहा कि भारत प्रतिबंधों पर अमेरिका के साथ परामर्श कर रहा है।

**Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's Remarks**

ईरानी विदेश मंत्री अब्बास अरगाची के बयान

• Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean conference here on Sunday, spoke about Chabahar port and Trump’s Gaza proposal.

ईरानी विदेश मंत्री अब्बास अरगाची, जो रविवार को भारतीय महासागर सम्मेलन के दौरान विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर से मिले, ने चाबहार बंदरगाह और ट्रंप की गाजा प्रस्ताव के बारे में बात की।

• Will the U.S. President’s decision to rescind or review sanctions waivers for Iran, specifically on Chabahar port, impact India-Iran cooperation, and did you discuss this with Mr. Jaishankar during your meeting in



### Muscat?

क्या अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति का निर्णय ईरान के लिए प्रतिबंधों की छूट को रद्द या पुनः समीक्षा करने के बारे में, विशेष रूप से चाबहार बंदरगाह पर, भारत-ईरान सहयोग को प्रभावित करेगा, और क्या आपने मस्कट में अपनी बैठक के दौरान श्री जयशंकर से इस पर चर्चा की?

- Yes, we had a **lengthy discussion** with the Minister. **Iran attaches great importance** to its relations with **India**, it is a very **old relationship**.  
हाँ, हमारी मंत्री के साथ एक **लंबी चर्चा** हुई। **ईरान भारत** के साथ अपने रिश्तों को **बहुत महत्व** देता है, यह एक बहुत **पुराना रिश्ता** है।
- The case of **Chabahar** is not just between **Iran** and **India**. This is between **Iran** and the whole **Indian Ocean Region**.  
**चाबहार** का मामला केवल **ईरान** और **भारत** के बीच नहीं है। यह **ईरान** और सम्पूर्ण **भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र** के बीच है।
- It connects the **Indian Ocean Region** to the **Eurasian region** through **Iran** and then from **Eurasia to Europe**.  
यह **भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र** को **ईरान** के माध्यम से **यूरोएशियाई क्षेत्र** से जोड़ता है, और फिर **यूरोपीय क्षेत्र** तक।
- And this is a much **faster** and **cheaper** route using **Iranian railroad**.  
और यह **ईरानी रेलवे** का उपयोग करके एक **बहुत तेज** और **सस्ता** मार्ग है।
- This is why **India** was interested to invest in this port and we are quite satisfied with the **level of cooperation** we have on this.  
यही कारण है कि **भारत** इस बंदरगाह में निवेश करने में रुचि रखता था और हम इस पर हमारे बीच के **सहयोग के स्तर** से काफी संतुष्ट हैं।
- We have a **10-year agreement** with **India**, they had received **waivers** and were able to proceed on the port without facing any problems from the **U.S.**  
हमारे पास **भारत** के साथ एक **10 साल का समझौता** है, उन्होंने **छूट** प्राप्त की थी और वे **यू.एस.** से किसी भी समस्या का सामना किए बिना बंदरगाह पर आगे बढ़ने में सक्षम थे।
- To your question, I would say, first of all, we are not sure how much the situation has changed, it is not clear yet [whether sanctions will be rescinded].  
आपके सवाल का जवाब देते हुए, मैं कहूंगा, सबसे पहले, हम इस बात से सुनिश्चित नहीं हैं कि स्थिति कितनी बदल गई है, यह अभी तक स्पष्ट नहीं है [क्या प्रतिबंध रद्द होंगे]।
- We are still interested to work with our **Indian friends**, and it is up to them to work on this question [sanctions waiver], and we know that **India** is in close consultation with the **U.S.** on this.  
हम अभी भी अपने **भारतीय दोस्तों** के साथ काम करने में रुचि रखते हैं, और यह उनके ऊपर है कि वे इस प्रश्न पर काम करें [प्रतिबंध छूट], और हम जानते हैं कि **भारत** इस पर **यू.एस.** के साथ करीबी परामर्श में है।
- When **Mr. Trump** was last in power, **India** cut all its **oil imports** from **Iran**, due to **sanctions threats**.  
जब **श्री ट्रंप** पिछले बार सत्ता में थे, **भारत** ने **ईरान** से अपने सभी **तेल आयात** को **प्रतिबंधों के खतरे** के कारण रोक दिया था।



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- Did you discuss the possibility of **India resuming its oil intake**?  
क्या आपने **भारत के अपने तेल आयात को फिर से शुरू करने** की संभावना पर चर्चा की?
- It's totally an **Indian decision**. We have enough **customers** for our oil.  
यह पूरी तरह से **भारतीय निर्णय** है। हमारे पास अपने तेल के लिए पर्याप्त **ग्राहक** हैं।

**How do you respond to the U.S. President's proposal for Gaza, and was this part of your conversation as well?**

**आप गाजा के लिए अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति के प्रस्ताव पर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं, और क्या यह आपके संवाद का हिस्सा था?**

- This is something that all countries are speaking to each other about because it is a totally **unbelievable** and totally **unacceptable** proposal.  
यह कुछ ऐसा है जिसके बारे में सभी देश एक दूसरे से बात कर रहे हैं क्योंकि यह एक पूरी तरह से **अविश्वसनीय** और पूरी तरह से **अस्वीकार्य** प्रस्ताव है।
- It is completely **inhumane** and against the principles of **international law** to displace a whole people from their own homeland...send them to other places.  
यह पूरी तरह से **अमानवीय** और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून** के सिद्धांतों के खिलाफ है कि एक पूरे लोगों को उनके अपने **देश** से विस्थापित किया जाए...उन्हें दूसरे स्थानों पर भेजा जाए।
- We know that all **Arab countries** and all **Islamic countries** have a joint position, and we propose to speak in a **united voice** at an **Organisation for Islamic Cooperation** ministerial conference that is being convened soon.  
हम जानते हैं कि सभी **अरब देश** और सभी **इस्लामी देश** एक संयुक्त स्थिति में हैं, और हम जल्द ही आयोजित होने वाले **इस्लामी सहयोग संगठन** के मंत्री सम्मेलन में **एकजुट स्वर** में बोलने का प्रस्ताव रखते हैं।
- I have discussed this with everyone I have met, including the **Indian Foreign Minister** and we hope that all countries respect the **rights of Palestinian people for self-determination**.  
मैंने इस पर हर व्यक्ति से चर्चा की है, जिनसे मैं मिला, जिनमें **भारतीय विदेश मंत्री** भी शामिल हैं और हम आशा करते हैं कि सभी देश **फिलिस्तीनी लोगों के आत्मनिर्णय** के अधिकारों का सम्मान करें।

**Given India's strong ties with the U.S., PM Modi's recent visit to Washington, should India play a role on the issue?**

**भारत के अमेरिका के साथ मजबूत संबंधों को देखते हुए, पीएम मोदी की हालिया वाशिंगटन यात्रा, क्या भारत को इस मुद्दे पर कोई भूमिका निभानी चाहिए?**

- That is up to **India**, right?  
यह **भारत** पर निर्भर है, है ना?
- Of course, **Indians** have always been very constructive and positive on **international developments**, and we appreciate any country, that plays any role, to help the **Palestinian people**.

बेशक, **भारतीय** हमेशा **अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास** पर बहुत रचनात्मक और सकारात्मक रहे हैं, और हम किसी भी देश की सराहना करते हैं, जो **फिलिस्तीनी लोगों** की मदद के लिए कोई भूमिका निभाता है।

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : patrioticias.in**



# At least 200 killed in Sudan RSF assault

GS Paper II: Africa

Agence France-Presse  
PORT SUDAN

Sudanese paramilitaries killed more than 200 people in a three-day assault south of Khartoum, a monitoring group said on Tuesday, as the government said the real toll was more than double.

The Foreign Ministry, loyal to the Army in its war with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF),

said "433 people, including infant children" had been killed.

The RSF attack on the White Nile state villages of Al-Kadaris and Al-Khelwat – some 90 km south of the capital – sent thousands fleeing their homes, eyewitnesses said.

Since Saturday, RSF fighters have engaged in "executions, kidnappings, enforced disappearances and property looting" tar-

geting unarmed civilians, according to the Emergency Lawyers group, which documents rights abuses.

## Humanitarian crisis

The attack – which the lawyers called "genocide" – has left hundreds wounded or missing, the group said, with some residents shot at and drowned while trying to flee across the Nile River.

Since the war broke out

in April 2023, both the Army and the paramilitaries have been accused of war crimes.

The war has killed tens of thousands, displaced more than 12 million and created what the International Rescue Committee has called the "biggest humanitarian crisis ever recorded".

Across Sudan, eight million people are on the brink of starvation.

## At least 200 killed in Sudan RSF assault

## सूडान में आरएसएफ के हमले में कम से कम 200 लोग मारे गए

### Sudanese Paramilitaries Attack सूदीनी पैरामिलिट्री हमला

- **Sudanese paramilitaries** killed more than **200 people** in a **three-day assault** south of **Khartoum**, a **monitoring group** said on **Tuesday**, as the government said the real toll was more than **double**.  
सूदीनी पैरामिलिट्री ने खार्तूम के दक्षिण में तीन दिन के हमले में 200 से अधिक लोग मारे, एक मॉनिटरिंग समूह ने मंगलवार को कहा, जबकि सरकार ने वास्तविक संख्या दो गुना बताई।
- The **Foreign Ministry**, loyal to the **Army** in its war with the paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**, said "**433 people**, including **infant children**" had been killed.  
विदेश मंत्रालय, जो पैरामिलिट्री रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्स (RSF) के साथ सेना के युद्ध में निष्ठावान है, ने कहा कि "433 लोग, जिनमें नन्हे बच्चे भी शामिल हैं," मारे गए हैं।
- The **RSF attack** on the **White Nile state villages** of **Al-Kadaris** and **Al-Khelwat** — some **90 km south of the capital** — sent thousands fleeing their homes, eyewitnesses said.  
RSF का हमला व्हाइट नाइल राज्य के गाँवों अल-कादारिस और अल-खेलवत पर हुआ — जो राजधानी से लगभग 90 किमी दक्षिण स्थित हैं — इस हमले ने हजारों लोगों को अपने घर छोड़ने पर मजबूर किया, गवाहों ने कहा।
- Since **Saturday**, **RSF fighters** have engaged in "**executions, kidnappings, enforced disappearances** and **property looting** targeting **unarmed civilians**, according to the **Emergency Lawyers group**, which documents **rights abuses**.  
शनिवार से, RSF सेनानियों ने "हत्याएँ, अपहरण, जबरी गुमशुदगी और संपत्ति लूटपाट की गतिविधियों में शामिल हो गए, जो निहत्थे नागरिकों को निशाना बना रहे थे, आपातकालीन वकीलों के समूह के अनुसार, जो मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों को दस्तावेजीकृत करता है।



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



## Humanitarian Crisis मानवीय संकट

- The attack — which the lawyers called "**genocide**" — has left hundreds wounded or missing, the group said, with some residents shot at and drowned while trying to flee across the **Nile River**.  
इस हमले को वकीलों ने "नरसंहार" कहा — इससे सैकड़ों लोग घायल या लापता हो गए, समूह ने कहा, कुछ निवासियों को गोली मारी गई और वे **नाइल नदी** को पार करने की कोशिश करते हुए डूब गए।
- Since the **war broke out in April 2023**, both the **Army** and the paramilitaries have been accused of **war crimes**.  
जब से **2023 अप्रैल में युद्ध शुरू हुआ**, सेना और पैरामिलिट्री को **युद्ध अपराधों** का दोषी ठहराया गया है।
- The war has killed **tens of thousands**, displaced more than **12 million** and created what the **International Rescue Committee** has called the "**biggest humanitarian crisis** ever recorded".  
इस युद्ध ने **लाखों लोगों** की जान ली, **12 मिलियन** से अधिक लोगों को विस्थापित किया और इसे **इंटरनेशनल रेस्क्यू कमेटी** ने "अब तक की सबसे बड़ी **मानवीय संकट**" करार दिया है।
- Across **Sudan**, **eight million people** are on the brink of **starvation**.  
पूरे **सूदान** में, **आठ मिलियन लोग** भुखमरी के कगार पर हैं।

**(GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, IS)**

- Quakes May Well Sharpen India's Seismic Readiness / भूकंप भारत की भूकंपीय तैयारी को तेज कर सकते हैं**
- Agricultural Protectionism Pushes Up India's Import Tariffs / कृषि संरक्षणवाद भारत के आयात शुल्क को बढ़ाता है**
- Slight dip in unemployment rate in urban areas: survey / शहरी क्षेत्रों में बेरोजगारी दर में हल्की गिरावट: सर्वेक्षण**
- India prepares to submit updated greenhouse gas inventory to UN / भारत संयुक्त राष्ट्र को अद्यतन ग्रीनहाउस गैस सूची सौंपने की तैयारी कर रहा है**



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# Quakes may well sharpen India's seismic readiness

GS Paper I: Earth Quake  
GS Paper III: DM

**T**wo years ago, on February, 6, 2023, the people of Türkiye and Syria were jolted out of their sleep. At least 17,000 were killed, with their numbers mounting within minutes, as a great earthquake shook those countries in the early hours after 4 a.m., at 7.8 on a scale of 0 to 10. A second jolt came like a collaborator of the first, nine hours later, destroying whatever buildings stood on or around the scene of the first trauma.

'Fault lines' is an expression that we come across and use as we might 'glaciers' or 'deserts'. That is, without realising that it refers to an intensely volatile and totally unpredictable phenomenon, like the temper of the proverbial sleeping dragon or demon. Fault lines lie between the 15 log-jammed major tectonic plates on which the earth's thin crust sits.

These lines can slumber for decades, even centuries, quietly, one may say so 'sweetly', that their very existence can be forgotten by all except seismologists. Until...the fault line stir, rise, shake and then go on to mutilate, destroy and kill whatever lies on and along those lines. Depending on the degree of the awakened one's temper, the fury lasts or abates till such time as it lasts or abates.

## Nature's brewing tension

India's Indian Plate pressing onto the Eurasian Plate sculpted the Himalaya. The fault line involved runs right along the great Himalayan arc that stretches from Kashmir to the North East. It also implicates adjacent tracts in Pakistan, the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, Nepal and Bhutan.

We are but dimly aware of this. For those of us who do not live in those stunningly beautiful tracts, that region means and evokes snow, pure air, clear waters, holidays and leisure. But we must know, must understand, the concurrent 'scene' which is about potential rubble, ravaged hill sides, mutilated river courses. And trauma.

We must shake ourselves out of our dangerous illusion, our perilous innocence about the reality beneath our feet. Seismologists tell us that the two great tectonic plates, the Indian and the Eurasian, have now slept their really deep sleep long enough now and that the built-up pressure inside their folds cannot be expected to hold its tension much longer.

Sure enough, a little over just one month ago, on January 7, 2025 at 9:05 a.m., an earthquake measuring Mw 7.1 struck Shigatse city of the Tibet



**Gopalkrishna Gandhi**

is a former administrator, diplomat and Governor

Autonomous Region of Southwestern China. Between 126 and 400 people were reported killed and 338 were injured. Unmindful of national borders and oblivious of lines of actual or notional control, the quake made itself felt in Nepal and in Northern India.

## In the media

On January 10, *The Hindu* had an editorial, 'Damage control', that said, 'If the epicentre had been located closer to India, the damage could have been manifold.' And added, 'Earthquakes in the Himalayas evoke a special kind of dread in the country.' The comment was right. Dread they do cause. But have they occasioned the kind of intense and urgent planning that is needed? Have they occasioned national alertness, resolve and action? The Editorial went on to say, 'Unfortunately, predicting the day and time is outside the ambit of current science. Thus, the best we can hope for is insulation against the projected damage. It is in this context that infrastructure development in the Himalayan region must be viewed. While several of these projects are intended to smooth the movement of people and goods, the recurrent landslides and glacial lake outbursts that wash away dams, hydropower projects, and roads serve as a constant reminder of the inherent fragility of the region. Every form of infrastructure in the region – power plant or dam – must take into account the imminence of a major earthquake and the associated costs factored into planning.'

The Editorial said, 'Adhering to already existing building codes, not only in the Himalayas but in the surrounding Indo-Gangetic plains, can go a long way in limiting the inevitable damage.' If such adherence was good enough as a response one month ago, the earthquakes that shook the national capital on February 17, and within four hours, Siwan in Bihar, suggest that adherence to existing codes is not enough. Not enough by half.

Social media told us that there were people in Delhi who said they had never felt a tremor so big. This was impressionistic, perhaps, but impressions that come from real sensations under one's feet are real in a way that reports and reconstructed scenes are not. One post said 'today Delhi and Bihar, tomorrow West Bengal...'

It was salutary and sobering to see a post from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, barely back from his brief visit to the United States, reaching out to the people of Delhi, asking them to stay calm and take precautionary steps. The really meaningful

precautions are not within the means of the people. They must come from government, from the state.

We are now in a contingency that must take into account: high probability; high financial and physical cost if provided for, and incalculably higher if not provided for.

The principle is the same as in any insurance arrangement: the higher the risk the higher the premium.

## Time to act, and quickly

We need, not just quickly, not just urgently but quite immediately, to provide for state expense on, first, fore-closing and rolling back engineering enterprises that weaken the earth's crust, especially rocky terrain, in India's seismic risk zones in the ascending calibration of II, III and IV.

Second, super-imposing on the existing seismic zonation maps which are really x-ray plates, new carefully drawn mapped-plans for the protection (which can include evacuations, demolitions and re-building) of highly vulnerable structures, and assessing the seismic status of high follow-on secondary risk structures such as like hydel projects and atomic reactors (Narora in Uttar Pradesh is located in Zone IV).

Third, setting up a seismic building insurance scheme wherein premiums for insuring against collapse can be offered and encouraged.

Fourth, doing an assessment of the costs of rescue, temporary sheltering and rehabilitation zone-wise, of dislocated populations.

Fifth, fast-forwarding collaboration with countries that are experts in the field on earthquake anticipation through sensors, and architecture nostrums. This would involve expenses on hiring consultants.

All this sounds grim. But we should tell ourselves that there is the 'good news' that we are, as of this moment, ahead of the big seismic shock that has been anticipated by seismologists. We are capable of planning with some composure, even as we recover from the shock of February 17, not in a post-shock trauma accompanied by fiscal crippling. And, we have an institutional advantage in the shape of a Ministry of Earth Sciences and a Disaster Management Authority waiting to be harnessed in any scheme towards seismic resistance.

The 'motto' is brief: earthquakes are not to be prevented, they can scarcely be predicted, even in our age of Artificial Intelligence. But they can be prepared for. Is anyone doing that?

India must shake itself out of its perilous innocence and be prepared for the reality beneath the earth's crust

**Quakes May Well Sharpen India's Seismic Readiness**  
**भूकंप भारत की भूकंपीय तैयारी को तेज कर सकते हैं**



Two years ago, on February 6, 2023, the people of Türkiye and Syria were jolted out of their sleep.

दो साल पहले, 6 फरवरी 2023 को, तुर्किये और सीरिया के लोग अचानक भूकंप से जाग उठे।

- At least 17,000 people were killed, with their numbers mounting within minutes, as a great earthquake of magnitude 7.8 struck in the early hours after 4 a.m.  
कम से कम 17,000 लोग मारे गए, और उनकी संख्या मिनटों में बढ़ती गई, जब 4 बजे सुबह के बाद 7.8 तीव्रता का शक्तिशाली भूकंप आया।
- A second jolt came nine hours later, destroying whatever buildings stood on or around the scene of the first trauma.  
नौ घंटे बाद दूसरा झटका आया, जिसने पहले झटके में बची सभी इमारतों को नष्ट कर दिया।

### Understanding Fault Lines

भूकंपीय दोष रेखाओं को समझना

- 'Fault lines' refer to an intensely volatile and totally unpredictable phenomenon.  
'दोष रेखाएँ' एक अत्यधिक अस्थिर और पूरी तरह से अप्रत्याशित घटना को संदर्भित करती हैं।
- They lie between the 15 major tectonic plates on which the earth's thin crust sits.  
ये 15 प्रमुख टेक्टोनिक प्लेटों के बीच स्थित होती हैं, जिन पर पृथ्वी की पतली पर्पटी स्थित है।
- These fault lines can remain inactive for decades or centuries but eventually cause massive destruction when they shift.  
ये दोष रेखाएँ दशकों या सदियों तक निष्क्रिय रह सकती हैं, लेकिन जब ये सक्रिय होती हैं, तो भारी तबाही मचाती हैं।

### Nature's Brewing Tension

प्रकृति में बढ़ता तनाव

- The Indian Plate pressing onto the Eurasian Plate sculpted the Himalaya.  
भारतीय प्लेट के यूरेशियन प्लेट से टकराने के कारण हिमालय का निर्माण हुआ।
- The fault line runs along the Himalayan arc, stretching from Kashmir to the North East, also affecting Pakistan, China's Tibetan Autonomous Region, Nepal, and Bhutan.  
यह दोष रेखा हिमालयी चाप के साथ फैली हुई है, जो कश्मीर से पूर्वोत्तर तक जाती है और पाकिस्तान, चीन के तिब्बती स्वायत्त क्षेत्र, नेपाल और भूटान को भी प्रभावित करती है।
- People often associate these regions with scenic beauty but must also recognize their seismic risks.  
लोग आमतौर पर इन क्षेत्रों को सुंदर प्राकृतिक दृश्यों से जोड़ते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें यहां के भूकंपीय खतरों को भी समझना चाहिए।



- Seismologists warn that the Indian and Eurasian plates have built-up pressure that may not hold much longer.  
भूवैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि भारतीय और यूरेशियन प्लेटों के अंदर दबाव लंबे समय तक नहीं टिक सकता।

## Recent Seismic Activity हालिया भूकंपीय गतिविधि

- On January 7, 2025, at 9:05 a.m., an earthquake measuring Mw 7.1 struck Shigatse city in Tibet.  
7 जनवरी 2025 को सुबह 9:05 बजे, तिब्बत के शिगात्से शहर में 7.1 तीव्रता का भूकंप आया।
- Between 126 and 400 people were reported killed, and 338 were injured.  
126 से 400 लोगों की मृत्यु की सूचना मिली, और 338 लोग घायल हुए।
- The quake was felt in Nepal and Northern India, showing how seismic events ignore national borders.  
यह भूकंप नेपाल और उत्तरी भारत में भी महसूस किया गया, जिससे पता चलता है कि भूकंपीय घटनाएँ राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं को नहीं पहचानतीं।

## In the Media मीडिया में

- On January 10, The Hindu published an editorial titled "Damage Control".  
10 जनवरी को, द हिंदू ने "डैमेज कंट्रोल" शीर्षक से एक संपादकीय प्रकाशित किया।
- It stated that if the epicenter had been closer to India, the damage could have been much greater.  
इसमें कहा गया कि यदि भूकंप का केंद्र भारत के और करीब होता, तो नुकसान कई गुना अधिक हो सकता था।
- The editorial mentioned that earthquakes in the Himalayas evoke a special kind of dread in India.  
संपादकीय में बताया गया कि हिमालय में आने वाले भूकंप भारत में एक विशेष प्रकार की दहशत पैदा करते हैं।
- It questioned whether there has been enough planning, national alertness, and action to tackle such disasters.  
इसने यह सवाल उठाया कि क्या इस तरह की आपदाओं से निपटने के लिए पर्याप्त योजना, राष्ट्रीय सतर्कता और कार्रवाई हुई है।
- The editorial stated, "Predicting the day and time of an earthquake is beyond the scope of current science."  
संपादकीय में कहा गया, "भूकंप के दिन और समय की भविष्यवाणी करना वर्तमान विज्ञान की सीमाओं से बाहर है।"
- It emphasized that the best way to prepare is by insulating infrastructure against projected damage.



इसने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि सबसे अच्छा तरीका यह है कि बुनियादी ढांचे को संभावित नुकसान से सुरक्षित किया जाए।

## Infrastructure Concerns in the Himalayas हिमालय में बुनियादी ढांचे की चिंताएँ

- Many projects in the Himalayan region aim to facilitate the movement of people and goods.  
हिमालयी क्षेत्र में कई परियोजनाएँ लोगों और वस्तुओं की आवाजाही को सुगम बनाने के लिए बनाई गई हैं।
- However, landslides and glacial lake outbursts often destroy dams, hydropower projects, and roads.  
हालांकि, भूस्खलन और हिमनदीय झीलों के फटने से अक्सर बांध, जलविद्युत परियोजनाएँ और सड़कें नष्ट हो जाती हैं।
- The editorial stressed that infrastructure in the Himalayas should be designed with the possibility of a major earthquake in mind.  
संपादकीय ने जोर दिया कि हिमालय में बुनियादी ढांचे को एक बड़े भूकंप की संभावना को ध्यान में रखकर बनाया जाना चाहिए।
- Existing building codes in both the Himalayas and the Indo-Gangetic plains must be strictly followed.  
हिमालय और गंगा के मैदानों में मौजूदा भवन संहिता का सख्ती से पालन किया जाना चाहिए।
- The recent earthquakes in Delhi on February 17 and in Siwan, Bihar within four hours show that existing codes may not be enough.  
हाल ही में 17 फरवरी को दिल्ली और चार घंटे के भीतर बिहार के सिवान में आए भूकंप दिखाते हैं कि मौजूदा नियम पर्याप्त नहीं हैं।

## Public Perception and Government Response जनता की धारणा और सरकारी प्रतिक्रिया

- Many Delhi residents claimed they had never felt such a strong tremor before.  
दिल्ली के कई निवासियों ने दावा किया कि उन्होंने पहले कभी इतनी तेज़ हलचल महसूस नहीं की।
- A social media post stated, "Today Delhi and Bihar, tomorrow West Bengal..."  
एक सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में कहा गया, "आज दिल्ली और बिहार, कल पश्चिम बंगाल..."
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after returning from the U.S., urged people to stay calm and take precautions.  
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी, अमेरिका से लौटने के बाद, लोगों से शांत रहने और सावधानी बरतने की अपील की।
- However, effective earthquake precautions must come from the government.  
हालांकि, प्रभावी भूकंप सुरक्षा उपाय सरकार द्वारा ही उठाए जा सकते हैं।

## Time to Act, and Quickly



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



कार्य करने का समय, और वह भी शीघ्र

- India must **urgently take measures to prevent engineering activities that weaken seismic risk zones (Zones II, III, IV).**  
भारत को तुरंत उन इंजीनियरिंग गतिविधियों को रोकना चाहिए जो भूकंप जोखिम क्षेत्रों (जोन II, III, IV) को कमजोर करती हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : patrioticias.in**



# Agricultural protectionism pushes up India's import tariff

GS Paper III: External Sector

DATA POINT

Samreen Wani

Tariffs levied on imports into India are five times higher than what the United States levies on its imports. The average duty levied by India was 17% in 2023, compared to 3.3% levied by the U.S. Also, the average tariff levied by India was the highest among comparable economies, especially BRICS countries. India was followed by Brazil (11%), and South Africa and China (more than 7%). The average tariff levied by Russia was 6.6% and that by the European Union was 5% (Chart 1).

Despite the difference in the average tariffs levied by India and the U.S., the number of products subject to tariffs remains comparable in both countries (Chart 2).

India's higher average was mostly due to high tariffs on agricultural products to protect domestic producers. "While tariffs on agricultural goods are really high, it is not so on manufactured products," explains Biswajit Dhar, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development.

Chart 3 shows that the average tariff levied by India on non-agricultural goods was less than 15% between 2018 and 2023. The duty on agricultural goods, however, has always been more than twice the duty on non-agricultural products, and exceeded 38% in all years except in 2020.

Dhar argues that the reason why India continues to levy high agricultural tariffs is to protect food security and livelihoods. He points out that since investment in agriculture is low – just about 6% of the total investment in the country – the sector remains significantly inefficient by global standards. "Agricultural tariffs cannot be brought down easily. The U.S. has very high subsidies on agricultural products. If there are many subsidised U.S. agricultural products floating about in the market,

India's import tariffs are five times that of the U.S. and the highest among BRICS nations

it is very difficult for us [India] to reduce our tariffs," he says. Unless the government decides to pull up this sector by the bootstraps, it will not be able to stand up to international competition, Dhar adds.

A closer look at product-wise tariffs shows that agricultural, dairy products, beverages, and tobacco continue to attract more than 30% as import duty (Table 4). Duty on transport equipment, cotton, and textiles came down between 2018 and 2023. Tariffs on electrical machinery, leather/footwear, and some manufactured goods increased in the same period.

U.S. President Donald Trump recently drew attention towards tariffs levied by various countries. He suggested that the U.S. would impose "reciprocal tariffs" on countries which, he believes, have treated the U.S. "unfairly". While the finer details and the math of such tariffs are not clear yet, his remarks have caused considerable unease in India. Amid this criticism from the U.S., India has recently reduced tariffs on bourbon whiskey from 150% to 100%.

India is increasingly exporting more to the U.S., widening its trade surplus with the U.S. Goods exported to the U.S. from India have crossed \$53 billion in FY25 (April-November) and exceeded 18% of India's total exports from about 15% a decade ago (Chart 5).

"Tariffs are being imposed to block imports from partner countries into the U.S. But reciprocal tariffs could mean pressure on India to reduce agricultural tariffs. Because at the end of the day, the U.S. wants India to import more from them. And what better opportunity to do that than to force India to reduce its agricultural tariffs? This is going to be part of the bilateral trade agreement that they will be negotiating. India has maintained that negotiating tariffs on agricultural products, such as cereals, is off the table for Free Trade Agreements. But that will not be the case for India-U.S. bilateral negotiations," Dhar adds.

## Tariff troubles

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Trade Organization and the Centre For Monitoring Indian Economy



Chart 2: The chart shows the number of applied tariff lines for India and the U.S.

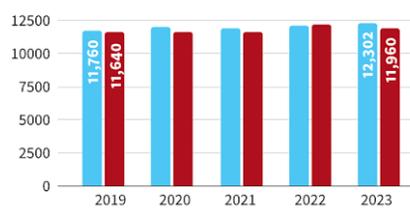


Chart 3: The chart shows the average duty (simple average) levied category-wise on imports into India (in %)

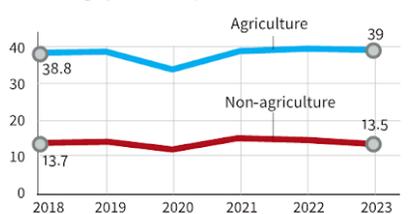
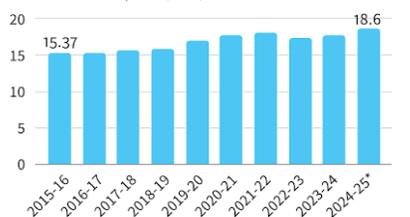


Chart 5: The chart shows the share of exports to the U.S. in India's total exports (in %)



Note: \* Data for April-November FY 25

Chart 1: The chart shows the average duty (simple average) levied on imports country-wise (in %)

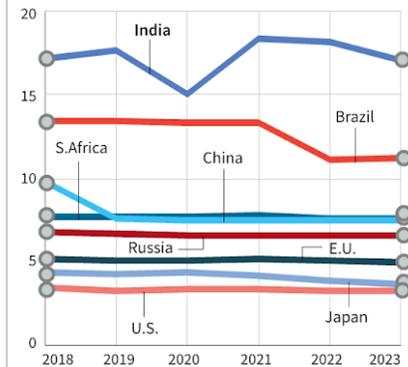


Table 4: The chart shows the average duty levied product category wise on imports into India (in %)

Category	2018	2023
Beverages and tobacco	74.7	74.5
Oilseeds, fats and oils	54.1	60.1
Sugars and confectionery	51.5	51.5
Coffee, tea	56.3	47.6
Cereals and preparations	37.1	37.8
Dairy products	34.8	35.2
Fruits, vegetables, plants	32.4	34.6
Animal products	32.5	32.5
Fish and fish products	30	30
Transport equipment	31.1	28.2
Other agricultural products	29	28.1
Clothing	20.5	20.7
Textiles	20.7	16
Leather, footwear, etc	12.1	15.1
Manufactures n.e.s.	11.1	12.4
Minerals and metals	11	11.9
Electrical machinery	8.8	11.2
Wood, paper, etc	10	10.6
Chemicals	10.2	10.3
Cotton	26	9.4
Petroleum	9.2	9.2
Non-electrical machinery	7.8	7.9

**Agricultural Protectionism Pushes Up India's Import Tariffs**  
कृषि संरक्षणवाद भारत के आयात शुल्क को बढ़ाता है



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**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



**Tariffs levied on imports into India are five times higher than what the United States levies on its imports.**

**भारत में आयात पर लगाए गए शुल्क संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की तुलना में पाँच गुना अधिक हैं।**

- **The average duty levied by India was 17% in 2023, compared to 3.3% levied by the U.S.**  
2023 में भारत द्वारा लगाया गया औसत शुल्क 17% था, जबकि अमेरिका द्वारा लगाया गया शुल्क 3.3% था।
- **The average tariff levied by India was the highest among comparable economies, especially BRICS countries.**  
भारत द्वारा लगाया गया औसत शुल्क तुलनीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में सबसे अधिक था, विशेष रूप से ब्रिक्स देशों में।
- **India was followed by Brazil (11%), South Africa and China (more than 7%).**  
भारत के बाद ब्राजील (11%), दक्षिण अफ्रीका और चीन (7% से अधिक) का स्थान था।
- **The average tariff levied by Russia was 6.6% and that by the European Union was 5%.**  
रूस द्वारा लगाया गया औसत शुल्क 6.6% और यूरोपीय संघ द्वारा लगाया गया शुल्क 5% था।
- **Despite the difference in average tariffs levied by India and the U.S., the number of products subject to tariffs remains comparable in both countries.**  
भारत और अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए औसत शुल्क में अंतर के बावजूद, दोनों देशों में शुल्क के अधीन उत्पादों की संख्या तुलनीय बनी हुई है।

## **Reasons for High Tariffs in India**

### **भारत में उच्च शुल्क के कारण**

- **India's higher average tariffs are mostly due to high tariffs on agricultural products to protect domestic producers.**  
भारत में उच्च औसत शुल्क मुख्य रूप से कृषि उत्पादों पर अधिक शुल्क लगाने के कारण हैं, ताकि घरेलू उत्पादकों की सुरक्षा की जा सके।
- **Tariffs on agricultural goods are really high, but not so on manufactured products.**  
कृषि उत्पादों पर शुल्क बहुत अधिक है, लेकिन विनिर्मित उत्पादों पर इतना नहीं है।
- **Between 2018 and 2023, the average tariff levied by India on non-agricultural goods was less than 15%.**  
2018 से 2023 के बीच, गैर-कृषि उत्पादों पर भारत द्वारा लगाया गया औसत शुल्क 15% से कम था।
- **The duty on agricultural goods, however, has always been more than twice the duty on non-agricultural products, and exceeded 38% in all years except in 2020.**  
हालांकि, कृषि उत्पादों पर शुल्क हमेशा गैर-कृषि उत्पादों के शुल्क से दोगुना से अधिक रहा है और 2020 को छोड़कर सभी वर्षों में 38% से अधिक था।

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

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

**Contact Number : 9971932488**

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



## Expert Analysis: Food Security and Global Competition विशेषज्ञों का विश्लेषण: खाद्य सुरक्षा और वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा

- India continues to levy high agricultural tariffs to protect food security and livelihoods.  
भारत खाद्य सुरक्षा और आजीविका की रक्षा के लिए उच्च कृषि शुल्क लगाना जारी रखता है।
- Investment in agriculture is low, just about 6% of the total investment in the country.  
कृषि में निवेश बहुत कम है, जो देश के कुल निवेश का केवल 6% है।
- The sector remains significantly inefficient by global standards.  
वैश्विक मानकों के अनुसार यह क्षेत्र काफी अक्षम बना हुआ है।
- The U.S. has very high subsidies on agricultural products.  
अमेरिका कृषि उत्पादों पर बहुत अधिक सब्सिडी देता है।
- If subsidized U.S. agricultural products flood the market, it will be difficult for India to reduce tariffs.  
यदि अमेरिकी सब्सिडी वाले कृषि उत्पाद बाजार में आ जाते हैं, तो भारत के लिए शुल्क कम करना मुश्किल हो जाएगा।

### Sector-Wise Import Tariffs in India भारत में क्षेत्र-वार आयात शुल्क

- Agricultural, dairy products, beverages, and tobacco continue to attract more than 30% import duty.  
कृषि, डेयरी उत्पाद, पेय पदार्थ और तंबाकू पर 30% से अधिक आयात शुल्क लगाया जाता है।
- Tariffs on transport equipment, cotton, and textiles came down between 2018 and 2023.  
2018 से 2023 के बीच, परिवहन उपकरण, कपास और वस्त्रों पर शुल्क कम हुआ।
- Tariffs on electrical machinery, leather/footwear, and some manufactured goods increased in the same period.  
इसी अवधि में, विद्युत मशीनरी, चमड़ा/जूते और कुछ विनिर्मित उत्पादों पर शुल्क बढ़ा।

### U.S. Stance and Impact on India अमेरिका का रुख और भारत पर प्रभाव

- U.S. President Donald Trump recently highlighted tariffs levied by various countries.  
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने हाल ही में विभिन्न देशों द्वारा लगाए गए शुल्क पर ध्यान आकर्षित किया।
- He suggested that the U.S. would impose "reciprocal tariffs" on countries he believes have treated the U.S. unfairly.



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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



उन्होंने सुझाव दिया कि अमेरिका उन देशों पर "प्रतिशोधी शुल्क" लगाएगा, जो अमेरिका के साथ अनुचित व्यवहार कर रहे हैं।

- India has recently reduced tariffs on bourbon whiskey from 150% to 100%. भारत ने हाल ही में बॉर्बन व्हिस्की पर शुल्क 150% से घटाकर 100% कर दिया है।

## India-U.S. Trade and Future Negotiations

### भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार और भविष्य की वार्ता

- India is increasingly exporting more to the U.S., widening its trade surplus with the U.S.  
भारत अमेरिका को निर्यात बढ़ा रहा है, जिससे अमेरिका के साथ व्यापार अधिशेष बढ़ रहा है।
- Goods exported to the U.S. from India have crossed \$53 billion in FY25 (April-November).  
वित्त वर्ष 2025 (अप्रैल-नवंबर) में अमेरिका को भारत से निर्यात \$53 बिलियन को पार कर गया है।
- Exports to the U.S. now exceed 18% of India's total exports, up from about 15% a decade ago.  
अमेरिका को निर्यात अब भारत के कुल निर्यात का 18% से अधिक है, जो एक दशक पहले लगभग 15% था।
- Reciprocal tariffs could mean pressure on India to reduce agricultural tariffs.  
प्रतिशोधी शुल्क भारत पर कृषि शुल्क कम करने का दबाव बना सकता है।
- India has maintained that negotiating tariffs on agricultural products is off the table for Free Trade Agreements.  
भारत ने कहा है कि मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों में कृषि उत्पादों पर शुल्क वार्ता से बाहर रहेगा।
- However, this may not be the case in India-U.S. bilateral negotiations.  
हालांकि, भारत-अमेरिका द्विपक्षीय वार्ताओं में ऐसा नहीं हो सकता है।



# Slight dip in unemployment rate in urban areas: survey

The rate of unemployment for persons of age 15 and above is at 6.4% for the period of October to December 2024, says the Periodic Labour Force Survey; Gujarat has the lowest rate at 3%

**GS Paper III: Unemployment**

**A.M. Jigeesh**  
NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate in urban areas of the country was 6.4% for the period of October to December in 2024 for persons of age 15 and above, says the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry here on Tuesday.

For men, the unemployment rate was 5.8%, and for women, 8.1%.

In 2023, during the corresponding quarter, the unemployment rate for the cohort was 6.5%, while in the July-to-September 2024 quarter, it was 6.4%. The female unemployment rate last year was 8.6%.

## Himachal tops the list

Among the States, Himachal Pradesh had the highest unemployment rate of 10.4% and Gujarat the lowest 3%. The female unemployment rate too was the highest in Himachal Pradesh at 24%. The lowest was 1.3% in Delhi.

The PLFS defines unemployment rate as the percentage of unemployed

## Faint glimmer

The chart shows the unemployment rate (in %) in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above



Source: MOSPI



**Seeking prospects:** Job seekers participating in a job mela in Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

persons in the labour force in current weekly status (CWS) – the number of persons either employed or unemployed on an average in a week.

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), the percentage of population in the labour force, was 39.6% for people of all ages. It was 39.2% in the corresponding quarter last year. The LFPR for women has increased by 0.1 percentage point to 20% from last year's 19.9%. However, the LFPR decreased from last quarter's figure of 20.3%.

The lowest LFPR for all people and for women was in Bihar at 30.7% and 9.9%,

respectively. The PLFS was done among 1,70,487 people in 45,074 households.

## Increase in WPR

The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in urban areas among persons of age 15 and above has increased from 46.6% during October to December of 2023, to 47.2% in October to December in 2024.

The WPR for males of age 15 and above for urban areas increased from 69.8% in October to December of 2023 to 70.9% during October to December in 2024.

The workers are classified into three broad categories according to their

status in employment such as self-employed, regular wage/salaried employee and casual labour.

Within the category of self-employed, two sub-categories have been made as own account worker and employer combined together and unpaid helper in household enterprises.

In these categories, 39.9% were self-employed, 49.4% were regular employees and 10.7% were casual labourers. As much as 5.5% of the workers were in agriculture sector, 31.8% in the secondary sector, including mining, and 62.7% in the tertiary sector that includes service sectors.

**Slight dip in unemployment rate in urban areas: survey**  
शहरी क्षेत्रों में बेरोजगारी दर में हल्की गिरावट: सर्वेक्षण

**The unemployment rate in urban areas of the country was 6.4% for persons aged 15 and above for the period of October to December 2024, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).**  
देश में शहरी क्षेत्रों में 15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के व्यक्तियों के लिए अक्टूबर से दिसंबर 2024 की अवधि में बेरोजगारी दर 6.4%

रही, यह जानकारी आवधिक श्रम बल सर्वेक्षण (PLFS) के अनुसार दी गई।

- The **unemployment rate** for **men** was **5.8%**, and for **women**, it was **8.1%**. पुरुषों की बेरोजगारी दर 5.8%, और महिलाओं की 8.1% थी।
- In the **same quarter of 2023**, the **unemployment rate** was **6.5%**, while in **July to September 2024**, it was **6.4%**. 2023 की इसी तिमाही में बेरोजगारी दर 6.5% थी, जबकि जुलाई से सितंबर 2024 में यह 6.4% थी।



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**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- The **female unemployment rate** in 2023 was **8.6%**.  
2023 में महिलाओं की बेरोजगारी दर 8.6% थी।

## Himachal tops the list हिमाचल सूची में सबसे ऊपर

- Among the **States**, **Himachal Pradesh** had the **highest unemployment rate** of **10.4%**, while **Gujarat** had the **lowest** at **3%**.  
राज्यों में, हिमाचल प्रदेश में सबसे अधिक बेरोजगारी दर 10.4% थी, जबकि गुजरात में सबसे कम 3% थी।
- The **female unemployment rate** was **highest in Himachal Pradesh** at **24%**, while the **lowest** was **1.3% in Delhi**.  
महिलाओं की बेरोजगारी दर हिमाचल प्रदेश में सबसे अधिक 24% और दिल्ली में सबसे कम 1.3% थी।
- The **PLFS defines unemployment rate** as the **percentage of unemployed persons** in the **labour force** in **current weekly status (CWS)**.  
PLFS बेरोजगारी दर को मौजूदा साप्ताहिक स्थिति (CWS) में श्रम बल में बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों के प्रतिशत के रूप में परिभाषित करता है।

## Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) श्रम बल भागीदारी दर (LFPR)

- The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** was **39.6%** for **people of all ages**, compared to **39.2%** in the **same quarter last year**.  
सभी आयु वर्ग के लोगों के लिए श्रम बल भागीदारी दर (LFPR) 39.6% थी, जबकि पिछले वर्ष की इसी तिमाही में यह 39.2% थी।
- The **LFPR for women** increased by **0.1 percentage point** to **20%**, up from **19.9% last year**, but lower than **20.3% in the previous quarter**.  
महिलाओं के लिए LFPR 0.1 प्रतिशत अंक बढ़कर 20% हो गया, जो पिछले वर्ष 19.9% था, लेकिन पिछली तिमाही के 20.3% से कम था।
- The **lowest LFPR** was recorded in **Bihar** at **30.7%** for all people and **9.9% for women**.  
सभी लोगों के लिए सबसे कम LFPR बिहार में 30.7% और महिलाओं के लिए 9.9% था।
- The **PLFS survey** covered **1,70,487 people** in **45,074 households**.  
PLFS सर्वेक्षण में 1,70,487 लोग और 45,074 परिवार शामिल थे।

## Increase in Worker Population Ratio (WPR) श्रमिक जनसंख्या अनुपात (WPR) में वृद्धि

- The **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** in **urban areas** for **persons aged 15 and above** increased from **46.6% (Oct-Dec 2023)** to **47.2% (Oct-Dec 2024)**.



शहरी क्षेत्रों में 15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के लोगों के लिए श्रमिक जनसंख्या अनुपात (WPR) 46.6% (अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2023) से बढ़कर 47.2% (अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2024) हो गया।

- The WPR for males aged 15 and above in urban areas increased from 69.8% (Oct-Dec 2023) to 70.9% (Oct-Dec 2024).

शहरी क्षेत्रों में 15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के पुरुषों के लिए WPR 69.8% (अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2023) से बढ़कर 70.9% (अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2024) हो गया।

## Employment Classification

### रोजगार वर्गीकरण

- Workers are classified into three categories: self-employed (39.9%), regular wage/salaried employees (49.4%), and casual labourers (10.7%).  
श्रमिकों को तीन श्रेणियों में वर्गीकृत किया गया है: स्व-रोजगार (39.9%), नियमित वेतन/वेतनभोगी कर्मचारी (49.4%), और अनौपचारिक श्रमिक (10.7%)।
- Within the self-employed category, there are two subcategories: own account workers & employers combined and unpaid helpers in household enterprises.  
स्व-रोजगार श्रेणी में दो उप-श्रेणियां हैं: स्वयं के खाते के श्रमिक और नियोक्ता (संयुक्त रूप से) और गृह उद्यमों में बिना वेतन वाले सहायक।

## Sector-Wise Employment Distribution

### क्षेत्रवार रोजगार वितरण

- 5.5% of the workers were employed in the agriculture sector.  
5.5% श्रमिक कृषि क्षेत्र में कार्यरत थे।
- 31.8% were in the secondary sector, including mining and manufacturing.  
31.8% श्रमिक द्वितीयक क्षेत्र में थे, जिसमें खनन और विनिर्माण शामिल हैं।
- 62.7% were engaged in the tertiary sector, which includes services.  
62.7% श्रमिक तृतीयक क्षेत्र में कार्यरत थे, जिसमें सेवा क्षेत्र शामिल है।



# India prepares to submit updated greenhouse gas inventory to UN

**GS Paper III:  
Environment**

NEW DELHI

India is in the final stages of preparing its first ever **Biannual Transparency Report (BTR)**, part of its commitment as a signatory to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, Environment Ministry officials told *The Hindu*.

This report will be India's official position on its greenhouse gas emissions inventory, key sectors and sources, and steps taken to improve energy efficiency use, as well as the transition to renewable energy sources and the availability of required resources.

While India has been periodically submitting such information in the form of 'national communications' and 'Biannual Update Reports' (BUR), the BTR is a document that will be subject to technical re-



The Biannual Transparency Report is part of a commitment made at COP-21, but countries started submitting it only by 2024. FILE PHOTO

view by independent, non-Indian, **UNFCCC-accredited experts**. The UNFCCC, or the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is the core agreement on which rest commitments by countries to take climate action.

Historically, only developed countries have been required to submit BTRs. The reports are part of the commitment made by all signatories at the

**UNFCCC's 21st Conference of Parties (COP)**, held in Paris in 2015, in a bid to increase transparency.

However, it was only at the 2024 COP in Baku that countries actually began submitting BTRs that adhered to the prescribed format. While all countries were to have submitted their BTRs by December 2024, several – including India – failed to meet that deadline.

"The main feature of the upcoming BTR submission is that it will have data up to 2022. In the BUR, the data submitted reflected the emissions inventory of 2020. The other aspect is that this will be reviewed by an external set of experts," a Ministry official, who declined to be identified, told *The Hindu*.

In its latest BUR, India reported that in 2020, its total GHG emissions fell 7.93% from 2019. "One of the factors was a reduction in energy consumption due to COVID-19 induced lockdowns. The forthcoming BTR is likely to show an increase in total emissions, just as is the trend in other countries. India's share of emissions, however, continues to be 4% to 5% of the globe and, in per-capita terms, less than a third of global per-capita emissions," the official added.

**India prepares to submit updated greenhouse gas inventory to UN**  
**भारत संयुक्त राष्ट्र को अद्यतन ग्रीनहाउस गैस सूची सौंपने की तैयारी कर रहा है**

**India is in the final stages of preparing its first-ever Biannual Transparency Report (BTR) as part of its commitment to the 2015 Paris Agreement on**

**climate change, according to Environment Ministry officials.**

**भारत 2015 पेरिस समझौते के तहत अपनी प्रतिबद्धता के रूप में पहली द्विवार्षिक पारदर्शिता रिपोर्ट (BTR) तैयार करने के अंतिम चरण में है, पर्यावरण मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के अनुसार।**

- This report will present **India's official position** on its **greenhouse gas emissions inventory, key sectors and sources**, and **steps taken to improve energy efficiency and transition to renewable energy**.

यह रिपोर्ट भारत की आधिकारिक स्थिति को ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन सूची, मुख्य क्षेत्र और स्रोत, तथा ऊर्जा दक्षता सुधार और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में परिवर्तन के लिए उठाए गए कदमों के रूप में प्रस्तुत करेगी।

- India has been **periodically submitting such information** in the form of '**National Communications**' and '**Biannual Update Reports**' (BUR).

भारत राष्ट्रीय संचार ('National Communications') और द्विवार्षिक अद्यतन रिपोर्ट (BUR) के रूप में समय-समय पर ऐसी जानकारी प्रस्तुत करता रहा है।



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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- The **BTR will be subject to a technical review by independent, non-Indian, UNFCCC-accredited experts.**  
**BTR की तकनीकी समीक्षा स्वतंत्र, गैर-भारतीय, UNFCCC-मान्यता प्राप्त विशेषज्ञों द्वारा की जाएगी।**
- The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is the **core agreement** under which countries commit to **climate action.**  
**संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन रूपरेखा सम्मेलन (UNFCCC) एक मुख्य समझौता है जिसके तहत देश जलवायु कार्रवाई करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध होते हैं।**

## Historical Context of BTR

### BTR का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

- Historically, **only developed countries** were required to submit **BTRs.**  
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, केवल विकसित देशों को **BTR प्रस्तुत करने की आवश्यकता** थी।
- The **requirement for all signatories** to submit BTRs was made at the **UNFCCC's 21st Conference of Parties (COP) in 2015 (Paris Agreement)** to **increase transparency.**  
सभी हस्ताक्षरकर्ता देशों के लिए **BTR प्रस्तुत करने की अनिवार्यता UNFCCC के 21वें कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑफ पार्टिज (COP) 2015 (पेरिस समझौते)** में पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के लिए तय की गई थी।

## BTR Submission at COP 2024

### COP 2024 में BTR प्रस्तुत करने की प्रक्रिया

- It was only at **COP 2024 in Baku** that countries began **submitting BTRs in the prescribed format.**  
केवल **COP 2024 (बाकू)** में देशों ने निर्धारित प्रारूप में **BTR प्रस्तुत करना शुरू किया।**
- While **all countries were required to submit their BTRs by December 2024**, several, including **India**, failed to meet the deadline.  
हालांकि **सभी देशों को दिसंबर 2024 तक अपने BTR प्रस्तुत करने थे**, लेकिन **भारत सहित कई देश इस समय सीमा को पूरा नहीं कर सके।**

## Key Features of the Upcoming BTR Submission

### आगामी BTR प्रस्तुतिकरण की मुख्य विशेषताएँ

- The **main feature** of the **upcoming BTR submission** is that it will have **data up to 2022.**  
**आगामी BTR प्रस्तुतिकरण की मुख्य विशेषता यह है कि इसमें 2022 तक के आंकड़े होंगे।**
- In the **BUR**, the **data submitted** reflected the **emissions inventory of 2020.**  
**BUR में प्रस्तुत आंकड़े 2020 के उत्सर्जन सूची को दर्शाते थे।**
- Another **key aspect** is that this **BTR will be reviewed by an external set of experts.**  
एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण पहलू यह है कि इस **BTR की समीक्षा बाहरी विशेषज्ञों द्वारा की जाएगी।**

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : patrioticias.in**



## India's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Report भारत की ग्रीनहाउस गैस (GHG) उत्सर्जन रिपोर्ट

- In its **latest BUR**, India reported that in **2020**, its **total GHG emissions fell by 7.93%** from **2019**.  
भारत ने अपनी नवीनतम BUR में रिपोर्ट किया कि 2020 में कुल GHG उत्सर्जन 2019 की तुलना में 7.93% कम हुआ।
- **One of the factors** for this reduction was the **decline in energy consumption** due to **COVID-19-induced lockdowns**.  
इस गिरावट का एक मुख्य कारण कोविड-19 के कारण लगे लॉकडाउन से ऊर्जा खपत में कमी था।
- The **forthcoming BTR** is **likely to show an increase in total emissions**, similar to the trend in **other countries**.  
आगामी BTR में कुल उत्सर्जन में वृद्धि दिखने की संभावना है, जैसा कि अन्य देशों में भी देखा गया है।
- **India's share** of global emissions remains **4% to 5%**, and in **per capita terms**, it is **less than a third of global per capita emissions**.  
भारत का उत्सर्जन योगदान वैश्विक स्तर पर 4% से 5% है, और प्रति व्यक्ति उत्सर्जन के मामले में यह वैश्विक औसत के एक तिहाई से भी कम है।

### TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. **55 cr. people have taken holy dip at Maha Kumbh: U.P. govt. / महाकुंभ में 55 करोड़ लोगों ने पवित्र डुबकी लगाई: यूपी सरकार**
2. **How pragmatism is inadequate to understand Ambedkar's scholarship / अंबेडकर की विद्वत्ता को समझने के लिए व्यावहारिकता अपर्याप्त है**



## 55 cr. people have taken holy dip at Maha Kumbh: U.P. govt.

Essay

**Press Trust of India**  
PRAYAGRAJ

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday said an unprecedented 55 crore devotees have taken a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam during the Maha Kumbh Mela.

“The Kumbh Mela which started on January 13 will continue till February 26 (Maha Shivratri). Half of India’s 110 crore Sanatan followers have immersed themselves, and this number is expected to surpass 60 crore by the final bathing ritual on February 26,” an official statement said, adding this Maha Kumbh has seen the largest participation in any religious, cultural, or social event.

“According to the World Population Review, Pew Research, India’s popula-



Devotees taking a dip at Triveni Sangam on Tuesday. ANI

tion is approximately 143 crore (1.43 billion), with 110 crore (1.10 billion) followers of Sanatan Dharma,” the statement said.

The number of those who took bath at the Triveni Sangam represents 50% of India’s Sanatana followers, it said, and over 38% of the country’s people.

Meanwhile, the Maha Kumbh also resonated on the opening day of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature’s

Budget Session on Tuesday. The House witnessed uproarious scenes as Opposition members greeted Governor Anandiben Patel with slogans during her joint address asking for data on the Maha Kumbh stampede deaths, among other issues.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hit out at the Samajwadi Party MLAs over demanding translation of Assembly proceedings in Urdu when the Speaker announced that they would be available in four regional languages - Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Braj and Bundeli - as well as English. He alleged that the Opposition members send their children to English-medium schools while wanting other children to study Urdu and become *maulvis*.

(With inputs from The Hindu Bureau in Lucknow)

और 26 फरवरी तक चलेगा (महाशिवरात्रि)।

- Half of India’s **110 crore Sanatan followers** have immersed themselves in the holy dip, and this number is expected to surpass **60 crore** by the final bathing ritual on **February 26**.

भारत के **110 करोड़ सनातन अनुयायियों** में से आधे ने पवित्र स्नान किया है, और इस संख्या का **60 करोड़** से ऊपर पहुंचने की संभावना है, जो **26 फरवरी** को अंतिम स्नान के दौरान होगी।

- This **Maha Kumbh** has seen the largest participation in any religious, cultural, or social event.

इस **महाकुंभ** में किसी भी धार्मिक, सांस्कृतिक, या सामाजिक कार्यक्रम में सबसे बड़ी भागीदारी देखी गई है।

- According to the **World Population Review, Pew Research**, India’s population is approximately **143 crore** (1.43 billion), with **110 crore** (1.10 billion) followers of **Sanatan Dharma**.

**वर्ल्ड पॉपुलेशन रिव्यू, पीयू रिसर्च** के अनुसार, भारत की जनसंख्या लगभग **143 करोड़** (1.43 बिलियन) है, जिसमें **110 करोड़** (1.10 बिलियन) **सनातन धर्म** के अनुयायी हैं।

**55 cr. people have taken holy dip at Maha Kumbh: U.P. govt.**

**महाकुंभ में 55 करोड़ लोगों ने पवित्र डुबकी लगाई: यूपी सरकार**

**Unprecedented Participation in Maha Kumbh Mela**  
**महाकुंभ मेला में अभूतपूर्व भागीदारी**

- The Uttar Pradesh government announced that **55 crore devotees** have taken a holy dip in the **Triveni Sangam** during the **Maha Kumbh Mela**.  
उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने घोषणा की कि **55 करोड़ श्रद्धालुओं** ने **त्रिवेणी संगम** में **महाकुंभ मेला** के दौरान पवित्र स्नान किया है।
- The **Kumbh Mela** started on **January 13** and will continue until **February 26 (Maha Shivratri)**.  
**कुंभ मेला 13 जनवरी** से शुरू हुआ था



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- The number of those who took a bath at the **Triveni Sangam** represents **50%** of India's **Sanatan followers**, which is over **38%** of the country's people.  
त्रिवेणी संगम में स्नान करने वालों की संख्या भारत के सनातन अनुयायियों का **50%** है, जो देश की कुल जनसंख्या का **38%** से अधिक है।

### Opposition's Protest in the Uttar Pradesh Legislature

#### उत्तर प्रदेश विधानमंडल में विपक्ष का विरोध

- The **Maha Kumbh** also resonated on the opening day of the **Uttar Pradesh Legislature's Budget Session** on **Tuesday**.  
महाकुंभ का असर उत्तर प्रदेश विधानमंडल के बजट सत्र के उद्घाटन दिन मंगलवार को भी देखने को मिला।
- The House witnessed uproarious scenes as **Opposition members** greeted **Governor Anandiben Patel** with slogans, demanding data on the **Maha Kumbh stampede deaths**, among other issues.  
सदन में विपक्ष के सदस्यों ने राज्यपाल आनंदीबेन पटेल का नारेबाजी के साथ स्वागत किया और महाकुंभ भगदड़ में हुई मौतों सहित अन्य मुद्दों पर डेटा मांगा।
- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** criticized **Samajwadi Party MLAs** for demanding translation of Assembly proceedings in **Urdu**, when the Speaker had announced they would be available in **Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Braj, Bundeli**, and **English**.  
मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने समाजवादी पार्टी के विधायकों की आलोचना की जिन्होंने विधानसभा की कार्यवाही का उर्दू में अनुवाद मांगा, जबकि स्पीकर ने घोषणा की थी कि यह अवधी, भोजपुरी, ब्रज, बुंदेली और अंग्रेजी में उपलब्ध होगा।
- He alleged that Opposition members send their children to **English-medium schools** while wanting other children to study **Urdu** and become **maulvis**.  
उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि विपक्षी सदस्य अपने बच्चों को अंग्रेजी माध्यम के स्कूलों में भेजते हैं, जबकि वे अन्य बच्चों से उर्दू पढ़ने और मौलवी बनने की चाहत रखते हैं।



**Different hues:** The statue of B.R. Ambedkar adjacent to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, on January 27. PTI

# How pragmatism is inadequate to understand Ambedkar's scholarship

Pragmatism is a progressive philosophy; and therefore, thinkers like Ambedkar become important figures in the global pluralist pragmatist philosophical tradition. However, it is inadequate to annihilate caste in a Brahmanical society

**GS Paper IV: Ethics**

**Jadumani Mahanand**

**A**fter several decades, the scholarship of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is getting global attention. In the last four years, four biographies by different scholars and four scholarly books, excluding a set of five volumes on Dr. Ambedkar's life and philosophy, have been written.

Still, scholars from different disciplines or through interdisciplinary approaches are reluctant to teach or research Ambedkar's thoughts.

In this context, it is interesting to see the scholarship of Scott R. Stroud explore the intellectual relationship between John Dewey and B. R. Ambedkar. His last book, *The Evolution of Pragmatism in India: Ambedkar, Dewey and the Rhetoric of Reconstruction*, demonstrated the scholarship of Ambedkar and Dewey within pragmatist thought. Initially, Stroud, as a Deweyan scholar, explored the Deweyan influence on Ambedkar's political philosophy to develop the theory of Ambedkar's navayana pragmatism.

His latest article which appeared in the *Economic and Political Weekly* titled "B. R. Ambedkar and the Evolution of Pragmatism in India", responded to some of his critiques, and defended his Deweyan argument. This essay critically engages with Stroud's article in *EPW*.

**Cannot be reduced to pragmatism**  
Stroud's scholarship attempts to interpret Ambedkar's political philosophy in the global pragmatist tradition. Pragmatism is a progressive philosophy; and therefore, thinkers like Ambedkar become important figures in the global pluralist pragmatist philosophical tradition, Stroud argues. However, the range of scholarship on Ambedkar over the years demonstrates that he goes beyond pragmatism – the pragmatist-Deweyan interpretation articulates only one aspect of Ambedkar's thought. Stroud provides

only a Deweyan reading of Ambedkar. Making a Deweyan interpretation of Ambedkar's multifaceted activities and intellectual engagement only gives us a partial understanding of him and reduces Ambedkar's versatile radical philosophy.

In his recent book, *Ambedkar's Political Philosophy: A Grammar of Public Life from the Social Margin*, Valerian Rodrigues explicates the wide-ranging nature of Ambedkar's scholarship of political philosophy. Rodrigues argues that John Dewey is only one of his teachers. Therefore, merely interpreting Ambedkar's thought through Dewey and pragmatism will give only one philosophical underpinning.

For example, one of the claims Stroud developed is that Ambedkar passionately learned from Dewey's teachings, which remained with Ambedkar for a long time, whether it was the French Revolution or a lecture on psychology. Further, Stroud created a speculative story through a book written by Nima Adlerblum, assuming it was Ambedkar who would attend each lecture of Dewey and reproduce Dewey's words and language. Further, Stroud focuses on Ambedkar's western education, in which Dewey's influence was central.

By doing so, Stroud wishes to portray Dewey as a permanent thinker who shapes Ambedkar's philosophy. This however seems to omit the fact that Ambedkar was a versatile reader who explored different philosophies and utilised social experiences and scholarship in his activism.

Stroud rather forcefully argues that most of the concepts and terminologies Ambedkar used in his activism and intellectual formulation accorded with Dewey. But this obsession with Dewey's impact and pragmatism on Ambedkar creates a limited kind of scholarship.

**Pragmatism falls short**

Stroud defines pragmatism as "flexible,

adaptive and diverse". Arguably, Ambedkar did adopt a kind of pragmatic approach engaging with the modern state in articulating democracy. Unfortunately, Stroud is not interested to interpret this through Dewey's *The Public and Its Problem* – probably because he could not connect the arguments in the book with Ambedkar's experience; the way he engages with the state with a pragmatic approach such as negotiating with Gandhi, other Indian leaders, and the later Constituent Assembly debates. Although, Stroud equates pragmatism and social democracy, it is important to see Ambedkar's original emphasis of social democracy, and not within the pragmatist tradition.

Pragmatism is important, but inadequate to annihilate caste in a Brahmanical society. Ambedkar cited Dewey in *Annihilation of Caste*, but it is not a pragmatic text.

Stroud claims that Ambedkar learned the "psychology of habit and custom" from Dewey in thinking about the psychology of caste. But how could Stroud overlook the untouchability encountered by Ambedkar throughout his life – whether it is physical or psychological?

Stroud's articulations are lofty; it also implicitly indicates that Ambedkar's originality lies in Dewey, that Ambedkar's scholarship and experience of caste count for little, and that his reading of several texts on caste seem secondary.

Stroud argues that Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism was a pragmatic approach. But Buddhism was a life-long philosophy that Ambedkar cultivated from his childhood; giving credit or echo to Dewey is a misinterpretation. For example, Ambedkar's family were part of the Kabir Panth, which teaches the importance of ethics and morality. Further, Ambedkar read the *Budhha Charitra* in his early age which remained his sole inspiration. Ambedkar also wrote

a letter to Sharada stating, that "the only person to whom I owe all my being is Gautama Buddha."

Very importantly, Rodrigues shows in his recent book, a wide-ranging scholarship on the "epistemic location of Ambedkar" that includes Kabir's legacy, Dewey's influence, Phule's presence in Ambedkar, the social and political discourse of Bombay and India, Fabian socialism, social democracy and so on. In the Columbia alumni newspaper, where Ambedkar expresses admiration for his "great professors, John Dewey, James Shotwell, Edwin Seligman, and James Hervey Robinson", Stroud only picks John Dewey for his project of pragmatism. Similarly, one should also explore Ambedkar's time in London (LSE). How can Ambedkar's western education only focus on Dewey?

The *Annihilation of Caste* was a lifelong project for Ambedkar's emancipatory politics and philosophy. The annihilation of caste, the declaration of renouncing Hinduism and the conversion to Buddhism were revolutionary acts, not merely accorded to pragmatism. They were part of his praxis because Ambedkar could see the limitations of the modern state and constitutional democracy.

He found Buddhism to be an ultimate path. His 22 vows discard the authority of Hindu gods and goddess – it is not a reformist act either, not even restructuring Hindu society. Too much reading of pragmatism into Ambedkar suggests an American project – the same American project yet to adequately address the structural and perpetual racial discrimination faced by people of colour. Ambedkar was equally aware of the limitations of pragmatism and the modern state and hence caste annihilation was his project of emancipation.

Jadumani Mahanand is Assistant Professor at O P Jindal Global University, Sonapat.



## How pragmatism is inadequate to understand Ambedkar's scholarship

अंबेडकर की विद्वत्ता को समझने के लिए व्यावहारिकता अपर्याप्त है

Pragmatism is a progressive philosophy; and therefore, thinkers like Ambedkar become important figures in the global pluralist pragmatist philosophical tradition. However, it is inadequate to annihilate caste in a Brahmanical society

व्यवहारवाद एक प्रगतिशील दर्शन है; और इसलिए, अंबेडकर जैसे विचारक वैश्विक बहुलवादी व्यवहारवादी दार्शनिक परंपरा में महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति बन जाते हैं। हालाँकि, यह ब्राह्मणवादी समाज में जाति का विनाश करने के लिए अपर्याप्त है

### Global Attention to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Scholarship

डॉ. बी. आर. अंबेडकर की स्कॉलरशिप को वैश्विक ध्यान

- After several decades, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's scholarship is gaining **global attention**. कई दशकों बाद, डॉ. बी. आर. अंबेडकर की स्कॉलरशिप को वैश्विक ध्यान मिल रहा है।
- In the last **four years, four biographies** by different scholars and **four scholarly books**, excluding a set of **five volumes** on his life and philosophy, have been written. पिछले चार वर्षों में, विभिन्न विद्वानों द्वारा चार जीवितवृत्तियाँ और चार विद्वान पुस्तकें लिखी गई हैं, जिसमें उनके जीवन और दर्शन पर आधारित पाँच खंडों का सेट शामिल नहीं है।
- Despite this, scholars from different disciplines or through interdisciplinary approaches are still reluctant to teach or research Ambedkar's thoughts. इसके बावजूद, विभिन्न विधाओं या अंतर्विभागीय दृष्टिकोणों के विद्वान अब भी अंबेडकर के विचारों पर शोध करने या पढ़ाने में संकोच करते हैं।

### Scott R. Stroud's Exploration of Ambedkar's Thought

स्कॉट आर. स्ट्रॉड का अंबेडकर के विचारों की खोज

- Scott R. Stroud's scholarship explores the **intellectual relationship** between **John Dewey** and **B. R. Ambedkar**. स्कॉट आर. स्ट्रॉड की स्कॉलरशिप जॉन ड्यूई और बी. आर. अंबेडकर के बीच बौद्धिक संबंध की खोज करती है।
- His last book, **The Evolution of Pragmatism in India: Ambedkar, Dewey, and the Rhetoric of Reconstruction**, demonstrates the scholarship of Ambedkar and Dewey within **pragmatist thought**. उनकी आखिरी किताब, **भारत में प्रगति का विकास: अंबेडकर, ड्यूई, और पुनर्निर्माण की रेटोरिक**, अंबेडकर और ड्यूई की स्कॉलरशिप को प्रगतिकारी विचार में प्रदर्शित करती है।
- Initially, Stroud, as a **Deweyan scholar**, explored the **Deweyan influence** on Ambedkar's **political philosophy** to develop the theory of **Ambedkar's navayana pragmatism**.



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**CONTACT: 9971932488**



प्रारंभ में, स्ट्रॉड ने एक **ड्यूवियन विद्वान** के रूप में अंबेडकर के **राजनीतिक दर्शन** पर **ड्यूवियन प्रभाव** की खोज की ताकि **अंबेडकर के नवयान प्रगमितवाद** के सिद्धांत को विकसित किया जा सके।

- His latest article titled "**B. R. Ambedkar and the Evolution of Pragmatism in India**" appeared in the **Economic and Political Weekly** and responded to critiques, defending his Deweyan argument.

उनका हालिया लेख "**बी. आर. अंबेडकर और भारत में प्रगति का विकास**" **इकोनॉमिक एंड पॉलिटिकल वीकली** में प्रकाशित हुआ और आलोचनाओं का जवाब देते हुए उनके ड्यूवियन तर्क का बचाव किया।

### **Stroud's Interpretation of Ambedkar's Political Philosophy**

#### **स्ट्रॉड की अंबेडकर के राजनीतिक दर्शन की व्याख्या**

- Stroud attempts to interpret Ambedkar's **political philosophy** within the global **pragmatist tradition**, arguing that pragmatism is a progressive philosophy. स्ट्रॉड अंबेडकर के **राजनीतिक दर्शन** की व्याख्या **वैश्विक प्रगति परक परंपरा** के भीतर करने का प्रयास करते हैं, यह तर्क करते हुए कि प्रगमितवाद एक प्रगतिशील दर्शन है।
- According to Stroud, thinkers like Ambedkar become important figures in the **global pluralist pragmatist philosophical tradition**. स्ट्रॉड के अनुसार, अंबेडकर जैसे विचारक **वैश्विक विविधतावादी प्रगमितवादी दार्शनिक परंपरा** में महत्वपूर्ण हस्तक्षेत्र बन जाते हैं।
- However, the range of scholarship on Ambedkar demonstrates that his thought goes beyond pragmatism, with the **pragmatist-Deweyan interpretation** only articulating one aspect of his thought. हालांकि, अंबेडकर पर स्कॉलरशिप की सीमा यह दर्शाती है कि उनका विचार प्रगमितवाद से कहीं आगे है, और **प्रगमितवादी-ड्यूवियन व्याख्या** केवल उनके विचार का एक पहलू ही व्यक्त करती है।
- Stroud provides only a **Deweyan reading** of Ambedkar's thought, which gives only a partial understanding of his multifaceted philosophy. स्ट्रॉड केवल अंबेडकर के विचारों का **ड्यूवियन दृष्टिकोण** प्रस्तुत करते हैं, जो उनकी बहुपक्षीय दर्शन की केवल आंशिक समझ देता है।

### **Ambedkar's Political Philosophy Beyond Pragmatism**

#### **प्रगमितवाद से परे अंबेडकर का राजनीतिक दर्शन**

- In his book, **Ambedkar's Political Philosophy: A Grammar of Public Life from the Social Margin**, **Valerian Rodrigues** expands on the wide-ranging nature of Ambedkar's scholarship in political philosophy. अपनी किताब, **अंबेडकर का राजनीतिक दर्शन: समाजिक सीमा से सार्वजनिक जीवन की व्याकरण**, में **वैलेरियन रोड्रिग्स** अंबेडकर की राजनीतिक दर्शन में स्कॉलरशिप की विस्तृत प्रकृति पर प्रकाश डालते हैं।
- Rodrigues argues that **John Dewey** is only one of Ambedkar's teachers, and interpreting Ambedkar through Dewey's framework provides only one philosophical perspective.

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

**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**

**Contact Number : 9971932488**

**Website : patrioticias.in**



रोड्रिग्स का कहना है कि **जॉन ड्यूई** केवल अंबेडकर के एक शिक्षक थे, और ड्यूई के फ्रेमवर्क के माध्यम से अंबेडकर की व्याख्या केवल एक दार्शनिक दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करती है।

### Stroud's Claims on Ambedkar's Learning from Dewey स्ट्रॉड के दावे अंबेडकर के ड्यूई से सीखने के बारे में

- One of the claims Stroud developed is that Ambedkar **passionately learned** from Dewey's teachings, which remained with Ambedkar for a long time, whether it was the **French Revolution** or a **lecture on psychology**.  
स्ट्रॉड ने यह दावा किया कि अंबेडकर ने ड्यूई की शिक्षाओं से **जुनूनी रूप से सीखा**, जो अंबेडकर के पास लंबे समय तक रही, चाहे वह **फ्रांसीसी क्रांति** हो या **मनोविज्ञान पर व्याख्यान**।
- Stroud created a **speculative story** through a book written by Nima Adlerblum, assuming it was Ambedkar who would attend each **lecture of Dewey** and reproduce Dewey's words and language.  
स्ट्रॉड ने नीमा एडलरब्लम द्वारा लिखी गई एक किताब के माध्यम से एक **कल्पनात्मक कहानी** बनाई, जिसमें यह माना गया कि अंबेडकर ही थे जो ड्यूई के प्रत्येक **व्याख्यान में शामिल होते थे** और ड्यूई के शब्दों और भाषा को पुनः प्रस्तुत करते थे।
- Stroud focuses on Ambedkar's **western education**, in which **Dewey's influence** was central.  
स्ट्रॉड अंबेडकर की **पश्चिमी शिक्षा** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं, जिसमें **ड्यूई का प्रभाव** केंद्रीय था।

### Stroud's Portrayal of Dewey as a Permanent Thinker स्ट्रॉड द्वारा ड्यूई को स्थायी विचारक के रूप में चित्रित करना

- By doing so, Stroud wishes to portray **Dewey** as a **permanent thinker** who shapes Ambedkar's philosophy.  
इस प्रकार, स्ट्रॉड ड्यूई को **स्थायी विचारक** के रूप में चित्रित करना चाहते हैं जो अंबेडकर के दर्शन को आकार देते हैं।
- This, however, seems to omit the fact that **Ambedkar was a versatile reader** who explored different philosophies and utilized **social experiences** and scholarship in his activism.  
हालाँकि, यह इस तथ्य को नज़रअंदाज़ करता है कि **अंबेडकर एक बहुपरक पाठक** थे जिन्होंने विभिन्न दार्शनिक विचारों की खोज की और अपने **सामाजिक अनुभवों** और विद्वता का उपयोग अपने सक्रियता में किया।
- Stroud forcefully argues that most of the **concepts** and **terminologies** Ambedkar used in his activism and intellectual formulation were aligned with **Dewey**.  
स्ट्रॉड जोर देकर यह तर्क करते हैं कि अंबेडकर ने अपने सक्रियता और बौद्धिक निर्माण में जो अधिकांश **संकल्पनाएँ** और **शब्दावली** उपयोग की, वे **ड्यूई** के अनुसार थीं।
- This obsession with Dewey's **impact** and **pragmatism** on Ambedkar creates a limited kind of scholarship.  
अंबेडकर पर ड्यूई के **प्रभाव** और **प्रगमितवाद** के प्रति यह आसक्ति एक सीमित प्रकार की विद्वता उत्पन्न करती है।



## Stroud's Definition of Pragmatism

### स्ट्रॉड की प्रगमितवाद की परिभाषा

- Stroud defines **pragmatism** as “flexible, adaptive, and diverse.”  
स्ट्रॉड “प्रगमितवाद” को “लचीला, अनुकूल और विविध” के रूप में परिभाषित करते हैं।
- Arguably, Ambedkar did adopt a kind of **pragmatic approach** engaging with the modern state in articulating democracy.  
संभवतः, अंबेडकर ने लोकतंत्र को व्यक्त करने में आधुनिक राज्य से जुड़ने के लिए एक प्रकार का प्रगमितवादी दृष्टिकोण अपनाया।
- However, Stroud does not attempt to interpret this through Dewey's **The Public and Its Problem**, possibly because he could not connect the arguments in the book with Ambedkar's experience.  
हालाँकि, स्ट्रॉड इसे ड्यूई की **The Public and Its Problem** के माध्यम से व्याख्यायित करने का प्रयास नहीं करते, शायद इसलिए कि वह पुस्तक के तर्कों को अंबेडकर के अनुभव से जोड़ नहीं सके।
- The way Ambedkar engaged with the state, such as negotiating with **Gandhi**, other **Indian leaders**, and the later **Constituent Assembly debates**, shows his **pragmatic approach**.  
जिस तरह अंबेडकर ने राज्य के साथ जुड़ाव किया, जैसे गांधी, अन्य भारतीय नेताओं के साथ बातचीत करना, और बाद के संविधान सभा बहसों में भाग लेना, यह उनके प्रगमितवादी दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है।
- Although Stroud equates **pragmatism** with **social democracy**, it is important to see Ambedkar's original emphasis on **social democracy**, and not within the **pragmatist tradition**.  
हालाँकि, स्ट्रॉड प्रगमितवाद को सामाजिक लोकतंत्र से जोड़ते हैं, यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि हम अंबेडकर की मूल सामाजिक लोकतंत्र पर जोर दें, और इसे प्रगमितवादी परंपरा में न देखें।

## Pragmatism's Inadequacy in Annihilating Caste

### प्रगमितवाद का जाति को नष्ट करने में अपर्याप्त होना

- Pragmatism, though important, is inadequate to **annihilate caste** in a **Brahmanical society**.  
प्रगमितवाद, हालाँकि महत्वपूर्ण है, ब्राह्मणवादी समाज में जाति को नष्ट करने में अपर्याप्त है।
- Ambedkar cited **Dewey** in **Annihilation of Caste**, but it is not a **pragmatic text**.  
अंबेडकर ने जाति का उन्मूलन में ड्यूई का उद्धरण किया, लेकिन यह प्रगमितवादी ग्रंथ नहीं है।
- Stroud claims that Ambedkar learned the “**psychology of habit and custom**” from Dewey when thinking about the psychology of caste.  
स्ट्रॉड का कहना है कि अंबेडकर ने जाति के मनोविज्ञान के बारे में सोचते समय ड्यूई से “आदत और परंपरा का मनोविज्ञान” सीखा।
- However, Stroud overlooks the **untouchability** Ambedkar encountered throughout his life, whether physical or psychological.  
हालाँकि, स्ट्रॉड अंबेडकर द्वारा जीवनभर अनुभव की गई अछूतता को नज़रअंदाज़ करते हैं, चाहे वह शारीरिक हो या मानसिक।



## Misinterpretation of Ambedkar's Conversion to Buddhism

### अंबेडकर के बौद्ध धर्म में धर्मांतरण की गलत व्याख्या

- Stroud argues that Ambedkar's **conversion to Buddhism** was a **pragmatic approach**. स्ट्रॉड का कहना है कि अंबेडकर का बौद्ध धर्म में धर्मांतरण एक प्रगमितवादी दृष्टिकोण था।
- However, Buddhism was a **life-long philosophy** for Ambedkar that he cultivated from his **childhood**. हालाँकि, बौद्ध धर्म अंबेडकर के लिए एक जीवनभर की दर्शनशास्त्र थी जिसे उन्होंने अपनी बचपन से अपनाया।
- Giving credit or echo to **Dewey** for this is a **misinterpretation**. इसे ड्यूई को श्रेय देना या प्रतिध्वनित करना एक गलत व्याख्या है।
- Ambedkar's family were part of the **Kabir Panth**, which teaches the importance of **ethics** and **morality**. अंबेडकर का परिवार कबीर पंथ का हिस्सा था, जो नैतिकता और सद्गुण के महत्व को सिखाता है।

## Ambedkar's Early Inspiration and Philosophical Influences

### अंबेडकर की प्रारंभिक प्रेरणा और दार्शनिक प्रभाव

- Ambedkar read the **Buddha Charitra** in his early age, which remained his **sole inspiration**. अंबेडकर ने अपनी प्रारंभिक उम्र में बुद्ध चरित्र पढ़ा, जो उनकी एकमात्र प्रेरणा बन गई।
- Ambedkar also wrote a letter to **Sharada** stating, that "the only person to whom I owe all my being is **Gautama Buddha**." अंबेडकर ने शारदा को एक पत्र लिखा जिसमें उन्होंने कहा, "गौतम बुद्ध ही एकमात्र व्यक्ति हैं जिनके कारण मैं जो कुछ भी हूँ, वही हूँ।"

## Rodrigues' Scholarship on Ambedkar's Epistemic Location

### रॉड्रिग्स का अंबेडकर के एपिस्टेमिक स्थान पर विद्वता

- Rodrigues shows in his recent book a **wide-ranging scholarship** on the "**epistemic location** of Ambedkar," including **Kabir's legacy**, Dewey's influence, **Phule's presence**, the social and political discourse of **Bombay** and **India**, **Fabian socialism**, and **social democracy**. रॉड्रिग्स ने अपनी हाल की किताब में अंबेडकर के "एपिस्टेमिक स्थान" पर एक व्यापक विद्वता दिखाई है, जिसमें कबीर की धरोहर, ड्यूई का प्रभाव, फूले की उपस्थिति, बॉम्बे और भारत का सामाजिक और राजनीतिक संवाद, फेबियन समाजवाद, और सामाजिक लोकतंत्र शामिल हैं।
- In the **Columbia alumni newspaper**, Ambedkar expresses admiration for his "great professors, **John Dewey**, **James Shotwell**, **Edwin Seligman**, and **James Hervey Robinson**," but Stroud only picks **John Dewey** for his project of **pragmatism**. कोलंबिया एलुमनी समाचार पत्र में अंबेडकर अपने "महान प्रोफेसरों, जॉन ड्यूई, जेम्स शॉटवेल, एडविन सेलीगमैन, और जेम्स हर्वे रॉबिन्सन के प्रति प्रशंसा व्यक्त करते हैं, लेकिन स्ट्रॉड अपने प्रगमितवाद के परियोजना के लिए केवल जॉन ड्यूई को ही चुनते हैं।



- Similarly, one should also explore **Ambedkar's time in London (LSE)**. How can Ambedkar's **western education** only focus on **Dewey**?  
इसी प्रकार, किसी को **अंबेडकर का लंदन (LSE) में समय** भी अन्वेषण करना चाहिए। अंबेडकर की **पश्चिमी शिक्षा** केवल **ड्यूई** पर क्यों केंद्रित हो सकती है?

### The Annihilation of Caste as Ambedkar's Lifelong Project जाति का उन्मूलन अंबेडकर की जीवनभर की परियोजना के रूप में

- The **Annihilation of Caste** was a **lifelong project** for Ambedkar's **emancipatory politics** and **philosophy**.  
जाति का उन्मूलन अंबेडकर की **मुक्तिकारी राजनीति** और **दर्शनशास्त्र** के लिए एक **जीवनभर की परियोजना** थी।
- The annihilation of caste, the declaration of **renouncing Hinduism**, and the **conversion to Buddhism** were **revolutionary acts**, not merely accorded to **pragmatism**.  
जाति का उन्मूलन, **हिंदू धर्म का त्याग** की घोषणा, और **बौद्ध धर्म में धर्मांतरण** **क्रांतिकारी कृत्य** थे, न कि केवल **प्रगमितवाद** से जुड़ी गतिविधियाँ।
- These were part of his **praxis** because Ambedkar could see the **limitations of the modern state** and **constitutional democracy**.  
ये उनकी **प्राक्सिस** का हिस्सा थे क्योंकि अंबेडकर **आधुनिक राज्य** और **संविधानिक लोकतंत्र** की **सीमाओं** को देख पा रहे थे।
- He found **Buddhism** to be an **ultimate path**.  
उन्हें **बौद्ध धर्म अंतिम मार्ग** के रूप में मिला।
- His **22 vows** discard the authority of **Hindu gods** and **goddesses** — it is not a reformist act either, not even restructuring **Hindu society**.  
उनकी **22 प्रतिज्ञाएँ** **हिंदू देवताओं** और **देवियों** के अधिकार को नकारती हैं — यह एक सुधारात्मक कृत्य नहीं है, न ही **हिंदू समाज** को पुनर्गठित करना है।
- Too much reading of **pragmatism** into Ambedkar suggests an **American project** — the same **American project** yet to adequately address the **structural** and **perpetual racial discrimination** faced by **people of colour**.  
अंबेडकर में **प्रगमितवाद** का अत्यधिक अध्ययन एक **अमेरिकी परियोजना** को दर्शाता है — वही **अमेरिकी परियोजना** जो अभी तक **संरचनात्मक** और **सतत नस्लीय भेदभाव** का उचित समाधान नहीं कर पाई है, जो **रंगभेद वाले लोगों** को झेलना पड़ता है।
- Ambedkar was equally aware of the limitations of **pragmatism** and the modern state and hence **caste annihilation** was his project of **emancipation**.  
अंबेडकर **प्रगमितवाद** और **आधुनिक राज्य** की सीमाओं से **equally** परिचित थे और इसलिए **जाति उन्मूलन** उनकी **मुक्ति** की परियोजना थी।

### TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

- Iran FM, Houthi envoy discuss Nimisha case / ईरान के विदेश मंत्री और हौथी दूत ने निमिशा मामले पर चर्चा की**



2. Javelin gold for Navdeep with a heave of 39.93m / नवदीप ने 39.93 मीटर भाला फेंककर स्वर्ण पदक जीता
3. Paralympic medallist Mariyappan to sport a blade soon / पैरालंपिक पदक विजेता मरियप्पन जल्द ही पहनेंगे ब्लेड
4. I am keen on doing well in the elite events too / मैं शीर्ष स्पर्धाओं में भी अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने को उत्सुक हूँ

## Iran FM, Houthi envoy discuss Nimisha case

A day after meeting Jaishankar, Iran's Araghchi says he discussed a legal way out with Abdul Salam for the former-nurse on death row in Yemen; 37-year-old Nimisha Priya from Kerala was convicted in 2020 for killing her Yemeni business partner; her family is campaigning for clemency

PCS  
GS Paper II: India in West  
Asia  
MUSCAT

A day after meeting External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Muscat, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Monday said he had made an appeal on behalf of Nimisha Priya, the Indian nurse on death row in Yemen, with a senior Houthi envoy.

In an interview to *The Hindu* here, Mr. Araghchi, who met Mr. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat on Sunday, said he subsequently met Mohammed Abdul Salam, special envoy of Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthi group that controls significant parts of Yemen.

"We are hopeful. I just

spoke to Mr. Abdul Salam, the Ansar Allah envoy, who is here in Muscat. I told him about this case, and he assured me that he will try to find a way forward," Mr. Araghchi said.

According to reports in the Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV, Mr. Araghchi and Mr. Abdul Salam met in Muscat on Monday for official talks to discuss "recent regional developments, including the enforcement of the Gaza ceasefire".

### 'Assaulted for years'

The 37-year old Ms. Priya, a former nurse from Kerala, was convicted in 2020 for killing her Yemeni business partner, Talal Abdo Mahdi, in 2017.

Her family launched an international campaign for clemency for Ms. Priya,



**Way forward:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Muscat on Sunday. ANI

who said that she had been assaulted and abused by Mahdi for years. Ms. Priya's family and other groups also collected contributions towards reparations or "blood money" which could allow her to be pardoned by the family

of the man killed according to the Islamic legal system.

After she was sentenced to death by the Supreme Court in Yemen's capital Sana'a this year, the External Affairs Ministry said the Indian government "is providing all possible assis-

tance in the case". "The matter regarding any consideration towards the release of Ms. Nimisha Priya is between the family of the deceased and Ms. Nimisha Priya's family," the Ministry said in response to a question by MP John Brittas in the Rajya Sabha.

The response led to accusations by civil society organisations in Kerala that the government had "washed its hands off the matter".

### Diplomatic efforts

Mr. Araghchi's comments indicate that diplomatic efforts are still ongoing in the case, particularly given Iran's considerable influence over the Houthi group in Yemen.

In January, *The Hindu* had reported that a senior

Iranian official visiting Delhi had also assured support from Tehran to India's case.

Mr. Araghchi, however, said that the case would not be resolved unless an alternative legal argument could be presented before the courts.

"It is purely a legal case, and has nothing to do with politics," the Iranian Foreign Minister said. "It is a case about a crime which the lady [Ms. Priya] has unfortunately committed. So they are trying to find a way... to another legal way out to address this issue and prevent her execution," he added.

Ms. Priya is reportedly being held at the Central Prison in Sana'a.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

## Iran FM, Houthi envoy discuss Nimisha case

ईरान के विदेश मंत्री और हौथी दूत ने निमिशा मामले पर चर्चा की

A day after meeting Jaishankar, Iran's Araghchi says he discussed a legal way out with Abdul Salam for the former-nurse on death row in Yemen; 37-year-old



**Nimisha Priya from Kerala was convicted in 2020 for killing her Yemeni business partner; her family is campaigning for clemency**

जयशंकर से मुलाकात के एक दिन बाद ईरान के अराघची ने कहा कि उन्होंने यमन में मौत की सजा पाए पूर्व नर्स अब्दुल सलाम के लिए कानूनी रास्ता निकालने पर चर्चा की; केरल की 37 वर्षीय निमिशा प्रिया को 2020 में अपने यमनी बिजनेस पार्टनर की हत्या के लिए दोषी ठहराया गया था; उनका परिवार क्षमादान के लिए अभियान चला रहा है

**Diplomatic Efforts Regarding Nimisha Priya's Case**  
निमिशा प्रिय का मामला और कूटनीतिक प्रयास

- A day after meeting External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** in Muscat, Iranian Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi** on Monday said he had made an appeal on behalf of **Nimisha Priya**, the Indian nurse on death row in **Yemen**, with a senior **Houthi envoy**.  
\*\*मस्कट में विदेश मंत्री **S. जयशंकर** से मुलाकात के एक दिन बाद, ईरानी विदेश मंत्री **अब्दुल्बास अराघची** ने सोमवार को कहा कि उन्होंने **निमिशा प्रिय**, जो **यमन** में फांसी की सजा पर हैं, के लिए एक वरिष्ठ **हौथी दूत** से अपील की है।
- Mr. Araghchi, who met Mr. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the **Indian Ocean Conference** in **Muscat** on Sunday, said he subsequently met **Mohammed Abdul Salam**, special envoy of **Ansar Allah**, also known as the **Houthi group** that controls significant parts of Yemen.  
**अब्दुल्बास अराघची**, जिन्होंने रविवार को **मस्कट** में **भारतीय महासागर सम्मेलन** के दौरान श्री जयशंकर से मुलाकात की, ने कहा कि इसके बाद उन्होंने **अंसार अल्लाह** के विशेष दूत **मोहम्मद अब्दुल सलाम** से मुलाकात की, जो **हौथी समूह** के सदस्य हैं और जो यमन के महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सों पर नियंत्रण रखते हैं।
- "We are hopeful. I just spoke to Mr. Abdul Salam, the Ansar Allah envoy, who is here in Muscat. I told him about this case, and he assured me that he will try to find a way forward," Mr. Araghchi said.  
"हम आशान्वित हैं। मैंने अभी **मस्कट** में मौजूद **अंसार अल्लाह** के दूत **मोहम्मद अब्दुल सलाम** से बात की। मैंने उन्हें इस मामले के बारे में बताया, और उन्होंने मुझे आश्वासन दिया कि वे आगे बढ़ने का रास्ता ढूँढ़ेंगे," श्री अराघची ने कहा।
- According to reports in the Houthi-run **Al-Masirah TV**, Mr. Araghchi and Mr. Abdul Salam met in Muscat on Monday for official talks to discuss "recent regional developments, including the enforcement of the **Gaza ceasefire**."  
\*\*हौथी द्वारा संचालित **अल-मसीरा टीवी** के अनुसार, श्री अराघची और श्री अब्दुल सलाम ने सोमवार को मस्कट में आधिकारिक वार्ता के लिए मुलाकात की, जिसमें "हालिया क्षेत्रीय घटनाक्रमों, जिसमें **गाजा संघर्षविराम** की प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन" पर चर्चा की गई।

**Nimisha Priya's Case and Campaign for Clemency**  
निमिशा प्रिय का मामला और दया की अपील



- The **37-year-old Ms. Priya**, a former nurse from **Kerala**, was convicted in 2020 for killing her **Yemeni business partner, Talal Abdo Mahdi**, in 2017.  
**37 वर्षीय श्रीमती प्रिय**, जो केरल की पूर्व नर्स हैं, को 2020 में 2017 में अपने **यमनी व्यापारिक साझेदार, तालाल अब्दुल महदी** की हत्या करने के लिए दोषी ठहराया गया।
- Her family launched an **international campaign** for **clemency** for Ms. Priya, who said that she had been **assaulted and abused** by Mahdi for years.  
उनके परिवार ने श्रीमती प्रिय के लिए **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अभियान** शुरू किया, जिन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें महदी द्वारा वर्षों तक **हमला और शोषण** किया गया।
- Ms. Priya's family and other groups also collected contributions towards **reparations** or "**blood money**" which could allow her to be pardoned by the family of the man killed according to the **Islamic legal system**.  
श्रीमती प्रिय के परिवार और अन्य समूहों ने **मुआवजा** या "**खून का पैसा**" जमा किया, जिसे इस्लामिक कानूनी व्यवस्था के तहत मारे गए व्यक्ति के परिवार से उन्हें माफ़ी दिलवाने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता था।
- After she was sentenced to death by the **Supreme Court** in Yemen's capital **Sana'a** this year, the **External Affairs Ministry** said the Indian government "is providing all possible assistance in the case."  
इस वर्ष यमन की राजधानी **सना** में उन्हें **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** द्वारा फांसी की सजा सुनाए जाने के बाद, **विदेश मंत्रालय** ने कहा कि भारतीय सरकार "मामले में सभी संभावित सहायता प्रदान कर रही है।"
- The Ministry said in response to a question by **MP John Brittas** in the **Rajya Sabha** that the matter regarding any consideration towards the release of Ms. Nimisha Priya is between the family of the deceased and Ms. Nimisha Priya's family.  
**राज्यसभा** में **सांसद जॉन ब्रिट्टास** द्वारा पूछे गए सवाल के जवाब में मंत्रालय ने कहा कि श्रीमती निमिशा प्रिय की रिहाई को लेकर कोई भी विचार उनके और मृतक के परिवार के बीच का मामला है।
- The response led to accusations by **civil society organisations** in Kerala that the government had "**washed its hands off** the matter."  
इस जवाब से **केरल** में **सिविल सोसाइटी संगठनों** द्वारा यह आरोप लगाया गया कि सरकार ने इस मामले से "**अपने हाथ धो लिए हैं।**"

### Ongoing Diplomatic Efforts in Nimisha Priya's Case निमिशा प्रिय के मामले में जारी कूटनीतिक प्रयास

- Mr. Araghchi's comments indicate that **diplomatic efforts** are still ongoing in the case, particularly given **Iran's considerable influence** over the **Houthi group** in Yemen.  
श्री अराघची की टिप्पणियाँ इस बात को संकेत देती हैं कि मामले में **कूटनीतिक प्रयास** अभी भी जारी हैं, विशेष रूप से **ईरान** का **हौथी समूह** पर पर्याप्त प्रभाव होने के कारण।
- In January, **The Hindu** had reported that a senior Iranian official visiting Delhi had also assured support from Tehran to India's case.  
जनवरी में, **द हिंदू** ने रिपोर्ट किया था कि दिल्ली यात्रा पर आए एक वरिष्ठ ईरानी अधिकारी ने भारत के मामले में तेहरान से समर्थन का आश्वासन दिया था।
- Mr. Araghchi, however, said that the case would not be resolved unless an **alternative legal argument** could be presented before the courts.



हालांकि, श्री अराघची ने कहा कि मामला तब तक हल नहीं होगा, जब तक **वैकल्पिक कानूनी तर्क** अदालत में प्रस्तुत नहीं किया जाता।

- "It is purely a **legal case**, and has nothing to do with politics," the Iranian Foreign Minister said.  
"यह पूरी तरह से एक **कानूनी मामला** है, और इसका राजनीति से कोई संबंध नहीं है," ईरानी विदेश मंत्री ने कहा।
- "It is a case about a crime which the lady [Ms. Priya] has unfortunately committed. So they are trying to find a way... to another legal way out to address this issue and prevent her execution," he added.  
"यह एक अपराध का मामला है जिसे श्रीमती [प्रिया] ने दुर्भाग्यवश किया है। इसलिए वे एक रास्ता ढूँढने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं... एक और **कानूनी रास्ता** जिससे इस मुद्दे को हल किया जा सके और उनकी फांसी को रोका जा सके," उन्होंने कहा।
- Ms. Priya is reportedly being held at the **Central Prison in Sana'a**. रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, श्रीमती प्रिय को **सना के केंद्रीय कारागार** में रखा गया है।

## Javelin gold for Navdeep with a heave of 39.93m

PCS

### PARA ATHLETICS



**Winning throw:** Navdeep in action during the men's javelin F41 event on Tuesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

#### Sports Bureau CHENNAI

Haryana's Navdeep Singh won the men's javelin F41 gold on the opening day of the National para athletics championships, heaving the spear to a distance of 39.93m on Tuesday.

Lakshya Choudhary of Uttar Pradesh was second (34.21m) while Ritender (Delhi) was third (32.93m).

The 24-year-old Paris Paralympics gold medalist, however, expressed disappointment at not being at his best but said it's a nice feeling to take part in the Nationals.

"My target was something else. I wanted to touch 40m, but it is OK as I haven't been training of late,"

said Navdeep.

Two other Paris Paralympics medallists, Nishad Kumar and Praveen Kumar, won gold in men's high jump. Representing UP, Praveen measured 1.86m in T64 category while Nishad of Himachal Pradesh cleared 2m in T47.

#### The results (winners only):

**Men: 100m:** T35: Abhishek Babasa Jadhav (Mah) 13.92s; **T13:** Chaitanya Vijay Pathak (Mah) 11.76s. **1500m:** T11: Sukhdev (CG) 4:42.20s; **T12:** M. S. Sharath (Kar) 4:10.40s; **T13:** Rajesh Yadav (Raj) 4:18.90s; **javelin throw:** F12: Ishwar Rampal Tak (Mah) 56.33m; **F40:** Ravi Rongali (AP) 35.11m; **F13:** Manjeet (Har) 56.29m. **F41:** Navdeep Singh (Har) 39.93m. **Women: 100m:** T44 / 62 / 64: Seema Gurjar (Raj) 17.32s. **Shot put:** F 36 / 37: Lakshmi (Har) 7.94m; **F35:** Avani (Har) 4.86m; **F40:** Akutai Sitaram Ulbhagat (Mah) 5.85m.

**Javelin gold for Navdeep with a heave of 39.93m**  
**नवदीप ने 39.93 मीटर भाला फेंककर स्वर्ण पदक जीता**



## Haryana's Navdeep Singh Wins Gold in Javelin at National Para Athletics Championships हरियाणा के नवदीप सिंह ने राष्ट्रीय पैराटलेटिक्स चैम्पियनशिप में भाला फेंक में गोल्ड जीता

- **Navdeep Singh** of Haryana won the **men's javelin F41 gold** on the opening day of the **National Para Athletics Championships**, throwing the spear to a distance of **39.93m** on **Tuesday**.  
\*\*हरियाणा के नवदीप सिंह ने राष्ट्रीय पैराटलेटिक्स चैम्पियनशिप के उद्घाटन दिन पर पुरुषों के भाला फेंक F41 गोल्ड जीता, और मंगलवार को भाला 39.93 मीटर की दूरी तक फेंका।
- **Lakshya Choudhary** of **Uttar Pradesh** was second with a throw of **34.21m**, while **Ritender** from **Delhi** finished third with a throw of **32.93m**.  
\*\*उत्तर प्रदेश के लक्ष्य चौधरी ने 34.21 मीटर की दूरी के साथ दूसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया, जबकि दिल्ली के रितेन्द्र ने 32.93 मीटर की दूरी के साथ तीसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया।
- The **24-year-old Paris Paralympics gold medallist** expressed disappointment at not being at his best, but said it's a nice feeling to take part in the **Nationals**.  
**24 वर्षीय पेरिस पैरालंपिक्स गोल्ड पदक विजेता** ने अपनी श्रेष्ठता पर असंतोष व्यक्त किया, लेकिन कहा कि राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेना अच्छा अनुभव है।
- "My target was something else. I wanted to touch **40m**, but it is OK as I haven't been training of late," said **Navdeep**.  
"मेरा लक्ष्य कुछ और था। मैं **40 मीटर** तक पहुंचना चाहता था, लेकिन कोई बात नहीं, क्योंकि मैं हाल ही में प्रशिक्षण नहीं ले रहा था," नवदीप ने कहा।

## Paris Paralympics Medallists Shine in High Jump पेरिस पैरालंपिक्स पदक विजेता हाई जम्प में चमके

- Two other **Paris Paralympics medallists**, **Nishad Kumar** and **Praveen Kumar**, won **gold** in **men's high jump**.  
दो अन्य पेरिस पैरालंपिक्स पदक विजेता, निशाद कुमार और प्रवीण कुमार ने पुरुषों के हाई जम्प में गोल्ड जीता।
- Representing **UP**, **Praveen** cleared **1.86m** in the **T64 category**, while **Nishad** of **Himachal Pradesh** cleared **2m** in the **T47 category**.  
उत्तर प्रदेश का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हुए, प्रवीण ने T64 श्रेणी में 1.86 मीटर की ऊंचाई पार की, जबकि हिमाचल प्रदेश के निशाद ने T47 श्रेणी में 2 मीटर की ऊंचाई पार की।



## Paralympic medallist Mariyappan to sport a blade soon

PCS

**K. Keerthivasan**  
CHENNAI

Triple Paralympic medallist high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu hopes to perform as well as he has done in the past when he attaches a blade to his right leg in the coming weeks.

The 29-year-old, who won bronze at the Paris Paralympics, is planning to undergo surgery, most likely in Bengaluru, in the coming weeks to be ready for the World Para Championships scheduled in New Delhi from September 26 to October 5.

Due to the impending surgery, Mariyappan is not participating in the ongoing National Para Athletics Championships here and will also miss the World Pa-



Mariyappan. REUTERS

ra Athletics GP from March 11 to 13 in New Delhi.

"I am confident that the National Para Athletics Championships will help athletes from Tamil Nadu, especially those from the villages. I also believe that the blade will improve my jump," said Mariyappan on Tuesday. His coach, Sathyanarayana, said that with

the blade, his ward will move from category T42 to T64 (blade inserted below the knee). He emphasised that using a blade is a shift in strategy and is confident that it will help Mariyappan win gold at the Worlds.

"I have been advising him to use a blade since 2017, but only now has he become convinced. Currently, there are only two high jumpers with blades, and both are from the USA," said Sathyanarayana, who is the head coach of the National Para team.

"Mariyappan has explosive power in his leg, and with a blade, he can achieve even more. Since he will be over 30 at the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics, this will benefit him," added Sathyanarayana.

## Paralympic medallist Mariyappan to sport a blade soon

**पैरालंपिक पदक विजेता मरियप्पन जल्द ही पहनेंगे ब्लेड**

**Triple Paralympic Medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu to Undergo Surgery for Blade Attachment**

**ट्रिपल पैरालंपिक पदक विजेता मारीयप्पन थंगावेलु ब्लेड जोड़ने के लिए सर्जरी कराएंगे**

• **Mariyappan Thangavelu, the triple Paralympic medallist high jumper,** hopes to perform as well as he has in the past when he attaches a **blade** to his right leg in the coming weeks.

\*\*ट्रिपल पैरालंपिक पदक विजेता हाई जम्पर **मारीयप्पन थंगावेलु** उम्मीद करते हैं कि वह जैसे पहले प्रदर्शन करते थे, वैसे ही प्रदर्शन करेंगे जब वह आने वाले हफ्तों में अपनी दाहिनी टांग में **ब्लेड** जोड़ेंगे।

- The **29-year-old**, who won **bronze** at the **Paris Paralympics**, is planning to undergo **surgery** in **Bengaluru** in the coming weeks to be ready for the **World Para Championships** scheduled in **New Delhi** from **September 26 to October 5**. **29 वर्षीय**, जिन्होंने **पेरिस पैरालंपिक्स** में **कांस्य** जीते थे, **बेंगलुरु** में आने वाले हफ्तों में **सर्जरी** कराने की योजना बना रहे हैं, ताकि वह **नई दिल्ली** में **26 सितंबर से 5 अक्टूबर** तक निर्धारित **वर्ल्ड पैराथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप** के लिए तैयार हो सकें।



- Due to the impending surgery, **Mariyappan** is not participating in the ongoing **National Para Athletics Championships** and will miss the **World Para Athletics GP** from **March 11 to 13** in **New Delhi**.  
आगामी सर्जरी के कारण, **मारीयप्पन** चल रही **राष्ट्रीय पैराथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप** में भाग नहीं ले रहे हैं और वह **11 से 13 मार्च** तक **नई दिल्ली** में होने वाली **वर्ल्ड पैराथलेटिक्स जीपी** को भी मिस करेंगे।
- "I am confident that the **National Para Athletics Championships** will help athletes from **Tamil Nadu**, especially those from the villages. I also believe that the **blade** will improve my jump," said **Mariyappan** on Tuesday.  
"मुझे विश्वास है कि **राष्ट्रीय पैराथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप** **तमिलनाडु** के खिलाड़ियों, खासकर गांवों से आने वाले खिलाड़ियों की मदद करेगी। मुझे यह भी विश्वास है कि **ब्लेड** मेरे कूद को सुधारने में मदद करेगा," **मारीयप्पन** ने मंगलवार को कहा।
- His coach, **Sathyanarayana**, said that with the **blade**, Mariyappan will move from category **T42** to **T64** (blade inserted below the knee). He is confident that it will help **Mariyappan** win **gold** at the **World Para Championships**.  
उनके कोच **सत्यनारायण** ने कहा कि **ब्लेड** के साथ, मारीयप्पन श्रेणी **T42** से **T64** (ब्लेड घुटने के नीचे डाला गया) में स्थानांतरित हो जाएंगे। उन्हें विश्वास है कि इससे **मारीयप्पन** को **वर्ल्ड पैराथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप** में **गोल्ड** जीतने में मदद मिलेगी।
- "I have been advising him to use a **blade** since **2017**, but only now has he become convinced. Currently, there are only two high jumpers with blades, and both are from the **USA**," said **Sathyanarayana**, the head coach of the **National Para team**.  
"मैं उन्हें **2017** से **ब्लेड** इस्तेमाल करने की सलाह दे रहा था, लेकिन अब जाकर वह विश्वास कर पाए हैं। वर्तमान में केवल दो हाई जम्पर्स हैं जिनके पास ब्लेड हैं, और दोनों **USA** से हैं," **सत्यनारायण** ने कहा, जो **नेशनल पैराथ टीम** के मुख्य कोच हैं।
- "Mariyappan has **explosive power** in his leg, and with a **blade**, he can achieve even more. Since he will be over **30** at the **2028 Los Angeles Paralympics**, this will benefit him," added **Sathyanarayana**.  
"मारीयप्पन की टांग में **विस्फोटक ताकत** है, और **ब्लेड** के साथ वह और भी ज्यादा हासिल कर सकते हैं। चूंकि वह **2028 लॉस एंजिल्स पैरालंपिक्स** में **30** के ऊपर होंगे, यह उन्हें लाभ पहुंचाएगा," **सत्यनारायण** ने जोड़ा।



SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

# I am keen on doing well in the elite events too

After a stellar run in 2024, Gulveer has begun the new season well and looks to sustain the momentum as he dwells on the importance of training and the road ahead

**INTERVIEW**

**GULVEER SINGH**

Y.B. Sarangi

PCS

**G**ulveer Singh, who hit the headlines last year by breaking the National records in 5000m and 10000m twice each and broke more than a decade old 3000m indoor record in his 2025 season-opener in Boston, is delighted with the improvement he has shown in the last one year.

The 26-year-old Armyman, a bronze medalist in the Hangzhou Asian Games (10,000m) and Asian championships (5,000m) in 2023, first broke his coach Surendra Singh's 16-year-old National record to be the first Indian to record a sub-28 minute time (27:41.81) over 10,000m in The Ten event at San Juan Capistrano, the USA, in March last and improved it further (28:14.88) in the Hachioji Long Distance event in Japan in November.

Over 5000m, Gulveer clocked 13:48.92 in the Portland Track Festival, the USA, in June before lowering it to 13:11.82 in the Yogiyo Athletics Challenge Cup in Japan in September.

The runner from Aligarh district in western Uttar Pradesh closed 2024 on a high as he emerged as the best Indian male runner, with a time of 13:41.10 for an overall eighth place, at the Tata Steel Kolkata World 25K in December.

The distance runner clocked 7:38.26 to finish second in the 3000m at the 2025 Boston University David Hemeny Valentine Invitational Indoor Meet last week to begin the new season in style. The previous National record of 7:49.47 was clocked in 2008 by his coach Surendra Singh.

"I am elated to have clocked a good time in my season's first indoor race. A good performance over 3000m (indoor) has given a big boost to my confidence. I should be able to do better during upcoming outdoor races," said Gulveer.

With important events, such as the World and Asian athletics championships, scheduled this year, Gulveer is eager to raise his performance a few notches in 2025.

Gulveer spoke to *The Hindu* about his recent memorable performances and his targets ahead.

**You have constantly improved in the last one year or so. What is the reason for this? How do you see this?**

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) sent me abroad. The Sports Authority



SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP



SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP



SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

of India (SAI) and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) also supported me in this. Initially, I was in the national camp.

We had coach Yunus Khan, who gave us good training. I went to the USA. I got another good coach in Scott Simon. After training there, I made good improvement.

Training partners play an important role. A long distance athlete can never train alone. For example, a 100 meter person can do it alone, but a long distance athlete can't do it.

**Have you done anything special to improve your performance?**

The most important thing is training. It depends on the coach. We have to follow his schedule. We don't do anything on our own. We follow the

schedule. There was a 10000 race in the USA in March. The USA coach planned it well and I broke the 10000 National record. Wherever we competed in the USA I did well. Then I broke the National record for 5000 in Portland. The cut-off for Paris was 13:05 and mine was 13:38. However, in September, I lowered it to 13:11 in Japan.

**What do you do to break the National record again and again?**  
It depends on the training programme and how the body responds at the time of a competition. For example, in the USA I did 13:48 and I used to train at a certain intensity. Later, the coach increased the intensity of training after watching how the body responded. So whatever changes he makes, we just follow it.

**How do you feel about winning the 10000m race in Japan with a National record?**

It was a good race. I think of improving slowly and competing with the top athletes.

**What are your targets now?**

My next target is to win the gold medal in the Asian championships (May 27-31 in Gumi, South Korea) and qualify for the World championships (September 13-21, Tokyo).

I can qualify directly by doing 27:00. My target is to qualify directly (and not through rankings). I am also eyeing to make it in the 5000m, in which the qualifying mark is 13:01.

It's less than the Olympics qualifying mark of 13:05. There is enough time in hand.

**Of 10000m and 5000m, which one is your favourite event?**

I like both and by the grace of God I am doing well in both the races.

**Who is your role model?**

Neeraj (Chopra) bhai sahab is my role model. He has made India proud. In my events, my training partner Karik Kumar is my role model. I cannot express why. We stay together and train together. We are like brothers.

**Tell us more about your bonding with Kartik.**

We plan for a competition and decide what to do and what not to do. We don't treat one another as competitors, we are like brothers.

**Any role model at the world level?**

Yes, (Olympic and World champion in 10,000m) world record holder Jason Cheptegei, who won the Delhi half-marathon this year.

I was thinking of giving him a chase there but I went to the Asian Cross Country Championships in Hong Kong.

**How does participation in road races help you in your main events on the track?**

Road races improve one's endurance. Once your endurance improves, you can work on speed closer to an event, say about a month to go. We carry the endurance of road races into the track competitions.

**Are you also keen on competing in the 2028 Olympics?**

Yes. I have more than three years left. I will go step by step and will do my best. I enjoy running with the top athletes and giving them competition.

**Before that, the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games are there in 2026.**

Yes, I am keen on doing well in these elite events as well. As a country we should improve our performances in these prestigious events.

**You were blessed with a daughter last year and have a son as well. Does your son understand what you do and do you want him to be a professional runner?**

My son is just four years old. He watches my performance on TV, but does not understand much. My wife tries to make him understand what I do. I will teach my children how to run as it is necessary for everyone. But it is very hard to pursue running as a professional. I want them to study well and do something other than running. It is a very difficult job.



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



**I am keen on doing well in the elite events too**

**मैं शीर्ष स्पर्धाओं में भी अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने को उत्सुक हूँ**

After a stellar run in 2024, Gulveer has begun the new season well and looks to sustain the momentum as he dwells on the importance of training and the road ahead

2024 में शानदार प्रदर्शन के बाद, गुलवीर ने नए सत्र की अच्छी शुरुआत की है और वह इस गति को बनाए रखना चाहती है क्योंकि वह प्रशिक्षण के महत्व और आगे की राह पर विचार करती है

**Gulveer Singh's Impressive 2025 Season Start and Record-Breaking Achievements**  
गुलवीर सिंह की प्रभावशाली 2025 सीजन की शुरुआत और रिकॉर्ड-तोड़ उपलब्धियाँ

- **Gulveer Singh**, who hit the headlines last year by breaking the **National records** in **5000m** and **10000m** twice each, and broke a **more than a decade-old 3000m indoor record** in his 2025 season-opener in **Boston**, is delighted with the improvement he has shown in the last one year.  
गुलवीर सिंह, जिन्होंने पिछले साल **5000 मीटर** और **10000 मीटर** के **राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड** को दो बार तोड़ा, और **2025 सीजन के उद्घाटन में बॉस्टन में दस साल पुराना 3000 मीटर इंडोर रिकॉर्ड** तोड़ा, वह पिछले एक साल में दिखाए गए सुधार से बहुत खुश हैं।
- The **26-year-old Armyman**, a **bronze medallist** in the **Hangzhou Asian Games** (10,000m) and **Asian championships** (5,000m) in **2023**, first broke his coach **Surendra Singh's 16-year-old National record** to be the first Indian to record a sub-28-minute time (**27:41.81**) over **10,000m** in **The Ten event** at **San Juan Capistrano, the USA**, in **March** last year.  
**26 वर्षीय आर्मीसैन**, जो **हांगझोउ एशियाई खेलों** (10,000 मीटर) और **एशियाई चैंपियनशिप** (5000 मीटर) में **2023** में **कांस्य पदक** विजेता रहे थे, पहले अपने कोच **सुरेंद्र सिंह का 16 साल पुराना राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड** तोड़कर **10,000 मीटर में 28 मिनट से कम समय (27:41.81)** का रिकॉर्ड बनाने वाले पहले भारतीय बने, जो **सैन जुआन कैपिस्ट्रानो के अमेरिका में मार्च** में हुआ।
- He improved it further (**28:14.88**) in the **Hachioji Long Distance event** in **Japan** in **November**.  
उन्होंने इसे और बेहतर किया (**28:14.88**) **जापान में नवंबर में हाचियोजी लॉन्ग डिस्टेंस इवेंट** में।
- Over **5000m**, **Gulveer** clocked **13:18.92** in the **Portland Track Festival**, the **USA**, in **June** before lowering it to **13:11.82** in the **Yogibo Athletics Challenge Cup** in **Japan** in **September**.  
**5000 मीटर** में, **गुलवीर** ने **13:18.92** का समय **पोर्टलैंड ट्रैक फेस्टिवल, अमेरिका में जून** में दर्ज किया, फिर इसे **13:11.82** तक घटाया **योगिबो एथलेटिक्स चैलेंज कप में जापान में सितंबर** में।
- The runner from **Aligarh district** in **western Uttar Pradesh** closed **2024** on a high as he emerged as the best Indian male runner, with a time of **1:14:10** for an overall **eighth place**, at the **Tata Steel Kolkata World 25K** in **December**.

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

**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**

**Contact Number : 9971932488**

**Website : patrioticias.in**



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



\*\*पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के अलीगढ़ जिले से आने वाले धावक ने 2024 को एक उच्च स्थान पर समाप्त किया, जब वह टाटा स्टील कोलकाता वर्ल्ड 25K में दिसंबर में 1:14:10 का समय लेकर सर्वश्रेष्ठ भारतीय पुरुष धावक बने और आठवें स्थान पर रहे।

- The distance runner clocked **7:38.26** to finish second in the **3000m** at the **2025 Boston University David Hemery Valentine Invitational Indoor Meet** last week to begin the new season in style.

दूरी धावक ने **7:38.26** का समय लिया और **3000 मीटर** में दूसरे स्थान पर रहे, **2025 Boston विश्वविद्यालय डेविड हेमैरी वैलेंटाइन इनवाइटेशनल इंडोर मीट** में पिछले सप्ताह, जिससे उन्होंने नए सीजन की शानदार शुरुआत की।

- The previous **National record** of **7:49.47** was clocked in **2008** by his coach **Surender Singh**.

पिछला **राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड 7:49.47** था, जिसे **2008** में उनके कोच **सुरेंद्र सिंह** ने बनाया था।

- "I am elated to have clocked a good time in my season's first indoor race. A good performance over **3000m** (indoor) has given a big boost to my confidence. I should be able to do better during upcoming outdoor races," said **Gulveer**.  
"मुझे खुशी है कि मैंने अपनी सीजन की पहली इंडोर रेस में अच्छा समय तय किया। **3000 मीटर** (इंडोर) में अच्छा प्रदर्शन मेरे आत्मविश्वास को बहुत बढ़ावा दिया है। मुझे उम्मीद है कि मैं आगामी बाहरी रेसों में और बेहतर कर सकूंगा," **गुलवीर** ने कहा।
- With important events, such as the **World** and **Asian athletics championships**, scheduled this year, **Gulveer** is eager to raise his performance a few notches in **2025**. इस साल के दौरान महत्वपूर्ण इवेंट्स, जैसे **विश्व** और **एशियाई एथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप**, निर्धारित होने के साथ, **गुलवीर** अपने प्रदर्शन को **2025** में कुछ और ऊंचाइयों तक बढ़ाने के लिए उत्साहित हैं।
- **Gulveer** spoke to **The Hindu** about his recent memorable performances and his targets ahead.

**गुलवीर** ने **द हिंदू** से अपनी हाल की यादगार प्रदर्शन और आगामी लक्ष्य के बारे में बात की।

**You have constantly improved in the last one year or so. What is the reason for this? How do you see this?**

**आप पिछले एक साल में लगातार सुधार कर रहे हैं। इसका कारण क्या है? आप इसे कैसे देखते हैं?**

- The **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** sent me abroad. The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** and the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** also supported me in this. Initially, I was in the national camp.  
**एथलेटिक्स फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (AFI)** ने मुझे विदेश भेजा। **स्पोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (SAI)** और **टारगेट ओलंपिक पोडियम स्कीम (TOPS)** ने भी इसमें मेरी मदद की। शुरुआत में, मैं राष्ट्रीय शिविर में था।
- We had coach **Yunus Khan**, who gave us good training. I went to the **USA**. I got another good coach in **Scott Simon**. After training there, I made good improvement. हमारे पास कोच **यूनस खान** थे, जिन्होंने हमें अच्छा प्रशिक्षण दिया। फिर मैंने **अमेरिका** में प्रशिक्षण लिया और मुझे एक और अच्छा कोच **स्कॉट सिमोन** मिला। वहाँ प्रशिक्षण के बाद मैंने अच्छा सुधार किया।
- **Training partners** play an important role. A long distance athlete can never train alone. For example, a **100 meter** person can do it alone, but a long-distance athlete can't do it.

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

**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**

**Contact Number : 9971932488**

**Website : patrioticias.in**



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**प्रशिक्षण साथी** महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। एक लंबी दूरी का एथलीट कभी अकेले प्रशिक्षण नहीं कर सकता। उदाहरण के लिए, एक **100 मीटर** धावक अकेले कर सकता है, लेकिन एक लंबी दूरी का एथलीट ऐसा नहीं कर सकता।

**Have you done anything special to improve your performance?**

**क्या आपने अपने प्रदर्शन को सुधारने के लिए कुछ विशेष किया है?**

- The most important thing is **training**. It depends on the **coach**. We have to follow his schedule. We don't do anything on our own. We follow the schedule.  
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात है **प्रशिक्षण**। यह **कोच** पर निर्भर करता है। हमें उनका कार्यक्रम पालन करना होता है। हम कुछ भी अपनी मर्जी से नहीं करते, हम उनके कार्यक्रम का पालन करते हैं।
- There was a **10000 race** in the **USA** in **March**. The **USA coach** planned it well and I broke the **10000 National record**.  
**मार्च** में **अमेरिका** में एक **10000 मीटर रेस** थी। **अमेरिका के कोच** ने इसे अच्छी तरह से योजना बनाई और मैंने **10000 मीटर राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड** तोड़ा।
- Wherever we competed in the **USA**, I did well. Then I broke the **National record for 5000** in **Portland**.  
जहां भी हम **अमेरिका** में प्रतिस्पर्धा करते थे, मैंने अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया। फिर मैंने **पोर्टलैंड** में **5000 मीटर का राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड** तोड़ा।
- The **cut-off** for **Paris** was **13:05** and mine was **13:18**. However, in **September**, I lowered it to **13:11** in **Japan**.  
**पेरिस** के लिए **काट-ऑफ** समय **13:05** था और मेरा समय **13:18** था। हालांकि, **सितंबर** में मैंने इसे **जापान** में **13:11** तक घटाया।

**What do you do to break the National record again and again?**

**आप बार-बार राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड तोड़ने के लिए क्या करते हैं?**

- It depends on the **training programme** and how the body responds at the time of a competition.  
यह **प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम** और प्रतिस्पर्धा के समय शरीर के प्रतिक्रिया पर निर्भर करता है।
- For example, in the **USA** I did **13:18** and I used to train at a certain intensity. Later, the coach increased the intensity of training after watching how the body responded.  
उदाहरण के लिए, **अमेरिका** में मैंने **13:18** का समय तय किया और मैंने एक निश्चित तीव्रता पर प्रशिक्षण लिया। बाद में, कोच ने शरीर की प्रतिक्रिया को देखकर प्रशिक्षण की तीव्रता बढ़ा दी।
- So whatever changes he makes, we just follow it.  
तो जो भी परिवर्तन वह करते हैं, हम बस उसे अनुसरण करते हैं।

**How do you feel about winning the 10,000m race in Japan with a National record?**

**जापान में राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड के साथ 10,000 मीटर रेस जीतने के बारे में आपको कैसा महसूस हुआ?**

- It was a good race. I think of improving slowly and competing with the top athletes.  
यह एक अच्छी रेस थी। मैं धीरे-धीरे सुधारने और शीर्ष एथलीटों से प्रतिस्पर्धा करने के बारे में सोचता हूँ।

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### What are your targets now?

आपके वर्तमान लक्ष्य क्या हैं?

- My next target is to win the **gold medal** in the **Asian championships (May 27-31 in Gumi, South Korea)** and qualify for the **World championships (September 13-21, Tokyo)**.  
मेरा अगला लक्ष्य एशियाई चैंपियनशिप (27-31 मई को गुमी, दक्षिण कोरिया) में स्वर्ण पदक जीतना और विश्व चैंपियनशिप (13-21 सितंबर, टोक्यो) के लिए क्वालीफाई करना है।
- I can qualify directly by doing **27:00**. My target is to qualify directly (and not through rankings).  
मैं **27:00** करके सीधे क्वालीफाई कर सकता हूँ। मेरा लक्ष्य सीधे क्वालीफाई करना है (रैंकिंग से नहीं)।
- I am also eyeing to make it in the **5000m**, in which the qualifying mark is **13:01**. It's less than the **Olympics qualifying mark** of **13:05**. There is enough time in hand.  
मैं **5000 मीटर** में भी क्वालीफाई करने की योजना बना रहा हूँ, जिसमें क्वालीफाइंग मार्क **13:01** है। यह ओलंपिक क्वालीफाइंग मार्क **13:05** से कम है। समय पर्याप्त है।

### Of 10000m and 5000m, which one is your favourite event?

10000 मीटर और 5000 मीटर में से, कौन सा आपका पसंदीदा इवेंट है?

- I like both and by the grace of God I am doing well in both the races.  
मुझे दोनों पसंद हैं और भगवान की कृपा से मैं दोनों रेसों में अच्छा कर रहा हूँ।

### Who is your role model?

आपका आदर्श कौन है?

- **Neeraj (Chopra)** bhai sahab is my role model. He has made India proud. In my events, my training partner **Kartik Kumar** is my role model.  
**नीरज (चोपड़ा)** भई साहब मेरे आदर्श हैं। उन्होंने भारत को गर्व महसूस कराया है। मेरे इवेंट्स में, मेरे प्रशिक्षण साथी **कार्तिक कुमार** मेरे आदर्श हैं।
- I cannot express why. We stay together and train together. We are like brothers.  
मैं यह क्यों कहता हूँ, यह नहीं बता सकता। हम साथ रहते हैं और साथ प्रशिक्षण करते हैं। हम भाई जैसे हैं।

### Tell us more about your bonding with Kartik.

हमें कार्तिक के साथ आपके रिश्ते के बारे में और बताएं।

- We plan for a competition and decide what to do and what not to do. We don't treat one another as competitors, we are like brothers.  
हम एक प्रतियोगिता के लिए योजना बनाते हैं और तय करते हैं कि क्या करना है और क्या नहीं करना है। हम एक-दूसरे को प्रतियोगी नहीं मानते, हम भाई जैसे हैं।

### Any role model at the world level?

क्या कोई विश्व स्तर पर आदर्श हैं?



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- Yes, (Olympic and World champion in **10,000m**) **world record holder Jason Cheptegei**, who won the **Delhi half-marathon** this year.  
हां, (10,000 मीटर के ओलंपिक और विश्व चैंपियन) विश्व रिकॉर्ड धारक जेसन चेप्टेगाई, जिन्होंने इस वर्ष दिल्ली हाफ-मैरेथन जीती।
- I was thinking of giving him a chase there but I went to the **Asian Cross Country Championships in Hong Kong**.  
मैं वहां उनका पीछा करने के बारे में सोच रहा था, लेकिन मैं हांगकांग में एशियाई क्रॉस कंट्री चैंपियनशिप में गया।

**How does participation in road races help you in your main events on the track?**

**सड़क की रेसों में भाग लेने से ट्रैक पर आपके मुख्य इवेंट्स में कैसे मदद मिलती है?**

- **Road races** improve one's endurance. Once your endurance improves, you can work on speed closer to an event, say about a month to go. We carry the endurance of road races into the track competitions.  
सड़क रेस किसी की सहनशक्ति को बेहतर बनाती हैं। एक बार जब आपकी सहनशक्ति बढ़ जाती है, तो आप इवेंट के करीब गति पर काम कर सकते हैं, जैसे एक महीने पहले। हम सड़क रेसों की सहनशक्ति को ट्रैक प्रतियोगिताओं में लाते हैं।

**Are you also keen on competing in the 2028 Olympics?**

**क्या आप 2028 ओलंपिक में प्रतिस्पर्धा करने के लिए उत्साहित हैं?**

- Yes. I have more than **three years** left. I will go step by step and will do my best. I enjoy running with the **top athletes** and giving them competition.  
हां। मेरे पास **तीन साल** से अधिक समय है। मैं कदम दर कदम जाऊंगा और अपनी पूरी कोशिश करूंगा। मुझे **शीर्ष एथलीटों** के साथ दौड़ना और उन्हें प्रतिस्पर्धा देना अच्छा लगता है।
- Before that, the **Commonwealth Games** and **Asian Games** are there in **2026**.  
उससे पहले, **कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स** और **एशियाई खेल 2026** में हैं।
- Yes, I am keen on doing well in these elite events as well. As a country we should improve our performances in these prestigious events.  
हां, मैं इन प्रमुख इवेंट्स में भी अच्छा करने के लिए उत्साहित हूँ। एक देश के रूप में हमें इन प्रतिष्ठित इवेंट्स में अपने प्रदर्शन को सुधारना चाहिए।

**You were blessed with a daughter last year and have a son as well. Does your son understand what you do and do you want him to be a professional runner?**

**आपको पिछले साल एक बेटी का आशीर्वाद मिला और एक बेटा भी है। क्या आपका बेटा समझता है कि आप क्या करते हैं और क्या आप उसे एक पेशेवर धावक बनाना चाहते हैं?**

- My son is just **four years old**. He watches my performance on TV, but does not understand much. My wife tries to make him understand what I do.  
मेरा बेटा सिर्फ **चार साल** का है। वह मेरी प्रदर्शन को टीवी पर देखता है, लेकिन ज्यादा नहीं समझता। मेरी पत्नी उसे यह समझाने की कोशिश करती है कि मैं क्या करता हूँ।

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- I will teach my children how to run as it is necessary for everyone. But it is very hard (to pursue running as a professional). I want them to study well and do something other than running. It is a very difficult job.  
मैं अपने बच्चों को दौड़ने का तरीका सिखाऊंगा क्योंकि यह हर किसी के लिए आवश्यक है। लेकिन यह बहुत कठिन है (एक पेशेवर धावक के रूप में दौड़ने को आगे बढ़ाना)। मैं चाहता हूँ कि वे अच्छी पढ़ाई करें और दौड़ने के अलावा कुछ और करें। यह बहुत कठिन काम है।

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