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# PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

(26 FEBRUARY 2025)

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Madras HC's ruling on arresting women at night

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## Human smuggling must engage Parliament's attention

GS Paper I: Society

The planeloads of Indians being deported to India from the United States are lucky to be back alive. Shackled, handcuffed, humiliated and in dire straits, they have flown back heartbroken and in shame. But there is also the case of illegal immigrants from north India clearing ammunition fields in Iraq, who were abandoned. They were brought back home after emergency documents were issued.

However, the key issue here is about illegal immigration. Every year, countless young Indians attempt what is called 'irregular migration'. Backing them are the 'unethical merchants of death' who sponsor this activity and who have proliferated in rural Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Gujarat. Manpower export – legally called human smuggling or *kabootarbazi* – is one of the most profitable forms of trade. It requires no technical skill, no educational or professional qualifications, no financial investment, and has no fear or respect for any law, checks, punishment or even criminal action.

### Horror and misery

Even though this menace is not new to India, we must learn from what has happened. The tradesmen of these flourishing rackets of human smuggling thrive on gullible youth who fantasise about making it big with dollar-fuelled dreams. In reality they are only waiting to be duped. This is organised crime that perpetuates horror and misery, and flourishes with impunity. Once in the net of these human smugglers, these migrants are vulnerable to exploitation and face grave risks to their life. As the world has seen, they end up being suffocated in containers, perish in scorching deserts, drown at sea or be herded into slave camps to work as forced labour. These human smugglers conduct their activities brazenly, without any regard for a precious human life.

Survivors often narrate harrowing tales of their



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The deportations from the U.S. must push Parliament to enact a central law that strikes at the roots of human smuggling

ordeal – of how they were forced to sit in piles of human waste, deprived of food and water, while others around them have died and their bodies dumped at sea or on road sides. Human smuggling generates high net worth profits for criminals, who in turn fuel corruption and organised crime. This is a deadly business that needs to be combated with grave urgency.

Naive youth fall prey to agents and land up somewhere working as slave labour in ammunition dumps or fields in Iraq, or as illegal immigrants elsewhere, who suffer immensely with no hope of returning home. The smuggling of migrants is a very profitable business with a low risk of detection. For criminals, it is becoming increasingly attractive to deal in human merchandise. The business of death is becoming more organised, involving professional international mafias across global borders.

India needs to be alert and check this global menace. Sadly, the Emigration Act, 1983 – officially 'an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to emigration of citizens of India' – neither defines human smuggling nor looks at the serious problems connected with this deathly trade. Thus, Parliament must waste no time in legislating an Indian human smuggling law. There are pieces of State legislation that are piecemeal and with a limited ambit of application – only to State territorial borders. Having a new central law is a composite solution and Parliament must set the ball rolling. There has been some discussion about the Emigration (Overseas Mobility Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, but its fate remains uncertain. Till then, any piece of State legislation would be welcome. In this, the Government of Punjab deserves praise for its efforts. But, sadly, its implementation is poor.

### Punjab's Act

The Punjab Travel Professionals Regulation Act, 2012, is described as a law to provide for the regulation of the profession of travel agents with a

view to check and curb illegal, fraudulent activities, and malpractices such as organised human smuggling in the State of Punjab. Enacted to provide a licensing regime for travel agents, and with penal provisions, it has some regulatory functions to check human smuggling.

In this enactment, "travel agent" means a person who is doing a profession which involves arranging, managing or conducting affairs related to the sending of persons abroad or which arise out of the affairs of persons sent to a foreign country, and shall include a range of activities covering diverse practices. Likewise, "human smuggling" shall mean and include illegally exporting, sending or transporting persons out of India by receiving money from them or their parents, relatives or any other persons interested in their welfare, by inducing, alluring or deceiving or cheating them.

### Parliament must act

A comparison of both Acts, i.e., the Emigration Act, 1983 and the Punjab Travel Professionals Regulation Act, 2012, shows that they enshrine regulatory mechanisms for recruiting agents and travel agents separately. Viewed objectively, both have complimentary purposes in their own spheres. They are neither inconsistent or repugnant to each other. In fact, the two laws compliment each other as they provide similar objectives, aims and functions for recruiting and travel agents, respectively. Punjab has enacted a law which no other State in India has done.

In fact, human smuggling is a silent issue in the Emigration Act. The authority of law vested in Punjab must be exercised to enforce this law. Finally, Parliament must seriously contemplate enacting a national law to control Indian borders to regulate the human smuggling industry and deal with irregularities with an iron hand. Parliamentarians must rise to save precious human Indian lives. There needs to be a central law which has teeth.



## Human smuggling must engage Parliament's attention

### मानव तस्करी पर संसद का ध्यान आवश्यक

Planeloads of Indians deported from the U.S. are lucky to be alive, but they return shackled, handcuffed, humiliated, and heartbroken.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका से निर्वासित किए गए भारतीय भाग्यशाली हैं कि वे जीवित लौटे, लेकिन उन्हें हथकड़ी पहनाई गई, बेइज्जत किया गया, और वे टूटे दिल से वापस आए।

- Illegal immigrants from North India, abandoned while clearing ammunition fields in Iraq, were brought back home with emergency documents.  
उत्तर भारत के अवैध प्रवासी, जिन्हें इराक में गोला-बारूद क्षेत्रों को साफ करने के लिए छोड़ दिया गया था, को आपातकालीन दस्तावेजों के माध्यम से वापस लाया गया।

### The issue of illegal immigration

#### अवैध प्रवासन की समस्या

- Every year, countless young Indians attempt 'irregular migration', backed by unethical human smugglers.  
हर साल, अनगिनत युवा भारतीय 'अनियमित प्रवासन' का प्रयास करते हैं, जिन्हें अनैतिक मानव तस्करों का समर्थन प्राप्त होता है।
- Human smuggling (kabootarbazi) is a highly profitable business, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, and Gujarat.  
मानव तस्करी (कबूतरबाजी) एक अत्यधिक लाभदायक व्यापार है, विशेष रूप से पंजाब, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू-कश्मीर, केरल और गुजरात में।
- This trade requires no technical skills, qualifications, or financial investment, and operates without fear of law or punishment.  
यह व्यापार किसी तकनीकी कौशल, योग्यता, या वित्तीय निवेश की आवश्यकता नहीं रखता, और कानून या दंड के डर के बिना संचालित होता है।

### Horror and misery of human smuggling

#### मानव तस्करी की भयावहता और दुख

- Smugglers prey on gullible youth, who dream of a better life abroad but fall into a trap.  
तस्कर भोले-भाले युवाओं को फंसाते हैं, जो विदेश में बेहतर जीवन का सपना देखते हैं लेकिन एक जाल में फंस जाते हैं।
- Migrants face extreme dangers, such as:



- Suffocation in containers.  
कंटेनरों में दम घटना।
- Drowning in the sea.  
समुद्र में डूबना।
- Dying in scorching deserts.  
झुलसाने वाले रेगिस्तानों में मरना।
- Being forced into slave camps as bonded laborers.  
बंधुआ मजदूर के रूप में दास शिविरों में धकेला जाना।
- Survivors describe harrowing experiences:
  - Sitting in piles of human waste.  
मानव मल के ढेरों में बैठने को मजबूर किया जाना।
  - Being deprived of food and water.  
भोजन और पानी से वंचित रखा जाना।
  - Watching others die, their bodies dumped at sea or roadside.  
अन्य प्रवासियों को मरते देखना और उनके शवों को समुद्र या सड़क किनारे फेंक दिया जाना।
- Smuggling generates massive profits, fueling corruption and organized crime.  
मानव तस्करी से बड़े पैमाने पर मुनाफा कमाया जाता है, जिससे भ्रष्टाचार और संगठित अपराध को बढ़ावा मिलता है।

## Growing organized crime in human smuggling

### मानव तस्करी में संगठित अपराध का बढ़ता दायरा

- Smuggling of migrants is a profitable, low-risk business, making it attractive for international criminal syndicates.  
प्रवासियों की तस्करी एक लाभदायक और कम जोखिम वाला व्यापार है, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराध संगठनों के लिए आकर्षक बनता जा रहा है।
- Indian youth fall prey to agents, ending up as:
  - Slave laborers in ammunition fields in Iraq.  
इराक में गोला-बारूद के खेतों में गुलाम मजदूर।
  - Illegal immigrants in foreign lands, suffering with no hope of returning home.  
विदेशों में अवैध प्रवासी, जो बिना घर लौटने की आशा के दुख झेलते हैं।
- International mafias are now deeply involved in human smuggling, operating across global borders.  
अंतरराष्ट्रीय माफिया अब मानव तस्करी में गहराई से शामिल हो चुके हैं, और यह गतिविधि वैश्विक सीमाओं में संचालित हो रही है।

## India's weak legal framework on human smuggling

### भारत में मानव तस्करी पर कमजोर कानूनी ढांचा



- **The Emigration Act, 1983**, which governs Indian migration, **fails to define human smuggling or address its dangers**.  
भारतीय प्रवासन को नियंत्रित करने वाला 1983 का प्रवासन अधिनियम मानव तस्करी को परिभाषित करने या इसके खतरों से निपटने में असमर्थ है।
- **Parliament must act urgently to introduce a strong human smuggling law**.  
संसद को तुरंत एक मजबूत मानव तस्करी कानून लाने की आवश्यकता है।
- **Current state-level laws are limited**, as they only apply **within state boundaries**.  
वर्तमान राज्य स्तरीय कानून सीमित हैं, क्योंकि वे केवल राज्य की सीमाओं तक ही लागू होते हैं।
- **A new central law is essential**, and **Parliament must take immediate action**.  
एक नया केंद्रीय कानून आवश्यक है, और संसद को तुरंत कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए।
- The **Emigration (Overseas Mobility Facilitation and Welfare) Bill** has been discussed but remains uncertain.  
प्रवासन (विदेशी गतिशीलता सुविधा और कल्याण) विधेयक पर चर्चा हुई है, लेकिन इसकी स्थिति अनिश्चित बनी हुई है।

### State efforts and need for better implementation

#### राज्य सरकार के प्रयास और बेहतर क्रियान्वयन की आवश्यकता

- **Punjab government deserves credit for its efforts** in combating human smuggling.  
मानव तस्करी के खिलाफ प्रयासों के लिए पंजाब सरकार की सराहना की जानी चाहिए।
- However, **poor implementation has weakened its impact**.  
हालांकि, खराब क्रियान्वयन ने इसके प्रभाव को कम कर दिया है।
- **Until a strong central law is enacted**, any state legislation on human smuggling is welcome.  
जब तक एक मजबूत केंद्रीय कानून नहीं बनाया जाता, तब तक राज्य स्तर पर कोई भी कानून स्वागत योग्य है।

### Punjab's Act

#### पंजाब का अधिनियम

- The **Punjab Travel Professionals Regulation Act, 2012**, aims to **regulate the profession of travel agents to curb illegal and fraudulent activities**, including organized human smuggling in Punjab.  
पंजाब ट्रेवल प्रोफेशनल्स रेगुलेशन एक्ट, 2012, का उद्देश्य ट्रेवल एजेंटों के व्यवसाय को नियंत्रित करना और अवैध व धोखाधड़ी वाली गतिविधियों, विशेष रूप से संगठित मानव तस्करी को रोकना है।
- This law **establishes a licensing system for travel agents** and includes **penal provisions** to regulate human smuggling.  
यह कानून ट्रेवल एजेंटों के लिए लाइसेंसिंग प्रणाली स्थापित करता है और मानव तस्करी को नियंत्रित करने के लिए दंडात्मक प्रावधान प्रदान करता है।



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- According to this Act:
  - A "travel agent" is anyone engaged in arranging, managing, or conducting affairs related to sending people abroad.  
"ट्रैवल एजेंट" वह व्यक्ति है जो लोगों को विदेश भेजने से संबंधित कार्यों का प्रबंधन, आयोजन या संचालन करता है।
  - "Human smuggling" is defined as the illegal export, transport, or sending of people out of India by taking money from them or their families, often through deception, inducement, or cheating.  
"मानव तस्करी" का अर्थ है भारत से अवैध रूप से लोगों को बाहर भेजना, ले जाना या निर्यात करना, जिसमें उनसे या उनके परिवारों से पैसे लेना शामिल है, आमतौर पर धोखाधड़ी, लालच या छल के माध्यम से।

### Parliament must act

#### संसद को कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए

- A comparison between the **Emigration Act, 1983, and the Punjab Travel Professionals Regulation Act, 2012**, shows that both establish regulatory mechanisms for recruiting and travel agents separately.  
1983 के प्रवासन अधिनियम और 2012 के पंजाब ट्रैवल प्रोफेशनल्स रेगुलेशन एक्ट की तुलना करने पर पता चलता है कि दोनों कानून भर्ती और ट्रैवल एजेंटों के लिए अलग-अलग नियामक तंत्र स्थापित करते हैं।
- Both laws complement each other and are not contradictory, as they serve similar objectives related to recruiting and travel agents.  
दोनों कानून एक-दूसरे के पूरक हैं और परस्पर विरोधी नहीं हैं, क्योंकि वे भर्ती और ट्रैवल एजेंटों से जुड़े समान उद्देश्यों को पूरा करते हैं।
- **Punjab is the only state in India that has enacted a law specifically addressing human smuggling.**  
पंजाब भारत का एकमात्र राज्य है जिसने मानव तस्करी से निपटने के लिए विशेष कानून बनाया है।
- The Emigration Act does not specifically mention human smuggling, making it a silent issue in the central law.  
प्रवासन अधिनियम में मानव तस्करी का विशेष रूप से उल्लेख नहीं है, जिससे यह केंद्रीय कानून में एक अनदेखा विषय बना हुआ है।
- The Punjab government must enforce its authority to implement this law effectively.  
पंजाब सरकार को इस कानून को प्रभावी ढंग से लागू करने के लिए अपनी शक्ति का उपयोग करना चाहिए।
- Parliament must urgently introduce a national law to regulate Indian borders, control human smuggling, and strictly address related irregularities.



संसद को जल्द से जल्द एक राष्ट्रीय कानून पेश करना चाहिए जो भारतीय सीमाओं को नियंत्रित करे, मानव तस्करी को रोके, और इससे संबंधित अनियमितताओं को सख्ती से संबोधित करे।

- **Lawmakers must act to protect Indian lives, and a strong central law is essential.** सांसदों को भारतीय नागरिकों की सुरक्षा के लिए कदम उठाने चाहिए, और एक सख्त केंद्रीय कानून आवश्यक है।

## India sole nation to **curb Internet** over communal unrest in 2023-24

Most of these shutdowns occurred in Manipur followed by Bihar and Haryana

GS Paper I:  
Communalism

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan  
Samreen Wani

**G**lobally, there were 88 Internet shutdowns due to communal violence in 2023 and 2024 and all of them were in India. In fact, nearly 95% of all Internet shutdowns ordered by the state due to communal violence since 2018 have occurred in India, says a report by Access Now, a digital advocacy group.

**Chart 1** shows the number of Internet shutdowns in India due to communal violence and India's share in global shutdowns for the same reason. In 2023 and 2024, most of these shutdowns occurred in Manipur (54 instances), followed by Bihar (9), and Haryana (7) (**Chart 2**).

In 2024, there were 41 Internet shutdowns due to protests – the highest in the last seven years. India accounted for about 57% of global Internet shutdowns due to protests in 2024 – the highest for any country (**Chart 3**).

Manipur also featured first among the States where a shutdown was imposed in 2024 due to protests, followed by Haryana and Punjab. Jammu and Kashmir had 3 instances of Internet shutdowns due to protests in 2024 and Rajasthan and Maharashtra experienced 2 each (**Chart 4**).

**Chart 5** shows the share of Internet shutdowns in India by reason since 2016. In 2024, over 50% of shutdowns were due to protests. In 2023, over 50% of shutdowns were due to communal violence. In 2021 and 2022, political instability was the main reason.

An Internet shutdown can be either a complete restriction, cutting off all access, or a partial curb, limiting only specific services such as social media platforms. These shutdowns may be imposed at varying levels, affecting an entire state or targeting specific districts within a region.

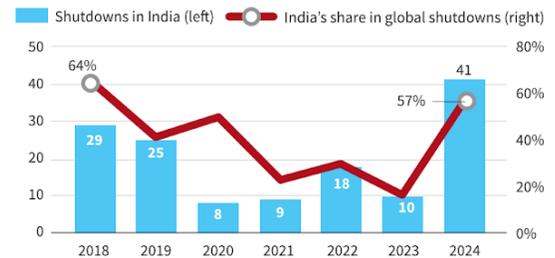
## Access denied

The data for the charts were sourced from Access Now. It also includes The Hindu's calculations

**Chart 1:** The number of Internet shutdowns in India due to communal violence and India's share in global shutdowns for the same reason



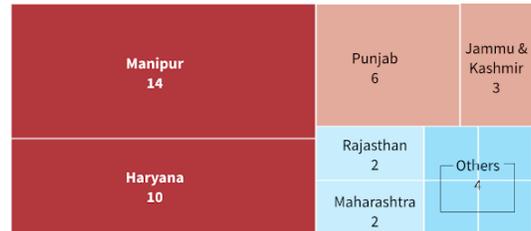
**Chart 3:** The number of Internet shutdowns in India due to protests and India's share in global shutdowns for the same reason



**Chart 2:** The chart shows the State-wise breakdown of Internet shutdowns due to communal violence in 2023 and 2024



**Chart 4:** The chart shows the State-wise breakdown of Internet shutdowns due to protests in 2024



**Chart 5:** The chart shows the reason-wise share of Internet shutdowns in India (in %) between 2016 and 2024

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Protests	50.0	37.7	21.4	20.2	7.8	8.7	19.8	8.9	50.6
Communal violence	0.0	0.0	28.2	10.9	3.9	6.8	14.8	55.4	27.2
Unknown	23.3	24.6	3.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.2	6.3	7.4
Exam cheating	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	1.9	3.9	3.7	0.9	6.2
Elections	0.0	2.9	3.8	3.4	1.9	0.0	1.2	0.9	3.7
Information control	3.3	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.0	2.9	1.2	12.5	2.5
Religious holiday/anniversary	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	4.9	1.9	3.7	8.0	2.5
Conflict	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	5.8	4.6	16.8	68.0	0.0	1.2	7.1	0.0
Political instability	23.3	27.5	34.4	4.2	10.7	74.8	53.1	0.0	0.0
Visits by government officials	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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## India sole nation to curb Internet over communal unrest in 2023-24

2023-24 में सांप्रदायिक अशांति के कारण इंटरनेट प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला भारत एकमात्र देश

Globally, there were 88 Internet shutdowns due to communal violence in 2023 and 2024, and all of them occurred in India, according to a report by Access Now, a digital advocacy group.

वैश्विक स्तर पर 2023 और 2024 में सांप्रदायिक हिंसा के कारण 88 इंटरनेट बंदी हुईं, और सभी भारत में हुईं, यह जानकारी डिजिटल अधिकार संगठन एक्सेस नाउ की रिपोर्ट में दी गई।

- **Since 2018, nearly 95% of all Internet shutdowns due to communal violence worldwide have occurred in India.**  
2018 से अब तक, दुनिया भर में सांप्रदायिक हिंसा के कारण हुए लगभग 95% इंटरनेट बंद भारत में लागू किए गए हैं।
- **Chart 1 shows the number of Internet shutdowns in India due to communal violence and India's share in global shutdowns for the same reason.**  
चार्ट 1 भारत में सांप्रदायिक हिंसा के कारण हुए इंटरनेट बंदी और इस मामले में भारत की वैश्विक हिस्सेदारी को दर्शाता है।
- **In 2023 and 2024, most of these shutdowns occurred in:**
  - **Manipur: 54 instances.**  
मणिपुर: 54 बार।
  - **Bihar: 9 instances.**  
बिहार: 9 बार।
  - **Haryana: 7 instances.**  
हरियाणा: 7 बार।

India leads in Internet shutdowns due to protests

प्रदर्शनों के कारण इंटरनेट बंदी में भारत सबसे आगे

- In 2024, India recorded 41 Internet shutdowns due to protests, the highest in the last seven years.

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2024 में भारत में 41 इंटरनेट बंद प्रदर्शन के कारण लागू किए गए, जो पिछले सात वर्षों में सबसे अधिक हैं।

- India accounted for 57% of all global Internet shutdowns due to protests in 2024, the highest for any country.

2024 में प्रदर्शन के कारण हुए वैश्विक इंटरनेट बंदी में भारत की हिस्सेदारी 57% थी, जो किसी भी देश के लिए सबसे अधिक है।

- In 2024, the states with the most shutdowns due to protests were:
  - Manipur (most instances).  
मणिपुर (सबसे अधिक घटनाएं)।
  - Haryana.  
हरियाणा।
  - Punjab.  
पंजाब।
- Other states with Internet shutdowns due to protests in 2024:
  - Jammu & Kashmir: 3 instances.  
जम्मू-कश्मीर: 3 बार।
  - Rajasthan: 2 instances.  
राजस्थान: 2 बार।
  - Maharashtra: 2 instances.  
महाराष्ट्र: 2 बार।

## Reasons for Internet shutdowns in India (2016-2024)

### भारत में इंटरनेट बंदी के कारण (2016-2024)

- Chart 5 shows the primary reasons for Internet shutdowns in India over the years:
  - In 2024: Over 50% of shutdowns were due to protests.  
2024 में: 50% से अधिक इंटरनेट बंद प्रदर्शन के कारण हुए।
  - In 2023: Over 50% of shutdowns were due to communal violence.  
2023 में: 50% से अधिक इंटरनेट बंद सांप्रदायिक हिंसा के कारण हुए।
  - In 2021 and 2022: Political instability was the main reason.  
2021 और 2022 में: राजनीतिक अस्थिरता मुख्य कारण थी।

## Types and levels of Internet shutdowns

### इंटरनेट बंदी के प्रकार और स्तर

- An Internet shutdown can be either:
  - A complete restriction, cutting off all access.  
पूर्ण प्रतिबंध, जिससे इंटरनेट पूरी तरह बंद हो जाता है।



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- A partial curb, limiting only specific services such as social media.  
आंशिक प्रतिबंध, जिसमें केवल सोशल मीडिया जैसी विशेष सेवाओं को रोका जाता है।
- Shutdowns can be imposed at different levels, affecting:
  - An entire state.  
पूरे राज्य को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
  - Specific districts within a region.  
किसी क्षेत्र के विशेष जिलों को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।

## What did the HC rule about arresting women at night?

Is the provision which restricts the arrest of women after sunset and before sunrise absolute? What did the 135th report of the Law Commission of India on Women in Custody recommend?

[GS Paper I: Society](#)

R.K. Vij

The story so far:

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court in *Deepa versus S. Vijayalakshmi and Others* ruled that the legal provision in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, which restricts the arrest of a woman after sunset and before sunrise, is directory and not mandatory. In this case, a woman was arrested at 8pm. A single Judge of the High Court held that the arrest was in breach of Section 46(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). However, a two-judge Bench of the High Court, in an appeal, held that Section 46(4) of the CrPC was directory and not mandatory.

What are the safeguards?

Two safeguards are provided under Section 43(5) of BNSS (which corresponds

to Section 46(4) of CrPC) for the arrest of a woman by the police. First, no arrest of a woman shall be made after sunset and before sunrise except in exceptional circumstances. Second, even in exceptional circumstances, the prior permission of the jurisdictional magistrate must be sought by a woman police officer by making a written report. Section 46(4) of the CrPC is a beneficial provision incorporated to ensure the safety of women. However, the provision does not explain what would constitute an exceptional situation. In addition, the proviso to Section 46(1) states that the arresting police officer should not touch the person of the woman, unless it is a woman police officer or if the circumstances otherwise require it.

What did the Madras HC rule?

The Madras High Court said that Section 46(4) of CrPC does not spell out the

consequence of non-compliance of the provision. If the provision was intended to be mandatory, the legislature would definitely have provided for the consequences of non-compliance. A police officer who effects arrest, carries out a public duty. The Court underlined that there could be a situation where a heinous offence is committed by a woman in the night and the magistrate may not be available for obtaining permission. Under such a situation, the accused woman may escape. Therefore, such mechanical adherence to procedure can injure public interest.

What is history of Section 46(4) CrPC?

The 135th report of the Law Commission of India on Women in Custody (1989) recommended that ordinarily no women shall be arrested after sunset and before sunrise. If there are exceptional cases, prior permission of the immediate

superior officer shall be obtained, or if the case was of extreme urgency, then an arrest report with reasons shall be made to the immediate superior officer and to the magistrate. Similar recommendations were made in the 154th report of the Law Commission in 1996, and Section 46(4) of CrPC was inserted with some changes in 2005.

What has the Supreme Court said?

In a case, the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court directed the State to issue directions to all police officials that no female persons shall be detained without the presence of a lady constable, and in no case after sunset and before sunrise. Here, the Supreme Court observed that a strict compliance with the said directive in a given circumstance would cause practical difficulties.

Will the ruling dilute the provision?

The Court has clearly said that despite holding Section 46(4) of CrPC/43(5) as directory and not mandatory, the provision cannot be rendered futile by the police. While failure to adhere to the statutory requirement may not lead to the arrest being declared illegal, the officer may have to offer explanation for the inability to comply with the provision. The Court also directed the police to issue guidelines, clarifying as to what constitute exceptional circumstances.

R.K. Vij is a former IPS officer.

### THE GIST

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court ruled that the legal provision in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, which restricts the arrest of a woman after sunset and before sunrise, is directory and not mandatory.

The 135th report of the Law Commission of India on Women in Custody (1989) recommended that ordinarily no women shall be arrested after sunset and before sunrise.

The Court has clearly said that despite holding Section 46(4) of CrPC/43(5) as directory and not mandatory, the provision cannot be rendered futile by the police.

## What did the HC rule about arresting women at night?

महिला गिरफ्तारी पर हाई कोर्ट का क्या फैसला आया?

Madras HC's ruling on arresting women at night

मद्रास हाई कोर्ट का महिलाओं की रात में गिरफ्तारी पर फैसला

The **Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court** ruled in **Deepa vs. S. Vijayalakshmi & Others** that the provision in Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, restricting the arrest of women after sunset and before sunrise, is directory and not mandatory.

मद्रास हाई कोर्ट की मदुरै पीठ ने दीप बनाम एस. विजयलक्ष्मी एवं अन्य मामले में फैसला

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सुनाया कि भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (BNSS), 2023 में महिलाओं की सूर्यास्त के बाद और सूर्योदय से पहले गिरफ्तारी पर रोक का प्रावधान निर्देशात्मक है, अनिवार्य नहीं।

- In this case, a woman was arrested at 8 PM. Initially, a single judge ruled that this violated **Section 46(4) of the CrPC**, but later, a two-judge bench held that the provision is directory and not mandatory.

इस मामले में एक महिला को रात 8 बजे गिरफ्तार किया गया था। पहले, एकल न्यायाधीश ने इसे दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता (CrPC) की धारा 46(4) का उल्लंघन माना, लेकिन बाद में दो-न्यायाधीशीय पीठ ने इस प्रावधान को निर्देशात्मक और अनिवार्य नहीं बताया।

What are the safeguards?

संरक्षण के प्रावधान क्या हैं?

- Two key safeguards under **Section 43(5) of BNSS (corresponding to Section 46(4) of CrPC)** for the arrest of women:

- No woman shall be arrested after sunset and before sunrise except in exceptional circumstances.

कोई महिला सूर्यास्त के बाद और सूर्योदय से पहले गिरफ्तार नहीं की जाएगी, जब तक कि असाधारण परिस्थितियां न हों।

- In exceptional cases, prior permission of the jurisdictional magistrate must be obtained by a woman police officer through a written report.

असाधारण परिस्थितियों में, क्षेत्राधिकार मजिस्ट्रेट की पूर्व अनुमति एक महिला पुलिस अधिकारी द्वारा लिखित रिपोर्ट के माध्यम से प्राप्त करनी होगी।

- **Section 46(4) of CrPC is meant to protect women, but does not define what constitutes an "exceptional situation".**

CrPC की धारा 46(4) महिलाओं की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बनाई गई है, लेकिन यह असाधारण परिस्थितियों की स्पष्ट परिभाषा नहीं देती।

- Proviso to **Section 46(1)** states that a male officer should not touch a woman during an arrest unless it is unavoidable or a woman officer is present.

धारा 46(1) के उपबंध के अनुसार, किसी पुरुष पुलिस अधिकारी को महिला को गिरफ्तार करते समय तब तक नहीं छूना चाहिए, जब तक कि यह अपरिहार्य न हो या महिला पुलिस अधिकारी मौजूद न हो।

What did the Madras HC rule?

मद्रास हाई कोर्ट ने क्या फैसला दिया?

- The **Madras HC ruled that Section 46(4) of CrPC does not specify the consequences of non-compliance.**

मद्रास हाई कोर्ट ने कहा कि CrPC की धारा 46(4) में इसके उल्लंघन की स्थिति में कोई दंडात्मक प्रावधान नहीं है।



- If the provision was meant to be mandatory, the legislature would have provided consequences for its violation.

अगर यह प्रावधान अनिवार्य होता, तो विधायिका ने इसके उल्लंघन पर दंड का प्रावधान किया होता।

- The Court stated that police officers perform a public duty, and in cases where a woman commits a heinous crime at night and a magistrate is unavailable, an arrest might be necessary.

कोर्ट ने कहा कि पुलिस अधिकारी सार्वजनिक कर्तव्य निभाते हैं, और यदि कोई महिला रात में गंभीर अपराध करे और मजिस्ट्रेट उपलब्ध न हो, तो गिरफ्तारी जरूरी हो सकती है।

- Strict adherence to the rule may allow an accused woman to escape, which is against public interest.

इस नियम का सख्ती से पालन करने से आरोपी महिला फरार हो सकती है, जो जनहित के खिलाफ होगा।

## History of Section 46(4) CrPC

### CrPC की धारा 46(4) का इतिहास

- The 135th report of the Law Commission of India (1989) on Women in Custody recommended:
  - No woman should be arrested after sunset and before sunrise.  
कोई महिला सूर्यास्त के बाद और सूर्योदय से पहले गिरफ्तार नहीं की जानी चाहिए।
  - In exceptional cases, prior permission from the immediate superior officer should be obtained.  
असाधारण मामलों में, तत्कालीन वरिष्ठ अधिकारी से पूर्व अनुमति लेनी चाहिए।
  - If the case is extremely urgent, an arrest report with reasons should be submitted to the superior officer and magistrate.  
अगर मामला अत्यंत आपातकालीन हो, तो गिरफ्तारी की रिपोर्ट वरिष्ठ अधिकारी और मजिस्ट्रेट को दी जानी चाहिए।
- The 154th Law Commission Report (1996) reiterated these recommendations, leading to the insertion of Section 46(4) in CrPC in 2005.  
154वीं विधि आयोग की रिपोर्ट (1996) ने इन सिफारिशों को दोहराया, जिसके बाद 2005 में CrPC में धारा 46(4) जोड़ी गई।

## What has the Supreme Court said?

### सुप्रीम कोर्ट का क्या कहना है?

- The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court directed that no female should be detained without a lady constable, and in no case after sunset or before sunrise.  
बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट की नागपुर पीठ ने निर्देश दिया कि कोई भी महिला बिना महिला कांस्टेबल की मौजूदगी में हिरासत में नहीं ली जाएगी, और किसी भी स्थिति में सूर्यास्त के बाद या सूर्योदय से पहले नहीं।



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- The Supreme Court observed that strict compliance with this rule might cause practical difficulties.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने माना कि इस नियम का सख्त पालन व्यावहारिक कठिनाइयां पैदा कर सकता है।

**Will the ruling dilute the provision?**

**क्या यह फैसला इस प्रावधान को कमजोर करेगा?**

- The Court clarified that although Section 46(4) CrPC / 43(5) BNSS is directory and not mandatory, the police cannot misuse it.

कोर्ट ने स्पष्ट किया कि भले ही CrPC की धारा 46(4) / BNSS की धारा 43(5) निर्देशात्मक हो, लेकिन पुलिस इसका दुरुपयोग नहीं कर सकती।

- Failure to comply with the provision may not make an arrest illegal, but the **officer must explain the reason for non-compliance**.

इस प्रावधान का पालन न करने से गिरफ्तारी अवैध नहीं मानी जाएगी, लेकिन अधिकारी को इसका कारण स्पष्ट करना होगा।



- The Court directed the police to issue guidelines on what constitutes "exceptional circumstances".

कोर्ट ने पुलिस को निर्देश दिया कि वे यह स्पष्ट करने के लिए दिशानिर्देश जारी करें कि "असाधारण परिस्थितियां" क्या होंगी।

## Women shifting from unpaid domestic work: govt. survey

Participation of women in employment-related work increases to 25% in 2024 from 21.8% in 2019; for men, it rose to 75% from 70.9%; women spent 305 minutes a day in unpaid domestic services

**GS Paper I: Society**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he participation of men and women in the 15-59 age group in employment and related activities in a day increased to 75% and 25%, respectively, in 2024 from 70.9% and 21.8% in 2019, shows a survey on time use conducted by the National Statistics Office.

The time spent by women in unpaid domestic services dropped to 305 minutes in 2024 compared with 315 minutes in 2019, indicating a shift from unpaid to paid pursuits, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in a statement based on the survey.

The "Time Use Survey" measured the time spent by individuals on different activities. It found that in 2024, people involved in employment and related activities spent 440 minutes a day for such activities. While men spent 473 minutes, women spent 341 minutes in such engagements.

Men spent 88 minutes a day in unpaid domestic services for household



Although women are spending a little more time on paid work, they still manage the bulk of caregiving activities at home. FILE PHOTO

members, the survey said. "Females spent 137 minutes in a day in caring for their household members compared to 75 minutes spent by male members of the household," the survey said.

### Leisure activities

Persons aged six and above who responded to the survey's questions spent 171 minutes a day for activities

related to culture, leisure, and mass media use. "Male and female participants spent 177 minutes and 164 minutes, respectively in a day in such activities," it said.

Children between the age of six and 14 spent 413 minutes a day in learning-related activities. "Self-care and maintenance activities comprised an average of 708 minutes in a day

for persons of age 6 years and above," the survey said.

The Ministry added in a statement that about 41% of women in the 15-59 age group participated in caregiving for their household members. The participation of men in this age group in such activity stood at 21.4%.

"Also, female participants in care-giving activities spent about 140 minutes in a day compared to 74 minutes by male respondents of the same age group. This corroborates the Indian social fabric wherein most of the caregiving responsibilities for household members are borne by the females of the household," the Ministry said.

About 16.8% of the population participated in producing goods for their own final use and they spent 116 minutes a day in doing such activities.

The survey covered 1,39,487 households – 83,247 in rural areas and 56,240 in urban areas. It enumerated 4,54,192 persons aged six and above (rural: 2,85,389 and urban: 1,68,803).

## Women shifting from unpaid domestic work: Govt. Survey

महिलाएं अवैतनिक घरेलू कार्य से बाहर आ रही हैं: सरकारी सर्वेक्षण

### Increase in employment participation

रोजगार में भागीदारी में वृद्धि

- Participation of women in employment-related activities increased to 25% in 2024 from 21.8% in 2019.

महिलाओं की रोजगार से जुड़ी

गतिविधियों में भागीदारी 2019 में 21.8% से बढ़कर 2024 में 25% हो गई।

- For men, participation rose from 70.9% in 2019 to 75% in 2024.

पुरुषों की भागीदारी 2019 में 70.9% से बढ़कर 2024 में 75% हो गई।

- The data comes from a "Time Use Survey" conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

यह आंकड़े राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) द्वारा किए गए "समय उपयोग सर्वेक्षण" से लिए गए हैं।

### Reduction in time spent on unpaid domestic work

अवैतनिक घरेलू कार्य में समय की कमी



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- Women spent 305 minutes per day on unpaid domestic services in 2024, compared to 315 minutes in 2019.  
महिलाओं ने 2024 में अवैतनिक घरेलू सेवाओं पर प्रतिदिन 305 मिनट खर्च किए, जो 2019 में 315 मिनट थे।
- This indicates a shift from unpaid domestic work to paid employment.  
यह अवैतनिक घरेलू कार्य से वेतनभोगी रोजगार की ओर बदलाव को दर्शाता है।

### Time spent on employment-related activities

रोजगार से संबंधित कार्यों में बिताया गया समय

- People involved in employment spent an average of 440 minutes per day on work-related activities in 2024.  
रोजगार में लगे लोगों ने 2024 में औसतन 440 मिनट प्रति दिन कार्य से जुड़ी गतिविधियों में बिताए।
- Men spent 473 minutes per day on employment-related activities.  
पुरुषों ने रोजगार से संबंधित कार्यों में प्रतिदिन 473 मिनट बिताए।
- Women spent 341 minutes per day on employment-related activities.  
महिलाओं ने रोजगार से संबंधित कार्यों में प्रतिदिन 341 मिनट बिताए।

### Gender differences in unpaid domestic services

अवैतनिक घरेलू सेवाओं में लैंगिक अंतर

- Men spent 88 minutes per day on unpaid domestic services for household members.  
पुरुषों ने घरेलू सदस्यों के लिए अवैतनिक घरेलू सेवाओं पर प्रतिदिन 88 मिनट बिताए।
- Women spent 137 minutes per day on caregiving for household members, compared to 75 minutes for men.  
महिलाओं ने अपने परिवार के सदस्यों की देखभाल में प्रतिदिन 137 मिनट खर्च किए, जबकि पुरुषों ने 75 मिनट खर्च किए।

### Time spent on leisure and cultural activities

मनोरंजन और सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों में बिताया गया समय

- Individuals aged six and above spent an average of 171 minutes per day on leisure, culture, and media activities.  
छह वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के व्यक्तियों ने औसतन 171 मिनट प्रति दिन मनोरंजन, संस्कृति और मीडिया गतिविधियों में बिताए।
- Men spent 177 minutes per day on these activities, while women spent 164 minutes.  
पुरुषों ने इन गतिविधियों पर प्रतिदिन 177 मिनट खर्च किए, जबकि महिलाओं ने 164 मिनट खर्च किए।



## Time spent by children on learning-related activities

बच्चों द्वारा सीखने संबंधी गतिविधियों में बिताया गया समय

- Children aged 6-14 spent an average of 413 minutes per day on learning-related activities.  
6-14 वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों ने सीखने संबंधी गतिविधियों में औसतन 413 मिनट प्रति दिन बिताए।
- Self-care and maintenance activities took up an average of 708 minutes per day for individuals aged 6 and above.  
छह वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के व्यक्तियों ने आत्म-देखभाल और रखरखाव गतिविधियों में औसतन 708 मिनट प्रति दिन बिताए।

## Participation in caregiving responsibilities

देखभाल की जिम्मेदारियों में भागीदारी

- 41% of women (15-59 years) participated in caregiving for household members, compared to 21.4% of men.  
15-59 वर्ष की 41% महिलाओं ने घरेलू सदस्यों की देखभाल में भाग लिया, जबकि पुरुषों की भागीदारी 21.4% थी।
- Women spent 140 minutes per day on caregiving activities, compared to 74 minutes for men.  
महिलाओं ने देखभाल की गतिविधियों में प्रतिदिन 140 मिनट खर्च किए, जबकि पुरुषों ने 74 मिनट खर्च किए।
- This reflects the Indian social structure where caregiving responsibilities are largely borne by women.  
यह भारतीय सामाजिक ढांचे को दर्शाता है, जहां देखभाल की जिम्मेदारी मुख्य रूप से महिलाओं पर होती है।

## Participation in goods production for self-use

स्वयं के उपयोग के लिए वस्तुओं के उत्पादन में भागीदारी

- 16.8% of the population participated in producing goods for self-use, spending an average of 116 minutes per day on such activities.  
16.8% जनसंख्या ने स्वयं के उपयोग के लिए वस्तुओं के उत्पादन में भाग लिया, और इस पर औसतन 116 मिनट प्रति दिन खर्च किए।

## Survey coverage and methodology

सर्वेक्षण का दायरा और पद्धति

- The survey covered 1,39,487 households, including:



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- 83,247 households in rural areas.  
ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 83,247 परिवार।
- 56,240 households in urban areas.  
शहरी क्षेत्रों में 56,240 परिवार।
- A total of 4,54,192 individuals aged six and above participated, with:
  - 2,85,389 respondents from rural areas.  
ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से 2,85,389 उत्तरदाता।

1,68,803 respondents from urban areas.  
शहरी क्षेत्रों से 1,68,803 उत्तरदाता।

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

**1. Delhi lost ₹2,000 crore due to excise policy: CAG**

दिल्ली ने उत्पाद नीति के कारण ₹2,000 करोड़ गंवाए: सीएजी

**2. SC reinstates Bihar MLC Sunil Kumar**

SC ने बिहार एमएलसी सुनील कुमार को बहाल किया

**3. Stalin calls for all-party meet on March 5, says delimitation affects all of South India**

स्टालिन ने 5 मार्च को सर्वदलीय बैठक बुलाई, कहा परिसीमन पूरे दक्षिण भारत को प्रभावित करता है

**4. SC reserves verdict on whether Assam followed norms for police encounters**

SC ने फैसला सुरक्षित रखा कि क्या असम ने पुलिस मुठभेड़ों के लिए नियमों का पालन किया

**5. Blunt weapon: India should end Net curbs, especially when imposed without good reason**



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**असंवेदनशील उपाय: भारत को इंटरनेट प्रतिबंध समाप्त करने चाहिए, विशेष रूप से जब बिना उचित कारण लगाए जाएं**

**6. The right's rise, Europe's state of denial**  
दक्षिणपंथ का उदय, यूरोप की अस्वीकार करने की स्थिति

**7. Should a third language be compulsory?**  
क्या तीसरी भाषा अनिवार्य होनी चाहिए?

**Centre vs Tamil Nadu over the three-language policy**  
तीन-भाषा नीति पर केंद्र और तमिलनाडु के बीच विवाद

**8. Accepting Taliban envoy in Delhi will undermine India's credibility'**

दिल्ली में तालिबान दूत को स्वीकार करना भारत की साख को कमजोर करेगा

**9. Bill on simultaneous polls will fail legal challenge, former CJI tells House panel**

पूर्व CJI ने संसदीय पैनल से कहा: एक साथ चुनाव कराने वाला विधेयक कानूनी चुनौती में विफल होगा

**10. Reciprocal tariffs a negation of all accepted principles of international trade: Congress**

पारस्परिक टैरिफ अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार के सभी स्वीकृत सिद्धांतों का ऋणकरण: कांग्रेस

**11. CBSE proposes draft policy for conducting two Board examinations from 2025-26**

CBSE ने 2025-26 से दो बोर्ड परीक्षाएं आयोजित करने के लिए मसौदा नीति प्रस्तावित की



# Delhi lost ₹2,000 crore due to excise policy: CAG

**GS Paper II: CAG**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi exchequer lost ₹2,002 crore in revenue due to the poor implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy, 2021-22 by the previous Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi, said a Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) report tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday.

“These implementation issues of the new policy (Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22) led to a loss of revenue of approximately ₹2,002 crore. Excise Policy aimed to eradicate sale of spurious liquor and check bootlegging. However, important measures which were planned in the policy like setting up of liquor testing laboratories, batch testing for rigorous quality assurance, and monitoring and regulation through creation of a dedicated post were not ensured,” the CAG report said.

AAP chief and former



**Audit shock:** Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra holding the CAG report, which was tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, senior AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia are among those who were arrested and jailed on charges of corruption in the excise policy. The two top leaders are currently out on bail.

**‘Deliberate obstruction’**  
Responding to the CAG report, the AAP blamed the revenue shortfall on the “deliberate obstruction” of the excise policy by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Enforcement Directorate

(ED), and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). “Based on CAG report, there must be investigation against the L-G, CBI, and ED to determine why the government exchequer was made to incur a ₹2,000-crore loss,” senior AAP leader Atishi said.

The CAG report was tabled in the Assembly by new Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

**SEE ALSO**

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**Delhi lost ₹2,000 crore due to excise policy: CAG**

**दिल्ली ने उत्पाद नीति के कारण ₹2,000 करोड़ गंवाए: सीएजी**

**The Delhi exchequer lost ₹2,002 crore in revenue due to the poor implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy, 2021-22 by the previous Aam Aadmi Party government, said a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday.**

**दिल्ली सरकार को ₹2,002 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ, जो दिल्ली उत्पाद नीति 2021-22 के खराब कार्यान्वयन के कारण हुआ। यह बात नियंत्रक और**

**महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की रिपोर्ट में कही गई, जो मंगलवार को दिल्ली विधानसभा में पेश की गई।**

- "These implementation issues of the new policy (Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22) led to a loss of revenue of approximately ₹2,002 crore. The policy aimed to eradicate the sale of spurious liquor and check bootlegging. However, important measures like setting up liquor testing laboratories, batch testing for rigorous quality assurance, and monitoring through a dedicated post were not ensured," the CAG report said.  
"दिल्ली उत्पाद नीति 2021-22 के खराब कार्यान्वयन के कारण सरकार को ₹2,002 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ। इस नीति का उद्देश्य नकली शराब की बिक्री समाप्त करना और अवैध शराब तस्करी पर रोक



लगाना था। हालांकि, इसमें शराब परीक्षण प्रयोगशालाओं की स्थापना, बैच परीक्षण, और निगरानी के लिए एक समर्पित पद जैसी महत्वपूर्ण योजनाएं लागू नहीं की गईं," सीएजी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।

- **AAP chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal**, senior AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister **Manish Sisodia** were among those who were **arrested and jailed on charges of corruption in the excise policy**. The two leaders are currently out on bail.

आप प्रमुख और पूर्व दिल्ली मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल, वरिष्ठ आप नेता और पूर्व उपमुख्यमंत्री मनीष सिसोदिया को उत्पाद नीति में भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपों में गिरफ्तार कर जेल भेजा गया था। दोनों नेता फिलहाल जमानत पर बाहर हैं।

### 'Deliberate obstruction'

#### 'जानबूझकर बाधा डाली गई'

- Responding to the **CAG report**, the **AAP** blamed the revenue shortfall on the "**deliberate obstruction**" of the **excise policy** by the **Lieutenant-Governor, Enforcement Directorate (ED), and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.  
सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए आप ने इस राजस्व घाटे के लिए उपराज्यपाल, प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ईडी) और केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) द्वारा "जानबूझकर बाधा डालने" को जिम्मेदार ठहराया।
- "**Based on the CAG report, there must be an investigation against the L-G, CBI, and ED to determine why the government exchequer was made to incur a ₹2,000-crore loss,**" said senior **AAP leader Atishi**.  
"सीएजी रिपोर्ट के आधार पर, एलजी, सीबीआई और ईडी के खिलाफ जांच होनी चाहिए ताकि यह पता लगाया जा सके कि सरकार को ₹2,000 करोड़ के नुकसान का सामना क्यों करना पड़ा," आप की वरिष्ठ नेता आतिशी ने कहा।
- The **CAG report** was tabled in the Assembly by **new Chief Minister Rekha Gupta**.  
सीएजी रिपोर्ट को नई मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने विधानसभा में पेश किया।



# SC reinstates Bihar MLC Sunil Kumar

**GS Paper II:  
Expulsion of a  
legislative member**



Sunil Kumar Singh

people's will in a representative democracy, Justice Kant said imposing a disproportionate punishment not only undermines democratic values by depriving the member from participating in House proceedings, but also affects the voters, who remain unrepresented.

**CONTINUED ON  
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The Supreme Court on Tuesday reinstated Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Sunil Kumar Singh to the Bihar Legislative Council, setting aside the Election Commission notification for a byelection to his seat.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant concluded Mr. Singh's expulsion following his remarks against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was "highly excessive and disproportionate".

"The expulsion of a member from the House constitutes a higher degree of deprivation and must only be sustained in exceptional circumstances," Justice Surya Kant observed.

Noting that the main function of a legislator is to act as a reflection of the pe-

## SC reinstates Bihar MLC Sunil Kumar

### SC ने बिहार एमएलसी सुनील कुमार को बहाल किया

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reinstated Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Sunil Kumar Singh to the Bihar Legislative Council, setting aside the Election Commission notification for a byelection to his seat.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को राष्ट्रीय जनता दल (राजद) के नेता सुनील कुमार सिंह को बिहार विधान परिषद में बहाल कर दिया, और उनकी सीट के लिए उपचुनाव की चुनाव आयोग की अधिसूचना को रद्द कर दिया।

• A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant concluded that Mr. Singh's expulsion following his remarks against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was "highly excessive and disproportionate".

न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार के खिलाफ टिप्पणी के

कारण सुनील कुमार सिंह का निष्कासन "अत्यधिक और असंगत" था।

- "The expulsion of a member from the House constitutes a higher degree of deprivation and must only be sustained in exceptional circumstances," Justice Surya Kant observed.

"किसी सदस्य को सदन से निष्कासित करना एक गंभीर प्रतिबंध है और इसे केवल असाधारण परिस्थितियों में ही लागू किया जाना चाहिए," न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत ने कहा।

- Noting that the main function of a legislator is to act as a reflection of the people's will in a representative democracy, Justice Kant said imposing a disproportionate punishment not only undermines democratic values by depriving the member from participating in House proceedings, but also affects the voters, who remain unrepresented.

यह देखते हुए कि किसी विधायक का मुख्य कार्य प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र में जनता की इच्छा को प्रतिबिंबित करना होता है, न्यायमूर्ति कांत ने कहा कि असंगत सजा देना न केवल लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों को कमजोर



करता है, बल्कि सदस्य को सदन की कार्यवाही में भाग लेने से वंचित कर देता है और मतदाताओं को भी प्रभावित करता है, जो बिना प्रतिनिधित्व के रह जाते हैं।

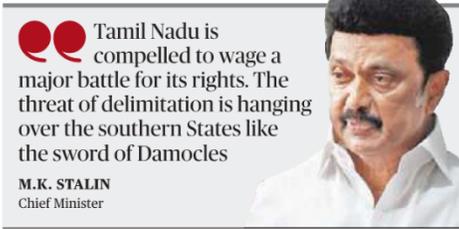
## Stalin calls for all-party meet on March 5, says delimitation affects all of south India

**GS Paper II: Parliament**

CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has convened an all-party meeting at the Secretariat in Chennai on March 5 to discuss the impact of the proposed delimitation exercise, which may lead to a reduction in the number of Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu.

Addressing the media after chairing a Cabinet meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said, "Tamil Nadu is compelled to wage a major battle for its rights. The threat of delimitation is hanging over the southern



Tamil Nadu is compelled to wage a major battle for its rights. The threat of delimitation is hanging over the southern States like the sword of Damocles

M.K. STALIN  
Chief Minister

States like the sword of Damocles. Tamil Nadu, a leader in HDIs [Human Development Indices], faces serious danger. The Union government plans to conduct the delimitation exercise in 2026. Population control has been a key national objective, and Tamil

Nadu has successfully achieved it through effective family planning, prioritising women's education, and advancements in healthcare."

**Reduction in seats**

"As of now, Tamil Nadu has 39 Lok Sabha seats. The

delimitation exercise is likely to reduce it to 31. It is not just a reduction in numbers. It is about our rights. The voice of Tamil Nadu is being suppressed on the pretext of delimitation. Transcending political differences, everyone should come together and raise our voice," Mr. Stalin said.

Mr. Stalin also wrote a letter to various political parties on Tuesday, urging them to voice their opposition to the delimitation exercise.

"Delimitation isn't just about Tamil Nadu, it affects all of south India," he added.

**Stalin calls for all-party meet on March 5, says delimitation affects all of South India**

**स्टालिन ने 5 मार्च को सर्वदलीय बैठक बुलाई, कहा परिसीमन पूरे दक्षिण भारत को प्रभावित करता है**

**Chief Minister M.K.**

**Stalin has convened an all-party meeting at the Secretariat in Chennai on March 5 to discuss the impact of the proposed delimitation exercise, which may lead to a reduction in the number of Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu.**

मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने 5 मार्च को चेन्नई सचिवालय में सर्वदलीय बैठक बुलाई है ताकि प्रस्तावित परिसीमन प्रक्रिया के प्रभाव पर चर्चा की जा सके, जिससे तमिलनाडु में लोकसभा सीटों की संख्या घट सकती है।

- Addressing the media after chairing a Cabinet meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said, "Tamil Nadu is compelled to wage a major battle for its rights. The threat of delimitation is hanging over the southern States like the sword of Damocles."

मंगलवार को सचिवालय में कैबिनेट बैठक की अध्यक्षता के बाद मीडिया को संबोधित करते हुए, मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, "तमिलनाडु को अपने अधिकारों के लिए एक बड़ा संघर्ष करना पड़ेगा। परिसीमन का खतरा दक्षिणी राज्यों पर तलवार की तरह लटका हुआ है।"

- "Tamil Nadu, a leader in HDIs [Human Development Indices], faces serious danger. The Union government plans to conduct the delimitation exercise in 2026. Population control has been a key national objective, and Tamil Nadu has successfully



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achieved it through **effective family planning, prioritising women's education, and advancements in healthcare.**"

"तमिलनाडु, जो मानव विकास सूचकांकों (HDIs) में अग्रणी है, गंभीर खतरे का सामना कर रहा है। केंद्र सरकार 2026 में परिसीमन प्रक्रिया शुरू करने की योजना बना रही है। जनसंख्या नियंत्रण एक प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय उद्देश्य रहा है, और तमिलनाडु ने इसे प्रभावी परिवार नियोजन, महिलाओं की शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता देने और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में प्रगति के माध्यम से सफलतापूर्वक प्राप्त किया है।"

## Reduction in seats

### सीटों में कमी

- **"As of now, Tamil Nadu has 39 Lok Sabha seats. The delimitation exercise is likely to reduce it to 31. It is not just a reduction in numbers. It is about our rights. The voice of Tamil Nadu is being suppressed on the pretext of delimitation. Transcending political differences, everyone should come together and raise our voice,"** Mr. Stalin said.  
"वर्तमान में, तमिलनाडु में 39 लोकसभा सीटें हैं। परिसीमन प्रक्रिया इसे घटाकर 31 कर सकती है। यह सिर्फ संख्या में कमी नहीं है, यह हमारे अधिकारों से जुड़ा मुद्दा है। तमिलनाडु की आवाज को परिसीमन के नाम पर दबाया जा रहा है। राजनीतिक मतभेदों से ऊपर उठकर सभी को एक साथ आकर अपनी आवाज उठानी चाहिए," स्टालिन ने कहा।
- **Mr. Stalin also wrote a letter to various political parties on Tuesday, urging them to voice their opposition to the delimitation exercise.**  
स्टालिन ने मंगलवार को विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों को पत्र लिखकर परिसीमन प्रक्रिया का विरोध करने की अपील की।
- **"Delimitation isn't just about Tamil Nadu, it affects all of South India,"** he added.  
"परिसीमन केवल तमिलनाडु का मुद्दा नहीं है, यह पूरे दक्षिण भारत को प्रभावित करता है," उन्होंने कहा।



## SC reserves verdict on whether Assam followed norms for police encounters

**GS Paper II: Police Encounter**

NEW DELHI

The Assam government on Tuesday strongly objected to a **public interest petition** accusing it of violating a 2014 Supreme Court judgment for a scientific, well-documented and decisive investigation by an independent agency into 171 police encounters that allegedly took place in the State between May 2021 and August 2022.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, **Solicitor General Tushar Mehta** said the judgment in the **People's Union of Civil Liberties**



(**PUCL**) versus State of Maharashtra on **police encounter deaths** was binding on the State and was followed "to the hilt".

The judgment had held that "**killings in police encounters require independent investigation**" to restore the public's faith in the police force.

"It does not matter whether the victim was a common person or a militant or a terrorist, nor does it matter whether the aggressor was a common person or the State. The law is the same for both and is equally applicable to both," the Supreme Court had observed over two decades ago.

On Tuesday, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner Arif Md. Yeasin Jwaedder, said the **16 guidelines of the PUCL judgment**, which were to be mandatorily followed by the State administration were "rampantly violated" by the Assam establish-

ment. Mr. Bhushan sought an independent probe by a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge.

Mr. Mehta said such baseless claims demoralised the police forces.

"But why would an independent investigation demoralise honest police officers," Mr. Bhushan asked.

The court reserved the case for judgment.

On February 4, the top had court said it couldn't get into the merit of the alleged 171 police encounters but would only see whether its guidelines on such extra-judicial killings had been duly followed.

## SC reserves verdict on whether Assam followed norms for police encounters

## SC ने फैसला सुरक्षित रखा कि क्या असम ने पुलिस मुठभेड़ों के लिए नियमों का पालन किया

## The Assam government on Tuesday strongly objected to a public interest petition accusing it

of violating a 2014 Supreme Court judgment that mandated a scientific, well-documented, and decisive investigation by an independent agency into 171 police encounters that allegedly took place in the State between May 2021 and August 2022.

असम सरकार ने मंगलवार को एक जनहित याचिका का कड़ा विरोध किया, जिसमें उस पर 2014 के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले के उल्लंघन का आरोप लगाया गया था। यह फैसला मई 2021 से अगस्त 2022 के बीच हुई 171 पुलिस मुठभेड़ों की वैज्ञानिक, सुव्यवस्थित और स्वतंत्र एजेंसी द्वारा निर्णायक जांच अनिवार्य करता है।

- Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the judgment in the People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) vs. State of Maharashtra on police encounter deaths was binding on the State and was followed "to the hilt".

न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ के समक्ष पेश होते हुए, सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने कहा कि पीपुल्स यूनिन फॉर सिविल लिबर्टीज (PUCL) बनाम महाराष्ट्र सरकार के फैसले में पुलिस मुठभेड़ में हुई मौतों पर राज्य को सख्ती से पालन करना अनिवार्य था, और इसे पूरी तरह से लागू किया गया।

- The judgment had held that "**killings in police encounters require independent investigation**" to restore the public's faith in the police force.

इस फैसले में कहा गया कि "पुलिस मुठभेड़ों में हुई हत्याओं की स्वतंत्र जांच आवश्यक है", ताकि जनता का पुलिस बल पर विश्वास बना रहे।

- "It does not matter whether the victim was a common person, a militant, or a terrorist, nor does it matter whether the aggressor was a common person or the State. The law is the same for both and is equally applicable to both," the Supreme



Court had observed over **two decades ago**.

"पीड़ित कोई आम व्यक्ति, उग्रवादी या आतंकवादी था, यह मायने नहीं रखता, न ही यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि हमलावर आम नागरिक था या राज्य। कानून दोनों के लिए समान है और समान रूप से लागू होता है,"

यह टिप्पणी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दो दशक पहले की थी।

- On Tuesday, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner Arif Md. Yasin Jwaedder, said the 16 guidelines of the PUCL judgment that were mandatory for the State administration were "rampantly violated" by the Assam government.

मंगलवार को, अधिवक्ता प्रशांत भूषण, जो याचिकाकर्ता अरिफ मोहम्मद यासिन ज्वाएददर की ओर से पेश हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि PUCL फैसले की 16 अनिवार्य दिशानिर्देशों का असम सरकार द्वारा बड़े पैमाने पर उल्लंघन किया गया।

- Mr. Bhushan sought an independent probe by a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge.

श्री भूषण ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट या हाईकोर्ट के एक सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश द्वारा स्वतंत्र जांच की मांग की।

- Mr. Mehta said such baseless claims demoralized the police forces.

श्री मेहता ने कहा कि ऐसे निराधार आरोप पुलिस बल का मनोबल गिराते हैं।

- "But why would an independent investigation demoralize honest police officers?" Mr. Bhushan asked.

"लेकिन एक स्वतंत्र जांच ईमानदार पुलिस अधिकारियों का मनोबल क्यों गिराएगी?" श्री भूषण ने सवाल किया।

- The court reserved the case for judgment.

अदालत ने इस मामले में फैसला सुरक्षित रख लिया।

- On February 4, the Supreme Court said it couldn't get into the merit of the alleged 171 police encounters, but would only examine whether its guidelines on extra-judicial killings had been duly followed.

4 फरवरी को, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि वह कथित 171 पुलिस मुठभेड़ों की वैधता पर विचार नहीं कर सकता, बल्कि यह जांच करेगा कि क्या इन मुठभेड़ों में उसके दिशानिर्देशों का सही से पालन किया गया था।



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**Blunt weapon: India should end Net curbs, especially when imposed without good reason**

**असंवेदनशील उपाय: भारत को इंटरनेट प्रतिबंध समाप्त करने चाहिए, विशेष रूप से जब बिना उचित कारण लगाए जाएं**

The number of Internet shutdowns in India was slightly lower in 2024 than in 2023, according to the **Software Freedom Law Center (SFLC) India's annual report.**

भारत में 2024 में इंटरनेट बंदी की संख्या 2023 की तुलना में थोड़ी कम थी, यह जानकारी सॉफ्टवेयर फ्रीडम लॉ सेंटर (SFLC) इंडिया की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में दी गई।

- A separate report by web rights advocacy, Access Now, shows that India continues to lead globally in the number of government-ordered Internet shutdowns.  
वेब अधिकार संगठन "एक्सेस नाउ" की एक अलग रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत अभी भी दुनिया में सरकारी आदेशों से होने वाले इंटरनेट बंदी में शीर्ष स्थान पर है।
- The Union government maintains that mobile Internet shutdown is an indispensable instrument to control law and order situations.  
केंद्र सरकार का कहना है कि मोबाइल इंटरनेट बंद करना कानून और व्यवस्था को नियंत्रित करने के लिए एक अनिवार्य उपाय है।
- Most of the Internet use in India is mobile-based.  
भारत में इंटरनेट उपयोग का अधिकांश भाग मोबाइल आधारित है।
- A closer examination of shutdowns in 2024 reveals disturbing data:

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GS Paper II: Net Curbs

## Blunt weapon

India should end Net curbs, especially when imposed without good reason

The number of Internet shutdowns in India was slightly lower in 2024 than in 2023, according to the Software Freedom Law Center (SFLC), India's annual report. A separate report by the web rights advocacy, Access Now, shows that India continues to lead globally in the number of government-ordered Internet shutdowns. The Union government has maintained that mobile Internet shutdown is an indispensable instrument in the toolkit to control law and order situations. Most of the Internet use in India is mobile. A closer examination of the shutdowns imposed even over the last year reveals some disturbing data: 41 of the 84 shutdowns in India in 2024 were imposed during protests, compared to the 23 that were imposed for communal clashes. Five were even issued for cheating during examinations. In situations on the brink of violence where rapidly spreading disinformation may swerve out of control of the authorities, there may be a case for considering restrictions on communications. But no shutdown is without a cost – the delayed information regarding violence can also impede fast response. The Supreme Court of India recognised this when it ruled, in *Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India*, that each shutdown must meet the tests of necessity and proportionality. Internet shutdown impedes people's livelihoods, access to medical care and education. It is a blunt weapon and the least the government could do is to measure its impact and use it sparingly. The government has been urged on preparing such an assessment for years, but no headway has been made here.

Even for those in favour of retaining shutdowns as a tool in the repertoire of emergency policing, the process being followed is cause for alarm. Many a time, as Access Now and SFLC report, there is no valid order uploaded on government websites detailing the duration and the causes in detail, as required by the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 and its preceding rules of 2017. Ideally, every shutdown should be followed by a sombre examination of whether it was necessary and what its deployment cost was. The ideal number of Internet shutdowns in any country is zero. It is especially troubling that 296 of them were imposed on millions around the world last year. India's case shows that there is an urgent need for circumspection and restraint. The Internet shutdowns index is, after all, one of the indices in which India should not aspire to lead.

○ 41 of the 84 shutdowns in India were imposed during protests.

2024 में भारत में हुए 84 इंटरनेट बंदी में से 41 प्रदर्शन के दौरान लगाए गए।

○ 23 shutdowns were imposed due to communal clashes.

23 इंटरनेट बंदी सांप्रदायिक झगड़ों के कारण लगाए गए।

○ 5 shutdowns were issued to prevent cheating during examinations.

5 इंटरनेट बंदी परीक्षाओं में नकल रोकने के लिए लागू किए गए।

• In situations on the brink of violence, where rapidly spreading disinformation may go out of control, there may be a case for considering restrictions.

ऐसी परिस्थितियों में जहां हिंसा की संभावना हो और गलत सूचना तेजी से फैल रही हो, वहां प्रतिबंध लगाने पर विचार किया जा सकता है।

• **No shutdown is without a cost** — delayed information regarding violence can also impede fast response.

कोई भी इंटरनेट बंदी बिना नुकसान के नहीं होती — हिंसा से संबंधित सूचनाओं में देरी से तेजी से प्रतिक्रिया देने में बाधा आ सकती है।

• The **Supreme Court, in *Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India*, ruled that each shutdown must meet the tests of necessity and proportionality.**

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने "अनुराधा भसीन बनाम भारत संघ" मामले में कहा कि प्रत्येक इंटरनेट बंदी को आवश्यकता और आनुपातिकता की कसौटी पर खरा उतरना चाहिए।

• **Internet shutdowns impact livelihoods, access to medical care, and education.**

इंटरनेट बंदी लोगों की आजीविका, चिकित्सा देखभाल और शिक्षा को प्रभावित करती है।

• The government has been urged for years to assess the impact of shutdowns, but no headway has been made.

सरकार से वर्षों से इंटरनेट बंदी के प्रभाव का आकलन करने की अपील की जा रही है, लेकिन इस पर कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई।

**Process flaws in Internet shutdown orders**

**इंटरनेट बंदी आदेशों में प्रक्रियागत खामियां**

• Even for those who support shutdowns as a policing tool, the process being followed is alarming.

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जो लोग इंटरनेट बंदी को कानून व्यवस्था बनाए रखने के लिए आवश्यक मानते हैं, उनके लिए भी इसे लागू करने की प्रक्रिया चिंताजनक है।

- Access Now and SFLC report that many shutdowns have no **valid government orders uploaded online**, as required by the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 and 2017 rules.

एक्सेस नाउ और SFLC की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, कई इंटरनेट बंदी के लिए कोई वैध सरकारी आदेश ऑनलाइन उपलब्ध नहीं कराए गए, जबकि यह दूरसंचार (सेवाओं का अस्थायी निलंबन) नियम, 2024 और 2017 के नियमों के तहत अनिवार्य है।

- Ideally, every shutdown should be followed by a review to examine its necessity and cost.

आदर्श रूप से, हर इंटरनेट बंदी के बाद इसकी आवश्यकता और लागत का आकलन किया जाना चाहिए।

- The ideal number of Internet shutdowns in any country should be zero.

किसी भी देश में इंटरनेट बंदी की आदर्श संख्या शून्य होनी चाहिए।

- It is troubling that 296 shutdowns were imposed worldwide in 2024, affecting millions of people.

यह चिंता का विषय है कि 2024 में दुनिया भर में 296 इंटरनेट बंदी लागू की गईं, जिससे लाखों लोग प्रभावित हुए।

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- India must exercise restraint in imposing shutdowns, as this is one index where the country should not aspire to lead.

भारत को इंटरनेट बंदी लगाने में संयम बरतना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जहां देश को शीर्ष पर होने की आकांक्षा नहीं रखनी चाहिए।

## The right's rise, Europe's state of denial

### GS Paper II: Geopolitics

In the Munich Security Conference in Germany, that was held recently, and the United Nations General Assembly vote on Ukraine.

A few days ago, in Saudi Arabia, the United States and Russia, led by their respective Foreign Ministers, had held bilateral discussions on the Ukraine war. The Ukrainians and Europeans were not invited since it was felt that they need not be included at this point. In June 2024, at the behest of Ukraine, the European Union (EU) and the U.S., Switzerland organised a 'Summit on Peace in Ukraine' at the Bürgenstock. Russia was not invited since they felt that Russia was not needed at that point.

In Munich, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance accused Europe of strangling its right-wing parties, "shutting down" elections, "stifling" free speech and religious freedoms and encouraging "out of control" migration from non-EU countries, thereby endangering democratic polity, freedoms and "fundamental values". But before November 2024, the Americans and the Europeans had tried to prevent their right-wing and far-right parties from gaining legitimacy through the ballot since they were convinced that the rise of right in their countries endangered democracy and freedoms – and, in effect, their liberal western values. Romania's constitutional court even annulled the presidential election results where far-right independent candidate, Calin Georgescu, who lobbied to cut off assistance to Ukraine, won the first round.

### What the U.S. forgets

In February 2025, the U.S. is accusing Ukraine, Germany and the Europeans of not doing enough to find a solution to the conflict, pursuing an unwinnable war with Russia. But the U.S. forgets that it has already spent over \$110 billion in the Ukraine war, with \$65 billion for ammunition only – more than what top western countries have collectively given Ukraine. The U.S. also forgets that in March 2022, it was the leader of a European country who, at the behest of the U.S., sabotaged negotiations (which had already commenced in Türkiye) between the Russians and the Ukrainians.

And, in September 2022, close allies of Germany sabotaged the Nord Stream pipelines, rendering them inoperable and preventing Russia from supplying gas to Germany, which was its lifeline. But a reluctant, but much-chastised, Germany supplied Leopard tanks and other ammunition to Ukraine.

In addition, the U.S. exhorts Europe to take responsibility for its own security, substantially enhances its defence spending and not sponge on



**T.S. Tirumurti**

was Ambassador/  
Permanent  
Representative of  
India to the United  
Nations, New York  
(2020-22)

the disproportionate American role in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The U.S. contributes 16% of NATO's annual budget and to most of its troops. But the U.S. forgets that since the collapse of the Cold War, it was America that was reluctant to let the Europeans organise their own security and defence.

Today, the U.S. accuses the EU of not doing enough either on illegal migration from non-EU countries or on combating militant radical Islam to stop terror attacks that disrupt the western way of life.

A few years ago, in the UN, the U.S. and Europe, barring France, proclaimed that the danger of terrorism came from "racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism" (REMVE) in the U.S. as well as the rise of right-wing violent extremism in Europe, and not from radical Islam or disastrous migration policies of the West. At the UN, their "liberal" Ambassadors kept silent when the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) tried to undermine the collective fight against terror and the UN Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) dismissed the terrorist attacks in France in 2020 as reaction to Islamophobia.

### The problem with Europe

Europe, on its part, refuses to accept that its domestic policies, which, *inter alia*, encourage violent dissidents, radicals, terrorists, and refugees to seek citizenship, have transformed its demography, perhaps irrevocably. Its liberal open societies were taken advantage of by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists, Khalistani separatists and terrorists, the infamous Hamburg Cell of Al Qaeda (the pilots of the 9/11 terrorist attacks were from here) or by Islamic radicals killing Europeans in their own cities – Paris, Nice, Oslo, Vienna, Madrid, Brussels or elsewhere. Therefore, it was no surprise that right-wing parties began to sweep elections in Europe as a reaction to their leaders' misplaced priorities. The recent election results in Germany which kept the far-right at bay, but only just, may be the last chance to find that elusive balance within the EU.

As Mr. Vance said in Munich, "If you're running in fear of your own voters, there is nothing America can do for you." Of course, the U.S. forgets that Trump 1.0 refused to accept the 2020 election loss and that the first act of Trump 2.0 was to pardon the perpetrators of the storming of the U.S. Capitol in 2021. But Europe's claim that the U.S. is no less undemocratic or no less culpable in these issues, or the pointing to Germany's Nazi past and the danger of its resurgence or to Russian aggression are not excuses for illiberal action against their far-right.

Europe seems to be in a state of denial. While the pursuit of ideology, liberal democracy and western values are laudable objectives, the EU leaders are complicit in the gradual eclipse of their own liberal values by allowing migrants, whose ethos are at direct variance with theirs. Their peoples' counter-reaction is to vote for the far-right fearing for their own identity, way of life and even religion. It is a classic case of liberal policies being taken advantage of by illiberal values.

In Munich, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, called out the West for claiming to promote democratic values at home but supporting non-democratic forces outside, especially in the Global South. Recent instances of the West effecting regime changes in the Global South include the forcible takeover of power by radical Taliban in Afghanistan in August 2021 and the overthrow of the Syrian President in December 2024 by Ahmed al-Shaara, a former leader of al-Qaeda in the region – all in the name of ushering in democracy.

However, on the Ukraine war, while Europe and the U.S. hitched themselves to the Zelensky bandwagon to emasculate Russia, in a dramatic turn of events, the chasm between the new U.S. initiatives and entrenched European positions burst into the open in the UN General Assembly when the U.S. voted with Russia against the European/Ukrainian draft resolution but could not stop it from being adopted. More drama could follow in the UN Security Council, but it is only a pyrrhic win for Europe – without America, the Ukraine war is as good as over.

### The trans-Atlantic partnership is relevant

Despite the jolts at Munich and the UN General Assembly, proclaiming that the trans-Atlantic partnership between the U.S. and Europe is over is premature. The call from the U.S. administration for retreat from Europe seems tactical, to renegotiate a better deal, and not strategic. With a new centrist leadership in Germany, maybe it is time for Europe to undertake course correction, invest more in its own security, combat the rise of radical values in its societies, pursue a more independent foreign policy and rework its relations with the U.S. Ironically, the trans-Atlantic partnership is even more relevant now in the face of "no-limits" partnership between Russia and China. The U.S.'s ability to walk away from Europe is overstated, just as the ability of Europe to weather the storm is understated.

When a reporter asked Mahatma Gandhi what he thought of western civilisation, he is reported to have replied: "I think it would be a good idea."

EU leaders are complicit in the gradual eclipse of their own liberal values, allowing for the gradual rise of the right

## The right's rise, Europe's state of denial

दक्षिणपंथ का उदय, यूरोप की अस्वीकार करने की स्थिति

Irony died a thousand deaths at the Munich Security Conference in Germany and the United Nations General Assembly vote on Ukraine.



जर्मनी में हुए म्यूनिख सुरक्षा सम्मेलन और संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा में यूक्रेन पर मतदान में विडंबना हजारों बार मरी।

- In Saudi Arabia, the United States and Russia, led by their Foreign Ministers, held bilateral discussions on the Ukraine war, but Ukraine and European nations were not invited.  
सऊदी अरब में, अमेरिका और रूस ने अपने विदेश मंत्रियों के नेतृत्व में यूक्रेन युद्ध पर द्विपक्षीय चर्चा की, लेकिन यूक्रेन और यूरोपीय देशों को आमंत्रित नहीं किया गया।
- In June 2024, at the request of Ukraine, the EU, and the U.S., Switzerland organized a 'Summit on Peace in Ukraine' but did not invite Russia.  
जून 2024 में, यूक्रेन, यूरोपीय संघ और अमेरिका के अनुरोध पर, स्विट्जरलैंड ने 'यूक्रेन में शांति पर शिखर सम्मेलन' आयोजित किया, लेकिन रूस को आमंत्रित नहीं किया गया।

## The U.S. on Europe's right-wing politics

### अमेरिका और यूरोप में दक्षिणपंथी राजनीति

- U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance accused Europe of:
  - Suppressing right-wing parties.  
दक्षिणपंथी दलों को दबाने का आरोप लगाया।
  - Restricting elections and free speech.  
चुनाव और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता को सीमित करने का आरोप लगाया।
  - Encouraging uncontrolled migration from non-EU countries.  
गैर-ईयू देशों से अनियंत्रित प्रवास को बढ़ावा देने का आरोप लगाया।
- Before November 2024, U.S. and European nations tried to prevent right-wing parties from gaining legitimacy through elections, believing their rise threatened democracy.  
नवंबर 2024 से पहले, अमेरिका और यूरोपीय देशों ने दक्षिणपंथी दलों को चुनावी वैधता प्राप्त करने से रोकने का प्रयास किया, क्योंकि उन्हें लगा कि उनका उदय लोकतंत्र के लिए खतरा है।
- Romania's constitutional court annulled presidential election results, where far-right candidate Calin Georgescu won the first round, advocating cutting aid to Ukraine.  
रोमानिया की संवैधानिक अदालत ने राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के नतीजों को रद्द कर दिया, जिसमें दक्षिणपंथी उम्मीदवार कैलिन जॉर्जस्कू ने पहले दौर में जीत हासिल की, जिन्होंने यूक्रेन को सहायता बंद करने की वकालत की।

## What the U.S. forgets

### अमेरिका क्या भूल जाता है

- In February 2025, the U.S. accused Ukraine, Germany, and Europe of:



- Not doing enough to resolve the war with Russia.  
रूस के साथ युद्ध को हल करने के लिए पर्याप्त प्रयास न करने का आरोप लगाया।
- Pursuing an unwinnable war.  
एक अजेय युद्ध में शामिल होने का आरोप लगाया।
- The U.S. has spent **over \$110 billion on the Ukraine war, including \$65 billion for ammunition alone, more than all Western nations combined.**  
अमेरिका ने यूक्रेन युद्ध पर \$110 बिलियन से अधिक खर्च किया है, जिसमें से \$65 बिलियन केवल गोला-बारूद के लिए खर्च हुए, जो सभी पश्चिमी देशों के संयुक्त योगदान से अधिक है।
- In March 2022, a European leader sabotaged peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia in Türkiye, under U.S. pressure.  
मार्च 2022 में, एक यूरोपीय नेता ने तुर्किये में यूक्रेन और रूस के बीच शांति वार्ता को अमेरिका के दबाव में विफल कर दिया।
- In September 2022, **Germany's close allies sabotaged the Nord Stream pipelines, cutting off Russia's gas supply to Germany.**  
सितंबर 2022 में, जर्मनी के करीबी सहयोगियों ने नॉर्ड स्ट्रीम पाइपलाइनों को नुकसान पहुंचाया, जिससे रूस से जर्मनी को गैस आपूर्ति बंद हो गई।
- Despite this, Germany, though hesitant, provided **Leopard tanks** and ammunition to Ukraine.  
इसके बावजूद, जर्मनी ने अनिच्छा से यूक्रेन को लेपर्ड टैंक और हथियार प्रदान किए।

## U.S. stance on European security and migration

### यूरोपीय सुरक्षा और प्रवासन पर अमेरिका का रुख

- The U.S. **urges Europe to take responsibility for its own security, increase defense spending, and not rely on NATO's American support.**  
अमेरिका यूरोप से अपनी सुरक्षा की ज़िम्मेदारी लेने, रक्षा खर्च बढ़ाने और नाटो में अमेरिका की सहायता पर निर्भर न रहने का आग्रह करता है।
- The U.S. **contributes 16% of NATO's budget and provides most of its troops.**  
अमेरिका नाटो के वार्षिक बजट का 16% योगदान देता है और इसके अधिकांश सैनिकों की आपूर्ति करता है।
- However, since the **Cold War ended**, the U.S. had prevented Europe from forming its own security strategy.  
हालांकि, शीत युद्ध समाप्त होने के बाद से, अमेरिका ने यूरोप को अपनी स्वतंत्र सुरक्षा नीति बनाने से रोका था।
- Today, the U.S. **blames the EU for failing to control illegal migration and for not acting against militant radical Islam.**  
आज, अमेरिका यूरोपीय संघ पर अवैध प्रवास को नियंत्रित करने में विफल रहने और कट्टरपंथी इस्लामवाद के खिलाफ कार्रवाई न करने का आरोप लगाता है।



## Contradictions in the West's approach to extremism

### पश्चिमी देशों के चरमपंथ पर विरोधाभासी दृष्टिकोण

- A few years ago, at the UN, the U.S. and European nations (except France) claimed terrorism's biggest threat was right-wing extremism, not radical Islam or flawed migration policies.

कुछ वर्ष पहले, संयुक्त राष्ट्र में, अमेरिका और यूरोपीय देशों (फ्रांस को छोड़कर) ने कहा कि आतंकवाद का सबसे बड़ा खतरा दक्षिणपंथी चरमपंथ है, न कि कट्टरपंथी इस्लाम या गलत प्रवासन नीतियां।

- At the UN, their liberal ambassadors remained silent when the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** attempted to weaken global counter-terrorism efforts. संयुक्त राष्ट्र में, उनके "उदारवादी राजदूत" तब चुप रहे जब इस्लामी सहयोग संगठन (OIC) ने वैश्विक आतंकवाद विरोधी प्रयासों को कमजोर करने की कोशिश की।
- The UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) dismissed France's 2020 terrorist attacks as a reaction to Islamophobia. संयुक्त राष्ट्र सभ्यताओं का गठबंधन (UNAOC) ने फ्रांस में 2020 में हुए आतंकवादी हमलों को इस्लामोफोबिया की प्रतिक्रिया बताया।

## The problem with Europe

### यूरोप की समस्या

- Europe refuses to accept that its domestic policies encouraging violent dissidents, radicals, terrorists, and refugees have permanently altered its demography. यूरोप यह स्वीकार करने से इनकार करता है कि उसकी घरेलू नीतियां, जो हिंसक असंतुष्टों, कट्टरपंथियों, आतंकवादियों और शरणार्थियों को नागरिकता पाने का अवसर देती हैं, ने उसकी जनसांख्यिकी को स्थायी रूप से बदल दिया है।
- Liberal open societies in Europe have been exploited by:
  - Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists. तमिल ईलम के मुक्ति चीते (LTTE) के आतंकवादियों द्वारा।
  - Khalistani separatists and terrorists. खालिस्तानी अलगाववादियों और आतंकवादियों द्वारा।
  - Al-Qaeda's Hamburg Cell, which included 9/11 attackers. अल-कायदा के हैम्बर्ग सेल द्वारा, जिसमें 9/11 हमलावर शामिल थे।
  - Islamic radicals attacking European cities like Paris, Nice, Oslo, Vienna, Madrid, and Brussels. \*\*इस्लामी कट्टरपंथी, जिन्होंने यूरोप के शहरों जैसे पेरिस, नीस, ओस्लो, वियना, मैड्रिड, और ब्रसेल्स में हमले किए।
- Right-wing parties have gained electoral success in Europe as a reaction to leaders' misplaced priorities.



यूरोप में दक्षिणपंथी दलों ने चुनावों में सफलता हासिल की, जो नेताओं की गलत प्राथमिकताओं की प्रतिक्रिया थी।

- The recent German election results prevented the far-right from winning completely, but this could be Europe's last chance to find political balance. हाल ही में जर्मनी के चुनाव परिणामों ने दक्षिणपंथी दलों को पूरी तरह से जीतने से रोक दिया, लेकिन यह यूरोप के लिए संतुलन बनाए रखने का आखिरी मौका हो सकता है।

## U.S. hypocrisy on democracy

### लोकतंत्र पर अमेरिका का पाखंड

- U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance in Munich said: "If you're running in fear of your own voters, there is nothing America can do for you." अमेरिकी उपराष्ट्रपति जे.डी. वांस ने म्यूनिख में कहा: "यदि आप अपने मतदाताओं से डरकर चुनाव लड़ रहे हैं, तो अमेरिका आपके लिए कुछ नहीं कर सकता।"
- However, the U.S. forgets that Trump refused to accept the 2020 election results and in Trump 2.0, he pardoned the January 6 Capitol rioters. हालांकि, अमेरिका भूल जाता है कि ट्रंप ने 2020 के चुनाव परिणामों को स्वीकार करने से इनकार कर दिया था और ट्रंप 2.0 के तहत, उन्होंने 6 जनवरी के कैपिटल दंगाइयों को माफी दे दी।
- Europe argues that the U.S. is equally undemocratic and cannot justify its illiberal actions against far-right groups by pointing to Germany's Nazi past or Russian aggression. यूरोप का तर्क है कि अमेरिका भी उतना ही अलोकतांत्रिक है और वह जर्मनी के नाजी अतीत या रूसी आक्रमण का हवाला देकर दक्षिणपंथी समूहों के खिलाफ अपने दमन को सही नहीं ठहरा सकता।

## Europe's denial and migration policies

### यूरोप का इनकार और प्रवासन नीतियां

- EU leaders are complicit in weakening their own liberal values by allowing migrants with opposing cultural values. यूरोपीय संघ के नेता अपनी ही उदारवादी नीतियों को कमजोर करने के लिए ज़िम्मेदार हैं, क्योंकि वे ऐसे प्रवासियों को अनुमति दे रहे हैं जिनके सांस्कृतिक मूल्य उनके विपरीत हैं।
- People's reaction is to vote for the far-right, fearing loss of identity, way of life, and religion. जनता की प्रतिक्रिया दक्षिणपंथी दलों के समर्थन में मतदान करना है, क्योंकि वे अपनी पहचान, जीवनशैली और धर्म खोने से डरते हैं।
- Liberal policies are being exploited by illiberal values, leading to far-right electoral success. उदारवादी नीतियों का गैर-उदारवादी मूल्यों द्वारा दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है, जिससे दक्षिणपंथी दलों की चुनावी सफलता बढ़ रही है।



## India's stance on the West's double standards

### पश्चिमी देशों के दोहरे मापदंड पर भारत का रुख

- In Munich, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar criticized the West for claiming to promote democracy while supporting non-democratic forces in the Global South.  
म्यूनिख में, भारत के विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने पश्चिमी देशों की आलोचना की, जो घोषित रूप से लोकतंत्र का समर्थन करते हैं लेकिन वैश्व दक्षिण (Global South) में अलोकतांत्रिक ताकतों को बढ़ावा देते हैं।
- Examples of Western-backed regime changes include:
  - August 2021: Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan.  
अगस्त 2021: अफगानिस्तान में तालिबान का कब्जा।
  - December 2024: Overthrow of Syria's President by Ahmed al-Shaara, a former Al-Qaeda leader.  
दिसंबर 2024: सीरिया के राष्ट्रपति को अहमद अल-शारा द्वारा सत्ता से हटाया गया, जो पहले अल-कायदा का नेता था।

## U.S.-Europe rift over Ukraine war

### यूक्रेन युद्ध को लेकर अमेरिका-यूरोप में मतभेद

- The U.S. and Europe backed Ukraine to weaken Russia, but recent events have exposed their divisions.  
अमेरिका और यूरोप ने रूस को कमजोर करने के लिए यूक्रेन का समर्थन किया, लेकिन हाल की घटनाओं ने उनके आपसी मतभेद उजागर कर दिए।
- In a dramatic shift at the UN General Assembly, the U.S. voted with Russia against a European/Ukrainian resolution but could not stop its adoption.  
संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा में एक नाटकीय परिवर्तन हुआ, जहां अमेरिका ने रूस के साथ मिलकर यूरोपीय/यूक्रेनी प्रस्ताव के खिलाफ मतदान किया, लेकिन इस प्रस्ताव को पारित होने से नहीं रोक सका।
- More conflict may arise in the UN Security Council, but without U.S. support, the Ukraine war is nearly over.  
संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद में और अधिक मतभेद हो सकते हैं, लेकिन अमेरिका के समर्थन के बिना, यूक्रेन युद्ध लगभग समाप्त हो चुका है।

## The relevance of trans-Atlantic partnership

### ट्रांस-अटलांटिक साझेदारी की प्रासंगिकता

- Despite tensions, declaring the U.S.-Europe alliance as over is premature.  
तनाव के बावजूद, यह कहना जल्दबाजी होगी कि अमेरिका-यूरोप गठबंधन समाप्त हो गया है।



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- The U.S. push to reduce its role in Europe is a tactical move to renegotiate a better deal, not a strategic withdrawal.  
यूरोप में अमेरिका की भूमिका कम करने की कोशिश एक रणनीतिक कदम है, ताकि बेहतर सौदेबाजी की जा सके, न कि पूरी तरह पीछे हटने की योजना।
- With new centrist leadership in Germany, Europe must:
  - Invest more in security.  
अपनी सुरक्षा में अधिक निवेश करे।
  - Combat the rise of radical values.  
समाज में बढ़ते कट्टरपंथी मूल्यों का मुकाबला करे।
  - Pursue a more independent foreign policy.  
अधिक स्वतंत्र विदेश नीति अपनाए।
  - Rework its relations with the U.S.  
अमेरिका के साथ अपने संबंधों को पुनः परिभाषित करे।
- The trans-Atlantic partnership is crucial, especially with the “no-limits” alliance between Russia and China.  
ट्रांस-अटलांटिक साझेदारी महत्वपूर्ण बनी हुई है, विशेष रूप से रूस और चीन के "नो-लिमिट्स" गठबंधन के बीच।
- Mahatma Gandhi’s famous quote on Western civilization:
  - “I think it would be a good idea.”  
"मुझे लगता है कि यह एक अच्छा विचार होगा।"



# Should a third language be compulsory?

Why is the Union government delaying funds under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to Tamil Nadu? When was the three-language policy first introduced and what did it mandate? What are the challenges in having extra language courses in government schools?

GS Paper II:  
Language

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

There has been a tussle between the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government over the three-language formula in schools under the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The Union government has indicated that it needs to be complied with for release of funds tied to the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. However, the Tamil Nadu government views it as a 'smokescreen' for Hindi imposition and insists that it would continue with its two-language policy.

**What are constitutional provisions?**

The Constitution provides that Hindi is the official language of the Union. English was originally meant to continue as the official language for 15 years from the commencement of the Constitution (till 1965). However, the Official Languages Act, 1963 provides for the continued use of English, in addition to Hindi, for all official purposes of the Union without any time limit. The legislature of a State may adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the official language(s) for official purposes of that State.

Further, the Constitution provides that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.

**What is the three-language policy?**

The three-language formula was first introduced in the NEP of 1968. This policy and the Official Language Resolution, 1968 mandated the teaching of Hindi as a language in non-Hindi speaking States. There were protests against the same in Tamil Nadu and it has steadfastly followed its two-language policy of teaching Tamil and English in its government schools.



**Firm stance:** A protest against the three-language policy, in Chennai, on February 18. PTI

The NEP, 2020 has retained the three-language formula albeit with a key difference that it doesn't impose any language on any State. It specifies that the languages to be learnt will be the choice of States, regions and the students, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India.

**What are the issues?**

The Annual Status of Education Research (ASER) conducted regularly by renowned NGO Pratham leaves much to be improved upon with respect to learning abilities. The report of 2022 indicates that close to 60% of students in Class V could

not read a Class II level text. The report of 2023 reveals that 25% of youth in the age group of 14-18 years could not read a Class II level text fluently in their regional language. More than 40% of this age group could not read sentences in English. The learning outcomes in foundational numeracy skills like subtraction and division is equally poor.

As per the report on 'Analysis of Budgeted expenditure on Education' prepared by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 2022, out of the total revenue expenditure on elementary education estimated at ₹3.03 lakh crore (2019-20), 15% is spent by the Centre

while 85% is spent by the States. The total expenditure on elementary, secondary, higher and technical education by the Centre and States combined hovers around 4-4.5% of the GDP as against the target of 6% set out in the NEP 2020. Thus, the expenditure on education is yet to reach the desired levels.

**What can be the way forward?**

While English is not a native language, its proficiency has helped us in becoming globally competitive in various service industries. India is a multi-lingual country and the objective of learning more Indian languages in schools is desirable. However, the existing issues of learning outcomes coupled with constraints on resources require that the efforts of government run schools should be focused on improving the teaching of the mother tongue/local language and English, apart from foundational numeracy skills. Even in private schools where a third language is taught till Standard VIII, there is limited proficiency being attained by the students in such language.

The 2011 Census data reveals that approximately 26% of India is bilingual and 7% is trilingual. The corresponding figures for urban areas are 44% and 15%, as against 22% and 5% for rural areas. With rapid urbanisation and migration of labourers across the country, this number is bound to increase in the forthcoming Census, indicating that the young and adult population would learn additional languages according to their needs.

There must be a constructive dialogue between the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government to ensure that funding is not delayed.

Considering the share of expenditure borne by the States as well as regional diversities, there also needs to be a productive discussion on providing more autonomy to the States in policy matters relating to school education.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

**THE GIST**

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The 2011 Census data reveals that approximately 26% of India is bilingual and 7% is trilingual. The corresponding figures for urban areas are 44% and 15%, as against 22% and 5% for rural areas.

## Should a third language be compulsory?

क्या तीसरी भाषा अनिवार्य होनी चाहिए?

Centre vs Tamil Nadu over the three-language policy

तीन-भाषा नीति पर केंद्र और तमिलनाडु के बीच विवाद

The Centre and Tamil Nadu government are in a dispute over the three-language formula in schools under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

केंद्र और तमिलनाडु सरकार नई शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 के तहत स्कूलों में तीन-भाषा फार्मूला को लेकर विवाद में हैं।



- The Union government insists on compliance with the three-language policy to release funds under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.  
केंद्र सरकार का कहना है कि समग्र शिक्षा अभियान के तहत धनराशि जारी करने के लिए तीन-भाषा नीति का पालन अनिवार्य है।
- The Tamil Nadu government views this as an attempt to impose Hindi and insists on continuing with its two-language policy (Tamil and English).  
तमिलनाडु सरकार इसे हिंदी थोपने की कोशिश मानती है और अपने दो-भाषा नीति (तमिल और अंग्रेजी) को जारी रखने पर जोर दे रही है।

### What are the constitutional provisions?

#### संवैधानिक प्रावधान क्या हैं?

- The Constitution designates Hindi as the official language of the Union.  
संविधान हिंदी को संघ की आधिकारिक भाषा के रूप में मान्यता देता है।
- English was originally meant to be used as an official language only until 1965, but the Official Languages Act, 1963, allowed its continued use indefinitely.  
अंग्रेजी को मूल रूप से 1965 तक आधिकारिक भाषा के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जाना था, लेकिन आधिकारिक भाषा अधिनियम, 1963 के तहत इसे अनिश्चितकाल तक जारी रखा गया।
- State legislatures can adopt any language for official purposes, including Hindi or regional languages.  
राज्य विधानसभाएं किसी भी भाषा को आधिकारिक कार्यों के लिए अपना सकती हैं, जिसमें हिंदी या क्षेत्रीय भाषाएं शामिल हैं।
- The Union government has a duty to promote Hindi, aiming to make it a common medium of expression across India.  
संघ सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह हिंदी को बढ़ावा दे, ताकि यह भारत में एक सामान्य अभिव्यक्ति का माध्यम बन सके।

### What is the three-language policy?

#### तीन-भाषा नीति क्या है?

- The three-language formula was first introduced in the NEP of 1968.  
तीन-भाषा फार्मूला पहली बार 1968 की शिक्षा नीति में पेश किया गया था।
- The Official Language Resolution, 1968, mandated Hindi as a compulsory subject in non-Hindi-speaking states, leading to protests in Tamil Nadu.  
आधिकारिक भाषा प्रस्ताव, 1968 के तहत हिंदी को गैर-हिंदी भाषी राज्यों में अनिवार्य विषय बनाया गया, जिससे तमिलनाडु में विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए।
- Tamil Nadu has since followed a two-language policy, teaching only Tamil and English in government schools.  
\*\*तमिलनाडु तब से दो-भाषा नीति अपना रहा है, जिसमें केवल तमिल और अंग्रेजी पढ़ाई जाती है।



- The NEP 2020 retains the three-language formula but states that no language will be imposed.  
नई शिक्षा नीति 2020 तीन-भाषा नीति को बनाए रखती है, लेकिन यह स्पष्ट करती है कि किसी भी भाषा को थोपा नहीं जाएगा।
- States, regions, and students can choose their three languages, as long as at least two are native to India.  
\*\*राज्य, क्षेत्र और छात्र तीन भाषाओं का चयन कर सकते हैं, जब तक कि कम से कम दो भारतीय भाषाएं हों।

## Challenges of implementing a third language

### तीसरी भाषा लागू करने की चुनौतियां

- The Annual Status of Education Research (ASER) 2022 report revealed:
  - 60% of Class V students could not read a Class II-level text.  
कक्षा V के 60% छात्र कक्षा II स्तर का पाठ नहीं पढ़ सकते थे।
  - 25% of youth (14-18 years) could not fluently read a Class II-level text in their regional language.  
14-18 वर्ष के 25% युवा अपनी क्षेत्रीय भाषा में कक्षा II स्तर का पाठ सुचारू रूप से नहीं पढ़ सकते थे।
  - More than 40% of youth in this age group could not read English sentences.  
इस आयु वर्ग के 40% से अधिक युवा अंग्रेजी वाक्य नहीं पढ़ सकते थे।
- Foundational numeracy skills, such as subtraction and division, were also weak.  
मूलभूत गणितीय कौशल, जैसे घटाव और भाग, भी कमजोर पाए गए।
- The education expenditure remains below the NEP 2020 target:
  - Total revenue expenditure on elementary education (2019-20): ₹3.03 lakh crore.  
प्राथमिक शिक्षा पर कुल व्यय (2019-20): ₹3.03 लाख करोड़।
  - Centre's share: 15%; States' share: 85%.  
केंद्र सरकार का हिस्सा: 15%; राज्य सरकारों का हिस्सा: 85%।
  - Total expenditure on education (elementary to higher education) remains at 4-4.5% of GDP, below the 6% target.  
शिक्षा पर कुल व्यय (प्राथमिक से उच्च शिक्षा तक) जीडीपी का 4-4.5% है, जो 6% के लक्ष्य से कम है।

## The way forward

### आगे का रास्ता



- English is not a native language, but proficiency in it has helped India become globally competitive.  
अंग्रेजी एक मूल भाषा नहीं है, लेकिन इसमें दक्षता ने भारत को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाया है।
- India is a multilingual country, and learning more Indian languages is beneficial.  
भारत एक बहुभाषी देश है, और अधिक भारतीय भाषाएं सीखना लाभकारी है।
- Government schools should focus on improving:
  - Mother tongue/local language education.  
मातृभाषा/स्थानीय भाषा की शिक्षा।
  - English proficiency.  
अंग्रेजी में दक्षता।
  - Foundational numeracy skills.  
मूलभूत गणितीय कौशल।
- In private schools, where a third language is taught until Class VIII, students still achieve limited proficiency.  
\*\*निजी स्कूलों में, जहां कक्षा VIII तक तीसरी भाषा पढ़ाई जाती है, छात्रों की दक्षता सीमित रहती है।
- 2011 Census data on bilingualism and trilingualism:
  - 26% of Indians are bilingual; 7% are trilingual.  
भारत में 26% लोग द्विभाषी हैं; 7% लोग त्रिभाषी हैं।
  - In urban areas: 44% bilingual; 15% trilingual.  
शहरी क्षेत्रों में: 44% द्विभाषी; 15% त्रिभाषी।
  - In rural areas: 22% bilingual; 5% trilingual.  
ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में: 22% द्विभाषी; 5% त्रिभाषी।
- With rapid urbanization and migration, more people will learn additional languages as needed.  
तेजी से शहरीकरण और प्रवासन के साथ, अधिक लोग अपनी आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार अतिरिक्त भाषाएं सीखेंगे।
- Constructive dialogue is needed between the Centre and Tamil Nadu to ensure timely funding.  
केंद्र और तमिलनाडु सरकार के बीच रचनात्मक संवाद आवश्यक है ताकि निधियों में देरी न हो।
- States should have more autonomy in education policy decisions, considering their regional diversity and financial contributions.  
शिक्षा नीति के मामलों में राज्यों को अधिक स्वायत्तता दी जानी चाहिए, क्योंकि वे अपने क्षेत्रीय विविधता और वित्तीय योगदान के अनुसार निर्णय ले सकते हैं।



# 'Accepting Taliban envoy in Delhi will undermine India's credibility'

Afghan exiles at Herat Security Dialogue urge India to maintain its stated foreign policy regarding terrorists: appeals come after reports surface that India is on the verge of allowing Taliban appointee to head Afghanistan Embassy in New Delhi

GS Paper II:  
India-Afghanistan  
MADRID

Amidst a growing number of reports that India will accept a Taliban-appointed diplomat to head the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, speakers at a conference of prominent Afghan exiles urged New Delhi to not "normalise" its engagement with the regime in Kabul. The reports carried by Afghan media, citing Taliban Foreign Ministry officials and international news agency Bloomberg, followed weeks after India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met with the Taliban's 'Acting' Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on January 8. This is the highest-level engagement the Indian government has conducted with the Taliban since the latter took power in Kabul in August 2021.

In November 2024, New Delhi accepted a Taliban-



Afghans-in-exile leaders and diplomats gather for a conference in Madrid to discuss Afghanistan's future. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

approved nominee, Ikramuddin Kamil, as 'Acting Consul-General' in Mumbai. If India were to allow a Taliban-appointed nominee to head the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, it would join other countries, including China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran, the UAE, Qatar and Central Asian states, while at least 16 countries have rejected the Taliban's nominees, and still host Ambassadors of the Afghan Republic.

Speaking to *The Hindu*

of making no distinction between 'good' and 'bad' terrorists, demonstrating a principled and consistent approach rather than one driven by short-term geopolitical calculations," former Afghan Ambassador Ashraf Haidari said.

Mr. Haidari is the founder and president of Displaced International, an agency advocating for the rights of those displaced by conflict.

Mr. Haidari, who was also Afghanistan's Deputy Chief of Mission in New Delhi and then Ambassador to Sri Lanka in the pre-Taliban era, has been critical of India's decision to engage with the Taliban while refusing visas to Afghans, including thousands of students who gained admission to universities in India.

Asked about the possible move, India's former Ambassador to Afghanistan Jayant Prasad, who too attended the conference,

said India had "done well" to engage the Taliban, as it was the "de facto authority" and connection to the Afghan people. However, he stressed that the government "should not provide legitimacy to the Islamic Emirate at a time it has refused political dialogue to create an inclusive government, and is engaged in the persistent and systematic oppression of women and minorities".

According to reports carried by Amu TV, Indian officials are "close to finalising an agreement" for two Taliban-approved officials to manage the affairs at the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, which has been in limbo for over a year.

Thus far, the External Affairs Ministry has maintained that any such reports were "hypothetical".

(The correspondent covered the Herat Security Dialogue at the invitation of the Afghanistan Institute of Strategic Studies.)

**Accepting Taliban envoy in Delhi will undermine India's credibility'**

**दिल्ली में तालिबान दूत को स्वीकार करना भारत की साख को कमजोर करेगा**

**Concerns over India's engagement with Taliban तालिबान के साथ भारत की संलग्नता को लेकर चिंता**

• Reports suggest India is considering accepting a Taliban-appointed diplomat to head the Afghanistan Embassy

in Delhi.

रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, भारत अफगानिस्तान दूतावास, दिल्ली में एक तालिबान-नियुक्त राजनयिक को स्वीकार करने पर विचार कर रहा है।

- Afghan exiles and experts at the Herat Security Dialogue have urged India not to "normalize" ties with the Taliban regime in Kabul.

हेरात सुरक्षा संवाद में अफगान निर्वासितों और विशेषज्ञों ने भारत से अनुरोध किया कि वह काबुल में तालिबान शासन के साथ संबंधों को "सामान्य" न बनाए।

- The reports emerged after India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Taliban's 'Acting' Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on January 8, 2024.

ये रिपोर्टें तब आईं जब भारत के विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिश्री ने 8 जनवरी 2024 को दुबई में तालिबान के "कार्यवाहक" विदेश मंत्री आमिर खान मुताकी से मुलाकात की।

## India's past engagements with the Taliban तालिबान के साथ भारत की पूर्व संलग्नताएं

- In November 2024, India accepted Taliban-approved nominee Ikramuddin Kamil as 'Acting Consul-General' in Mumbai.

नवंबर 2024 में, भारत ने तालिबान-स्वीकृत उम्मीदवार इकरामुद्दीन कामिल को मुंबई में 'कार्यवाहक कौंसल-जनरल' के रूप में स्वीकार किया।



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- If India accepts a Taliban-appointed envoy in Delhi, it would join China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran, UAE, Qatar, and Central Asian states, which have already accepted Taliban diplomats.  
यदि भारत तालिबान-नियुक्त दूत को दिल्ली में स्वीकार करता है, तो वह चीन, पाकिस्तान, रूस, ईरान, यूएई, कतर और मध्य एशियाई देशों के साथ शामिल हो जाएगा, जिन्होंने पहले ही तालिबान राजनयिकों को स्वीकार कर लिया है।
- At least 16 countries have rejected the Taliban's nominees and continue to recognize ambassadors from the previous Afghan Republic.  
कम से कम 16 देशों ने तालिबान के नामित राजनयिकों को अस्वीकार कर दिया है और अब भी पूर्व अफगान गणराज्य के राजदूतों को मान्यता देते हैं।

## Concerns raised at the Herat Security Dialogue

### हेरात सुरक्षा संवाद में उठाई गई चिंताएं

- Afghan diplomats and former officials warned that engaging with the Taliban would damage India's credibility.  
अफगान राजनयिकों और पूर्व अधिकारियों ने चेतावनी दी कि तालिबान के साथ संबंध बनाना भारत की साख को नुकसान पहुंचाएगा।
- Former Afghan Ambassador Ashraf Haidari stated that this move would mark a significant shift in India's foreign policy and weaken its stance against terrorism.  
\*\*पूर्व अफगान राजदूत अशरफ हैदरी ने कहा कि यह कदम भारत की विदेश नीति में एक बड़ा बदलाव होगा और आतंकवाद के खिलाफ उसकी स्थिति को कमजोर करेगा।
- He emphasized that India must maintain its long-standing policy of making no distinction between 'good' and 'bad' terrorists.  
उन्होंने जोर दिया कि भारत को अपनी पुरानी नीति बनाए रखनी चाहिए, जिसमें वह 'अच्छे' और 'बुरे' आतंकवादियों के बीच कोई भेदभाव नहीं करता।
- Haidari criticized India for engaging with the Taliban while refusing visas to Afghan students and refugees.  
हैदरी ने भारत की आलोचना की कि उसने तालिबान से बातचीत की, लेकिन अफगान छात्रों और शरणार्थियों को वीजा देने से इनकार कर दिया।

## Views from Indian experts

### भारतीय विशेषज्ञों की राय

- India's former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Jayant Prasad, supported engagement with the Taliban, calling them the "de facto authority" in Afghanistan.  
भारत के अफगानिस्तान में पूर्व राजदूत जयंत प्रसाद ने तालिबान के साथ बातचीत का समर्थन किया, और उन्हें "वास्तविक सत्ता" बताया।



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- However, he warned against providing legitimacy to the Taliban, especially when it refuses political dialogue and oppresses women and minorities.

हालांकि, उन्होंने तालिबान को मान्यता देने के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी, खासकर जब वह राजनीतिक वार्ता से इनकार करता है और महिलाओं व अल्पसंख्यकों पर दमन करता है।

## Reports on India's next steps

### भारत के संभावित कदमों पर रिपोर्ट

- According to reports by Amu TV, Indian officials are close to finalizing an agreement for two Taliban-approved diplomats to manage the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi.

अमू टीवी की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारतीय अधिकारी अफगानिस्तान दूतावास, दिल्ली में दो तालिबान-स्वीकृत राजनयिकों को नियुक्त करने के लिए एक समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने के करीब हैं।

- The Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi has been in limbo for over a year.

दिल्ली में अफगानिस्तान दूतावास पिछले एक वर्ष से अनिश्चित स्थिति में है।

- India's External Affairs Ministry has dismissed these reports as "hypothetical", but has not officially denied them.

भारत के विदेश मंत्रालय ने इन रिपोर्टों को "काल्पनिक" बताया है, लेकिन उन्हें आधिकारिक रूप से खारिज नहीं किया है।



# Bill on simultaneous polls will fail legal challenge, former CJI tells House panel

Justice U.U. Lalit (ret.) backs underlying principle, but says curtailing the tenure of the Assemblies to synchronise polls runs counter to the Basic Structure of Constitution; former Law Commission Chairperson says simultaneous polls help cost optimisation; panel to meet again on March 10

**GS Paper II: Election**

**Sobhana K. Nair**  
NEW DELHI

In its current form, the Bill on simultaneous elections will not sustain a legal challenge in the Supreme Court, former Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit said in a submission before the Parliamentary Joint Committee reviewing the legislation on Tuesday.

Sources said Justice Lalit said that the provision to curtail the tenure of the Assemblies to synchronise the polls runs counter to the Basic Structure of Constitution, which is protected by the *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment.

The committee, headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary, is reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024.

The Bill seeks to empower the Election Commission to conduct simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies.

To synchronise the elec-

tions, the Bill includes a provision enabling the President to set an "appointed date", through a notification issued on the first sitting of the Lok Sabha post a general election. This "appointed date" will mark the beginning of the new electoral cycle.

The Assemblies formed after that date and before the completion of the Lok Sabha's term will conclude their own term before the subsequent Lok Sabha election. After this, elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies will be held simultaneously.

**'Staggered approach'**

Sources said Justice Lalit supported the underlying principle of the legislation, but said that curtailing the tenure of the Assemblies on the "appointed date" will not pass legal scrutiny in the Supreme Court. He made a distinction between the "non-substantial" or "peripheral" tenure of an Assembly versus the "substantial term".

The former Chief Justice said that if 30% to 40% of the tenure of an Assembly



**Deep dive:** A Parliamentary Joint Committee headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary is reviewing the legislation. PTI

is yet to be concluded, it fell under the category of a "substantial" term, and curtailing it would be considered a violation of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. Instead, sources said, Justice Lalit suggested a staggered approach, with the Assemblies being disbanded in batches.

At this point, an Opposition member of the panel pointed out that the electoral cycle had evolved organically, without any constitutional fiat, from the initial elections during co-

lonial rule under the 1935 Government of India Act till the Lok Sabha and Assembly electoral cycle diverged after the 1967 election. Justice Lalit, sources said, conceded that the proposed legislative intervention could stunt such an organic evolution.

The curtailment of the tenure of the Assemblies has been a major concern for several parties, including the Janata Dal(U), which is a partner in the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, and also

leads the NDA government in Bihar. Rajya Sabha member and JD(U) national general secretary Sanjay K. Jha, who is a former member of the panel, had raised this question.

Congress MP Manish Tewari, while opposing the introduction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha, had argued that the State legislatures stand on an equal constitutional footing with Parliament and therefore cannot be made subservient, as this legislation aims to do.

The panel's discussion with Justice Lalit went on for nearly three hours, with several interventions and questions from the Opposition members, sources said.

**Cutting costs**

Former Law Commission Chairperson Ritu Raj Awasthi also appeared before the panel.

Arguing in support of the legislation, Justice Awasthi called it a "transformative idea" which will address challenges such as "policy paralysis, governance inefficiencies, excessive election-related ex-

penditure, and the prolonged deployment of security and administrative personnel".

Justice Awasthi argued, sources said, that simultaneous elections would allow for cost optimisation. The parliamentary polls are funded by the Union government, while the Assembly elections are funded by the States.

The average expenditure per Assembly constituency for the 2019 Lok Sabha election and subsequent Assembly elections revealed that both incurred nearly the same costs. In certain cases, Justice Awasthi said, citing the examples of Delhi and Haryana, the Assembly election expenditure even exceeded that of the Lok Sabha election.

The meeting began with more than an hour of wrangling over procedures. Opposition members demanded that a consolidated list of the witnesses to be called to appear before the panel must be shared. The next meeting of the panel is scheduled for March 10.

## Bill on simultaneous polls will fail legal challenge, former CJI tells House panel

### पूर्व CJI ने संसदीय पैनल से कहा: एक साथ चुनाव कराने वाला विधेयक कानूनी चुनौती में विफल होगा

#### Concerns over the legality of the Bill विधेयक की कानूनी वैधता को लेकर चिंता

- Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) U.U. Lalit told the Parliamentary Joint Committee that the Bill on simultaneous elections will not withstand a legal challenge in the Supreme Court.



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भारत के पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) यू.यू. ललित ने संसदीय संयुक्त समिति को बताया कि एक साथ चुनाव कराने वाला विधेयक सुप्रीम कोर्ट में कानूनी चुनौती का सामना नहीं कर सकेगा।

- Justice Lalit stated that curtailing the tenure of State Assemblies to synchronize elections violates the Basic Structure of the Constitution, which is protected under the Kesavananda Bharati judgment.

न्यायमूर्ति ललित ने कहा कि चुनावों को एक साथ कराने के लिए राज्य विधानसभाओं का कार्यकाल कम करना संविधान की मूल संरचना का उल्लंघन है, जो केशवानंद भारती फैसले के तहत संरक्षित है।

## Key provisions of the Bill

### विधेयक के प्रमुख प्रावधान

- The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024.  
संविधान (129वां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024 को 17 दिसंबर 2024 को लोकसभा में पेश किया गया।
- The Bill empowers the Election Commission to conduct simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.  
यह विधेयक चुनाव आयोग को लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं के लिए एक साथ चुनाव कराने का अधिकार देता है।
- To achieve this, the President will set an "appointed date" through a notification issued at the first sitting of the new Lok Sabha.  
इस उद्देश्य के लिए, राष्ट्रपति "निर्धारित तिथि" तय करेंगे, जिसकी अधिसूचना लोकसभा के पहले सत्र में जारी की जाएगी।
- Assemblies formed after this date will end their term before the next Lok Sabha elections, ensuring future simultaneous polls.  
इस तिथि के बाद गठित विधानसभाओं का कार्यकाल अगले लोकसभा चुनावों से पहले समाप्त हो जाएगा, जिससे भविष्य में चुनाव एक साथ हो सकें।

## Justice Lalit's concerns

### न्यायमूर्ति ललित की चिंताएं

- Justice Lalit supported the principle of simultaneous elections, but opposed curtailing the tenure of Assemblies on a set date, calling it legally untenable.  
न्यायमूर्ति ललित ने एक साथ चुनाव कराने के सिद्धांत का समर्थन किया, लेकिन विधानसभाओं के कार्यकाल को तय तारीख पर समाप्त करने का विरोध किया, इसे कानूनी रूप से अव्यवहारिक बताया।
- He differentiated between "non-substantial" and "substantial" tenure of an Assembly:
  - If 30-40% of an Assembly's tenure remains, it is a "substantial" term, and curtailing it violates the Basic Structure.



यदि किसी विधानसभा का 30-40% कार्यकाल शेष है, तो यह "महत्वपूर्ण" अवधि मानी जाएगी, और इसे समाप्त करना संविधान की मूल संरचना का उल्लंघन होगा।

- He suggested a staggered approach, where Assemblies are dissolved in phases rather than all at once.

उन्होंने चरणबद्ध दृष्टिकोण (staggered approach) का सुझाव दिया, जहां विधानसभाओं को एक साथ समाप्त करने के बजाय चरणों में भंग किया जाए।

## Opposition and political concerns

### विपक्ष और राजनीतिक चिंताएं

- Opposition members argued that India's electoral cycle evolved organically since colonial rule and should not be artificially altered.  
विपक्षी सदस्यों ने तर्क दिया कि भारत की चुनावी प्रक्रिया औपनिवेशिक शासन से विकसित हुई है और इसे कृत्रिम रूप से नहीं बदला जाना चाहिए।
- The Janata Dal (United) (JD-U), part of the ruling NDA alliance, has also raised concerns over the reduction of Assembly tenures.  
सत्तारूढ़ एनडीए गठबंधन की सहयोगी जनता दल (यूनाइटेड) (JD-U) ने भी विधानसभाओं के कार्यकाल को घटाने पर चिंता व्यक्त की है।
- Congress MP Manish Tewari argued that State Legislatures have equal constitutional status as Parliament and cannot be made subordinate.  
कांग्रेस सांसद मनीष तिवारी ने तर्क दिया कि राज्य विधानसभाओं की संवैधानिक स्थिति संसद के बराबर है और उन्हें अधीन नहीं बनाया जा सकता।

## Arguments in favor of the Bill

### विधेयक के समर्थन में तर्क

- Former Law Commission Chairperson Ritu Raj Awasthi supported the Bill, calling it a "transformative idea" to tackle election-related challenges.  
पूर्व विधि आयोग अध्यक्ष ऋतुराज अवस्थी ने इस विधेयक का समर्थन किया, और इसे "परिवर्तनकारी विचार" बताया, जो चुनाव संबंधी चुनौतियों का समाधान करेगा।
- Benefits of simultaneous elections, as per Justice Awasthi:
  - Reduces policy paralysis caused by frequent elections.  
बार-बार चुनाव होने से नीति-निर्माण में उत्पन्न गतिरोध (policy paralysis) को कम करता है।
  - Enhances governance efficiency.  
शासन की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाता है।
  - Cuts down election costs and security deployment.  
चुनाव लागत और सुरक्षा बलों की तैनाती को कम करता है।



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- Data shows that both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections incur nearly the same expenditure.  
आंकड़ों के अनुसार, लोकसभा और विधानसभा चुनावों में लगभग समान खर्च होता है।
- In states like Delhi and Haryana, Assembly election costs were even higher than Lok Sabha elections.  
दिल्ली और हरियाणा जैसे राज्यों में, विधानसभा चुनाव की लागत लोकसभा चुनावों से भी अधिक थी।

## Meeting details and next steps

### बैठक का विवरण और आगामी कदम

- The discussion with Justice Lalit lasted for nearly three hours, with multiple interventions from Opposition members.  
न्यायमूर्ति ललित के साथ चर्चा लगभग तीन घंटे तक चली, जिसमें विपक्षी सदस्यों की ओर से कई हस्तक्षेप हुए।
- Opposition members demanded a list of all witnesses who would appear before the committee.  
विपक्षी सदस्यों ने समिति के समक्ष पेश होने वाले सभी गवाहों की सूची की मांग की।
- The next meeting of the panel is scheduled for March 10, 2025.  
समिति की अगली बैठक 10 मार्च 2025 को निर्धारित है।



# Reciprocal tariffs a negation of all accepted principles of international trade: Cong.

**GS Paper II:  
Geopolitics**

NEW DELHI

Asserting that reciprocal tariffs are a complete negation of all accepted principles of international trade, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should “summon the courage” to remind U.S. President Donald Trump that the ‘T’ in World Trade Organisation “stands for Trade not Trump”.

The assertion comes after Mr. Trump spelt out his plan to increase tariffs to match the tax rates that other countries charge on imports from the U.S. and had mentioned that countries such as India and China would face reciprocal tariffs.

His colleague Pawan Khera had posed five ques-



Jairam Ramesh

tions to the Narendra Modi government on reciprocal tariffs by the U.S.

On the government’s plan to protect the interests of domestic farmers, who make up 45.76% of the workforce and steps to ensure to prevent India from becoming a dumping ground for cheap U.S. agricultural imports, Mr. Khera asked: “Will the government now consider chang-

es in domestic policy, particularly the legalisation of MSP, to provide basic income support to farmers?”

He asked about the government safeguarding the MSME sector, whose production will be severely impacted by costly exports and increased competition from foreign products. “What will be the impact of reciprocal tariffs on India’s GDP,” he asked.

In another post on X, Mr. Khera questioned the Modi government’s diplomatic strategy in the wake of Mr. Trump reportedly allocating \$397 million for Pakistan’s F-16 fleet maintenance.

Such actions potentially compromise India’s security interests, especially given the historical use of F-16s by Pakistan against India, he added.

**Reciprocal tariffs a negation of all accepted principles of international trade: Congress**

**पारस्परिक टैरिफ अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार के सभी स्वीकृत सिद्धांतों का नकारण:  
कांग्रेस**

**Congress criticizes U.S. reciprocal tariffs**

**कांग्रेस ने अमेरिका के पारस्परिक टैरिफ की आलोचना की**

- Congress leader Jairam Ramesh criticized reciprocal tariffs, calling them a complete negation of all accepted principles of international trade.



कांग्रेस नेता जयराम रमेश ने पारस्परिक टैरिफ की आलोचना की, और इसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार के सभी स्वीकृत सिद्धांतों का ढ़करण बताया।

- He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to remind U.S. President Donald Trump that the 'T' in WTO stands for "Trade, not Trump".

उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से आग्रह किया कि वे अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप को याद दिलाएं कि विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) में 'T' का अर्थ "ट्रंप नहीं, व्यापार" है।

## Trump's plan for reciprocal tariffs

### ट्रंप की पारस्परिक टैरिफ योजना

- Donald Trump announced plans to increase tariffs on imports from countries like India and China to match their tax rates on U.S. imports.  
डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने भारत और चीन जैसे देशों से आयात पर टैरिफ बढ़ाने की योजना की घोषणा की, ताकि उनकी अमेरिकी आयात पर लगने वाली कर दरों के बराबर हो।
- This has raised concerns in India about the impact on domestic industries and trade relations.  
इससे भारत में घरेलू उद्योगों और व्यापारिक संबंधों पर प्रभाव को लेकर चिंताएं बढ़ गई हैं।

## Congress raises five key questions

### कांग्रेस ने पांच प्रमुख सवाल उठाए

- Congress leader Pawan Khera posed five questions to the Modi government regarding U.S. reciprocal tariffs.  
कांग्रेस नेता पवन खेड़ा ने मोदी सरकार से अमेरिका के पारस्परिक टैरिफ को लेकर पांच सवाल पूछे।
- Impact on farmers:
  - How will the government protect Indian farmers, who make up 45.76% of the workforce, from cheap U.S. agricultural imports?  
सरकार 45.76% कार्यबल वाले भारतीय किसानों को सस्ते अमेरिकी कृषि आयात से कैसे बचाएगी?
  - Will the government consider changes in domestic policy, such as legalizing MSP, to provide income support to farmers?  
क्या सरकार किसानों को आय सहायता देने के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) को कानूनी रूप देने पर विचार करेगी?
- Impact on MSMEs:
  - How will the government protect MSMEs, whose production will be affected by costly exports and increased foreign competition?  
महंगे निर्यात और बढ़ती विदेशी प्रतिस्पर्धा से प्रभावित होने वाले सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (MSME) की सरकार कैसे रक्षा करेगी?
- Effect on India's GDP:



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- What will be the overall impact of reciprocal tariffs on India's GDP?  
पारस्परिक टैरिफ का भारत की जीडीपी पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा?

## Concerns over U.S. military aid to Pakistan

### अमेरिका की पाकिस्तान को सैन्य सहायता पर चिंता

- In another statement, Khera questioned the Modi government's diplomatic strategy, citing Trump's reported approval of \$397 million for Pakistan's F-16 fleet maintenance.  
एक अन्य बयान में, पवन खेड़ा ने मोदी सरकार की कूटनीतिक रणनीति पर सवाल उठाया, जिसमें ट्रंप द्वारा पाकिस्तान के F-16 बेड़े के रखरखाव के लिए कथित तौर पर \$397 मिलियन मंजूर किए जाने का उल्लेख किया गया।
- He argued that such actions could compromise India's security interests, especially given Pakistan's past use of F-16s against India.  
उन्होंने कहा कि इस तरह के कदम भारत की सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा पैदा कर सकते हैं, विशेष रूप से पाकिस्तान द्वारा F-16 का भारत के खिलाफ पूर्व में किए गए उपयोग को देखते हुए।

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# CBSE proposes draft policy for conducting two Board examinations from 2025-26

GS Paper II:  
Education

NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has proposed that from the academic year 2025-26, students of Class 10 can appear for Board examination twice, in a bid to improve their performance.

A draft policy has been put in public domain by the CBSE and the Board will accept responses from all stakeholders – schools, teachers, parents, students and the public – till March 9.

## Scrutiny planned

“The responses will be scrutinised and policy will be finalised subsequently,” said Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examinations, CBSE.

The National Education

**The scheme proposes that Class 10 and 12 exams will begin on the first Tuesday after February 15. The second exam will be in July**

Policy, 2020 recommends that students be given an opportunity to improve their performance in Board exams.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan chaired a meeting which discussed the issue.

The scheme proposes that Class 10 and 12 exams will begin on the first Tuesday after February 15, 2026. The improvement exam or the second exam will be scheduled in July 2026. Up to 26.6 lakh students in Class 10 and 20

lakh in Class 12 are expected to appear in the exams.

## Students' choice

Students can either chose to appear for the Board exams the second time to improve their scores, or they can opt out from appearing for the second time.

“Performance in the first exam will be made available on DigiLocker, which can be used for admission to Class 11, in case the student does not wish to appear for the second examination,” Mr. Bhardwaj said.

Marksheet and pass certificate will have marks secured in first exam, and the second exam, as well as marks secured in practice and internal assessments and grades. The better of the two marks will be mentioned.

**CBSE proposes draft policy for conducting two Board examinations from 2025-26**  
**CBSE ने 2025-**

**26 से दो बोर्ड**

**परीक्षाएं**

**आयोजित करने**

**के लिए मसौदा**

**नीति प्रस्तावित**

**की**

**CBSE's proposal for two Board exams**

**CBSE का दो बोर्ड**

**परीक्षाओं का प्रस्ताव**

• The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has proposed that

from the academic year 2025-26, Class 10 students can appear for Board exams twice to improve their performance.

केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (CBSE) ने प्रस्ताव दिया है कि शैक्षणिक वर्ष 2025-26 से, कक्षा 10 के छात्र अपनी प्रदर्शन में सुधार करने के लिए दो बार बोर्ड परीक्षा दे सकेंगे।

- A draft policy has been made public, and CBSE will accept responses from stakeholders — schools, teachers, parents, students, and the public — till March 9.

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CBSE ने एक मसौदा नीति सार्वजनिक की है, और बोर्ड 9 मार्च तक स्कूलों, शिक्षकों, अभिभावकों, छात्रों और जनता से प्रतिक्रियाएं स्वीकार करेगा।

## Scrutiny and finalization of policy

### नीति की जांच और अंतिम रूप

- Responses will be scrutinized, and the policy will be finalized accordingly, said Sanyam Bhardwaj, CBSE Controller of Examinations.  
CBSE परीक्षा नियंत्रक सायम भारद्वाज ने कहा कि प्रतिक्रियाओं की जांच की जाएगी और उसके अनुसार नीति को अंतिम रूप दिया जाएगा।
- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommends giving students the opportunity to improve their performance in Board exams.  
राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 यह सिफारिश करती है कि छात्रों को बोर्ड परीक्षाओं में अपने प्रदर्शन को सुधारने का अवसर दिया जाए।
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan chaired a meeting to discuss this issue.  
शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने इस मुद्दे पर चर्चा के लिए एक बैठक की अध्यक्षता की।

## Exam schedule and student participation

### परीक्षा कार्यक्रम और छात्र भागीदारी

- The scheme proposes that Class 10 and 12 exams will begin on the first Tuesday after February 15, 2026.  
योजना के अनुसार, कक्षा 10 और 12 की परीक्षाएं 15 फरवरी 2026 के बाद के पहले मंगलवार से शुरू होंगी।
- The improvement exam (second exam) will be held in July 2026.  
सुधार परीक्षा (दूसरी परीक्षा) जुलाई 2026 में आयोजित की जाएगी।
- Around 26.6 lakh Class 10 students and 20 lakh Class 12 students are expected to appear for the exams.  
कक्षा 10 के लगभग 26.6 लाख और कक्षा 12 के 20 लाख छात्र इन परीक्षाओं में बैठने की संभावना है।

## Students' choice for second exam

### छात्रों के लिए दूसरी परीक्षा का विकल्प

- Students can choose to appear for the second Board exam to improve their scores, or they can opt out.  
छात्र अपने अंक सुधारने के लिए दूसरी बोर्ड परीक्षा में बैठ सकते हैं या वे इसे छोड़ भी सकते हैं।
- Performance in the first exam will be available on DigiLocker, which can be used for Class 11 admissions if the student does not wish to appear for the second exam.



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पहली परीक्षा का प्रदर्शन डिजीलॉकर पर उपलब्ध होगा, जिसका उपयोग कक्षा 11 में प्रवेश के लिए किया जा सकता है, यदि छात्र दूसरी परीक्षा में बैठना नहीं चाहता।

## Marksheet and evaluation

### अंकपत्र और मूल्यांकन

- The marksheet and pass certificate will include marks from the first and second exams, along with marks from practical and internal assessments.  
अंकपत्र और उत्तीर्ण प्रमाणपत्र में पहली और दूसरी परीक्षा के अंक, साथ ही प्रायोगिक और आंतरिक मूल्यांकन के अंक शामिल होंगे।

The better of the two marks will be mentioned in the final result.  
दोनों परीक्षाओं में से बेहतर अंक को अंतिम परिणाम में दर्ज किया जाएगा।

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

## 1. Wild and safe

### जंगली और सुरक्षित

**Habitat fragmentation has led to a rise in human-wildlife conflict**

आवास विखंडन ने मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष को बढ़ा दिया है

## 2. AI has an environmental problem

एआई की एक पर्यावरणीय समस्या है

**AI's rapid growth and economic potential**

एआई की तेज़ वृद्धि और आर्थिक संभावनाएं

**India's last imported warship likely to be commissioned in June**

भारत का अंतिम आयातित युद्धपोत जून में कमीशन होने की संभावना



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GS Paper III: Environment

## Wild and safe

Habitat fragmentation has led to rise in human-wildlife conflict

Recent human fatalities due to wild animal attacks, deep inside forests, in forest-fringed human habitations, and even within villages, have highlighted growing human-wildlife conflict in Kerala, where nearly 29% of the land is forested. With a dry spell and an unusually hot summer expected, urgent measures are needed to prevent further escalation of this conflict, which now has political, social, and environmental dimensions. The Kerala government is facing criticism for its perceived inability to manage wildlife. Groups such as the Kerala Independent Farmers' Association (KIFA) and sections of the church advocate for culling wildlife, citing an alleged population boom. However, Forest Department data suggest otherwise. The wild elephant population, linked to 18% of human fatalities, has declined by 7%. Snakebites, responsible for 75% of wildlife-related deaths, have fallen from 113 in 2012 to 34 in 2023. Overall, human deaths from wildlife encounters have decreased from 146 in 2018 to 57 last year. Yet, this is no cause for complacency. A concerning trend is that many victims are from tribal communities, traditionally adept at coexisting with wildlife. The government should investigate this as part of its newly announced mission to document and assess the traditional knowledge of Kerala's 36 tribal communities in tackling wildlife encounters.

There are also several anthropogenic factors. Habitat fragmentation, particularly in elephant corridors such as Aralam Farm (Kannur) and Chinnakkanal (Idukki), has forced animals into human settlements. Unregulated tourism, cattle grazing near forests, encroachments, and food waste dumping on forest fringes further exacerbate the issue. Invasive plants (*Senna spectabilis*) and monoculture industrial plantations have also disrupted wildlife feeding patterns. In response, the Kerala government, in 2022, empowered local bodies to eliminate feral wild boars damaging farmland. Last year, the Cabinet classified human-wildlife conflict as a State-specific disaster, allowing the Disaster Management Authority to intervene. The government's decision to emphasise participatory forest and wildlife management is a step in the right direction, given the extreme views propagated by some sections. The Forest Department has restored 5,031 hectares of natural forest and built ponds and check dams. However, restoring areas dominated by industrial plantations such as eucalyptus and acacia is a challenge. While solar fencing has shown some success, the ₹52-crore elephant-proof wall at Aralam, one of 12 conflict landscapes, remains incomplete. The State's 10 missions to mitigate human-wildlife conflict must be prioritised. Given the region-specific nature of the problem, a multi-agency approach involving the Disaster Management, Revenue, Local Self-Government, Tribal Welfare, Agriculture, Health and Forest Departments is crucial to balancing human safety and sustainable wildlife management.

## Wild and safe

### जंगली और सुरक्षित

Habitat fragmentation has led to a rise in human-wildlife conflict

आवास विखंडन ने मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष को बढ़ा दिया है

Recent human fatalities due to wild animal attacks in forests, forest-fringed human habitations, and villages highlight the growing human-wildlife conflict in Kerala, where 29% of the land is forested.

वनों, जंगलों के किनारे बसे मानव बस्तियाँ और गांवों में जंगली जानवरों के हमलों के कारण हाल ही में हुई मौतें केरल में बढ़ते मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष को दर्शाती हैं, जहां भूमि का 29% भाग वन क्षेत्र है।

• With an expected dry spell and unusually hot summer, urgent measures are needed to prevent further escalation of the conflict, which has political, social, and environmental dimensions.

आगामी शुष्क मौसम और असामान्य रूप से गर्मी बढ़ने की संभावना को देखते हुए, इस संघर्ष को और बढ़ने से रोकने के लिए तत्काल उपायों की आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि इसमें राजनीतिक, सामाजिक और पर्यावरणीय पहलू जुड़े हुए हैं।

• The Kerala government faces criticism for its inability to manage wildlife.

केरल सरकार को वन्यजीव प्रबंधन में असफल रहने के कारण आलोचनाओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

• Groups such as the Kerala Independent Farmers' Association (KIFA) and church sections advocate for culling wildlife, citing an alleged population boom.

केरल इंडिपेंडेंट फार्मर्स एसोसिएशन (KIFA) और चर्च के कुछ वर्ग वन्यजीवों की संख्या बढ़ने का हवाला देते हुए इनके संहार की मांग कर रहे हैं।

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## Wildlife attack statistics and trends

### वन्यजीव हमलों के आंकड़े और रुझान

- **Forest Department data** contradicts these claims:
  - The **wild elephant population** has **declined by 7%**, yet elephants are linked to **18% of human fatalities**.  
वन विभाग के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जंगली हाथियों की संख्या 7% घटी है, फिर भी ये 18% मानव मृत्यु के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं।
  - **Snakebites** account for **75% of wildlife-related deaths**, but cases have dropped from 113 in 2012 to 34 in 2023.  
सांप के काटने से 75% वन्यजीव-सम्बंधित मौतें होती हैं, लेकिन मामले 2012 में 113 से घटकर 2023 में 34 हो गए हैं।
  - **Human deaths from wildlife encounters** have **declined from 146 in 2018 to 57 in 2023**.  
वन्यजीव संघर्ष से होने वाली मौतों की संख्या 2018 में 146 से घटकर 2023 में 57 हो गई है।
- Despite the decline, **many victims belong to tribal communities**, traditionally skilled in **coexisting with wildlife**.  
हालांकि मृत्यु दर घटी है, लेकिन कई पीड़ित जनजातीय समुदायों से हैं, जो वन्यजीवों के साथ सह-अस्तित्व में कुशल रहे हैं।
- The **government must investigate this trend** as part of its **newly announced mission to document traditional knowledge of Kerala's 36 tribal communities** in handling wildlife encounters.  
सरकार को इस प्रवृत्ति की जांच करनी चाहिए, जो कि केरल की 36 जनजातीय समुदायों के पारंपरिक ज्ञान के दस्तावेजीकरण के नए मिशन का हिस्सा है।

## Anthropogenic factors worsening the conflict

### मानवजनित कारक जो संघर्ष को बढ़ा रहे हैं

- **Habitat fragmentation**, particularly in **elephant corridors** such as **Aralam Farm (Kannur)** and **Chinnakkanal (Idukki)**, has forced animals into human settlements.  
आवास विखंडन, विशेष रूप से हाथी गलियारों जैसे अरालम फार्म (कन्नूर) और चिन्नक्कनाल (इडुक्की) में, ने जंगली जानवरों को मानव बस्तियों की ओर धकेल दिया है।
- **Other human activities worsening the problem** include:
  - **Unregulated tourism and cattle grazing near forests**.  
बिना नियमन के पर्यटन और जंगलों के पास पशु चराई।
  - **Encroachments and food waste dumping near forest areas**.  
जंगलों के पास अतिक्रमण और खाद्य अपशिष्ट का फेंकना।
  - **Invasive plants like Senna spectabilis and monoculture industrial plantations (eucalyptus, acacia)** disrupting wildlife feeding patterns.



अवैध रूप से उगने वाले पौधे (जैसे सेनना स्पेक्टाबिलिस) और एकल-फसल औद्योगिक वृक्षारोपण (यूकेलिप्टस, एकेशिया), जो वन्यजीवों के भोजन चक्र को बाधित कर रहे हैं।

## Government response and solutions

### सरकारी प्रयास और समाधान

- In 2022, the Kerala government empowered local bodies to eliminate feral wild boars damaging farmland.  
2022 में, केरल सरकार ने स्थानीय निकायों को जंगली सूअरों को खत्म करने की शक्ति दी, जो खेती को नुकसान पहुंचा रहे थे।
- In 2023, the Cabinet classified human-wildlife conflict as a 'State-specific disaster', enabling the Disaster Management Authority to intervene.  
2023 में, कैबिनेट ने मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष को 'राज्य-विशिष्ट आपदा' के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया, जिससे आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण इसमें हस्तक्षेप कर सके।
- The Kerala government is focusing on participatory forest and wildlife management, rejecting extreme views on culling.  
केरल सरकार सहभागी वन एवं वन्यजीव प्रबंधन पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रही है, और वन्यजीवों के संहार के अतिरेक विचारों को अस्वीकार कर रही है।
- Key conservation efforts so far:
  - Restored 5,031 hectares of natural forest.  
5,031 हेक्टेयर प्राकृतिक वन बहाल किए गए।
  - Built ponds and check dams to ensure water availability for wildlife.  
वन्यजीवों के लिए जल उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए तालाब और चेक डैम बनाए गए।
  - Solar fencing has shown some success in preventing animal intrusion.  
सौर बाड़ लगाने से कुछ हद तक सफलता मिली है।
  - ₹52-crore elephant-proof wall at Aralam remains incomplete, despite being one of 12 conflict-prone landscapes.  
₹52 करोड़ की लागत से अरालम में बनाई जा रही हाथी-रोधी दीवार अधूरी पड़ी है, जबकि यह 12 संघर्ष-ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में से एक है।

## Future approach: Multi-agency coordination

### भविष्य की रणनीति: बहु-एजेंसी समन्वय

- Kerala's 10 missions to mitigate human-wildlife conflict must be prioritized.  
केरल के 10 मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष न्यूनीकरण मिशनों को प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए।
- Given the region-specific nature of the problem, a multi-agency approach is essential, involving:
  - Disaster Management Department  
आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग



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- Revenue Department  
राजस्व विभाग
- Local Self-Government  
स्थानीय स्वशासन विभाग
- Tribal Welfare Department  
जनजातीय कल्याण विभाग
- Agriculture, Health, and Forest Departments  
कृषि, स्वास्थ्य, और वन विभाग
- The goal is to balance human safety with sustainable wildlife management.  
लक्ष्य मानव सुरक्षा और सतत वन्यजीव प्रबंधन के बीच संतुलन बनाना है।

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# AI has an environmental problem

GS Paper III: AI

**A**I has become an indispensable part of our lives, transforming how we work, live, and do business. Broadly defined, AI encompasses technologies that simulate human thinking and decision-making. While basic forms of AI have existed since the 1950s, the field has advanced rapidly in recent years, driven by improvements in computing power and the exponential surge in data availability. With the global AI market valued at \$200 billion and projected to contribute up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, AI adoption and its recognition as a driver of economic value have reached unprecedented levels. In the U.S., the announcement of the Stargate Project, involving more than \$500 billion in AI infrastructure investments over four years, is testament to this. In India, Reliance Industries is planning to build the world's largest data centre in Jamnagar, in partnership with Nvidia. India has also announced plans to build its own LLM (large language model) to compete with DeepSeek and ChatGPT. However, as governments race to tap AI's economic potential, it is crucial to acknowledge that its rapid rise brings not only opportunities but also risks, particularly environmental costs.

## Impact across stages

The environmental impact of AI arises across several stages of its value chain, including energy consumption from infrastructure, computing hardware production, cloud data centre operations, AI model training, inferencing, validation, and related processes. In terms of hardware, data centres, the backbone of AI operations, contribute 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). This figure is expected to rise significantly as electricity demand from data centres is projected to double by 2026. Generative AI models like



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ChatGPT, which rely on sophisticated machine learning (ML) techniques, require 10-100 times more computing power than earlier versions, further driving demand for graphic processing units and worsening the environmental footprint. Moreover, the rapid expansion of data centres is also fuelling a growing e-waste crisis.

AI's software life cycle emissions arise from processes like data collection, model development, training, validation, maintenance and retirement, and are equally concerning. Training advanced AI models, such as GPT-3, can emit up to 552 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent – comparable to the annual emissions of dozens of cars. To mitigate these environmental risks, governments and the private sector must proactively work towards embedding sustainability into AI ecosystem design.

Global conversations on this issue have been gaining momentum. At COP29, the International Telecommunication Union emphasised the urgent need for greener AI practices. Such commitments demand that businesses also align their processes with sustainability targets. Over 190 countries have adopted non-binding ethical AI recommendations addressing the environment, and regions such as the European Union and the U.S. have introduced laws to curb AI's environmental impact. However, such policies are scarce. While governments across the globe are crafting national AI strategies, they often overlook sustainability, particularly the private sector's role in reducing emissions.

## The way forward

To balance innovation and environmental responsibility, action is needed across the AI value chain. Investing in clean energy is a key step in achieving net-zero emissions. Companies can achieve this by transitioning to renewable energy sources and purchasing carbon credits.

Locating data centres in areas with abundant supply of renewable resources can also reduce strain on existing resources and help lower the carbon footprint. AI can also help optimise energy grids, particularly by integrating renewable energy sources. For instance, Google's DeepMind has leveraged ML to improve wind energy forecasting, enabling more accurate wind pattern predictions and facilitating better integration of wind power into the grid.

Using energy-efficient hardware and ensuring regular maintenance can also significantly minimise emissions. Equally important is the development of efficient AI models. Smaller, domain-specific models that are tailored to their applications can deliver the same outputs with less processing power, reducing demand on infrastructure and resources. A study by Google and the University of California, Berkeley, has found that the carbon footprint of LLMs can be minimised by a factor of 100 to 1,000 through optimised algorithms, specialised hardware, and energy-efficient cloud data centres. Further, instead of collecting new data or training models from scratch, businesses can adapt pre-trained models to new tasks.

Lastly but most importantly, transparency is essential in driving sustainability efforts. Measuring and disclosing the environmental impact of AI systems will help organisations understand their life cycle emissions and address the negative externalities of their operations. Establishing standardised frameworks for tracking and comparing emissions across the industry will ensure consistency and accountability.

Sustainability needs to be incorporated into the very design of the AI ecosystem, in order to ensure its long-term growth and viability. By balancing environmental responsibility with innovation, we can harness AI's transformative potential without compromising the Earth's future.

To balance innovation and environmental responsibility, action is needed across the AI value chain

AI has an environmental problem

एआई की एक पर्यावरणीय समस्या है

AI's rapid growth and economic potential

एआई की तेज़ वृद्धि और आर्थिक संभावनाएं



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AI has become an indispensable part of our lives, transforming how we work, live, and do business.

एआई हमारे जीवन का एक अनिवार्य हिस्सा बन गया है, जो हमारे काम करने, जीने और व्यापार करने के तरीके को बदल रहा है।

- The **global AI market is valued at \$200 billion, and by 2030, AI could contribute up to \$15.7 trillion** to the global economy.  
वैश्विक एआई बाजार का मूल्य \$200 अरब है, और 2030 तक, एआई वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था में \$15.7 ट्रिलियन का योगदान कर सकता है।
- The U.S. announced the **Stargate Project**, involving **\$500 billion in AI infrastructure investments** over four years.  
अमेरिका ने स्टारगेट प्रोजेक्ट की घोषणा की, जिसमें चार वर्षों में एआई अवसंरचना में \$500 अरब का निवेश किया जाएगा।
- India's **Reliance Industries**, in partnership with **Nvidia**, is building the world's largest data center in Jamnagar.  
भारत की रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज, एनवीडिया के साथ मिलकर, जामनगर में दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा डेटा सेंटर बना रही है।
- India also plans to build its own **LLM (large language model)** to compete with **DeepSeek and ChatGPT**.  
भारत अपने स्वयं के LLM (लार्ज लैंग्वेज मॉडल) बनाने की योजना बना रहा है, जो DeepSeek और ChatGPT को टक्कर देगा।
- However, **AI's rapid rise brings environmental risks**, particularly **high energy consumption and e-waste generation**.  
हालांकि, एआई की तेज़ वृद्धि पर्यावरणीय जोखिम भी लाती है, विशेष रूप से अधिक ऊर्जा खपत और ई-कचरा उत्पादन।

## Environmental impact across AI stages

एआई के विभिन्न चरणों में पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव

- **AI's environmental impact arises at multiple stages, including:**
  - **Energy consumption from infrastructure.**  
अवसंरचना से ऊर्जा की खपत।
  - **Computing hardware production.**  
कंप्यूटिंग हार्डवेयर उत्पादन।
  - **Cloud data center operations.**  
क्लाउड डेटा सेंटर संचालन।
  - **AI model training, inferencing, and validation.**  
एआई मॉडल प्रशिक्षण, अनुमान और सत्यापन।

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- **Data centers contribute 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, a figure expected to double by 2026.**  
डेटा सेंटर वैश्विक ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन में 1% योगदान देते हैं, और यह आंकड़ा 2026 तक दोगुना होने की उम्मीद है।
- **Generative AI models like ChatGPT require 10–100 times more computing power, worsening the environmental footprint.**  
ChatGPT जैसे जनरेटिव एआई मॉडल को 10-100 गुना अधिक कंप्यूटिंग पावर की आवश्यकता होती है, जिससे पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव बढ़ता है।
- **The expansion of data centers is also contributing to a growing e-waste crisis.**  
डेटा सेंटरों का विस्तार भी ई-कचरे की समस्या को बढ़ा रहा है।

## AI software life cycle emissions

### एआई सॉफ्टवेयर जीवन चक्र उत्सर्जन

- **AI software generates emissions at various stages, including:**
  - **Data collection.**  
डेटा संग्रह।
  - **Model development and training.**  
मॉडल विकास और प्रशिक्षण।
  - **Validation, maintenance, and retirement.**  
सत्यापन, रखरखाव और निष्कासन।
- **Training advanced AI models like GPT-3 can emit up to 552 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, equal to the annual emissions of dozens of cars.**  
GPT-3 जैसे उन्नत एआई मॉडल को प्रशिक्षित करने में 552 टन CO<sub>2</sub> उत्सर्जन हो सकता है, जो दर्जनों कारों के वार्षिक उत्सर्जन के बराबर है।
- **Governments and private companies must embed sustainability into AI ecosystems to mitigate environmental risks.**  
सरकारों और निजी कंपनियों को पर्यावरणीय जोखिमों को कम करने के लिए एआई पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में स्थिरता को शामिल करना चाहिए।

## Global efforts towards greener AI

### हरित एआई की दिशा में वैश्विक प्रयास

- **At COP29, the International Telecommunication Union emphasized the urgent need for greener AI practices.**  
COP29 में, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दूरसंचार संघ ने हरित एआई प्रथाओं की तत्काल आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- **Over 190 countries have adopted non-binding ethical AI recommendations, but concrete policies remain limited.**



190 से अधिक देशों ने गैर-बाध्यकारी नैतिक एआई सिफारिशों को अपनाया है, लेकिन ठोस नीतियां अभी भी सीमित हैं।

- The EU and the U.S. have introduced laws to curb AI's environmental impact, but most national AI strategies overlook sustainability.

यूरोपीय संघ और अमेरिका ने एआई के पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए कानून बनाए हैं, लेकिन अधिकांश राष्ट्रीय एआई रणनीतियों में स्थिरता को अनदेखा किया गया है।

## The way forward

### आगे का रास्ता

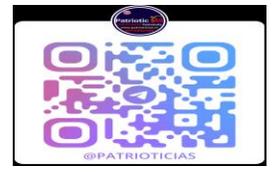
- Investing in clean energy is a key step toward achieving net-zero emissions. स्वच्छ ऊर्जा में निवेश करना शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन प्राप्त करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।
- Companies can reduce their carbon footprint by:
  - Transitioning to renewable energy sources. नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा स्रोतों को अपनाना।
  - Purchasing carbon credits. कार्बन क्रेडिट खरीदना।
  - Locating data centers in areas with abundant renewable resources. डेटा सेंटरों को नवीकरणीय संसाधनों से समृद्ध क्षेत्रों में स्थापित करना।
- AI can optimize energy grids, improving renewable energy integration. एआई ऊर्जा ग्रिड को अनुकूलित कर सकता है, जिससे नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के बेहतर एकीकरण में मदद मिलती है।
- Example: Google's DeepMind uses ML for wind energy forecasting, enhancing wind power integration into the grid. उदाहरण: गूगल का डीपमाइंड मशीन लर्निंग का उपयोग कर पवन ऊर्जा की भविष्यवाणी करता है, जिससे पवन ऊर्जा को ग्रिड में बेहतर एकीकृत किया जा सकता है।
- Using energy-efficient hardware and optimizing AI models can significantly reduce emissions. ऊर्जा-कुशल हार्डवेयर का उपयोग और एआई मॉडल का अनुकूलन उत्सर्जन को काफी हद तक कम कर सकता है।
- Smaller, domain-specific AI models require less processing power, reducing infrastructure demand. छोटे, विशिष्ट डोमेन एआई मॉडल को कम प्रोसेसिंग पावर की आवश्यकता होती है, जिससे अवसंरचना की मांग घटती है।
- A Google and UC Berkeley study found that optimizing AI models can reduce carbon emissions by 100 to 1,000 times. गूगल और यूसी बर्कले के एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि एआई मॉडल के अनुकूलन से कार्बन उत्सर्जन को 100 से 1,000 गुना तक कम किया जा सकता है।



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## Need for transparency and accountability

### पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की आवश्यकता

- **Measuring and disclosing AI's environmental impact** will help businesses understand and mitigate emissions.  
एआई के पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव को मापना और प्रकट करना कंपनियों को उत्सर्जन को समझने और कम करने में मदद करेगा।
- **Establishing industry-wide frameworks** for tracking AI emissions can **ensure** accountability.  
एआई उत्सर्जन को ट्रैक करने के लिए उद्योग-व्यापी ढांचे की स्थापना से जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित होगी।
- **Sustainability must be integrated into AI's core design** to ensure **long-term** environmental responsibility.  
एआई के मूल डिज़ाइन में स्थिरता को शामिल किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि दीर्घकालिक पर्यावरणीय ज़िम्मेदारी सुनिश्चित की जा सके।



# India's last imported warship likely to be commissioned in June

**GS Paper III: Defence**

**Dinakar Peri**

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy crew that will operate *Tamal*, the stealth frigate under construction in Russia, reached St. Petersburg last week in preparation for its commissioning, which is expected to take place in early June.

The event is significant as *Tamal* will be the last warship to be commissioned outside India or imported. The country now designs and constructs its own warships.

The commissioning crew of around 200 personnel reached St. Petersburg around 10 days ago for training as the ship will undergo a series of trials leading up to its commissioning, officials sources in the know confirmed. The

crew will shift to Kaliningrad after the training to oversee the trials.

The ship is being built as part of the deal for four additional follow-on stealth frigates under an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in October 2016. Under the deal, two ships are to be imported and two manufactured by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) under technology transfer. A \$1-billion deal was subsequently signed for the two frigates under direct purchase.

*Tamal* has completed manufacturer trials and is currently undergoing State Committee Trials. It will then go through delivery acceptance trials, both in harbour and at sea, which will be spread over 45 to 50 days, sources said, explaining the process.

outside India or imported.

"*Tamal*" भारत के बाहर कमीशन होने वाला या आयातित अंतिम युद्धपोत होगा।

India's last imported warship likely to be commissioned in June

भारत का अंतिम आयातित युद्धपोत जून में कमीशन होने की संभावना

Indian Navy crew arrives in Russia for commissioning

भारतीय नौसेना दल रूस में कमीशनिंग के लिए पहुंचा

- The Indian Navy crew assigned to operate "*Tamal*," a stealth frigate under construction in Russia, arrived in St. Petersburg last week.

भारतीय नौसेना का दल, जो रूस में निर्माणाधीन स्टील्थ फ्रिगेट "*Tamal*" का संचालन करेगा, पिछले सप्ताह सेंट पीटर्सबर्ग पहुंचा।

- The commissioning of *Tamal* is expected to take place in early June 2025.

"*Tamal*" की कमीशनिंग जून 2025 की शुरुआत में होने की संभावना है।

Significance of the commissioning

कमीशनिंग का महत्व

- Tamal* will be the last warship to be commissioned



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- India has now achieved self-reliance in designing and constructing its own warships.

अब भारत अपने स्वयं के युद्धपोतों को डिजाइन और निर्माण करने में आत्मनिर्भर बन चुका है।

## Training and trials

### प्रशिक्षण और परीक्षण

- Around 200 Navy personnel reached St. Petersburg for training before the warship's commissioning.  
लगभग 200 नौसैनिक कर्मी युद्धपोत की कमीशनिंग से पहले प्रशिक्षण के लिए सेंट पीटर्सबर्ग पहुंचे।
- After training, the crew will move to Kaliningrad to oversee the ship's trials.  
प्रशिक्षण के बाद, दल परीक्षण की निगरानी के लिए कैलिनिनग्राद जाएगा।
- The ship will undergo multiple trials, including manufacturer trials, State Committee Trials, and final delivery acceptance trials.  
युद्धपोत कई परीक्षणों से गुजरेगा, जिनमें निर्माता परीक्षण, राज्य समिति परीक्षण और अंतिम स्वीकृति परीक्षण शामिल हैं।
- The final trials, both in harbor and at sea, will take 45-50 days.  
अंतिम परीक्षण, जो बंदरगाह और समुद्र में होंगे, 45-50 दिनों तक चलेंगे।

## Inter-Governmental Agreement details

### अंतर-सरकारी समझौते का विवरण

- Tamal is being built as part of a deal for four additional stealth frigates under an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in October 2016.  
"Tamal" अक्टूबर 2016 में हस्ताक्षरित अंतर-सरकारी समझौते के तहत चार अतिरिक्त स्टील्थ फ्रिगेट में से एक के रूप में बनाया जा रहा है।
- Under this deal, two warships are being imported, while two are being built by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) under a technology transfer agreement.  
इस समझौते के तहत, दो युद्धपोत आयात किए जा रहे हैं, जबकि दो युद्धपोत गोवा शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (GSL) द्वारा तकनीकी हस्तांतरण समझौते के तहत निर्मित किए जा रहे हैं।

A separate \$1-billion deal was signed for the direct purchase of the two imported frigates. दो आयातित फ्रिगेट की प्रत्यक्ष खरीद के लिए \$1 बिलियन का अलग समझौता किया गया था।