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CONTACT: 9971932488



PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

(28 FEBRUARY 2025)

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28_02_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Jahan-e-Khusrau Fest: Modi to Inaugurate 25th Edition Today

जहान-ए-खुसरो उत्सव: मोदी आज 25वें संस्करण का उद्घाटन करेंगे

2. Festival Returns After Five Years

पांच साल बाद उत्सव की वापसी

3. UGC to Release Norms to End Caste Bias in Colleges, Universities

कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों में जातीय भेदभाव समाप्त करने के लिए यूजीसी दिशानिर्देश जारी करेगा

4. New Regulations to Curb Caste Discrimination

जातीय भेदभाव रोकने के लिए नए नियम

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

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : **9971932488**

Website : patrioticias.in



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Jahan-e-Khusrau fest: Modi to inaugurate 25th edition today

GS Paper I: History

Anuj Kumar

NEW DELHI

After a five-year gap, Sufi strains will waft in Delhi's air again with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to open the **25th edition of the Jahan-e-Khusrau festival** at Sunder Nursery on Friday.

Muzaffar Ali, the festival's founder and curator, said this would be the first time that the Prime Minister would be attending the festival. In a statement, Mr. Modi said the participation of global artists, musicians, and dancers at the festival "strongly resonates with the inclusive and all-encompassing worldview" of the country. "May the melodious strains of soulful music build bridges of peace, harmony, and friendship between people, societies, and nations," he said.

The Prime Minister's visit holds significance as it comes at a time films like *The Kashmir Files* have questioned the intent of Muslim Sufi saints and a right-wing group has laid claim over **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti's dargah in Ajmer**, Rajasthan.

"The Prime Minister's visit will send a strong message," said Mr. Ali. "I don't want to read his mind. I believe the Prime Minister is following his heart. We reached out to him for his blessings and received a message from the Prime Minister's Office that he would like to attend the event," the curator said.

societies, and nations.

Jahan-e-Khusrau Fest: Modi to Inaugurate 25th Edition Today

जहान-ए-खुसरो उत्सव: मोदी आज 25वें

संस्करण का उद्घाटन करेंगे

Festival Returns After Five Years

पांच साल बाद उत्सव की वापसी

After a five-year gap, the Jahan-e-Khusrau festival is set to return to Delhi's Sunder Nursery.

पांच साल के अंतराल के बाद, जहान-ए-खुसरो उत्सव दिल्ली के सुंदर नर्सरी में वापसी कर रहा है।

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 25th edition of the festival on Friday.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शुक्रवार को उत्सव के 25वें संस्करण का उद्घाटन करेंगे।

Prime Minister's First Attendance at the Festival

प्रधानमंत्री की पहली बार उत्सव में उपस्थिति

• Muzaffar Ali, the festival's founder and curator, stated that this will be the first time the Prime Minister is attending.

उत्सव के संस्थापक और क्यूरेटर मुज़फ़्फ़र अली ने कहा कि यह पहली बार होगा जब प्रधानमंत्री इस उत्सव में शामिल होंगे।

• In a statement, PM Modi emphasized that the festival's global participation reflects India's inclusive and diverse worldview.

अपने बयान में, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय भागीदारी वाला उत्सव भारत की समावेशी और बहु-सांस्कृतिक दृष्टि को दर्शाता है।

• He expressed hope that the soulful Sufi music would foster peace, harmony, and friendship among people,

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उन्होंने आशा जताई कि सूफी संगीत की मधुर ध्वनियाँ लोगों, समाजों और राष्ट्रों के बीच शांति, सद्भाव और मित्रता को बढ़ावा देंगी।

Significance of the Prime Minister's Visit

प्रधानमंत्री की यात्रा का महत्व

- The visit holds **political and cultural significance**, especially amidst **ongoing debates** about **Sufi saints and Islamic heritage** in India.
यह यात्रा राजनीतिक और सांस्कृतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है, विशेष रूप से भारत में सूफी संतों और इस्लामिक विरासत पर चल रही बहसों के बीच।
- Films like **The Kashmir Files** have questioned the **role of Sufi saints** in India's history.
"द कश्मीर फाइल्स" जैसी फिल्में भारत के इतिहास में सूफी संतों की भूमिका पर सवाल उठा चुकी हैं।
- A **right-wing group** has laid claim over **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti's dargah in Ajmer, Rajasthan**, adding to the controversy.
एक दक्षिणपंथी समूह ने राजस्थान के अजमेर में स्थित ख्वाजा मोइनुद्दीन चिश्ती की दरगाह पर दावा ठोका है, जिससे विवाद बढ़ा है।
- **Muzaffar Ali** stated that the **Prime Minister's participation** would send a **strong message**.
मुज़फ़्फ़र अली ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री की उपस्थिति एक महत्वपूर्ण संदेश देगी।

Prime Minister's Decision to Attend

प्रधानमंत्री की भागीदारी का निर्णय

- Ali mentioned that he had **invited PM Modi for his blessings**, and the **Prime Minister's Office confirmed his attendance**.
अली ने बताया कि उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री मोदी से आशीर्वाद के लिए अनुरोध किया था, और प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय ने उनकी उपस्थिति की पुष्टि की।
- He stated, **"I don't want to read his mind, but I believe the Prime Minister is following his heart."**
उन्होंने कहा, "मैं प्रधानमंत्री की सोच को नहीं पढ़ना चाहता, लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि वह अपने दिल की सुन रहे हैं।"
- The **return of the Jahan-e-Khusrau festival after five years** marks a **cultural milestone**.
पांच साल बाद जहान-ए-खुसरो उत्सव की वापसी सांस्कृतिक रूप से एक महत्वपूर्ण अवसर है।
- **PM Modi's presence** highlights the **government's stance on cultural inclusivity and artistic heritage**.
प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की उपस्थिति सरकार की सांस्कृतिक समावेशन और कलात्मक धरोहर के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती है।

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- The event is expected to **showcase diverse global Sufi traditions and promote peace and harmony**.
यह उत्सव विविध वैश्विक सूफी परंपराओं को प्रदर्शित करेगा और शांति और सद्भाव को बढ़ावा देगा।

Mu'in al-Din Hasan Chishti Sijzi: The Founder of the Chishti Order in India

मु'इन अल-दीन हसन चिश्ती सिज़ी: भारत में चिश्ती सिलसिले के संस्थापक

Early Life and Background

प्रारंभिक जीवन और पृष्ठभूमि

- Birth:** Mu'in al-Din Hasan Chishti was born in **February 1143 CE** in Sistan, a region that spans present-day eastern Iran and southern Afghanistan.
जन्म: मु'इन अल-दीन हसन चिश्ती का जन्म **फरवरी 1143 ईस्वी** में सिस्तान में हुआ था, जो वर्तमान में पूर्वी ईरान और दक्षिणी अफगानिस्तान में फैला एक क्षेत्र है।
- Early Education:** He received his early education in Persia, studying Islamic theology and Sufism.
प्रारंभिक शिक्षा: उन्होंने फारस में अपनी प्रारंभिक शिक्षा प्राप्त की, जहाँ उन्होंने इस्लामी धर्मशास्त्र और सूफीवाद का अध्ययन किया।

Migration to the Indian Subcontinent

भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप की ओर प्रवास

- Arrival in India:** In the early **13th century**, during the reign of Sultan Iltutmish (died **1236 CE**), Mu'in al-Din Chishti migrated to the Indian subcontinent.
भारत आगमन: 13वीं सदी की शुरुआत में, सुल्तान इल्तुतमिश (मृत्यु **1236 ईस्वी**) के शासनकाल के दौरान, मु'इन अल-दीन चिश्ती भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप में आए।
- Settlement in Ajmer:** He eventually settled in Ajmer, Rajasthan, where he established the Chishti Order of Sufism in India.
अजमेर में स्थापना: अंततः वे राजस्थान के अजमेर में बसे, जहाँ उन्होंने भारत में चिश्ती सूफी सिलसिले की स्थापना की।

Teachings and Influence

शिक्षाएँ और प्रभाव

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- **Core Principles:** Mu'in al-Din Chishti emphasized values such as love, tolerance, and openness.
मुख्य सिद्धांत: मु'इन अल-दीन चिश्ती ने प्रेम, सहिष्णुता और उदारता जैसे मूल्यों पर जोर दिया।
- **Incorporation of Music:** He was among the first Islamic mystics to incorporate music into spiritual practices, making the faith more relatable to the local populace.
संगीत का समावेश: वे पहले इस्लामी रहस्यवादियों में से थे जिन्होंने आध्यात्मिक अभ्यासों में संगीत को शामिल किया, जिससे धर्म स्थानीय जनता के लिए अधिक सुलभ बना।
- **Chishti Order's Dominance:** The Chishti Order became one of the most prominent Sufi orders in medieval India, influencing numerous saints and scholars.
चिश्ती सिलसिले का प्रभुत्व: चिश्ती सिलसिला मध्यकालीन भारत में सबसे प्रमुख सूफी सिलसिलों में से एक बन गया, जिसने कई संतों और विद्वानों को प्रभावित किया।
- **Prominent Disciples:** Notable figures like Nizamuddin Auliya and Amir Khusrow were associated with this order.
प्रमुख शिष्य: निज़ामुद्दीन औलिया और अमीर खुसरो जैसी प्रमुख हस्तियाँ इस सिलसिले से जुड़ी थीं।



UGC to release norms to end caste bias in colleges, varsities

The UGC has received 1,314 complaints on caste discrimination under 2012 Regulations, out of which 1,276 have been resolved; the top court had directed UGC to collate this data on Jan. 3

GS Paper I: Society

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that new regulations to prevent caste discrimination in higher educational institutions and universities across India have been drafted and will be placed in the public domain for soliciting comments.

The UGC was responding to a Supreme Court order in January on a petition filed six years ago by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, represented by advocates Prasanna S. and Disha Wadekar, who had appealed to the Supreme Court to act against the “rampant” caste discrimination in universities. Rohith Vemula, a Ph.D. scholar at Hyderabad Central University, and Payal Tadvi, a tribal student of Topiwala National Medical College, died by suicide in January 2016 and May 2019, respectively, after being subject to on-campus caste bias.

The UGC said its expert panel chaired by Shailesh N. Zala, former Vice-Chan-



The draft UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2025 are under the process of approval and would be placed in the public domain...

Thereafter, it shall be notified as per procedure prescribed

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

cellor of Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University in Gujarat, had revisited the existing UGC regulations and schemes concerning the promotion of members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes and Persons with Disabilities in higher educational institutions.

“The draft University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2025 are under the process of approval and would be placed in the public domain... Thereafter, it shall be notified as per procedure prescribed,” the UGC affidavit filed in the apex court said.

The court on January 3 directed the UGC to collate

the total number of complaints of caste discrimination received under its 2012 Regulations across higher educational institutions.

Six weeks’ time

A Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan had given the Commission six weeks to collect the data on how many Central, State, deemed and private universities and institutions of higher learning had set up Equal Opportunity Cells under 2012 Regulations; the number of complaints received by them; and action taken on them. The UGC affidavit said that it had received 3,522 responses from higher educational institutions with information the court

had asked for. Based on the information received, the UGC said 3067 Equal Opportunity Cells and 3273 SC/ST Cells were set up. “The number of total caste discrimination complaints received by these Cells so far is 1503, out of which 1426 complaints have been resolved,” the UGC said. It added that 1,314 complaints were received under the 2012 Regulations, out of which 1,276 were resolved.

“The UGC is making all possible efforts to curb the menace of discrimination in higher education institutions and is also trying to effectively curb and control any such incidents by regular monitoring and setting up of helpline so as to ensure no complaint is left unattended or unresolved,” the Commission said. In January, Justice Bhuyan had said it was time the UGC showed “some sympathy” in this sensitive issue. Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for the mothers, said the UGC must come clean on whether the 820-odd universities and other institutions were actually implementing the 2012 Regulations.



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UGC to Release Norms to End Caste Bias in Colleges, Universities

कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों में जातीय भेदभाव समाप्त करने के लिए यूजीसी दिशानिर्देश जारी करेगा

New Regulations to Curb Caste Discrimination

जातीय भेदभाव रोकने के लिए नए नियम

The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** informed the Supreme Court that new regulations to prevent caste discrimination in higher educational institutions have been drafted.

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC) ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को सूचित किया कि उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में जातीय भेदभाव रोकने के लिए नए नियम तैयार किए गए हैं।

- These regulations will be placed in the public domain for comments before final approval.
इन नियमों को अंतिम स्वीकृति से पहले सार्वजनिक टिप्पणियों के लिए प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा।
- This move follows a **January 3 Supreme Court order** directing UGC to **collect data on caste discrimination complaints** in universities.
यह कदम 3 जनवरी के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के बाद उठाया गया, जिसमें यूजीसी को विश्वविद्यालयों में जातीय भेदभाव की शिकायतों पर डेटा एकत्र करने का निर्देश दिया गया था।

Background: Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi Cases

पृष्ठभूमि: रोहित वेमुला और पायल तडवी मामले

- The case was filed by the **mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi**, represented by **advocates Prasanna S. and Disha Wadekar**.
यह याचिका रोहित वेमुला और पायल तडवी की माताओं द्वारा प्रसन्ना एस. और दिशा वाडेकर के माध्यम से दायर की गई थी।
- **Rohith Vemula**, a **Ph.D. scholar at Hyderabad Central University**, died by **suicide in January 2016** after facing **caste-based discrimination**.
रोहित वेमुला, जो हैदराबाद केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय में पीएचडी छात्र थे, ने जनवरी 2016 में जातीय भेदभाव के कारण आत्महत्या कर ली।
- **Payal Tadvi**, a **tribal student at Topiwala National Medical College**, also died by **suicide in May 2019** due to caste bias.

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



पायल तडवी, जो टोपिवाला नेशनल मेडिकल कॉलेज की एक आदिवासी छात्रा थीं, ने भी मई 2019 में जातीय भेदभाव के कारण आत्महत्या कर ली।

UGC's Data on Caste Discrimination Complaints

यूजीसी द्वारा जातीय भेदभाव की शिकायतों का डेटा

- The UGC established an expert panel chaired by Shailesh N. Zala, former Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University, Gujarat. यूजीसी ने शैलेश एन. ज़ाला की अध्यक्षता में एक विशेषज्ञ पैनल का गठन किया, जो गुजरात के महाराजा कृष्णकुमारसिंहजी भावनगर विश्वविद्यालय के पूर्व कुलपति हैं।
- The UGC received 3,522 responses from higher educational institutions, providing data requested by the Supreme Court. यूजीसी को 3,522 उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों से प्रतिक्रियाएँ मिलीं, जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा मांगे गए डेटा को प्रदान करती हैं।
- The collected data showed:
 - 3,067 Equal Opportunity Cells were set up. 3,067 समान अवसर प्रकोष्ठ स्थापित किए गए।
 - 3,273 SC/ST Cells were created. 3,273 अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति प्रकोष्ठ बनाए गए।
 - 1,503 caste discrimination complaints were received, out of which 1,426 were resolved. 1,503 जातीय भेदभाव की शिकायतें दर्ज की गईं, जिनमें से 1,426 का निपटारा किया गया।
 - Under the 2012 UGC Regulations, 1,314 complaints were registered, with 1,276 resolved. 2012 यूजीसी नियमों के तहत 1,314 शिकायतें दर्ज की गईं, जिनमें से 1,276 का समाधान किया गया।

Supreme Court's Directive to UGC

सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा यूजीसी को निर्देश

- A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan directed the UGC to gather caste discrimination data from Central, State, deemed, and private universities. न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत और उज्जल भुइयां की पीठ ने यूजीसी को केंद्रीय, राज्य, डीम्ड और निजी विश्वविद्यालयों से जातीय भेदभाव संबंधी डेटा एकत्र करने का निर्देश दिया।
- The Supreme Court asked:
 - How many universities have set up Equal Opportunity Cells under the 2012 UGC Regulations? कितने विश्वविद्यालयों ने 2012 यूजीसी नियमों के तहत समान अवसर प्रकोष्ठ स्थापित किए?



- How many complaints were received and resolved?
कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुईं और उनका समाधान हुआ?
- Are universities following the 2012 guidelines effectively?
क्या विश्वविद्यालय 2012 के दिशानिर्देशों का प्रभावी रूप से पालन कर रहे हैं?
- The court gave the **UGC six weeks** to submit a report on these queries.
अदालत ने यूजीसी को इन सवालों के जवाब देने के लिए छह सप्ताह का समय दिया।

UGC's Commitment to Ending Discrimination

यूजीसी की जातीय भेदभाव समाप्त करने की प्रतिबद्धता

- The UGC stated that it is **making all possible efforts** to curb caste-based discrimination in universities.
यूजीसी ने कहा कि वह विश्वविद्यालयों में जातीय भेदभाव को रोकने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास कर रहा है।
- The Commission is also setting up **regular monitoring mechanisms and helplines** to ensure **no complaint goes unresolved**.
आयोग नियमित निगरानी तंत्र और हेल्पलाइन स्थापित कर रहा है ताकि कोई भी शिकायत अनसुलझी न रहे।
- **Senior Advocate Indira Jaising** emphasized that the **UGC must ensure proper implementation of the 2012 Regulations**.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता इंदिरा जयसिंह ने जोर देकर कहा कि यूजीसी को 2012 नियमों को सही ढंग से लागू करना सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- The **UGC's new regulations for 2025** aim to **strengthen protections against caste discrimination** in colleges and universities.
यूजीसी के 2025 के नए नियमों का उद्देश्य कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों में जातीय भेदभाव के खिलाफ सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है।
- The **Supreme Court's intervention** highlights the **urgent need for institutional reforms** to ensure **equal opportunities for marginalized students**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हस्तक्षेप यह दर्शाता है कि हाशिए पर गए छात्रों के लिए समान अवसर सुनिश्चित करने के लिए संस्थागत सुधारों की तत्काल आवश्यकता है।
- The effectiveness of these regulations will depend on **strict monitoring, accountability, and proper implementation** in all higher education institutions.



इन नियमों की प्रभावशीलता इस पर निर्भर करेगी कि उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में कड़ी निगरानी, जवाबदेही और सही कार्यान्वयन किया जाए।

BISHKEK

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan finalise border deal, end years-long spat



GS Paper I: World Geography

AFI

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have finalised a border agreement on Thursday, exchanging territories to end a decades-long dispute. Kyrgyzstan gains 25 sq. km from Tajikistan in exchange for land and better water access. The deal includes neutral roads and eased access to resources, marking a significant step towards peace. AFP

VIENNA

Conservative-led coalition to form govt. in Austria without far right



GS Paper I: World Geography

REUTERS

Austria's conservative People's Party (OeVP), Social Democrats, and liberals formed a three-party government excluding the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ). This follows months of negotiations after the FPÖ failed to form a government. Led by Christian Stocker, it seeks to strengthen integration and impose stricter asylum policies. AFP





TOKYO

Japan births fall to historic low, a decline for ninth consecutive year



GS Paper I: Society

AP

Japan's births fell to a record low of 7,20,988 in 2024, a decline for the ninth consecutive year. The number of deaths more than doubled births, highlighting Japan's demographic crisis and economic challenges amid a shrinking workforce and rising elderly population. Japan's births peaked at 2.1 million in 1973. AFP

population decline.

मृत्यु दर जन्म दर से दोगुनी हो गई, जिससे जनसंख्या में गिरावट और तेज हो गई।

- Japan's birth rate peaked at 2.1 million in 1973, but has since steadily declined. जापान की जन्म दर 1973 में 2.1 मिलियन थी, लेकिन तब से लगातार गिर रही है।
- This shrinking workforce and aging population pose major economic challenges for Japan.

घटती कार्यबल और वृद्ध होती जनसंख्या जापान के लिए बड़े आर्थिक संकट का कारण बन रही है।

Amazon Unveils Ocelot, Its First Quantum Computing Chip

अमेज़न ने ओसेलॉट, अपना पहला क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग चिप लॉन्च किया

- Amazon Web Services (AWS) introduced Ocelot, its first quantum computing chip, on Thursday. अमेज़न वेब सर्विसेज (AWS) ने गुरुवार को ओसेलॉट, अपना पहला क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग चिप लॉन्च किया।
- The chip is designed to reduce quantum error correction costs by up to 90%. यह चिप क्वांटम एरर करेक्शन लागत को 90% तक कम करने के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई है।
- Ocelot uses "cat qubits" to suppress errors, improving the efficiency of quantum computations. ओसेलॉट "कैट क्यूबिट्स" का उपयोग करता है, जिससे क्वांटम गणना की दक्षता बढ़ती है।



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CONTACT: 9971932488



This innovation could accelerate the development of practical quantum computers by up to five years.

यह नवाचार व्यावहारिक क्वांटम कंप्यूटरों के विकास को पाँच साल तक तेज कर सकता है।

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

1. Karnataka CM Slams Shah's Remarks on Delimitation

कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री ने शाह की परिसीमन संबंधी टिप्पणी की आलोचना की

2.T.N. CM Lists Languages 'Swallowed by Hindi'

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री ने सूचीबद्ध की हिंदी द्वारा 'निगली गई' भाषाएँ

M.K. Stalin Criticizes the Push for a Hindi Identity

एम.के. स्टालिन ने हिंदी पहचान थोपने की आलोचना की

3. No Negotiation Over Annexed Ukrainian Territory: Kremlin

रूस ने कब्जाए गए यूक्रेनी क्षेत्र पर किसी भी वार्ता से इनकार किया

Kremlin Declares Annexed Territories as 'Inseparable'

क्रेमलिन ने कब्जाए गए क्षेत्रों को 'अभिन्न' बताया

4.Cannot Show PM's Degree to Strangers, DU Tells Delhi HC

पीएम की डिग्री अजनबियों को नहीं दिखा सकते, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय ने

हाई कोर्ट से कहा

Delhi University's Stand in Court

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय का कोर्ट में पक्ष

5. A process where free and fair elections will be a casualty

एक प्रक्रिया जिसमें स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनावों की बलि चढ़ जाएगी

6.Trump 2.0 and the new matrix of U.S.-India defence ties

ट्रम्प 2.0 और भारत-अमेरिका रक्षा संबंधों का नया ढांचा

7.Counting Matters

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

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



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

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CONTACT: 9971932488



गणना महत्वपूर्ण है

Delimitation Must Remain True to Both Representation and Federalism

सीमांकन को प्रतिनिधित्व और संघवाद दोनों के प्रति सच्चा रहना चाहिए

8. Art of the Deal

सौदे की कला

Donald Trump's Plans for Peace Seem a Part of a Neo-Colonial Agenda

डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की शांति योजना एक नव-औपनिवेशिक एजेंडा का हिस्सा लगती है

9. Will the U.S.'s Changed Ukraine Policy End the Russia-Ukraine War?

क्या अमेरिका की बदली हुई यूक्रेन नीति रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध समाप्त कर सकती है?

U.S.-Russia Talks: A Major Shift

अमेरिका-रूस वार्ता: एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव

10. The SEC and Hague Service Convention

एसईसी और हेग सेवा संधि

What is the Hague Service Convention?

हेग सेवा संधि क्या है?

11. Germany's Election Results and Their Impact

जर्मनी के चुनाव परिणाम और उनका प्रभाव

Election Results and Political Landscape

चुनावी परिणाम और राजनीतिक परिदृश्य

12. EU Team Begins Crucial Visit; Activist Points to Rights Issues



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ईयू टीम की महत्वपूर्ण यात्रा शुरू; कार्यकर्ता ने मानवाधिकार मुद्दों को उठाया

India-EU Strategic Partnership and Diplomatic Talks

भारत-ईयू रणनीतिक साझेदारी और कूटनीतिक वार्ता

13.Law Trying to Protect Children Born of Live-in Relationships: Uttarakhand Govt

लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप से जन्मे बच्चों की सुरक्षा का प्रयास: उत्तराखंड सरकार

High Court's Observation on Live-in Relationships

लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप पर उच्च न्यायालय की टिप्पणी

PATRIOTIC IAS

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



Karnataka CM slams Shah remarks on delimitation

Siddaramaiah calls Home Minister's statement that South will not be disadvantaged vague, asking if delimitation will follow the latest population ratio or the current number of Lok Sabha seats

GS Paper II:
Delimitation and Language Issue

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim that southern States would not be disadvantaged in the delimitation process was not trustworthy and appeared to be aimed at creating confusion.

The Chief Minister's remarks came a day after Mr. Shah said at a BJP programme in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, that the southern States would not lose a single Lok Sabha seat to delimitation.

"Going by the Home Minister's vague remarks, it seems that either he lacks proper information or there is a deliberate intent to disadvantage the south-



Siddaramaiah's statement comes a day after Amit Shah spoke about delimitation, at a BJP event in Tamil Nadu. K. MURALI KUMAR

ern States, including Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in a statement.

If the Union government genuinely wished to ensure fairness for southern States, Mr. Shah must clarify whether delimitation would be based on the latest population ratio or the

current number of Lok Sabha seats, he said. "It is evident that if delimitation is carried out based on the latest population ratio, it will be a severe injustice to the southern States."

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EDITORIAL

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T.N. CM lists languages 'swallowed by Hindi'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In a social media post on Thursday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin charged that the push for a monolithic Hindi identity had "killed ancient mother tongues", and gave a list of languages that were "swallowed by Hindi". Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in response, said Mr. Stalin made such comments to hide "poor governance".

CONTINUED ON

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Karnataka CM Slams Shah's Remarks on Delimitation

कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री ने शाह की परिसीमन संबंधी टिप्पणी की आलोचना की

CM Siddaramaiah Questions Amit Shah's Statement

सीएम सिद्धारमैया ने अमित शाह के बयान पर सवाल उठाए

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that southern States would not be disadvantaged in the delimitation process.

कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धारमैया ने केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह के उस बयान की आलोचना की, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा था कि परिसीमन प्रक्रिया में दक्षिणी राज्यों को कोई नुकसान नहीं होगा।



- Siddaramaiah called Shah's statement untrustworthy and confusing. सिद्धारमैया ने शाह के बयान को अविश्वसनीय और भ्रम पैदा करने वाला बताया।

Shah's Statement on Delimitation Sparks Controversy

परिसीमन पर शाह के बयान से विवाद

- Amit Shah, while addressing a BJP event in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, assured that no Lok Sabha seats would be lost due to delimitation. अमित शाह ने तमिलनाडु के कोयंबटूर में एक भाजपा कार्यक्रम में कहा कि परिसीमन के कारण कोई लोकसभा सीट नहीं घटेगी।
- Siddaramaiah countered that either Shah lacks proper information or there is an intentional attempt to disadvantage southern States like Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. सिद्धारमैया ने कहा कि या तो शाह के पास सही जानकारी नहीं है, या फिर कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना, तमिलनाडु, केरल और आंध्र प्रदेश जैसे दक्षिणी राज्यों को नुकसान पहुंचाने की मंशा है।

Demand for Clarity on Delimitation Criteria

परिसीमन के मापदंडों पर स्पष्टता की मांग

- Siddaramaiah demanded that the Union government clarify whether delimitation will be based on the latest population ratio or the current number of Lok Sabha seats. सिद्धारमैया ने केंद्र सरकार से यह स्पष्ट करने की मांग की कि परिसीमन नवीनतम जनसंख्या अनुपात के आधार पर होगा या मौजूदा लोकसभा सीटों की संख्या के अनुसार।
- He warned that if delimitation is based on the latest population ratio, it will be a severe injustice to the southern States. उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि यदि परिसीमन नवीनतम जनसंख्या अनुपात के आधार पर किया जाता है, तो यह दक्षिणी राज्यों के साथ गंभीर अन्याय होगा।

T.N. CM Lists Languages 'Swallowed by Hindi'

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री ने सूचीबद्ध की हिंदी द्वारा 'निगली गई' भाषाएँ

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, in a social media post on Thursday, claimed that the push for a monolithic Hindi identity had "killed ancient mother tongues".

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने गुरुवार को एक सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में कहा कि एकरूप हिंदी पहचान थोपने के प्रयास ने "प्राचीन मातृभाषाओं को समाप्त कर दिया"।



- He listed several languages that he claimed were "swallowed by Hindi".
उन्होंने कई भाषाओं की सूची दी, जो उनके अनुसार "हिंदी द्वारा निगल ली गईं"।

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Responds

केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव की प्रतिक्रिया

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw countered Stalin's statement, saying that such remarks were made to divert attention from "poor governance".
केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने स्टालिन के बयान का जवाब देते हुए कहा कि इस तरह की टिप्पणियाँ "खराब शासन" से ध्यान भटकाने के लिए की जाती हैं।

No negotiation over annexed Ukrainian territory: Kremlin

GS Paper II:
Geopolitics

MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Thursday ruled out any negotiation over the status of five Ukrainian regions it claims to have annexed despite not fully controlling four of them. "The territories which have become subjects of the Russian Federation are an inseparable part of our country," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"This is undeniable and non-negotiable," he said in a phone briefing.

Russia in 2014 annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula following a brief military operation and a referendum that was criticised as illegitimate by Kyiv and Western powers.

After launching its full-scale offensive, Russia in September 2022 declared the annexation of four Ukrainian regions – Donetsk,



Vladimir Putin

Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson. Russian forces control most of the Donetsk and Luhansk region but only parts of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

Ruled out

Ukraine has seized hundreds of square kilometres of Russia's Kursk region and President Volodymyr Zelensky has raised the possibility of an "exchange" of territory with Moscow – a notion ruled out by Russia.

No Negotiation Over Annexed Ukrainian Territory: Kremlin

रूस ने कब्जाए गए यूक्रेनी क्षेत्र पर किसी भी वार्ता से इनकार किया

On Thursday, Kremlin ruled out any negotiation over the five Ukrainian regions it claims to have annexed, despite not fully controlling four of them.

गुरुवार को क्रेमलिन ने उन पांच यूक्रेनी क्षेत्रों पर किसी भी वार्ता से इनकार कर दिया, जिन पर उसने कब्जे का दावा किया है, हालांकि उनमें से चार पर उसका पूरा नियंत्रण नहीं है।

- Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that these regions are now an 'inseparable part' of Russia and their status is 'non-negotiable'.
क्रेमलिन के प्रवक्ता दिमित्री पेसकोव ने कहा कि ये क्षेत्र अब रूस का 'अभिन्न हिस्सा' हैं और उनकी स्थिति पर कोई बातचीत नहीं होगी।

Russia's Annexation of Ukrainian Territories

रूस द्वारा यूक्रेनी क्षेत्रों का अधिग्रहण

- In 2014, Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula following a military operation and a disputed referendum.



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CONTACT: 9971932488



2014 में, रूस ने सैन्य अभियान और विवादित जनमत संग्रह के बाद यूक्रेन के क्रीमिया प्रायद्वीप पर कब्जा कर लिया।

- In September 2022, after launching a full-scale offensive, Russia declared the annexation of four more Ukrainian regions—**Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson.**

सितंबर 2022 में, पूर्ण पैमाने पर सैन्य हमले के बाद, रूस ने डोनेत्स्क, लुहान्स्क, ज़ापोरिज़िया और खेरसॉन को अपने क्षेत्र में मिला लेने की घोषणा की।

- Russian forces control most of Donetsk and Luhansk, but only parts of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

रूसी सेना का डोनेत्स्क और लुहान्स्क के अधिकांश हिस्सों पर नियंत्रण है, लेकिन ज़ापोरिज़िया और खेरसॉन के केवल कुछ हिस्सों पर कब्जा है।

Ukraine's Response and Russia's Rejection of Any 'Exchange'

यूक्रेन की प्रतिक्रिया और रूस द्वारा किसी 'विनिमय' से इनकार

- **Ukraine has seized hundreds of square kilometers of Russia's Kursk region.** यूक्रेन ने रूस के कुर्स्क क्षेत्र के सैकड़ों वर्ग किलोमीटर पर कब्जा कर लिया है।
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky suggested a possible "exchange" of territory with Russia, but Moscow has ruled out the idea.

यूक्रेनी राष्ट्रपति वोलोदिमीर ज़ेलेन्स्की ने रूस के साथ संभावित "क्षेत्रीय विनिमय" का सुझाव दिया, लेकिन मास्को ने इसे खारिज कर दिया।



Cannot show PM's degree to strangers, DU tells Delhi HC

GS Paper II: RTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi University on Thursday informed the High Court that it has “no reservation in showing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s bachelor’s degree to the court but cannot disclose it to strangers”.

Appearing before the Bench of Justice Sachin Datta, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta made the submission, following which the court reserved its verdict on DU’s plea against a Central Information Commission (CIC) order directing disclosure of information with respect to the bachelor’s degree of the Prime Minister.

Following RTI applicant Neeraj Kumar’s plea, the

CIC had on December 21, 2016, allowed the inspection of records of all students who cleared the BA exam in 1978 – the year Prime Minister Modi also passed it.

The court had in the past stayed the CIC’s order.

Mr. Mehta demanded that the impugned order passed by the CIC was liable to be set aside.

He cautioned against the misuse of the RTI Act and termed the application in the current case as “politically motivated”.

Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for Mr. Kumar, argued that awarding a degree to a student was not a private act but a public one covered under the ambit of the right to information.

challenge in court.

- Previously, the Delhi High Court had stayed the CIC’s order.

Arguments Presented

दलीलें पेश की गईं

Cannot Show PM’s Degree to Strangers, DU Tells Delhi HC
पीएम की डिग्री अजनबियों को नहीं दिखा सकते, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय ने हाई कोर्ट से कहा

Delhi University (DU) informed the Delhi High Court that it has no issue showing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s bachelor’s degree to the court but cannot disclose it to strangers.

- Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing DU, made this submission before the Bench of Justice Sachin Datta.
- Following this, the court reserved its verdict on DU’s plea against the Central Information Commission (CIC) order, which directed the disclosure of PM Modi’s bachelor’s degree details.

Background of the Case

मामले की पृष्ठभूमि

- RTI applicant Neeraj Kumar had filed a plea seeking inspection of records of all students who passed the BA exam in 1978, the same year PM Modi graduated.
- On December 21, 2016, the CIC had allowed this inspection, leading to DU’s



- **Solicitor General Mehta** argued that the RTI Act should not be misused and called the application **politically motivated**.
- **Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde**, representing **Neeraj Kumar**, countered that awarding a degree is a **public act** and falls under the ambit of the **Right to Information (RTI)**.

A process where free and fair elections will be a casualty

GS Paper II: Elections

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 was the first law enacted by Parliament, under Article 324(5) of the Constitution, dealing with the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (EC). This law was made in response to a Supreme Court of India order of March 2023 according to which the CEC and ECs should be appointed on the basis of a recommendation made by a high-power committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). This was to be an interim measure until Parliament made a law on the subject. As a matter of fact, in the past, the CEC and ECs were always appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. This was found to be an unsatisfactory situation by the Court as it would affect the impartiality of the Election Commission of India, which is constitutionally tasked with conducting elections in a free and fair manner.

Challenging the new law

Although the government made the new law as per the direction of the Court, in the committee it replaced the CJI with a cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister who chairs the three-member committee. The LoP is the other member. This law has been challenged on the ground that the provision relating to the composition of the selection panel violates the direction of the five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court. The Constitution Bench was headed by Justice K.M. Joseph (retired).

The new law provides for a search committee headed by the Law Minister and two senior bureaucrats in the Union government, which will prepare a list of five persons for the committee to consider. The names of persons found eligible by the search committee have not been made public. Anyway, the seniormost EC has been chosen to be appointed as the CEC by the two members of the committee, namely, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. The LoP put in a dissenting note, wanting the selection to be put off till the Court has considered the challenge to the law. As it happened the decision was taken by the majority in the selection committee. It must be said here that the procedure laid down in the law has been complied with. Subsequently the appointments of CEC and another EC have been officially notified.

Now that the law on the appointment of the



P.D.T. Achary

is a former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha

CEC and ECs has come up for hearing in the Court, there are certain constitutional issues which need to be highlighted for a proper perspective in the matter of appointment of these high constitutional authorities

Infirmities in the selection process

The Constitution of India has vested the entire responsibility for conducting the elections to Parliament and State legislatures to the offices of the President and the Vice President, and preparing the electoral role for these elections in the Election Commission of India (ECI) under Article 324. Plenary powers for effectively discharging this responsibility have also been conferred on this body. The Court, in *Election Commission of India vs State of Tamil Nadu and Others* (1993), while dealing with the question of powers of the ECI stated as follows: "the election commission of India is a high constitutional authority charged with the function and the duty of ensuring free and fair elections and of the purity of the electoral process. It has all the incidental and ancillary powers to effectuate the constitutional objective and purpose. The plenitude of the commission[']s powers corresponds to the high constitutional functions it has to discharge".

This and many other judgments of the Court lay stress on the duty of the ECI to ensure free and fair elections and to maintain the purity of the electoral process. Around 960 million voters participate in the voting process in India, making it the most gigantic task for an electoral body anywhere in the world. To conduct such a massive election, while ensuring that it is free and fair, demands that the ECI should have persons of unimpeachable integrity, with proven competence and absolute impartiality in heading it. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that such persons are selected through a process which is constitutionally correct and which also inspires great confidence in the citizens of India.

The most crucial part of this law is the composition of the select committee, which is chaired by the Prime Minister and has the LoP and a cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister as members. Section 7 of the Act says that the President shall appoint the CEC and ECs on the recommendation of the select committee. It is mandatory for the President to appoint persons recommended by the select committee. Thus, the select committee has the final say on who should be appointed the CEC and ECs.

The most serious infirmity in this provision is that the law itself creates a majority in favour of

the government. When the third member of the committee is a cabinet Minister under the Prime Minister, it is clear that the Prime Minister and the cabinet Minister will at all times constitute the majority, thus making it impossible for the select committee to make an objective assessment of the comparative merit of all the listed candidates. This committee can select only a person whom the government favours. The function of the law is only to lay down the qualification or the status of the members to be brought on the selection committee, and not to ensure through a legal legerdemain a majority for the government's candidate. A cabinet Minister will always support the Prime Minister's proposal, so where is the objective assessment of all the listed persons by such a committee? The majority opinion in any committee emerges through discussion among independent members which cannot be predicted beforehand. But in the committee under this law, the outcome can be predicted beforehand.

Another serious infirmity is that the chairperson nominates one of the members, namely, the cabinet Minister. Members of the selection committee which selects the CEC and ECs need to be independent men capable of expressing their free will. When the chairman himself nominates one member, this candidate will undoubtedly be subservient to the chairman. A cabinet Minister cannot take a view that is different from that of the Prime Minister. Thus, the selection committee as it is constituted has an inherent incapacity to select the best person through an objective assessment.

It defeats fairness and objectivity

These infirmities make this law constitutionally unsustainable because the provision relating to the composition of the committee is arbitrary and does not have a rational basis. Further, by creating a majority in favour of the government supported candidate, it does not allow a fair and objective assessment of the merit of other similarly placed candidates. Thus, this provision may violate Article 14 of the Constitution. Besides, the selection of the CEC and other ECs has a vital bearing on the conduct of free and fair elections and in maintaining the purity of the electoral process, which is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. So, if the composition of the select committee ensures a majority for the government supported candidate always, free and fair elections will be a casualty.

The Supreme Court of India will have to take a hard look at this law.

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill is flawed as it backs the government-supported candidate

A process where free and fair elections will be a casualty

एक प्रक्रिया जिसमें स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनावों की बलि चढ़ जाएगी

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



was the first law enacted by Parliament under Article 324(5) of the Constitution, dealing with the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (EC).

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्त (नियुक्ति, सेवा की शर्तें और कार्यकाल) विधेयक, 2023 संसद द्वारा पारित पहला कानून था, जो संविधान के अनुच्छेद 324(5) के तहत मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) और चुनाव आयुक्तों (EC) की नियुक्ति से संबंधित था।

- This law was made in response to a **Supreme Court of India order of March 2023**, which mandated that the **CEC and ECs** should be appointed based on a recommendation made by a **high-power committee** comprising the **Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.

यह कानून मार्च 2023 में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के आदेश के जवाब में बनाया गया था, जिसमें **CEC और ECs** की नियुक्ति एक उच्च-शक्ति समिति द्वारा की जानी चाहिए, जिसमें **प्रधानमंत्री, लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता (LoP) और भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI)** शामिल हों।

- The Supreme Court ruled that this was an **interim measure** until **Parliament made a law** on the subject.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि यह एक अंतरिम उपाय है जब तक कि संसद इस विषय पर कानून नहीं बनाती।
- Earlier, the **CEC and ECs** were always appointed by the **President of India** on the recommendation of the **Prime Minister**, which the Court found **unsatisfactory** as it could affect the **impartiality of the Election Commission of India** tasked with conducting **free and fair elections**.

पहले, **CEC और ECs** को भारत के राष्ट्रपति द्वारा **प्रधानमंत्री की सिफारिश** पर नियुक्त किया जाता था, जिसे **असंतोषजनक** पाया गया क्योंकि इससे **भारत के चुनाव आयोग की निष्पक्षता** प्रभावित हो सकती थी, जो **स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनावों** का संचालन करता है।

Challenging the new law

नए कानून को चुनौती देना

- Although the government made the new law as per the Court's direction, it **replaced the CJI with a Cabinet Minister** nominated by the **Prime Minister**, who chairs the **three-member committee** along with the **LoP**.
हालांकि सरकार ने अदालत के निर्देशानुसार नया कानून बनाया, लेकिन इसमें **CJI की जगह एक कैबिनेट मंत्री** को शामिल किया गया, जिसे **प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा नामित** किया गया और जो **तीन-सदस्यीय समिति** की अध्यक्षता करता है, जिसमें **LoP** भी शामिल है।
- This law has been **challenged** on the grounds that the **composition of the selection panel violates** the direction of the **five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court**, headed by



Justice K.M. Joseph (retired).

इस कानून को चुनौती दी गई है क्योंकि चयन समिति की संरचना सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की पांच-न्यायाधीश पीठ के निर्देशों का उल्लंघन करती है, जिसकी अध्यक्षता न्यायमूर्ति के.एम. जोसेफ (सेवानिवृत्त) ने की थी।

- The new law provides for a **search committee** headed by the **Law Minister** and two senior bureaucrats, who prepare a **list of five persons** for the committee to consider. नया कानून एक **खोज समिति** का प्रावधान करता है, जिसकी अध्यक्षता **कानून मंत्री** करते हैं और इसमें दो वरिष्ठ नौकरशाह शामिल होते हैं, जो समिति के लिए **पाँच व्यक्तियों की सूची** तैयार करते हैं।
- The names of **eligible persons** identified by the **search committee** have **not been made public**.

खोज समिति द्वारा पहचाने गए योग्य व्यक्तियों के नाम सार्वजनिक नहीं किए गए हैं।

- Ultimately, the **senior-most EC** was appointed as the **CEC** by the **two members of the committee**, namely, the **Prime Minister and the Home Minister**. अंततः, **सबसे वरिष्ठ EC** को **CEC** के रूप में समिति के दो सदस्यों – प्रधानमंत्री और गृह मंत्री द्वारा नियुक्त किया गया।
- The **LoP** submitted a **dissenting note**, asking to **defer the selection until the Court had considered the challenge to the law**.

LoP ने **विरोध नोट** दर्ज किया, जिसमें **चयन को स्थगित करने का अनुरोध** किया गया, जब तक कि अदालत इस कानून को चुनौती देने के मामले पर विचार नहीं कर लेती।

- However, the **decision was taken by the majority** in the selection committee. हालांकि, **चयन समिति में बहुमत के आधार पर निर्णय** लिया गया।
- The appointments of the **CEC and another EC** were officially **notified** thereafter. इसके बाद, **CEC और एक अन्य EC** की नियुक्तियों को आधिकारिक रूप से **अधिसूचित** कर दिया गया।
- Now that the law on the **appointment of the CEC and ECs** has come up for **hearing in the Court**, certain **constitutional issues** need to be highlighted. अब जब **CEC और ECs** की नियुक्ति से संबंधित कानून अदालत में **सुनवाई** के लिए आया है, तो कुछ **संवैधानिक मुद्दों** को उजागर करने की आवश्यकता है।

- The **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023** was the first law enacted by Parliament under **Article 324(5) of the Constitution**, dealing with the appointment of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (EC)**.

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्त (नियुक्ति, सेवा की शर्तें और कार्यकाल) विधेयक, 2023 संसद द्वारा पारित पहला कानून था, जो संविधान के अनुच्छेद 324(5) के तहत मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) और चुनाव आयुक्तों (EC) की नियुक्ति से संबंधित था।

- This law was made in response to a **Supreme Court of India order of March 2023**, which mandated that the **CEC and ECs** should be appointed based on a recommendation made by a **high-power committee** comprising the **Prime Minister**, the **Leader of Opposition (LoP)** in the Lok Sabha, and the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.



यह कानून मार्च 2023 में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के आदेश के जवाब में बनाया गया था, जिसमें CEC और ECs की नियुक्ति एक उच्च-शक्ति समिति द्वारा की जानी चाहिए, जिसमें प्रधानमंत्री, लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता (LoP) और भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) शामिल हों।

Infirmities in the selection process

चयन प्रक्रिया में खामियां

- **Article 324** of the Constitution vests the responsibility of conducting elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, the President, and Vice President in the Election Commission of India (ECI).
संविधान के अनुच्छेद 324 के तहत संसद, राज्य विधानसभाओं, राष्ट्रपति और उपराष्ट्रपति के चुनाव कराने की जिम्मेदारी भारत के चुनाव आयोग (ECI) को सौंपी गई है।
- The Supreme Court, in **Election Commission of India vs State of Tamil Nadu and Others (1993)**, ruled that the ECI is a high constitutional authority responsible for ensuring free and fair elections and maintaining the purity of the electoral process. सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 1993 में चुनाव आयोग बनाम तमिलनाडु राज्य और अन्य मामले में कहा कि ECI एक उच्च संवैधानिक प्राधिकरण है, जिसका कर्तव्य स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव सुनिश्चित करना और चुनावी प्रक्रिया की शुद्धता बनाए रखना है।
- The selection committee consists of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Leader of Opposition (LoP), and a Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. चयन समिति में प्रधानमंत्री (अध्यक्ष), विपक्ष के नेता (LoP) और प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा नामित एक कैबिनेट मंत्री शामिल हैं।
- **Section 7** of the Act mandates that the President must appoint the CEC and ECs as per the recommendation of the selection committee. धारा 7 के अनुसार राष्ट्रपति को चयन समिति की सिफारिश के अनुसार CEC और ECs की नियुक्ति करनी होगी।
- The law ensures a majority for the government in the selection process, making it difficult for the committee to objectively assess candidates. यह कानून चयन प्रक्रिया में सरकार के लिए बहुमत सुनिश्चित करता है, जिससे समिति के लिए उम्मीदवारों का निष्पक्ष मूल्यांकन करना कठिन हो जाता है।
- The Prime Minister nominates one committee member, ensuring that the government's candidate always has the upper hand. प्रधानमंत्री एक समिति सदस्य नामित करते हैं, जिससे सरकार समर्थित उम्मीदवार को हमेशा बढ़त मिलती है।

It defeats fairness and objectivity

यह निष्पक्षता और वस्तुनिष्ठता को नष्ट करता है



- This provision may violate Article 14 of the Constitution, as it does not ensure a fair and objective assessment of candidates.
यह प्रावधान संविधान के अनुच्छेद 14 का उल्लंघन कर सकता है, क्योंकि यह उम्मीदवारों का निष्पक्ष और वस्तुनिष्ठ मूल्यांकन सुनिश्चित नहीं करता।
- Since the CEC and ECs are crucial for free and fair elections, the current selection process can compromise the purity of the electoral process.
चूंकि CEC और ECs स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनावों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, वर्तमान चयन प्रक्रिया चुनावी प्रक्रिया की शुद्धता से समझौता कर सकती है।
- The Supreme Court of India will have to take a hard look at this law to ensure constitutional fairness.
भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को इस कानून की गहन जांच करनी होगी ताकि संवैधानिक निष्पक्षता सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

Trump 2.0 and the new matrix of U.S.-India defence ties

GS paper II: US-India Defence Relations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brief and official working visit on February 13, 2025 to the United States has, rightfully, got a lot of attention. Among other things, it managed to give a push to the U.S.-India bilateral defence engagement. Defence acquisitions will certainly expand interoperability, as the joint statement underscored. Among the agreements announced is about India likely to be proceeding with the purchase and co-production of the 'Javelin' Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and 'Stryker' Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs). Co-production of the 'Javelin' and the 'Stryker' will boost domestic manufacturing and help integrate India more into the supply chain for these systems.

A spectrum

In addition, India is to buy six more P-8I maritime patrol aircraft to augment the Indian Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). New Delhi and Washington will sign a new 10-year Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership in the 21st Century. Collaboration in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and autonomous systems, which includes contracts already underway between Anduril Industries and the Mahindra Group and the co-development by L3Harris and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) of Active Towed Array Systems (ATAS) received a further boost under a fresh initiative announced by Mr. Modi and the U.S. President Donald Trump, dubbed the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA). Greater cooperation following a review is possible in undersea systems and fifth generation fighter aircraft as well as accelerated cooperation in space, air defence, and anti-tank missiles.

India and the U.S. have also agreed to review their existing regulatory regime in arms transfers for more synergy in defence trade, maintenance, repair and overhaul and critical initiations of negotiations for a Reciprocal Defence Procurement (RDP) agreement. Under this, both



Harsh V. Pant

is Vice President, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi



Kartik Bommakanti

is Senior Fellow, Defence and National Security, Observer Research Foundation

Defence cooperation has acquired a stable momentum, but there are still major challenges that Washington and New Delhi need to address

countries will align their acquisition mechanisms and foster a mutual supply of defence services and goods. All these announcements augur well for deeper defence cooperation between the two countries.

The hurdles

However, challenges persist. One of the critical elements missing in the joint statement was virtually no mention of the urgent delivery of General Electric (GE) Aerospace's F-404 GE-IN-20 engines for the India-made Tejas-Mark 1A fighter aircraft or the delivery and eventual 80% Transfer of Technology (ToT) to India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the more advanced GE engine F-414 to power the Mark-II variant of the Tejas. Second, Mr. Trump, in the joint press conference with Mr. Modi, did reiterate (as the joint statement suggests) the possibility of New Delhi purchasing the F-35 Lightning II fighter aircraft.

Integrating the F-35 would be the most difficult to pull off as the Indian Air Force (IAF) has too many persistent gaps, which it is struggling to fill. The IAF's capabilities, especially in the domain of offensive combat air power, require an infusion of ongoing, yet delayed, integration of several fighter aircraft geared for offensive and defensive air, counter air and ground attack missions. These capability deficits include inducting the light-weight Tejas-Mark 1A and the Mark-II jets which are expected to serve as replacements for the MiG-21 squadrons, most of which have been retired. The absence of any word in the joint statement on GE's engine supply for the Tejas is cause for concern due to the dwindling number of IAF fighter squadrons, which could fall to under 30.

There is also an effort to revive the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) project for 114 multirole fighter aircraft. The project, which was first initiated in the year 2000, underwent several changes till 2004. A new process began in

2007 that led to Dassault's Rafale being selected in 2011-12 for the supply of 114 fighter jets following an extensive and rigorous evaluation process. The French diluted their commitment to ToT, after expressing scepticism about HAL's capacity to meet the rigorous technical standards necessary to build the aircraft. Negotiations tapered off because New Delhi was not ready to pay for the cost of the jets or accept France's terms, eventually settling for 36 Rafale fighters in fly-away condition for \$8.8 billion as part of a government-to-government contract.

What a deal with the U.S. would entail

In this context, the Trump administration's latest offer of the F-35 is not new as (the late) Ashton Carter, who was Defence Secretary under the Obama administration, had made a similar bid to sell the fifth generation fighter aircraft. But it would come without an offer of co-production or ToT even if the unit cost of the F-35 jet is currently pegged at \$80 million a plane. In contrast, India purchased the Rafale for \$244 million a piece, but with a substantial weapons package consisting of the 300 kilometre range Scalp air to ground cruise missile and the 150 kilometre-range Meteor missiles.

Integrating the F-35 into the IAF is likely to be demanding as it already fields very diverse aircraft, which might leave it incurring fairly substantial infrastructure and maintenance costs as well as a highly intrusive on-site inspection U.S. regime.

More consequentially the IAF and the Government of India will need to consider potential American restrictions on the use of the F-35 that may come with its sale. In a nutshell, while U.S.-India defence cooperation has acquired a stable momentum, there are still some challenges that both sides need to address. The Modi-Trump engagement has prepared a template which should now be used by both sides to move quickly on key deliverables.



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CONTACT: 9971932488



Trump 2.0 and the new matrix of U.S.-India defence ties

ट्रम्प 2.0 और भारत-अमेरिका रक्षा संबंधों का नया ढांचा

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brief and official working visit on February 13, 2025, to the United States has received significant attention.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की 13 फरवरी 2025 को संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की संक्षिप्त और आधिकारिक कार्य यात्रा को काफी ध्यान मिला है।

- Among other things, this visit strengthened **U.S.-India bilateral defence engagement**. इस यात्रा ने अन्य चीजों के अलावा **भारत-अमेरिका द्विपक्षीय रक्षा सहयोग** को मजबूत किया।
- **Defence acquisitions** will improve **interoperability**, as emphasized in the **joint statement**. रक्षा अधिग्रहण से इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी (परस्पर संचालन क्षमता) में सुधार होगा, जैसा कि संयुक्त बयान में उल्लेख किया गया।

Key Defence Agreements

मुख्य रक्षा समझौते

- India is likely to proceed with the purchase and co-production of **'Javelin' Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** and **'Stryker' Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs)**. भारत संभवतः 'जैवलिन' एंटी-टैंक गाइडेड मिसाइल (ATGM) और 'स्ट्राइकर' इन्फैंट्री कॉम्बैट व्हीकल्स (ICVs) की खरीद और सह-निर्माण के लिए आगे बढ़ेगा।
- Co-production of these systems will boost **domestic manufacturing** and integrate **India** into the **global supply chain**. इन प्रणालियों का सह-निर्माण घरेलू उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देगा और भारत को वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में शामिल करेगा।

Expansion in Defence Collaboration

रक्षा सहयोग में विस्तार

- India will purchase **six more P-8I maritime patrol aircraft** to enhance the **Indian Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)**. भारत छह और P-8I समुद्री गश्ती विमान खरीदेगा, जिससे भारतीय नौसेना की समुद्री डोमेन जागरूकता (MDA) बढ़ेगी।



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- A new 10-year Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership in the 21st Century will be signed.
भारत-अमेरिका प्रमुख रक्षा साझेदारी के लिए नया 10-वर्षीय ढांचा हस्ताक्षरित किया जाएगा।
- Collaboration in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and autonomous systems is gaining momentum.
मानवरहित हवाई प्रणालियों (UAS) और स्वायत्त प्रणालियों में सहयोग गति पकड़ रहा है।
- Anduril Industries and Mahindra Group are working on contracts, while L3Harris and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) are co-developing Active Towed Array Systems (ATAS).
एंडुरिल इंडस्ट्रीज और महिंद्रा ग्रुप अनुबंधों पर काम कर रहे हैं, जबकि L3Harris और भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (BEL) मिलकर एक्टिव टोव्ड एरे सिस्टम (ATAS) विकसित कर रहे हैं।
- A new initiative announced by PM Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump is the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA).
प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प द्वारा स्वायत्त प्रणाली उद्योग गठबंधन (ASIA) की घोषणा की गई।

Future Areas of Cooperation

भविष्य में सहयोग के क्षेत्र

- Possible enhanced cooperation in undersea systems, fifth-generation fighter aircraft, space, air defence, and anti-tank missiles.
अंडरसी प्रणालियों, पाँचवीं पीढ़ी के लड़ाकू विमान, अंतरिक्ष, वायु रक्षा, और एंटी-टैंक मिसाइलों में सहयोग बढ़ सकता है।

Regulatory Reforms in Defence Trade

रक्षा व्यापार में नियामक सुधार

- India and the U.S. have agreed to review their regulatory framework for arms transfers.
भारत और अमेरिका ने हथियारों के हस्तांतरण के लिए अपने नियामक ढांचे की समीक्षा करने पर सहमति जताई।
- Focus on defence trade, maintenance, repair & overhaul (MRO), and a Reciprocal Defence Procurement (RDP) agreement.
रक्षा व्यापार, रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहॉल (MRO), और पारस्परिक रक्षा खरीद (RDP) समझौते पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा।
- The RDP agreement will align acquisition mechanisms and facilitate the mutual supply of defence goods and services.
RDP समझौता अधिग्रहण तंत्र को संगठित करेगा और रक्षा वस्तुओं और सेवाओं की आपसी आपूर्ति को सुविधाजनक बनाएगा।

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



The Hurdles

चुनौतियाँ

- A key element missing in the **joint statement** was the lack of mention of the urgent delivery of **General Electric (GE) Aerospace's F-404 GE-IN-20 engines** for the **Tejas-Mark 1A fighter aircraft**.
संयुक्त बयान में एक महत्वपूर्ण तत्व गायब था, जिसमें जनरल इलेक्ट्रिक (GE) एयरोस्पेस के F-404 GE-IN-20 इंजन की तेजस-मार्क 1A लड़ाकू विमान के लिए आपूर्ति का कोई उल्लेख नहीं था।
- There was also no mention of the **80% Transfer of Technology (ToT) to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for the advanced **GE F-414 engine**, which is meant for the **Mark-II variant of the Tejas**.
GE F-414 इंजन के लिए 80% ट्रांसफर ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (ToT) को हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) को हस्तांतरित करने का कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया, जो तेजस के मार्क-II संस्करण के लिए आवश्यक है।
- **Donald Trump**, during the joint press conference with **PM Modi**, reiterated the possibility of **India purchasing the F-35 Lightning II fighter aircraft**.
डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के साथ संयुक्त प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में भारत द्वारा F-35 लाइटनिंग II लड़ाकू विमान की खरीद की संभावना को दोहराया।

Challenges in Integrating the F-35

F-35 को शामिल करने की चुनौतियाँ

- Integrating the F-35 into the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will be difficult due to persistent **gaps in combat air power**.
भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) में F-35 को शामिल करना कठिन होगा क्योंकि लड़ाकू हवाई शक्ति में लगातार अंतर बना हुआ है।
- The IAF is struggling with **delayed integration** of various fighter jets meant for **offensive, defensive, and counter-air missions**.
IAF को विभिन्न हमलावर, रक्षात्मक और काउंटर-एयर मिशनों के लिए विलंबित लड़ाकू विमानों के एकीकरण की समस्या का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
- Capability deficits include the induction of **Tejas-Mark 1A** and **Mark-II jets**, which will replace the retiring **MiG-21 squadrons**.
क्षमताओं की कमी में तेजस-मार्क 1A और मार्क-II जेट को शामिल करना शामिल है, जो सेवानिवृत्त हो रहे MiG-21 स्क्वाड्रनों की जगह लेंगे।
- The absence of mention of **GE's engine supply for Tejas** is concerning, as **the IAF's fighter squadrons may fall below 30**.
तेजस के लिए GE इंजन की आपूर्ति का उल्लेख न होना चिंता का विषय है, क्योंकि IAF के लड़ाकू स्क्वाड्रनों की संख्या 30 से नीचे गिर सकती है।



Revival of the MMRCA Project

MMRCA परियोजना का पुनर्जीवन

- Efforts are being made to **revive the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) project for 114 multirole fighter aircraft.**
114 मल्टीरोल लड़ाकू विमानों के लिए मीडियम मल्टी-रोल कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (MMRCA) परियोजना को पुनर्जीवित करने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।
- The project was first initiated in **2000** and underwent several changes until **2004**, before restarting in **2007**.
यह परियोजना पहली बार **2000** में शुरू हुई और **2004** तक कई बदलावों से गुज़री, इसके बाद **2007** में इसे फिर से शुरू किया गया।
- In **2011-12**, **Dassault's Rafale** was selected for **114 fighter jets** after an extensive evaluation process.
2011-12 में, **दसॉल्ट राफेल** को **114 लड़ाकू जेट विमानों** के लिए व्यापक मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया के बाद चुना गया।
- **France diluted its commitment to ToT**, citing concerns over **HAL's technical capabilities**.
फ्रांस ने ToT (ट्रांसफर ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी) की प्रतिबद्धता को कम कर दिया, क्योंकि उसे HAL की तकनीकी क्षमता को लेकर संदेह था।
- Due to pricing and negotiation issues, **India settled for 36 Rafale fighters in fly-away condition for \$8.8 billion** through a **government-to-government contract**.
मूल्य निर्धारण और वार्ता मुद्दों के कारण, भारत ने 36 राफेल लड़ाकू विमानों को फ्लाई-अवे कंडीशन में \$8.8 बिलियन में सरकार-से-सरकार अनुबंध के तहत खरीदा।

What a Deal with the U.S. Would Entail

अमेरिका के साथ सौदे के मायने

- The **Trump administration's offer of the F-35 is not new**, as **Ashton Carter** (former Defence Secretary under Obama) had made a similar bid.
ट्रम्प प्रशासन का F-35 का प्रस्ताव नया नहीं है, क्योंकि ओबामा प्रशासन के पूर्व रक्षा सचिव एश्टन कार्टर ने पहले भी ऐसा प्रस्ताव दिया था।
- **No offer of co-production or Transfer of Technology (ToT)** is included, even though the **F-35 unit cost is \$80 million per aircraft**.
कोई सह-उत्पादन या ट्रांसफर ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (ToT) की पेशकश नहीं की गई है, भले ही F-35 की प्रति विमान लागत \$80 मिलियन हो।
- In contrast, **India purchased Rafale for \$244 million per aircraft**, which included a **weapons package** with:
**इसके विपरीत, भारत ने राफेल को प्रति विमान \$244 मिलियन में खरीदा, जिसमें हथियार पैकेज शामिल था:



- 300 km range Scalp air-to-ground cruise missile
300 किमी रेंज की स्कैल्प एयर-टू-ग्राउंड क्रूज़ मिसाइल
- 150 km range Meteor missiles
150 किमी रेंज की मेटेओर मिसाइलें
- Integrating the F-35 will be expensive, requiring significant **infrastructure and maintenance costs**.
F-35 को एकीकृत करना महंगा होगा, क्योंकि इसके लिए महत्वपूर्ण बुनियादी ढांचे और रखरखाव लागत की आवश्यकता होगी।
- India may also have to comply with **strict U.S. on-site inspections**.
भारत को सख्त अमेरिकी ऑन-साइट निरीक्षणों का पालन करना पड़ सकता है।
- The **IAF and Government of India** will need to consider **potential U.S. restrictions** on the operational use of the F-35.
IAF और भारत सरकार को F-35 के संचालन पर संभावित अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों पर विचार करना होगा।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- While **U.S.-India defence cooperation** has gained **stable momentum**, several **challenges remain**.
भारत-अमेरिका रक्षा सहयोग ने स्थिर गति प्राप्त की है, लेकिन अभी भी कई चुनौतियाँ बनी हुई हैं।
- The **Modi-Trump engagement** has laid out a **template** that both sides should use to move forward on key deliverables.
मोदी-ट्रम्प वार्ता ने एक रूपरेखा तैयार की है, जिसे दोनों देशों को महत्वपूर्ण लक्ष्यों पर तेजी से आगे बढ़ाने के लिए उपयोग करना चाहिए।



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CONTACT: 9971932488



GS Paper II: Delimitation

Counting matters

Delimitation must remain true to both representation and federalism

By calling for an all-party meeting on March 5 to discuss the delimitation exercise, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has sought to stir up a national debate. Delimitation, as an exercise, has not seen any increase in the legislative seats since 1973, having been frozen as per the 1971 Census for parity in population growth across States. This was done to prevent States with a higher population growth from getting “rewarded” with a higher number of representatives at the cost of other States with better health indices and lower growth. The 84th constitutional Amendment had stipulated that the delimitation exercise would be based on the first Census after 2026. Is the Union government inexplicably delaying the Census exercise to allow for the delimitation exercise to be held earlier? In the normal scheme of things, the exercise would have been done after the 2031 Census, but it is now possible after 2026 once the Census (due in 2021), is conducted.

The concern of Tamil Nadu that the exercise could hurt its representation in Parliament is legitimate if the Centre intends the process to be only proportionally representative of each State's population. This is illustrated in the population growth rates (1971-2024) in Tamil Nadu and undivided Bihar. The electorate, for which recent data is available, grew by 171% in the former as against 233% in the latter, while they had a comparable number of Lok Sabha MPs (39 versus 54, including Jharkhand). If delimitation was held and constituencies redrawn to match population growth, and even if the overall Lok Sabha tally was increased, the final number for Tamil Nadu would clearly be much lower than Bihar's. Other States with reduced fertility rates, such as Kerala and Karnataka, will also be affected. Home Minister Amit Shah has said that there will be no “reduction on a pro-rata basis” for Southern States and that they would get their “rightful share” but there has been little clarity on whether this would mean that their proportion of representatives will be retained after delimitation. The significant increase in population since 1973 should lead to an increased number of representatives, and, therefore, a higher number of seats, especially in north India's highly populated States. Yet, the equally important principle of federalism should suggest the need for the proportions of representation to be maintained to keep the balance of power intact across States. More importantly, the government must expedite the Census just to allay concerns that it has been delayed to facilitate an earlier and controversial delimitation. A nation striving to reach the higher pedestals of world power cannot afford to delay the basic exercise of counting the number of its own people.

Counting Matters

गणना महत्वपूर्ण है

• Delimitation Must Remain True to Both Representation and Federalism

• सीमांकन को प्रतिनिधित्व और संघवाद दोनों के प्रति सच्चा रहना चाहिए

• Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has called for an all-party meeting on March 5 to discuss the delimitation exercise, aiming to start a national debate on the issue.

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने 5 मार्च को सीमांकन प्रक्रिया पर चर्चा के लिए सर्वदलीय बैठक बुलाई है, जिससे राष्ट्रीय बहस शुरू हो सके।

• **Delimitation has not increased legislative seats since 1973, as it was frozen based on the 1971 Census to maintain parity in population growth across States.**

1973 के बाद से सीमांकन प्रक्रिया में विधायी सीटों की संख्या नहीं बढ़ी,

क्योंकि इसे 1971 की जनगणना के आधार पर राज्यों में जनसंख्या वृद्धि की समानता बनाए रखने के लिए स्थगित कर दिया गया था।

• This was done to prevent States with higher population growth from gaining more representatives, at the cost of States with better health indices and lower population growth.

इसका उद्देश्य तेजी से जनसंख्या वृद्धि वाले राज्यों को अधिक प्रतिनिधित्व मिलने से रोकना था, जिससे बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सूचकांक और कम जनसंख्या वृद्धि वाले राज्यों को नुकसान न हो।

• The 84th Constitutional Amendment mandated that the next delimitation would be based on the first Census after 2026.

84वें संवैधानिक संशोधन ने यह निर्धारित किया कि अगला सीमांकन 2026 के बाद की पहली जनगणना के आधार पर किया जाएगा।

• There are concerns that the Union government might be delaying the Census to conduct delimitation earlier than originally planned.

यह आशंका है कि केंद्र सरकार जानबूझकर जनगणना में देरी कर रही है, ताकि योजना से पहले ही सीमांकन कराया जा सके।

Concerns of Tamil Nadu and Other States

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

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



तमिलनाडु और अन्य राज्यों की चिंताएँ

- **Tamil Nadu fears that delimitation may reduce its representation in Parliament, if it is conducted only on the basis of population proportion.**
तमिलनाडु को आशंका है कि सीमांकन से संसद में उसका प्रतिनिधित्व कम हो सकता है, यदि इसे केवल जनसंख्या अनुपात के आधार पर किया गया।
- **The population growth (1971-2024) in Tamil Nadu increased by 171%, while in undivided Bihar, it grew by 233%.**
1971 से 2024 के बीच जनसंख्या वृद्धि तमिलनाडु में 171% और अविभाजित बिहार में 233% हुई।
- **Tamil Nadu and undivided Bihar had comparable Lok Sabha MPs (39 vs. 54, including Jharkhand), but if delimitation is based on population, Tamil Nadu's seat share will decrease.**
तमिलनाडु और अविभाजित बिहार के लोकसभा सांसदों की संख्या लगभग समान थी (39 बनाम 54, जिसमें झारखंड शामिल), लेकिन अगर सीमांकन जनसंख्या के आधार पर हुआ, तो तमिलनाडु की सीटों की संख्या घट सकती है।
- **Other low-fertility States like Kerala and Karnataka would also be affected similarly.**
केरल और कर्नाटक जैसे कम प्रजनन दर वाले अन्य राज्य भी इसी तरह प्रभावित होंगे।
- **Home Minister Amit Shah has assured that Southern States will not face a proportional reduction and will get their rightful share, but clarity is lacking on how this will be ensured.**
गृहमंत्री अमित शाह ने आश्वासन दिया है कि दक्षिणी राज्यों की सीटों में आनुपातिक कमी नहीं होगी और उन्हें उनका न्यायोचित हिस्सा मिलेगा, लेकिन इस पर कोई स्पष्टता नहीं है।

Balancing Representation and Federalism

प्रतिनिधित्व और संघवाद के बीच संतुलन

- **The population has significantly increased since 1973, requiring more Lok Sabha seats, especially in North India's highly populated States.**
1973 के बाद से जनसंख्या में भारी वृद्धि हुई है, जिससे लोकसभा सीटों की संख्या बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है, खासकर उत्तर भारत के अधिक जनसंख्या वाले राज्यों में।
- **However, federalism demands that representation proportions be maintained, ensuring a balanced power structure across States.**
लेकिन, संघवाद की भावना कहती है कि प्रतिनिधित्व का अनुपात बनाए रखा जाए, जिससे राज्यों के बीच सत्ता संतुलन बना रहे।
- **The Census must be expedited to clear doubts that it is being delayed deliberately for early delimitation.**
जनगणना प्रक्रिया को तेज किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि इस संदेह को दूर किया जा सके कि इसे जानबूझकर सीमांकन में जल्दबाजी के लिए विलंबित किया जा रहा है।
- **A nation aiming for global leadership cannot afford to delay counting its own people.**



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एक ऐसा राष्ट्र जो वैश्विक शक्ति बनने की ओर अग्रसर है, वह अपनी ही जनसंख्या की गणना में देरी

करने का जोखिम नहीं उठा सकता।

GS Paper II: Neo-Colonialism

Art of the deal

Donald Trump's plans for peace seem a part of a neo-colonial agenda

President Donald Trump has invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Washington to sign a deal that would give Washington access to Ukraine's rare earth mineral deposits, in exchange for the White House's support in ending the three-year war there since the Russia invasion. While Mr. Trump has – to his domestic constituents – positioned the deal as favourable to the U.S., to help American taxpayers “get their money back” in the context of U.S. aid to Ukraine, he has also emphasised that responsibility for the security angle of the Ukraine situation would fall on Europe. Hinting at what appears to be a limited future U.S. commitment to and involvement with the conflict, the Trump administration has so far avoided providing any security guarantee to Ukraine that would accompany the minerals deal, even though Mr. Zelenskyy has said: “If we don't get security guarantees, we won't have a ceasefire, nothing will work, nothing.” Nevertheless, both sides are closing ranks on an agreement that revolves around a “Reconstruction Investment Fund”, towards which Ukraine would be required to contribute 50% of “all revenues earned from the future monetisation of all relevant Ukrainian Government-owned natural resource assets [... including] deposits of minerals, hydrocarbons, oil, natural gas, and other extractable materials, and other infrastructure relevant to natural resource assets”. An early draft suggests that the fund will be managed by both countries, yet details on its governance and operation have not been hammered out yet.

On the one hand, the unambiguous positive outcome to hope for would be a robust ceasefire between Moscow and Kyiv, followed by bilateral territorial and institutional agreements that ensure peace as a precursor to reconstruction and rehabilitation of the areas devastated by Russia. Yet, sceptics may wonder whether this deal tips more in favour of resource extraction by the U.S. rather than any broader peace-seeking efforts, especially because the EU, as a critical stakeholder to any denouement in Ukraine, has been left in the cold; and because the Trump White House appears to have discussed with Russian President Vladimir Putin the possibility of Moscow working with U.S. companies to “mine rare earth mineral deposits in both Russia, and parts of Russian-occupied Ukraine”. There is nothing wrong with healthy competition and bilateral or multi-party deals for the extraction and sale of rare earth minerals, now a vital resource. However, when investment deals in this sector are used to blunt and deflect from strategic questions regarding Russian aggression and the large-scale violations of human rights, it becomes considerably harder to distinguish Mr. Trump's plans for the region from an unapologetic neo-colonial agenda.

Art of the Deal

सौदे की कला

- Donald Trump's Plans for Peace Seem a Part of a Neo-Colonial Agenda
- डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की शांति योजना एक नव-औपनिवेशिक एजेंडा का हिस्सा लगती है
- President Donald Trump has invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Washington to sign a deal giving the U.S. access to Ukraine's rare earth mineral deposits.

राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने यूक्रेनी राष्ट्रपति वलोडिमिर ज़ेलेन्स्की को वॉशिंगटन आमंत्रित किया है ताकि एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए जा सकें, जिससे अमेरिका को यूक्रेन के दुर्लभ खनिज संसाधनों तक पहुंच मिलेगी।

- In exchange, the White House will support ending the three-year war since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

बदले में, व्हाइट हाउस रूस के आक्रमण के बाद से तीन साल से चल रहे युद्ध को समाप्त करने के लिए समर्थन देगा।

- Trump has positioned this deal as beneficial to the U.S., helping American taxpayers "get their money back" in the context of U.S. aid to Ukraine.

ट्रम्प ने इस सौदे को अमेरिका के लिए फायदेमंद बताया, जिससे अमेरिकी कर्दाताओं को उनकी सहायता राशि वापस मिल सकेगी, जो यूक्रेन को दी गई अमेरिकी मदद के संदर्भ में है।

Lack of U.S. Security Guarantees

अमेरिका की सुरक्षा गारंटी का अभाव

- Trump administration has not provided any security guarantee to Ukraine along with the minerals deal.

ट्रम्प प्रशासन ने इस खनिज समझौते के साथ यूक्रेन को कोई सुरक्षा गारंटी नहीं दी है।

- Zelenskyy has warned, “If we don't get security guarantees, we won't have a ceasefire.”



ज़ेलेंस्की ने चेतावनी दी, "अगर हमें सुरक्षा गारंटी नहीं मिलती, तो कोई युद्धविराम नहीं होगा।"

- Despite this, both sides are working towards a deal that includes a "Reconstruction Investment Fund."

इसके बावजूद, दोनों पक्ष "पुनर्निर्माण निवेश कोष" से जुड़े एक समझौते की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं।

Ukraine's Contribution and Fund Management

यूक्रेन का योगदान और कोष प्रबंधन

- Ukraine will be required to contribute 50% of all revenues earned from the monetisation of its natural resources (minerals, oil, natural gas, etc.).
यूक्रेन को अपनी प्राकृतिक संसाधनों (खनिज, तेल, प्राकृतिक गैस आदि) के वाणिज्यीकरण से अर्जित राजस्व का 50% योगदान देना होगा।
- The fund will be jointly managed by the U.S. and Ukraine, but details on governance and operation are still unclear.
यह कोष अमेरिका और यूक्रेन द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से प्रबंधित किया जाएगा, लेकिन इसके संचालन और प्रबंधन के बारे में कोई स्पष्टता नहीं है।

Strategic and Economic Concerns

रणनीतिक और आर्थिक चिंताएँ

- A ceasefire between Moscow and Kyiv is a potential positive outcome of this deal.
इस समझौते का एक संभावित सकारात्मक परिणाम मास्को और कीव के बीच युद्धविराम हो सकता है।
- However, some believe the deal favors U.S. resource extraction over genuine peace efforts.
हालांकि, कुछ लोगों का मानना है कि यह समझौता वास्तविक शांति प्रयासों की तुलना में अमेरिकी संसाधन दोहन को प्राथमिकता देता है।
- The EU has been excluded from negotiations, despite being a key stakeholder in Ukraine's future.
यूक्रेन के भविष्य का एक प्रमुख हितधारक होने के बावजूद, यूरोपीय संघ (EU) को इस वार्ता से बाहर रखा गया है।
- Trump administration has reportedly discussed with Russian President Vladimir Putin the possibility of U.S. companies mining rare earth minerals in Russia and Russian-occupied Ukraine.
ट्रम्प प्रशासन ने कथित तौर पर रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन के साथ रूस और रूसी-नियंत्रित यूक्रेन में अमेरिकी कंपनियों द्वारा दुर्लभ खनिज खनन की संभावना पर चर्चा की है।

Neo-Colonial Implications

नव-औपनिवेशिक प्रभाव



- Resource extraction deals are normal, but when they distract from strategic concerns like Russian aggression and human rights violations, they raise ethical concerns.

संसाधन दोहन समझौते सामान्य हैं, लेकिन जब वे रूसी आक्रमण और मानवाधिकार हनन जैसे रणनीतिक मुद्दों से ध्यान हटाते हैं, तो यह नैतिक चिंता का विषय बन जाता है।

- The Trump administration's approach makes it difficult to distinguish economic deals from a neo-colonial agenda.

ट्रम्प प्रशासन की यह नीति आर्थिक समझौतों को नव-औपनिवेशिक एजेंडा से अलग करना मुश्किल बना देती है।

Will the U.S.'s changed Ukraine policy end the Russia-Ukraine war?

GS Paper II: Geopolitics

PARLEY



Kanwal Sibal
Former Foreign Secretary



Anuradha Chenuy
Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global University

In February 18, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Riyadh. This was a dramatic reversal of the previous U.S. administration's policy of not having peace talks with Russia since the beginning of Russia's war with Ukraine in February 2022. The reversal took place because of Donald Trump's election campaign, in which he called for "ending the war in Ukraine". Since taking office, President Trump has spoken on phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is also criticised on the platform Truth Social. Will the U.S.'s changed Ukraine policy end the Russia-Ukraine war? Kanwal Sibal and Anuradha Chenuy discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Kallol Bhattacharjee. Edited excerpts:

Is U.S. President Donald Trump's peace overture to Russia a well-thought-out design or is it being driven by domestic dynamics?

Kanwal Sibal: Donald Trump is unpredictable and he could still swing a surprise. He may change or modify his position and go in a different direction depending on whether he feels that he's getting what he wants.

Having said that, he has taken a position on Russia and has actually begun a dialogue with Russia, which hasn't existed for the last three years. He has reversed the U.S.'s position on having a dialogue with Russia and on finding a peaceful way out. His principal advisers, whether the Secretary of State or the National Security Adviser, or even the Defence Secretary, have made clear statements about their views.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump has been pretty harsh towards Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He has called him a 'dictator'. He thinks Mr. Zelenskyy needs to legitimise himself by organising elections in Ukraine, which has been Russia's demand too. He says the U.S. has pumped \$350 billion into the war in Ukraine, though that figure is disputed by the Ukrainian President. Mr. Trump says he needs to recover the \$350 billion and the way he will do that is by forcing Mr. Zelenskyy to sign an agreement with the U.S. to allow it to acquire mineral rights in Ukraine. So, basically, he has reduced it to an economic proposition. But the core issue is not economic; it is the role of the U.S. in providing security to Europe.

Most importantly, this is the first time that a U.S. President has said that the expansion of NATO was the reason for the Ukraine conflict.

Anuradha Chenuy: First, Mr. Trump sees the ground reality, which is that Russia is winning



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio (right) shakes hands with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. AFP

the war. A lot of Ukraine's military operations have failed. The war is like a black hole and a lot of American and European money is going into it. The Europeans obviously want the war to continue. So Mr. Trump is actually managing this defeat in the best way he can. Second, throughout his election campaign, Mr. Trump had argued for peace. He has got an overwhelming majority, so he has to please his voters. Third, I think he's resetting the extractive engagement of the military industrial complex of the U.S. vis-à-vis Ukraine with the deal for rare earth minerals. However, we have to remember that much of Ukraine's mineral wealth is in the Donbas region, which is already under Russian control. Mr. Trump's policy indicates a dramatic shift, and he feels this will be beneficial to American interests.

In 2022, Turkey brokered a deal which was scuttled by the U.S. and the U.K. Can a similar deal go through this time in Riyadh even if it involves Ukraine suffering loss of territory?

KS: Well, Mr. Zelenskyy had dug his heels in. He's been very defiant. He has, in fact, insulted Mr. Trump. The U.S. Vice President said as much when Mr. Zelenskyy alleged that Mr. Trump was actually purveying Russian disinformation. He claims that he's got 57% support in Ukraine, but the fact is that his support levels are exceedingly low. My European sources say the two people who are standing in the way [of peace talks] are Mr. Zelenskyy and Andriy Yermak, the chief of the presidential office, who is a hawk.

The issue is, how long can Europe continue to support Mr. Zelenskyy? The Europeans are trying to convince the U.S. not to abandon Ukraine as it would be a big defeat for Europe.

Mr. Putin visited Saudi Arabia earlier and he enjoys good relations with Saudi Arabia. But at the end of the day, I feel that as long as Mr.



The decision to end this war will have to be taken by countries who are the primary actors in this matter and ultimately everyone knows that this is a proxy war of NATO versus Russia in Ukraine. It's not a war between Russia and Ukraine, though Ukraine has a big role to play.

ANURADHA CHENUY

Zelenskyy is there, there will be a problem in forcing a solution because he can continue to say that he is unwilling to yield territory.

AC: Mr. Trump has many means of convincing the U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Mr. Zelenskyy, and the leaders of the European Union, who are all against a peace deal. Because the choice before Mr. Zelenskyy is to either agree to what Mr. Trump is putting forth or to face a complete collapse on the battlefield. That is the reality. The minute Mr. Trump withdraws funding, Ukraine will collapse. So, it is a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea, and Mr. Zelenskyy have to take one.

I think the easier one is to go with Mr. Trump's plan because there at least he can ask the U.S. for some security guarantee for the Ukraine that is left after giving up territory to Russia. Plus, he can hope for some economic deals and some reconstruction.

In comparison, Mr. Putin is clear. As there is no ceasefire yet, the Russian troops will continue to advance. I went to Moscow recently and people are very tough. They feel this is an existential conflict which they have to win. At the same time, they don't want to give up too much of what they already have.

Why is it so difficult to find a solution to this war despite such a compelling humanitarian argument – the war has reportedly cost around one million lives and caused massive displacement in Ukraine.

KS: Ukraine is under martial law, so people can't express their opinion freely. The problem of Ukraine came out clearly from Marco Rubio, who, in his Congressional hearing, said the problem of Ukraine is not that it lacks weapons; it is that it lacks manpower. A lot of Ukrainian lives have been lost. On the Russian side, the number of casualties and the number of injured is around 2,00,000. Ukraine is fighting a losing battle but more tragically, there is no way to actually gauge public opinion there. Life is more or less normal in Kyiv but that is a strategy to display normalcy in the capital. The war is also

raging because of the ultra-nationalist and neo-Nazi groups who had caused tension during the Soviet era. So long as these people are in power – and they came to power after the Maidan coup (in 2014) – they will continue to resist any peaceful settlement with Russia, unless of course they have no choice and they are compelled to do so.

AC: Every major country including India and China wanted this war to stop and they were also willing to give their good offices to ensure a quick end to this conflict. In fact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said to President Putin that this is not the time for war. But the decision to end this war will have to be taken by countries who are the primary actors in this matter and ultimately everyone knows that this is a proxy war of NATO versus Russia in Ukraine. It's not a war between Russia and Ukraine, though Ukraine has a big role to play.

This invasion would probably not have happened if Minsk 1 and Minsk 2 had been adhered to and if that 2022 agreement that Turkey had mediated had come about. This conflict could have been avoided if the Russians in the Donbas area had not been discriminated against and denied their religion, their language, and their culture.

Ironically, Mr. Zelenskyy, who fought his election campaign on the platform of peace, himself fell for this strategic calculation of NATO versus Russia, which has led to major losses on the ground. Major Ukrainian units and brigades have faced great casualties. The Ukrainian men have lost their appetite for this war. Of course they are patriotic and they have done their best, but to me it seems like a very useless war and it needs to end.

Why are the peace talks happening in Riyadh and not in India? Did India miss a chance to mediate?

AC: Earlier these peace talks used to be in Helsinki and Brussels and Geneva. Now, suddenly, they are in Riyadh, which has shocked the European Union and perhaps the rest of the world. I think India has played its role very well in this, to the extent that it could, by being neutral and critiquing the sanctions and being a good ally of the Russians. The Russians will not forget it and the reset in Russia-U.S. ties will be of great benefit to India. Europe will be the clear loser. I think India will be a winner and that Mr. Trump sees India as a very close ally of Russia.



To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

Will the U.S.'s Changed Ukraine Policy End the Russia-Ukraine War?



क्या अमेरिका की बदली हुई यूक्रेन नीति रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध समाप्त कर सकती है?

- U.S.-Russia Talks: A Major Shift
- अमेरिका-रूस वार्ता: एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव
- On February 18, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Riyadh.
18 फरवरी को अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो ने रूसी विदेश मंत्री सर्गेई लावरोव से रियाद में मुलाकात की।
- This marked a **dramatic reversal** of the previous **U.S. policy**, which avoided **peace talks with Russia** since the start of the war in **February 2022**.
यह अमेरिकी नीति में बड़ा बदलाव था, जिसने फरवरी 2022 में युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से रूस के साथ शांति वार्ता से इनकार किया था।
- The shift occurred due to **Donald Trump's election campaign**, where he promised to **"end the war in Ukraine."**
यह बदलाव डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के चुनाव अभियान के कारण हुआ, जिसमें उन्होंने "यूक्रेन में युद्ध समाप्त करने" का वादा किया था।
- Since taking office, **Trump** has spoken with **Russian President Vladimir Putin** and **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy**.
ट्रम्प के पदभार संभालने के बाद, उन्होंने रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन और यूक्रेनी राष्ट्रपति वलोडिमिर ज़ेलेन्स्की से बातचीत की।

Trump's Peace Efforts: A Genuine Strategy or Political Move?

ट्रम्प की शांति पहल: एक वास्तविक रणनीति या राजनीतिक चाल?

- **Kanwal Sibal** believes **Trump is unpredictable** and may **change his stance** if he doesn't get what he wants.
कंवल सिबल का मानना है कि ट्रम्प अप्रत्याशित निर्णय लेने वाले हैं और अगर उन्हें मनचाहा न मिले तो वे अपनी नीति बदल सकते हैं।
- **Trump has reopened dialogue with Russia**, something the U.S. had **avoided for three years**.
ट्रम्प ने रूस के साथ वार्ता फिर से शुरू की, जिसे अमेरिका ने तीन वर्षों तक टाल रखा था।
- He has been **harsh on Zelenskyy**, calling him a **"dictator"**, and demanding he **hold elections in Ukraine**.
उन्होंने ज़ेलेन्स्की को "तानाशाह" कहा और उनसे यूक्रेन में चुनाव कराने की मांग की।
- **Trump claims the U.S. has spent \$350 billion on Ukraine**, and he wants to **recover this amount by securing mineral rights in Ukraine**.



ट्रम्प का दावा है कि अमेरिका ने यूक्रेन पर \$350 बिलियन खर्च किए हैं, और वे यूक्रेन में खनिज अधिकार हासिल कर इस राशि की भरपाई करना चाहते हैं।

- However, the core issue is not **economic** but **U.S. security commitments to Europe**. लेकिन मुख्य मुद्दा आर्थिक नहीं, बल्कि यूरोप को दी जाने वाली अमेरिकी सुरक्षा प्रतिबद्धता है।
- For the first time, a **U.S. President has blamed NATO expansion for the Ukraine war**. पहली बार, किसी अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ने यूक्रेन युद्ध के लिए NATO के विस्तार को जिम्मेदार ठहराया है।

Is Trump Managing a U.S. Defeat?

क्या ट्रम्प अमेरिका की हार को नियंत्रित कर रहे हैं?

- **Anuradha Chenoy** argues that **Trump sees Russia winning the war** and is trying to manage the situation. अनुराधा चैनॉय का कहना है कि ट्रम्प को लगता है कि रूस युद्ध जीत रहा है, और वे स्थिति को नियंत्रित करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- **Ukraine's military operations have largely failed**, and the war is draining **U.S. and European financial resources**. यूक्रेन के सैन्य अभियानों को ज्यादातर असफलता मिली है, और युद्ध अमेरिका और यूरोप की वित्तीय स्थिति को कमजोर कर रहा है।
- While **Europe wants the war to continue**, **Trump wants to end U.S. involvement**. यूरोप इस युद्ध को जारी रखना चाहता है, लेकिन ट्रम्प इसमें अमेरिकी भागीदारी समाप्त करना चाहते हैं।
- **Trump's rare earth mineral deal** is a shift from **military aid to economic extraction** in Ukraine. ट्रम्प का दुर्लभ खनिजों पर केंद्रित सौदा यूक्रेन में सैन्य सहायता से आर्थिक दोहन की ओर बदलाव दर्शाता है।
- However, most of **Ukraine's mineral wealth is in Donbas**, which is **under Russian control**. हालांकि, यूक्रेन के अधिकांश खनिज संसाधन डोनबास में हैं, जो रूस के नियंत्रण में है।

Can a Peace Deal Happen in Riyadh?

क्या रियाद में शांति समझौता संभव है?

- In **2022**, **Turkey brokered a peace deal**, but it was **blocked by the U.S. and the U.K.** 2022 में, तुर्की ने एक शांति समझौता कराया था, लेकिन इसे अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन ने रोक दिया था।
- A similar deal in **Riyadh** could involve **Ukraine losing territory**. रियाद में एक समान समझौता होने से यूक्रेन को क्षेत्रीय नुकसान हो सकता है।
- **Zelenskyy is strongly opposed to peace talks**, and he has **insulted Trump publicly**. ज़ेलेन्स्की शांति वार्ता के खिलाफ हैं, और उन्होंने ट्रम्प का सार्वजनिक रूप से अपमान किया है।



- U.S. Vice President acknowledged that Zelenskyy's support in Ukraine is declining. अमेरिकी उपराष्ट्रपति ने माना कि यूक्रेन में ज़ेलेन्स्की की लोकप्रियता घट रही है।
- Europe is worried that U.S. withdrawal would be a major defeat for Europe. यूरोप को डर है कि अगर अमेरिका पीछे हटता है, तो यह यूरोप के लिए एक बड़ी हार होगी।
- Putin has strong relations with Saudi Arabia, making Riyadh a possible venue for a settlement. पुतिन के सऊदी अरब से अच्छे संबंध हैं, जिससे रियाद शांति वार्ता के लिए उपयुक्त स्थान बन सकता है।

Final Thoughts

अंतिम विचार

- As long as Zelenskyy remains in power, a peace deal seems difficult. जब तक ज़ेलेन्स्की सत्ता में हैं, शांति समझौता मुश्किल लगता है।
- Trump's shift in policy is dramatic, but its effectiveness remains uncertain. ट्रम्प की नीति में बदलाव बड़ा है, लेकिन इसकी सफलता अभी भी अनिश्चित है।
- The war's outcome now depends on European support for Ukraine and Russia's next moves. युद्ध का भविष्य अब यूरोप के समर्थन और रूस की अगली रणनीति पर निर्भर करेगा।

Trump's Influence on Ukraine and Europe

यूक्रेन और यूरोप पर ट्रम्प का प्रभाव

- Donald Trump has ways to convince U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and European Union leaders, who are against a peace deal. डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के पास यू.के. के प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टार्मर, यूक्रेनी राष्ट्रपति वलोडिमिर ज़ेलेन्स्की और यूरोपीय संघ के नेताओं को मनाने के तरीके हैं, जो शांति समझौते के खिलाफ हैं।
- Zelenskyy faces a critical choice: either accept Trump's terms or risk Ukraine's collapse if U.S. funding is withdrawn. ज़ेलेन्स्की के पास एक कठिन विकल्प है: या तो ट्रम्प की शर्तों को स्वीकार करें, या फिर अमेरिका की आर्थिक सहायता बंद होने पर यूक्रेन के पतन का सामना करें।
- If Zelenskyy agrees, he can at least negotiate security guarantees and economic aid for Ukraine, even after ceding territory to Russia. अगर ज़ेलेन्स्की सहमत होते हैं, तो वे यूक्रेन के लिए सुरक्षा गारंटी और आर्थिक सहायता हासिल कर सकते हैं, भले ही रूस को कुछ क्षेत्र सौंपना पड़े।
- Russia is advancing, and Putin sees this as an existential war that must be won, though he is unwilling to concede occupied territories. रूस लगातार आगे बढ़ रहा है, और पुतिन इसे अस्तित्व की लड़ाई मानते हैं, जिसे जीतना जरूरी है, हालांकि वे कब्जे वाले क्षेत्रों को छोड़ने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।



Why a Peace Solution is Difficult?

शांति समाधान इतना कठिन क्यों है?

- Ukraine is under martial law, restricting public opinion and free speech.
यूक्रेन में मार्शल लॉ लागू है, जिससे जनता की राय और स्वतंत्र अभिव्यक्ति पर प्रतिबंध है।
- U.S. Senator Marco Rubio pointed out that Ukraine's issue is not a lack of weapons but a shortage of manpower.
अमेरिकी सीनेटर मार्को रुबियो ने कहा कि यूक्रेन की समस्या हथियारों की कमी नहीं, बल्कि जनशक्ति की कमी है।
- Russia has suffered around 200,000 casualties, while Ukraine is losing ground.
रूस को लगभग 2,00,000 सैनिकों की क्षति हुई है, जबकि यूक्रेन लगातार पीछे हट रहा है।
- Neo-Nazi and ultra-nationalist groups in Ukraine are resisting peace efforts and were responsible for tensions during the Soviet era.
यूक्रेन में नव-नाजी और अतिराष्ट्रवादी समूह शांति प्रयासों का विरोध कर रहे हैं, और वे सोवियत काल के दौरान भी तनाव के लिए जिम्मेदार थे।
- These groups gained power after the 2014 Maidan coup and are unlikely to accept a peace settlement with Russia.
ये समूह 2014 के मैदान तख्तापलट के बाद सत्ता में आए, और वे रूस के साथ शांति समझौता स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।

Global Perspective on Ending the War

युद्ध समाप्त करने पर वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण

- India and China wanted an early resolution to the war and offered their help for mediation.
भारत और चीन ने युद्ध को जल्दी समाप्त करने की इच्छा जताई थी और मध्यस्थता के लिए अपनी सहायता की पेशकश की थी।
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi told President Putin that "this is not the time for war."
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने राष्ट्रपति पुतिन से कहा कि "यह युद्ध का समय नहीं है।"
- The war is widely seen as a proxy conflict between NATO and Russia, with Ukraine as a battleground.
यह युद्ध आमतौर पर NATO और रूस के बीच एक प्रॉक्सी युद्ध के रूप में देखा जाता है, जिसमें यूक्रेन युद्धभूमि बन गया है।
- Russia's invasion could have been avoided if agreements like Minsk 1, Minsk 2, and the 2022 Turkey-brokered peace deal had been followed.
रूस का आक्रमण टाला जा सकता था, अगर मिन्स्क 1, मिन्स्क 2, और 2022 में तुर्की द्वारा मध्यस्थता किए गए शांति समझौते का पालन किया जाता।



- The conflict escalated due to discrimination against Russians in Donbas, where they were denied their language, religion, and cultural rights.
यह संघर्ष बढ़ा क्योंकि डोनबास में रूसियों के खिलाफ भेदभाव किया गया, और उन्हें अपनी भाषा, धर्म और सांस्कृतिक अधिकारों से वंचित रखा गया।

Did India Miss a Chance to Mediate?

क्या भारत ने मध्यस्थता का मौका गंवा दिया?

- Peace talks traditionally happened in Helsinki, Brussels, and Geneva, but now they are being held in Riyadh, surprising the EU and the world.
शांति वार्ता आमतौर पर हेलसिंकी, ब्रुसेल्स और जिनेवा में होती थी, लेकिन अब वे रियाद में हो रही हैं, जिससे यूरोपीय संघ और दुनिया को आश्चर्य हुआ है।
- India has played a balanced role, maintaining neutrality, opposing Western sanctions, and strengthening ties with Russia.
भारत ने संतुलित भूमिका निभाई है, उसने निष्पक्षता बनाए रखी, पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों का विरोध किया, और रूस के साथ संबंध मजबूत किए।
- Russia values India's neutrality, and the reset in Russia-U.S. relations could benefit India in the long run.
रूस भारत की तटस्थता को महत्व देता है, और रूस-अमेरिका संबंधों में नया संतुलन भविष्य में भारत के लिए लाभदायक हो सकता है।
- Europe may emerge as the biggest loser, while India could strengthen its geopolitical standing.
यूरोप इस स्थिति में सबसे बड़ा हारेगा, जबकि भारत अपनी भू-राजनीतिक स्थिति को मजबूत कर सकता है।
- Trump sees India as a close ally of Russia, which may impact future U.S.-India relations.
ट्रम्प भारत को रूस का करीबी सहयोगी मानते हैं, जिससे भविष्य में अमेरिका-भारत संबंधों पर प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।



The SEC and Hague Service Convention

What is the Hague Service Convention, and how does it work? How is the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission attempting to serve summons on the Adanis? What are India's reservations under the Convention? How long does the service process typically take?

GS Paper II: Global Treaties

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) informed a New York court on February 18 that it has sought assistance from the Indian government under the Hague Service Convention – formally known as the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1965 – to serve summons on billionaire Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani in a securities and wire fraud case.

What did the SEC say?

The SEC informed the court that it had invoked Article 5(a) of the Convention to request India's Ministry of Law and Justice to facilitate the service of summons on the defendants. It further stated that it is exploring alternative service methods permitted under Rule 4(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which governs civil litigation in U.S. federal courts.

On February 10, the Trump administration paused enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) – one of the laws under which the Adanis have been charged – for 180 days. The FCPA prohibits U.S. entities and individuals from bribing foreign governments, political parties, or officials to secure business.

As per the executive order, the Attorney General must review "all existing FCPA investigations or enforcement actions" and take steps "to restore proper bounds on FCPA enforcement". However, the SEC's latest court filing suggests that the order does not apply retroactively. As a result, the agency's investigation into the Adanis is likely to continue unless the law is amended.

How does the Hague Service



Legal tussle: The Trump administration paused enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, one of the laws under which the Adanis have been charged, for 180 days. FILE PHOTO

Convention operate?

With the rise in cross-border litigation, the need for an effective and reliable mechanism to serve judicial and extrajudicial documents on parties residing in foreign jurisdictions became imperative. As a result, countries adopted the Convention at the Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1965. Building on the 1905 and 1954 Hague Conventions on Civil Procedure, this multilateral treaty ensures that defendants sued in foreign jurisdictions receive timely and actual notice of legal proceedings while facilitating proof of service.

Eighty-four states, including India and the U.S., are parties to the Convention. Its procedures apply only when both the sending and receiving countries are signatories. Each member state must also designate a central authority to process requests and facilitate the service of documents from other signatory states.

Signatory states can select the modes of transmission that apply within their jurisdiction. Under the Convention, the primary mode of service is through designated central authorities. However, alternative channels are also available, including postal service, diplomatic and consular channels, direct communication between judicial officers in both states,

direct contact between an interested party and judicial authorities in the receiving state, and direct communication between government authorities.

How is service effectuated on defendants in India?

India acceded to the Convention on November 23, 2006, with certain reservations, expressly opposing all alternative service methods under Article 10. It prohibits the service of judicial documents through diplomatic or consular channels, except when the recipient is a national of the requesting country. For instance, a U.S. court cannot serve documents in India through U.S. diplomatic or consular channels, unless the recipient is a U.S. national residing in India. Additionally, all service requests must be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

As a result, valid service can only be executed through the Ministry of Law and Justice, India's designated central authority. The Ministry is permitted to reject a service request, but must specify the reasons for such refusal. For instance, under Article 13, a request can be denied if the state believes its sovereignty or security would be compromised.

However, a state cannot reject a service request solely because it claims exclusive

jurisdiction over the subject matter under its domestic law. Similarly, under Article 29, a request cannot be refused simply because the state's internal law does not recognise a right of action.

If the central authority raises no objections, it proceeds with serving the defendant. The service is then treated as a summons issued by an Indian court under Section 29(c) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Once completed, the central authority issues an acknowledgement to the requesting party. The entire process typically takes six to eight months.

Can a default verdict be rendered?

A default judgment may be issued under the Convention if a foreign government refuses to cooperate in serving summons on a defendant residing within its jurisdiction. However, Article 15 prescribes specific conditions that must be met before such a judgment can be rendered: (a) the document must have been transmitted through one of the methods outlined in the Convention; (b) at least six months must have elapsed since the transmission, with the court determining this period to be reasonable in the given case; and (c) no certificate of service has been received despite all efforts to obtain it through the competent authorities of the recipient state.

Notably, India has expressly declared that its courts may issue a default judgment in cross-border disputes even if no certificate of service or delivery has been received, provided that all conditions under Article 15 are met.

Recently, in *Duong v. DDG BIM Services LLC (2023)*, American plaintiffs sought permission to serve Indian defendants via email, citing difficulties in effectuating service through India's central authority as prescribed by the Convention. Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle underscored that Article 15 functions as a "safety valve," allowing default judgment to be entered if "India's central authority fails to hold up its end of the bargain."

THE GIST

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has invoked the Hague Convention to serve summons on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani through India's Ministry of Law and Justice.

India has reservations under the Hague Convention, prohibiting alternative service methods. It can reject the request under Article 13 if it believes national security or sovereignty is at risk.

In *Duong v. DDG BIM Services LLC (2023)*, a U.S. court underscored that if India's central authority fails to act under the Hague Convention, a default judgment could be entered.

The SEC and Hague Service Convention

एसईसी और हेग सेवा संधि

- What is the Hague Service Convention?
- हेग सेवा संधि क्या है?
- The Hague Service Convention is formally known as the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1965. हेग सेवा संधि को औपचारिक रूप से न्यायिक और गैर-न्यायिक दस्तावेजों की विदेशी सेवा पर संधि, 1965 के रूप में जाना जाता है।
- It was adopted at the **Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1965** to create a **reliable system** for serving **legal documents across borders**. इसे **1965 में हेग सम्मेलन में सीमाओं के पार कानूनी दस्तावेजों की सेवा के लिए एक विश्वसनीय प्रणाली बनाने के लिए अपनाया गया था।**



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- The convention ensures that **defendants in foreign jurisdictions receive timely notice of legal proceedings.**
यह संधि सुनिश्चित करती है कि विदेशी क्षेत्राधिकार में रहने वाले प्रतिवादियों को कानूनी कार्यवाही की समय पर सूचना मिले।
- **84 countries, including India and the U.S.,** are signatories to this convention.
भारत और अमेरिका सहित 84 देश इस संधि के सदस्य हैं।

How Does the SEC Intend to Serve Summons on the Adanis?

एसईसी अदानी समूह को समन कैसे भेजना चाहता है?

- On **February 18**, the **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)** informed a **New York court** that it sought **India's assistance** under the **Hague Service Convention**.
18 फरवरी को, अमेरिकी प्रतिभूति और विनियम आयोग (SEC) ने न्यूयॉर्क की एक अदालत को सूचित किया कि उसने भारत सरकार से हेग सेवा संधि के तहत सहायता मांगी है।
- The SEC invoked **Article 5(a) of the Convention**, requesting India's **Ministry of Law and Justice** to facilitate the **service of summons** on **Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani**.
एसईसी ने संधि के अनुच्छेद 5(a) को लागू किया, और भारत के विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय से गौतम अदानी और सागर अदानी को समन भेजने की प्रक्रिया में सहायता करने का अनुरोध किया।
- The agency is also exploring **alternative service methods** under **Rule 4(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure**, which governs **civil litigation in U.S. federal courts**.
यह एजेंसी संघीय नागरिक प्रक्रिया नियम 4(f) के तहत वैकल्पिक सेवा विधियों की भी जांच कर रही है, जो अमेरिकी संघीय अदालतों में दीवानी मुकदमों को नियंत्रित करता है।

Impact of Trump Administration's Decision on the Case

ट्रम्प प्रशासन के निर्णय का मामले पर प्रभाव

- On **February 10**, the **Trump administration** paused enforcement of the **Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)** for **180 days**.
10 फरवरी को, ट्रम्प प्रशासन ने विदेशी भ्रष्ट आचरण अधिनियम (FCPA) के प्रवर्तन को 180 दिनों के लिए रोक दिया।
- The **FCPA prohibits U.S. entities and individuals** from **bribing foreign officials, governments, or political parties** to secure business.
FCPA अमेरिकी कंपनियों और व्यक्तियों को व्यापार हासिल करने के लिए विदेशी अधिकारियों, सरकारों या राजनीतिक दलों को रिश्वत देने से रोकता है।
- According to an **executive order**, the **Attorney General** must review all ongoing **FCPA investigations**, but the **SEC's Adani case** is not retroactively affected.



एक कार्यकारी आदेश के अनुसार, अटॉर्नी जनरल को सभी मौजूदा FCPA जांचों की समीक्षा करनी होगी, लेकिन एसईसी का अदानी मामला इससे प्रभावित नहीं होगा।

- As a result, SEC's investigation into the Adanis will continue unless the law is amended.

नतीजतन, जब तक कानून में संशोधन नहीं किया जाता, तब तक एसईसी की अदानी समूह पर जांच जारी रहेगी।

How Does the Hague Service Convention Work?

हेग सेवा संधि कैसे काम करती है?

- The convention applies only when both the requesting and receiving countries are signatories.
यह संधि केवल तब लागू होती है जब अनुरोध करने वाला और प्राप्त करने वाला देश दोनों इसके सदस्य हों।
- Each signatory state must designate a central authority to process requests and facilitate document service from other states.
प्रत्येक हस्ताक्षरकर्ता देश को एक केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण नियुक्त करना आवश्यक है, जो अनुरोधों को संसाधित करता है और दस्तावेज़ सेवा को सुगम बनाता है।
- The primary method of service is through the designated central authority, but other alternative channels exist:
मुख्य सेवा विधि केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण के माध्यम से होती है, लेकिन अन्य वैकल्पिक तरीके भी उपलब्ध हैं:
 - Postal service (डाक सेवा)
 - Diplomatic and consular channels (राजनयिक और वाणिज्य दूतावास चैनल)
 - Direct communication between judicial officers (न्यायिक अधिकारियों के बीच सीधा संपर्क)
 - Direct contact between the requesting party and judicial authorities (अनुरोधकर्ता और न्यायिक अधिकारियों के बीच सीधा संपर्क)
 - Government-to-government communication (सरकार से सरकार के बीच संचार)

India's Reservations Under the Convention

भारत की हेग सेवा संधि पर आपत्तियाँ

- India has placed certain reservations regarding alternative channels like postal service and direct judicial communication.
भारत ने कुछ आपत्तियाँ जताई हैं, विशेष रूप से डाक सेवा और प्रत्यक्ष न्यायिक संचार जैसे वैकल्पिक तरीकों पर।
- India only allows service through the designated central authority, rejecting postal services and direct judicial contact.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



भारत केवल केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण के माध्यम से सेवा की अनुमति देता है, और डाक सेवा और प्रत्यक्ष न्यायिक संपर्क को अस्वीकार करता है।

How Long Does the Service Process Typically Take?

समन प्रक्रिया में आमतौर पर कितना समय लगता है?

- The **timeline for serving documents** under the Hague Convention **varies by country** and can take **several weeks to months**.
हेग संधि के तहत दस्तावेज़ सेवा की समयसीमा देश के अनुसार भिन्न होती है और इसमें कई सप्ताह से लेकर महीनों तक का समय लग सकता है।
- In **India**, the process may take **several months**, depending on **legal and bureaucratic factors**.
भारत में, यह प्रक्रिया कानूनी और प्रशासनिक प्रक्रियाओं के आधार पर कई महीनों तक चल सकती है।

How is Service Effectuated on Defendants in India?

भारत में प्रतिवादियों को समन कैसे भेजा जाता है?

- **India acceded to the Hague Service Convention on November 23, 2006**, but with certain **reservations under Article 10**.
भारत ने 23 नवंबर 2006 को हेग सेवा संधि को स्वीकार किया, लेकिन अनुच्छेद 10 के तहत कुछ आपत्तियों के साथ।
- India **expressly opposes all alternative service methods**, including **postal service, direct judicial communication, and private service agents**.
भारत सभी वैकल्पिक सेवा विधियों का स्पष्ट रूप से विरोध करता है, जिनमें डाक सेवा, प्रत्यक्ष न्यायिक संचार और निजी सेवा एजेंट शामिल हैं।
- **Diplomatic or consular service of judicial documents is prohibited**, except when the recipient is a national of the requesting country.
राजनयिक या वाणिज्य दूतावास सेवा के माध्यम से न्यायिक दस्तावेज़ भेजने की अनुमति नहीं है, जब तक कि प्राप्तकर्ता अनुरोध करने वाले देश का नागरिक न हो।
- For example, a **U.S. court cannot serve legal documents in India via U.S. diplomatic channels**, unless the recipient is a **U.S. national residing in India**.
उदाहरण के लिए, अमेरिकी अदालत भारत में अमेरिकी राजनयिक चैनलों के माध्यम से कानूनी दस्तावेज़ नहीं भेज सकती, जब तक कि प्राप्तकर्ता भारत में रहने वाला अमेरिकी नागरिक न हो।
- **All service requests must be in English or accompanied by an English translation**.
सभी सेवा अनुरोधों को अंग्रेज़ी में या अंग्रेज़ी अनुवाद के साथ प्रस्तुत करना आवश्यक है।

Role of India's Ministry of Law and Justice

भारत के विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय की भूमिका

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



- In India, **service of legal documents must be executed through the Ministry of Law and Justice**, which is India's designated central authority under the Convention.
भारत में, कानूनी दस्तावेजों की सेवा केवल विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय के माध्यम से की जा सकती है, जो संधि के तहत भारत का केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण है।
- The **Ministry has the right to reject a service request, but must provide valid reasons for refusal.**
मंत्रालय को सेवा अनुरोध को अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार है, लेकिन इसके लिए उचित कारण बताने होंगे।
- Under **Article 13**, a request **can be denied if it compromises India's sovereignty or security.**
अनुच्छेद 13 के तहत, यदि कोई अनुरोध भारत की संप्रभुता या सुरक्षा को खतरे में डालता है, तो इसे अस्वीकार किया जा सकता है।
- However, a request **cannot be refused solely on the grounds that India claims exclusive jurisdiction** over the subject matter.
हालांकि, यदि भारत किसी विषय पर विशेष अधिकार क्षेत्र का दावा करता है, तो केवल इसी आधार पर अनुरोध अस्वीकार नहीं किया जा सकता।
- Similarly, under **Article 29**, a request **cannot be rejected simply because India's domestic law does not recognize a right of action.**
इसी तरह, अनुच्छेद 29 के तहत, यदि भारत का आंतरिक कानून किसी कानूनी कार्रवाई को मान्यता नहीं देता है, तो केवल इसी आधार पर अनुरोध को अस्वीकार नहीं किया जा सकता।

Process of Serving Summons in India

भारत में समन भेजने की प्रक्रिया

- If the **central authority does not raise objections**, it proceeds with **serving the summons.**
यदि केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण कोई आपत्ति नहीं उठाता, तो वह समन भेजने की प्रक्रिया जारी रखता है।
- The service is then treated as a **summons issued by an Indian court**, under **Section 29(c) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.**
इस सेवा को भारतीय अदालत द्वारा जारी समन माना जाता है, नागरिक प्रक्रिया संहिता, 1908 की धारा 29(c) के तहत।
- Once the process is completed, the **central authority issues an acknowledgment to the requesting party.**
प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद, केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण अनुरोधकर्ता पक्ष को एक प्रमाण पत्र जारी करता है।
- The **entire process typically takes six to eight months.**
पूरी प्रक्रिया आमतौर पर छह से आठ महीने लगती है।

Can a Default Verdict Be Rendered?

क्या डिफॉल्ट निर्णय दिया जा सकता है?



- A default judgment can be issued under the Hague Service Convention if a foreign government refuses to cooperate in serving summons.

यदि कोई विदेशी सरकार समन भेजने में सहयोग करने से इनकार करती है, तो हेग सेवा संधि के तहत डिफॉल्ट निर्णय दिया जा सकता है।

- Under Article 15, specific conditions must be met before a default judgment is rendered:

अनुच्छेद 15 के तहत, डिफॉल्ट निर्णय देने से पहले कुछ शर्तों को पूरा करना आवश्यक है:

- (a) The document must have been transmitted through one of the methods outlined in the Convention.
(a) दस्तावेज़ को संधि में उल्लिखित किसी एक विधि के माध्यम से भेजा गया होना चाहिए।
 - (b) At least six months must have passed since the transmission.
(b) दस्तावेज़ भेजे जाने के कम से कम छह महीने बीत चुके होने चाहिए।
 - (c) No certificate of service has been received despite all efforts to obtain it through competent authorities.
(c) सभी प्रयासों के बावजूद सक्षम अधिकारियों से सेवा का कोई प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त नहीं हुआ होना चाहिए।
- India allows default judgments even if no service certificate is received, provided that all conditions under Article 15 are met.

भारत डिफॉल्ट निर्णय की अनुमति देता है, भले ही सेवा प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त न हुआ हो, बशर्ते कि अनुच्छेद 15 की सभी शर्तें पूरी की गई हों।

Case Example: Duong v. DDG BIM Services LLC (2023)

मामला उदाहरण: डुआंग बनाम DDG BIM सर्विसेज एलएलसी (2023)

- In 2023, American plaintiffs sought permission to serve Indian defendants via email, citing difficulties in effectuating service through India's central authority. 2023 में, अमेरिकी वादियों ने भारतीय प्रतिवादियों को ईमेल के माध्यम से समन भेजने की अनुमति मांगी, क्योंकि भारत के केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण के माध्यम से सेवा प्रदान करने में कठिनाइयाँ आ रही थीं।
- Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle emphasized that Article 15 functions as a "safety valve," allowing a default judgment if India's central authority fails to comply. न्यायाधीश कैथरीन किमबॉल मिज़ेल ने जोर देकर कहा कि अनुच्छेद 15 एक "सुरक्षा उपाय" के रूप में कार्य करता है, जिससे डिफॉल्ट निर्णय की अनुमति मिलती है यदि भारत का केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण अनुपालन करने में विफल रहता है।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- India's adherence to the Hague Service Convention comes with strict reservations, making the process of serving summons more complex and time-consuming.



भारत की हेग सेवा संधि के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता कड़े प्रतिबंधों के साथ आती है, जिससे समन भेजने की प्रक्रिया अधिक जटिल और समय लेने वाली बन जाती है।

- The only valid method of service is through India's central authority, and alternative service methods are not permitted.

सेवा की एकमात्र वैध विधि भारत के केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण के माध्यम से है, और वैकल्पिक सेवा विधियों की अनुमति नहीं है।

- Default judgments can be issued if India fails to process a valid service request, but strict conditions must be met.

डिफॉल्ट निर्णय दिए जा सकते हैं, यदि भारत वैध सेवा अनुरोध को संसाधित करने में विफल रहता है, लेकिन इसके लिए कड़े मानदंडों को पूरा करना आवश्यक है।

What do Germany's election results mean?

GS Paper II: Geopolitics

What are the major issues that shaped the German federal elections? Will AfD's rise affect Germany's future?

Padmashree Anandhan

The story so far:

In February 23, Germany held its federal elections with a new record of 82.5% turnout. According to the Federal Electoral Committee, the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) along with the Christian Social Union (CSU) won the majority of votes followed by the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) leaving the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens in third and fourth places. The primary takeaway of the election is not the win of CDU but the rise of the AfD. For CDU to form a coalition, 316 seats are needed and the negotiations between CDU, AfD, and SPD remain a deciding factor for Germany's political landscape. The table shows the election results.

What are the major electoral issues? In 2025, a new electoral reform changed the distribution of parliament seats. Voters cannot choose the chancellor directly. A ballot paper has two votes: one to decide the candidate with the most votes in a district, among 630 seats in parliament. The next decides the proportional representation and vote

distribution of the contending political parties. A clause excluded parties winning less than 5% of the vote from parliament. The reform removed "overhang seats," which previously benefitted the SPD, limiting parliament's size. Now, even if a candidate wins in a district, they cannot secure a seat unless their party succeeds in the second ballot.

The second issue was that of immigration. The CDU, FDP, AfD, and BSW have constantly called for tougher immigration regulations over the SPD and Greens' moderate stance. After several attacks in Germany, the public demand for stricter policies increased. CDU leader Friedrich Merz aimed to deport "undocumented foreigners and asylum seekers" from the border. Chancellor, Olaf Scholz criticised his approach but promised further border controls and faster deportations in a "humane and consistent" way. One of the reasons for AfD's vote gain is its strong stance against illegal migration.

Economic revival was the third issue. The parties stood for increasing economic competitiveness. The most debated issue was the debt brake law, restricting the structural deficit to 0.35% of GDP. CDU and FDP supported it, while the SPD and

Ballots and breakthroughs

With a record 82.5% turnout, Germany's 2025 federal election marked a political shift driven by economic concerns, immigration debates, and the rise of the far-right AfD



Friedrich Merz led the Christian Democratic Union to victory in the election

Party	Leader	Vote %	Seats
CDU/CSU	Friedrich Merz	28.5%	208
SPD	Olaf Scholz	16.4%	120
Greens	Robert Habeck	11.6%	85
Left	Jan van Aken	8.8%	69
BSW	Klaus Ernst	4.9%	0
FDP	Christian Lindner	4.3%	0
SSW	Stefan Seidler	0.2%	1

Greens preferred to relax it. However, with a recession, new investments remain uncertain. Merz pledged to cut bureaucracy, while Scholz called for wealth and high inheritance taxes.

Fourth, Ukraine and NATO dominated foreign policy. Most parties stood for supporting Ukraine and boosting the defences of NATO, except for AfD and BSW, who opposed military aid and favoured closer ties with Russia, including repairing Nord Stream pipelines. Meanwhile, SPD, CDU, and Greens supported increasing military spending above NATO's 2% requirement.

What explains the rise of AfD?

The growing influence of the far-right AfD is due to several reasons, primarily the migrant crisis. The government's lenient approach to refugees led to the rise of security and economic concerns, creating a divide. This was used by the AfD in its favour, showcasing a stricter stance on immigration and border control. Another key reason for AfD's rise was its encasing in on the dissatisfaction of mainstream parties. AfD also targeted young voters through social media and appeals to East Germans, who face high unemployment and feel unrepresented. Beyond domestic

factors, the broader right-wing shift in France, Italy, and Hungary further aligned with AfD's agenda.

Will CDU be able to form a stable government?

To form a government, the parties that won must negotiate to form a coalition majority. Germany's election system and the recent reform promote coalition governments, and with CDU and CSU falling 108 seats short of a majority, they need support from either the SPD or AfD. However, with SPD, negotiating on social policy is viewed to be difficult, while the AfD stands secluded as the mainstream parties have vowed not to work with it. CDU leader Merz indicated the same, calling the new government "one of the last chances" to prevent the growth of AfD. According to AfD's leader, Alice Weidel, a political change is already in process but is being delayed. Considering the possibilities of a CDU-SPD coalition, several ideological differences persist on issues such as taxes, social welfare, immigration, employment flexibility, and climate action. But, given the historical relations and the mindset of both parties, despite Scholz's objections, to come together, intense talks are needed to lead to a coalition. One advantage of Germany's political system is that it facilitates negotiations and is well structured to provide opportunities that can prevent a political impasse.

Padmashree Anandhan is a Research Associate with the Europe Area Studies at NIAS

Germany's Election Results and Their Impact

जर्मनी के चुनाव परिणाम और उनका प्रभाव

- Election Results and Political Landscape
- चुनावी परिणाम और राजनीतिक परिदृश्य
- On February 23, 2025, Germany held its federal elections with a record 82.5% voter turnout.

23 फरवरी 2025 को जर्मनी में संघीय चुनाव हुए, जिसमें 82.5% मतदान दर्ज किया गया, जो एक नया रिकॉर्ड है।

- The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU) won the majority of votes, followed by the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD).



क्रिश्चियन डेमोक्रेटिक यूनियन (CDU) और क्रिश्चियन सोशल यूनियन (CSU) ने सबसे अधिक वोट हासिल किए, जबकि अति-दक्षिणपंथी अल्टरनेटिव फॉर जर्मनी (AfD) दूसरे स्थान पर रही।

- Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens finished in third and fourth place, respectively.

सोशल डेमोक्रेट्स (SPD) और ग्रीन्स क्रमशः तीसरे और चौथे स्थान पर रहे।

- To form a government, the CDU needs 316 seats, making negotiations with AfD and SPD crucial.

सरकार बनाने के लिए CDU को 316 सीटों की आवश्यकता है, जिससे AfD और SPD के साथ बातचीत महत्वपूर्ण हो गई है।

Major Electoral Issues

मुख्य चुनावी मुद्दे

Electoral Reforms and Voting System

चुनाव सुधार और मतदान प्रणाली

- In 2025, Germany introduced a new electoral reform that changed the distribution of parliamentary seats.
2025 में, जर्मनी में एक नया चुनाव सुधार लागू किया गया, जिससे संसदीय सीटों के वितरण में बदलाव आया।
- Voters cannot directly elect the chancellor but cast two votes:
मतदाता चांसलर का सीधा चुनाव नहीं कर सकते, बल्कि दो वोट डालते हैं:
 - One vote for a candidate in their district (630 seats in total).
एक वोट अपने जिले के उम्मीदवार के लिए (कुल 630 सीटें)।
 - Another vote for proportional representation of political parties.
दूसरा वोट राजनीतिक दलों के आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए।
- A 5% vote threshold excludes smaller parties from entering parliament.
5% मत सीमा से छोटे दलों को संसद में प्रवेश करने से रोका जाता है।
- The reform also removed "overhang seats", which previously benefited the SPD, thereby limiting the size of parliament.
इस सुधार ने "ओवरहैंग सीटों" को हटा दिया, जिससे पहले SPD को लाभ मिलता था, और संसद का आकार सीमित हो गया।

Immigration Policies

प्रवास नीति

- Immigration was a key issue, with parties divided on how to handle undocumented migrants and asylum seekers.



प्रवास एक प्रमुख मुद्दा था, जिसमें अवैध प्रवासियों और शरणार्थियों को लेकर दलों के विचार अलग-अलग थे।

- CDU, FDP, AfD, and BSW supported **stricter immigration laws**, while SPD and Greens took a **moderate approach**.
CDU, FDP, AfD और BSW ने कड़े प्रवास कानूनों का समर्थन किया, जबकि SPD और ग्रीन्स का दृष्टिकोण नरम था।
- CDU leader **Friedrich Merz** proposed **deporting undocumented foreigners** and **tightening border controls**.
CDU नेता फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़ ने अवैध प्रवासियों को निर्वासित करने और सीमा नियंत्रण कड़ा करने का प्रस्ताव दिया।
- Chancellor **Olaf Scholz** promised "**humane and consistent**" border control with **faster deportations**.
चांसलर ओलाफ शोलज़ ने "मानवीय और सुसंगत" सीमा नियंत्रण और तेजी से निर्वासन का वादा किया।
- AfD gained votes due to its **strong anti-immigration stance**.
AfD ने अपनी सख्त प्रवास विरोधी नीति के कारण अधिक वोट हासिल किए।

3. Economic Policies and Debt Brake Law

3. आर्थिक नीति और ऋण नियंत्रण कानून

- Economic growth and **recession recovery** were major concerns for voters.
आर्थिक वृद्धि और मंदी से उबरना मतदाताओं के लिए प्रमुख चिंता का विषय था।
- The **Debt Brake Law** limits **Germany's structural deficit to 0.35% of GDP**.
ऋण नियंत्रण कानून जर्मनी के संरचनात्मक घाटे को GDP के 0.35% तक सीमित करता है।
- CDU and FDP supported the law, while SPD and Greens wanted to relax it for more investments.
CDU और FDP ने इस कानून का समर्थन किया, जबकि SPD और ग्रीन्स इसे शिथिल करना चाहते थे ताकि अधिक निवेश किया जा सके।
- **Friedrich Merz (CDU)** pledged to **reduce bureaucracy**, while **Scholz (SPD)** proposed **wealth and inheritance taxes**.
फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़ (CDU) ने नौकरशाही कम करने का वादा किया, जबकि शोलज़ (SPD) ने संपत्ति और विरासत कर लगाने का सुझाव दिया।

Foreign Policy: Ukraine and NATO

विदेश नीति: यूक्रेन और NATO



- Most German parties supported Ukraine and increased military spending for NATO.
अधिकांश जर्मन दलों ने यूक्रेन का समर्थन किया और NATO के लिए सैन्य खर्च बढ़ाने की वकालत की।
- AfD and BSW opposed military aid and favored closer ties with Russia.
AfD और BSW ने सैन्य सहायता का विरोध किया और रूस के साथ घनिष्ठ संबंधों का समर्थन किया।
- They also supported repairing the Nord Stream gas pipelines, which were damaged during the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
उन्होंने नॉर्ड स्ट्रीम गैस पाइपलाइनों की मरम्मत का समर्थन किया, जो रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध में क्षतिग्रस्त हुई थीं।
- CDU, SPD, and Greens backed increasing Germany's military budget above NATO's 2% requirement.
CDU, SPD और ग्रीन्स ने NATO की 2% सैन्य खर्च सीमा से अधिक बजट बढ़ाने का समर्थन किया।

Will AfD's Rise Affect Germany's Future?

क्या AfD का उदय जर्मनी के भविष्य को प्रभावित करेगा?

- AfD's significant vote gain signals a shift towards right-wing populism in Germany.
AfD के बड़े पैमाने पर वोट बढ़ने से जर्मनी में दक्षिणपंथी लोकलुभावन राजनीति का उभार दिखता है।
- If CDU includes AfD in its coalition, it could lead to stricter immigration laws and closer ties with Russia.
यदि CDU, AfD को गठबंधन में शामिल करता है, तो इससे कड़े प्रवास कानून और रूस के साथ निकट संबंध बन सकते हैं।
- Mainstream parties (CDU, SPD, Greens) are hesitant to ally with AfD due to its far-right policies.
मुख्यधारा की पार्टियाँ (CDU, SPD, ग्रीन्स) AfD की अतिवादी नीतियों के कारण उसके साथ गठबंधन करने में हिचकिचा रही हैं।
- Germany's role in the EU and NATO may shift, depending on coalition negotiations.
जर्मनी की यूरोपीय संघ और NATO में भूमिका बदल सकती है, यह गठबंधन वार्ता पर निर्भर करेगा।

What Explains the Rise of AfD?

AfD के उभार के कारण क्या हैं?

- The migrant crisis is a key reason for the rise of far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD).
प्रवासी संकट अति-दक्षिणपंथी अल्टरनेटिव फॉर जर्मनी (AfD) के उभार का मुख्य कारण है।
- The government's lenient refugee policies led to concerns about security and the economy, causing public division.
सरकार की शरणार्थियों के प्रति नरम नीतियों ने सुरक्षा और अर्थव्यवस्था को लेकर जनता में विभाजन पैदा किया।



- AfD capitalized on this sentiment, advocating stricter immigration laws and border control.
AfD ने इस भावना का फायदा उठाया, और कठोर प्रवास कानूनों और सीमा नियंत्रण की वकालत की।
- Mainstream parties' failure to address economic concerns led to dissatisfaction, which AfD used to its advantage.
मुख्यधारा की पार्टियों की विफलता ने आर्थिक चिंताओं को बढ़ाया, जिसका AfD ने अपने पक्ष में उपयोग किया।
- AfD actively targeted young voters through social media campaigns.
AfD ने सक्रिय रूप से युवा मतदाताओं को सोशल मीडिया अभियानों के माध्यम से लक्षित किया।
- East Germans, facing high unemployment and lack of representation, turned to AfD.
पूर्वी जर्मनी के लोग, जो बेरोजगारी और प्रतिनिधित्व की कमी से जूझ रहे थे, AfD की ओर आकर्षित हुए।
- Beyond domestic factors, the rise of right-wing parties in France, Italy, and Hungary reinforced AfD's position.
घरेलू कारकों के अलावा, फ्रांस, इटली और हंगरी में दक्षिणपंथी दलों के उभार ने AfD की स्थिति को मजबूत किया।

Will CDU Be Able to Form a Stable Government?

क्या CDU एक स्थिर सरकार बना पाएगा?

- To form a government, parties must negotiate a coalition majority.
सरकार बनाने के लिए, पार्टियों को गठबंधन बहुमत के लिए बातचीत करनी होगी।
- Germany's election system promotes coalition governments, making negotiations crucial.
जर्मनी की चुनाव प्रणाली गठबंधन सरकारों को बढ़ावा देती है, जिससे वार्ता महत्वपूर्ण हो जाती है।
- CDU and CSU are 108 seats short of a majority, so they need support from either SPD or AfD.
CDU और CSU बहुमत से 108 सीटें पीछे हैं, इसलिए उन्हें SPD या AfD में से किसी एक का समर्थन चाहिए।
- Negotiations with SPD are difficult due to differences in social policies.
SPD के साथ बातचीत कठिन है क्योंकि सामाजिक नीतियों पर मतभेद हैं।
- AfD is politically isolated, as mainstream parties refuse to work with it.
AfD राजनीतिक रूप से अलग-थलग है, क्योंकि मुख्यधारा की पार्टियां इसके साथ काम करने को तैयार नहीं हैं।
- CDU leader Friedrich Merz has called this election "one of the last chances" to stop AfD's growth.
CDU नेता फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़ ने इस चुनाव को "AfD के बढ़ते प्रभाव को रोकने का आखिरी मौका" बताया।
- AfD leader Alice Weidel believes that political change is underway but being delayed.



AfD नेता एलिस वीडेल का मानना है कि राजनीतिक बदलाव हो रहा है लेकिन इसे विलंबित किया जा रहा है।

- A CDU-SPD coalition is possible, but major ideological differences exist on:

CDU-SPD गठबंधन संभव है, लेकिन कई वैचारिक मतभेद हैं:

- Taxes (SPD supports wealth tax, CDU opposes it).
कर नीति (SPD संपत्ति कर का समर्थन करता है, CDU इसका विरोध करता है)।
 - Social welfare (SPD favors more spending, CDU prefers budget control).
सामाजिक कल्याण (SPD अधिक खर्च चाहता है, जबकि CDU बजट नियंत्रण चाहता है)।
 - Immigration (SPD is moderate, CDU wants stricter laws).
प्रवास नीति (SPD का दृष्टिकोण नरम है, जबकि CDU सख्त नियम चाहता है)।
 - Employment flexibility (CDU supports deregulation, SPD favors worker rights).
रोजगार लचीलापन (CDU नियमों में ढील चाहता है, जबकि SPD श्रमिक अधिकारों की रक्षा चाहता है)।
 - Climate action (SPD and Greens want aggressive action, CDU is cautious).
जलवायु नीति (SPD और ग्रीन्स आक्रामक कदम उठाना चाहते हैं, जबकि CDU सतर्क है)।
- Despite Scholz's objections, negotiations may lead to a coalition.
शोलज़ की आपत्तियों के बावजूद, बातचीत गठबंधन की ओर जा सकती है।
 - Germany's political system is structured to facilitate negotiations, reducing chances of a political deadlock.
जर्मनी की राजनीतिक प्रणाली वार्ता को सुगम बनाने के लिए बनाई गई है, जिससे राजनीतिक गतिरोध की संभावना कम हो जाती है।



EU team begins crucial visit; activist points to rights issues

Leading the delegation, European Commission chief says India is a trusted friend, strategic ally; sources indicate that Indian side is ready with its arguments in case Manipur situation is raised

GS Paper II: India-EU

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Europe needs “trusted friends” to deal with the era of conflicts, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Thursday as she led a European Union delegation for a two-day visit to India. During the day, she met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for talks.

The visit is being watched keenly as it comes against the backdrop of the U.S. and Russia holding peace talks over the war in Ukraine and the unfolding situation in neighbouring Bangladesh where the EU has been playing a crucial role in ensuring democracy.

“In an era of conflicts and intense competition, you need trusted friends. For Europe, India is such a friend and a strategic ally. I’ll discuss with Prime Minister Narendra Modi how to take our strategic partnership to the next level,” said Ms. von der Leyen. The visit acquires a human rights focus because of remarks made by a leading human rights activist from Europe.

Soon after Ms. von der Leyen’s arrival in India, Claudio Francavilla, Asso-



Key dialogue: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offers tributes to Gandhiji in New Delhi on Thursday. The high-level European Union delegation is on a two-day visit to the country. AP

ciate EU Director at the Human Rights Watch, prodded her to take up the human rights situation in India. “In a recent hearing on India, MEPs from across the political spectrum reiterated their call for a more vocal EU approach to Modi’s crackdown on dissent and minorities. Will @vonderleyen & Commissioners finally comply, or persevere in harmful silence?” asked Mr. Francavilla. The human rights issues raised by Mr. Francavilla has brought back recent re-

marks of the EU regarding the situation in Manipur where ethnic conflict has been raging for 17 months.

In July 2023, the European Parliament had called upon India to end the clashes in Manipur, which often took sectarian and communal dimensions involving Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities of the State. India had hit back strongly at that time and condemned the EU’s remarks as interference into India’s domestic affairs.

Sources hinted that the

Indian side has their arguments ready in case the EU team raises the situation on Manipur during the discussions. “We have already said that Manipur is our internal matter and that is going to be our position this time too in case they bring it up,” said a source privy to the bilateral talks.

The rights situation of Bangladesh and the condition of the religious and ethnic minorities in that country is also a matter that is expected to come up during the interactions.

EU Team Begins Crucial Visit; Activist Points to Rights



Issues

ईयू टीम की महत्वपूर्ण यात्रा शुरू; कार्यकर्ता ने मानवाधिकार मुद्दों को उठाया

- India-EU Strategic Partnership and Diplomatic Talks
- भारत-ईयू रणनीतिक साझेदारी और कूटनीतिक वार्ता
- **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen led a high-level EU delegation on a two-day visit to India.**
यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन ने भारत की दो दिवसीय यात्रा पर एक उच्च स्तरीय ईयू प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व किया।
- She met **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** to discuss **bilateral relations and strategic cooperation.**
उन्होंने विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर से द्विपक्षीय संबंधों और रणनीतिक सहयोग पर चर्चा की।
- Ms. von der Leyen emphasized that **Europe needs "trusted friends"** to navigate the **era of conflicts and competition.**
वॉन डेर लेयेन ने कहा कि "संघर्ष और प्रतिस्पर्धा के दौर" में यूरोप को "विश्वसनीय मित्रों" की आवश्यकता है।
- She described **India as a trusted friend and strategic ally**, aiming to **strengthen the partnership further.**
उन्होंने भारत को एक विश्वसनीय मित्र और रणनीतिक सहयोगी बताया और संबंधों को और मजबूत करने की इच्छा व्यक्त की।

Human Rights Concerns and the Manipur Issue

मानवाधिकार चिंताएँ और मणिपुर मुद्दा

- **European human rights activist Claudio Francavilla** urged Ms. von der Leyen to address **human rights concerns in India.**
यूरोपीय मानवाधिकार कार्यकर्ता क्लाउडियो फ्रांकाविला ने भारत में मानवाधिकार चिंताओं को उठाने के लिए वॉन डेर लेयेन से आग्रह किया।
- He referenced a **recent EU hearing** where members criticized **Modi's alleged crackdown on dissent and minorities.**
उन्होंने हाल ही में हुई ईयू सुनवाई का हवाला दिया, जहाँ मोदी सरकार पर असहमति और अल्पसंख्यकों के दमन का आरोप लगाया गया था।
- The **Manipur ethnic conflict**, ongoing for **17 months**, is a key focus of the discussions.
मणिपुर में पिछले 17 महीनों से जारी जातीय संघर्ष बातचीत का एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है।
- In **July 2023**, the **European Parliament** called on India to resolve the **Meitei and Kuki-Zo community clashes.**
जुलाई 2023 में, यूरोपीय संसद ने भारत से मणिपुर में मैतेई और कुकी-जो समुदायों के संघर्षों को समाप्त करने का आग्रह किया।



- India previously rejected EU's intervention, calling it interference in internal matters.
भारत ने पहले ईयू के हस्तक्षेप को अस्वीकार कर दिया था, इसे आंतरिक मामलों में हस्तक्षेप करार दिया था।
- Indian officials are prepared to reiterate that Manipur is an internal issue if the topic is raised.
भारतीय अधिकारी तैयार हैं यह दोहराने के लिए कि मणिपुर भारत का आंतरिक मामला है, यदि यह मुद्दा उठाया जाता है।

EU's Role in Bangladesh's Political Situation

बांग्लादेश की राजनीतिक स्थिति में ईयू की भूमिका

- The EU has played a crucial role in ensuring democratic stability in Bangladesh.
ईयू बांग्लादेश में लोकतांत्रिक स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहा है।
- Concerns about religious and ethnic minority rights in Bangladesh are expected to be discussed.
बांग्लादेश में धार्मिक और जातीय अल्पसंख्यकों के अधिकारों पर चिंता जताने की संभावना है।

26/11 Mumbai Attacks: Extradition of Tahawwur Rana

26/11 मुंबई हमले: तहव्वुर राणा का प्रत्यर्पण

- A Delhi court requested case records from a Mumbai court regarding the 2008 Mumbai terror attack trial.
दिल्ली की एक अदालत ने 2008 मुंबई आतंकवादी हमले के मुकदमे से जुड़े दस्तावेज़ मुंबई की अदालत से मांगे।
- This development is significant as it precedes the extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana.
यह घटनाक्रम तहव्वुर हुसैन राणा के प्रत्यर्पण से पहले का एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।
- Rana, a Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman, is accused of being the mastermind behind the 26/11 attacks, which killed over 166 people.
राणा, जो पाकिस्तानी मूल के कनाडाई व्यापारी हैं, 26/11 हमलों के मास्टरमाइंड के रूप में 166 से अधिक लोगों की मौत का आरोपी है।
- The U.S. court approved Rana's extradition to India, following an investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
अमेरिकी अदालत ने राणा के भारत प्रत्यर्पण को मंजूरी दी, जो राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी (NIA) की जांच के बाद हुआ।
- U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed that his administration approved Rana's extradition to India, calling him "very evil".



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने पुष्टि की कि उनकी सरकार ने राणा के भारत प्रत्यर्पण को मंजूरी दी, और उसे "बहुत दुष्ट" बताया।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- The EU delegation's visit is crucial amid global diplomatic developments, including the Ukraine-Russia peace talks.

ईयू प्रतिनिधिमंडल की यात्रा महत्वपूर्ण है, खासकर यूक्रेन-रूस शांति वार्ता के बीच।

- The Indian government is prepared to counter any discussions on Manipur, reiterating its stance on non-interference in domestic affairs.

भारत सरकार तैयार है कि मणिपुर पर किसी भी चर्चा का जवाब दिया जाए, और आंतरिक मामलों में हस्तक्षेप न करने की अपनी स्थिति दोहराई जाए।

- The extradition of Tahawwur Rana marks a significant step in India's fight against terrorism.

तहव्वुर राणा का प्रत्यर्पण आतंकवाद के खिलाफ भारत की लड़ाई में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।



Law trying to protect children born of live-in relationships: Uttarakhand govt.

GS Paper II: Society

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand High Court on Thursday orally observed that live-in relationships were increasing and the law (Uniform Civil Code) was merely trying to accommodate the rights of women and the rights of children born out of such relationships.

The observations were made by the Bench of Justices Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Ashish Naithani while hearing two petitions challenging different provisions of the UCC that was rolled out by the State on January 26, 2025.

One of the petitions was filed by social activists Uma Bhatt, Kamla Pant and Munish Kumar, and the other by a couple in a live-in relationship. Under the UCC, couples in live-in relationships have been asked to register with the government.

The Bench asked the couples to approach the court in case any punitive



No privacy rights are violated in the UCC... It is only a regulatory mechanism to protect the interest of women and children

TUSHAR MEHTA
Solicitor-General

action is taken against them in case of non-registration of their relationship.

'State surveillance'

During the hearing, advocate Vrinda Grover highlighted before the court that the UCC Act and Rules allow untrammelled state surveillance and policing of choices that fall within the protected zone of right to privacy.

"UCC establishes a draconian statutory regime of inquiry, authorisation and penalisation of choice of partner," she said.

Justice Tiwari asked Ms. Grover whether the mere fact of registration of rela-

tionships can be challenged as unconstitutional. He stated that live-in-relationships were on the rise even if not fully accepted by society and the law was merely trying to accommodate the changing times and ensure the rights of women and the rights of children born of such relationships.

Ms. Grover replied that a 'critical' reading of the UCC revealed that it could heighten harassment and violence against women and couples who don't go by majoritarian views.

She also added that the law could lead to vigilantism by those against live-in relationships.

"It also allows any person to file a complaint to question the validity of a live-in-relationship. Social morality must not be allowed to subvert constitutional morality," Ms. Grover said.

She also objected to the mandatory requirement of submission of confidential documents like Aadhaar as part of the registration process.

The court asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for the State government, if the Uttarakhand government had invited any suggestions from the public before introducing the UCC and if those suggestions were incorporated or not.

Mr. Mehta submitted in court that no privacy rights were violated in the UCC and that it was only a regulatory mechanism to protect the interest of women who may suffer injustice. He also pointed out that the statutory scheme is the result of wide consultations with all stakeholders.

Law Trying to Protect Children Born of Live-in Relationships: Uttarakhand Govt

लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप से जन्मे बच्चों की सुरक्षा का प्रयास: उत्तराखंड सरकार

- High Court's Observation on Live-in Relationships
- लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप पर उच्च न्यायालय की टिप्पणी

The Uttarakhand High Court observed that live-in relationships are increasing and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) aims to protect the



rights of women and children.

उत्तराखंड उच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप बढ़ रही हैं और समान नागरिक संहिता (UCC) का उद्देश्य महिलाओं और बच्चों के अधिकारों की रक्षा करना है।

- The Bench of Justices Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Ashish Naithani made these remarks while hearing two petitions challenging the UCC.
न्यायमूर्ति मनोज कुमार तिवारी और आशीष नैथानी की पीठ ने यह टिप्पणी UCC को चुनौती देने वाली दो याचिकाओं की सुनवाई के दौरान की।
- The UCC was implemented in Uttarakhand on January 26, 2025, requiring live-in couples to register their relationships.
उत्तराखंड में UCC को 26 जनवरी 2025 को लागू किया गया, जिसके तहत लिव-इन जोड़ों को अपने रिश्ते का पंजीकरण कराना अनिवार्य किया गया।
- The court advised couples to approach the judiciary if punitive action is taken against them for not registering their relationship.
अदालत ने जोड़ों को सलाह दी कि यदि पंजीकरण न करने पर उनके खिलाफ दंडात्मक कार्रवाई की जाती है, तो वे न्यायालय का रुख करें।

Concerns Over State Surveillance and Privacy Violations

राज्य की निगरानी और गोपनीयता उल्लंघन पर चिंता

- Advocate Vrinda Grover argued that the UCC allows state surveillance and policing of personal choices, violating the right to privacy.
अधिवक्ता वृन्दा ग्रोवर ने तर्क दिया कि UCC राज्य की निगरानी और व्यक्तिगत पसंद की पुलिसिंग की अनुमति देता है, जिससे गोपनीयता के अधिकार का उल्लंघन होता है।
- She described UCC as a “draconian statutory regime” that enforces strict inquiries, authorization, and penalization of partner choices.
उन्होंने UCC को “दमनकारी कानूनी व्यवस्था” बताया, जो साथी चुनने के निर्णय पर कड़ी जांच, अनुमति और दंड की व्यवस्था लागू करता है।
- Justice Tiwari questioned whether requiring registration of relationships can be considered unconstitutional.
न्यायमूर्ति तिवारी ने पूछा कि क्या रिश्तों के पंजीकरण की अनिवार्यता को असंवैधानिक माना जा सकता है।
- He emphasized that live-in relationships are growing despite societal resistance, and the law is adapting to protect women and children.
उन्होंने कहा कि लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप समाज में पूरी तरह स्वीकार नहीं किए गए हैं, लेकिन कानून महिलाओं और बच्चों की सुरक्षा के लिए इसे अपनाने की कोशिश कर रहा है।

Objections Raised Against the UCC



UCC के खिलाफ उठाई गई आपत्तियाँ

- **Vrinda Grover warned that UCC could increase harassment and violence against women and couples who do not conform to majoritarian views.**
वृन्दा ग़ोवर ने चेतावनी दी कि UCC से महिलाओं और उन जोड़ों के खिलाफ उत्पीड़न और हिंसा बढ़ सकती है, जो बहुसंख्यक विचारों का पालन नहीं करते।
- She criticized the law for enabling **vigilantism**, allowing any person to file a complaint questioning the validity of a live-in relationship.
उन्होंने इस कानून की आलोचना की, क्योंकि यह लोगों को लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप की वैधता पर सवाल उठाने के लिए शिकायत दर्ज करने की अनुमति देता है, जिससे अराजकता फैल सकती है।
- She also objected to the mandatory submission of confidential documents like **Aadhaar for registration**, citing **privacy concerns**.
उन्होंने पंजीकरण के लिए आधार जैसे गोपनीय दस्तावेजों की अनिवार्यता पर आपत्ति जताई, इसे गोपनीयता का उल्लंघन बताया।

Government's Response and Justification

सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया और औचित्य

- **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta**, appearing for the **Uttarakhand government**, argued that **UCC does not violate privacy rights**.
उत्तराखंड सरकार की ओर से पेश सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने तर्क दिया कि UCC गोपनीयता के अधिकारों का उल्लंघन नहीं करता।
- He defended the law as a **regulatory mechanism to protect women from injustice in live-in relationships**.
उन्होंने इस कानून को लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप में महिलाओं को अन्याय से बचाने के लिए एक नियामक तंत्र बताया।
- The court inquired whether the **government sought public suggestions** before **introducing the UCC** and if those were incorporated.
अदालत ने पूछा कि क्या UCC लागू करने से पहले सरकार ने जनता से सुझाव मांगे और क्या उन सुझावों को शामिल किया गया।
- **Mehta responded that UCC was framed after extensive consultations with all stakeholders**.
मेहता ने कहा कि UCC को सभी हितधारकों के साथ व्यापक परामर्श के बाद तैयार किया गया है।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- The **Uttarakhand UCC mandates live-in relationship registration**, sparking **debates on privacy, surveillance, and individual rights**.



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

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CONTACT: 9971932488



उत्तराखंड UCC में लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप का पंजीकरण अनिवार्य किया गया है, जिससे गोपनीयता, निगरानी और व्यक्तिगत अधिकारों पर बहस छिड़ गई है।

- Advocates argue that it enables state control over personal choices, while the government maintains that it protects women's rights. अधिवक्ताओं का तर्क है कि यह व्यक्तिगत चुनावों पर राज्य का नियंत्रण स्थापित करता है, जबकि सरकार का कहना है कि यह महिलाओं के अधिकारों की रक्षा करता है।

The legal battle over the UCC will likely shape future policies on live-in relationships in India.

UCC पर कानूनी लड़ाई संभवतः भारत में लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप पर भविष्य की नीतियों को प्रभावित करेगी।

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

1. Bhopal Toxic Waste: SC Not to Intervene in High Court Order

भोपाल विषाक्त कचरा: सुप्रीम कोर्ट हाईकोर्ट के आदेश में हस्तक्षेप नहीं करेगा

Supreme Court's Ruling on Bhopal Gas Tragedy Waste

भोपाल गैस त्रासदी के कचरे पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला

2. India's Olive Ridley Turtle Numbers Improve, but Climate Skews Sex Ratio

भारत में ओलिव रिडले कछुओं की संख्या में सुधार, लेकिन जलवायु परिवर्तन से लिंग अनुपात प्रभावित

Population Trends and Climate Concerns

जनसंख्या प्रवृत्तियाँ और जलवायु संबंधी चिंताएँ

3. Banks Will Take Cautionary Stance on Lending to NBFCs

बैंक NBFCs को कर्ज देने में सतर्क रुख अपनाएंगे

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Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



Bhopal toxic waste: SC not to intervene in High Court order

GS Paper III:
Pollutants

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday remarked the petitioners opposed to the transportation and disposal of 337 tonnes of toxic waste from the Bhopal gas tragedy at a Pithampur facility in Madhya Pradesh are indulging in the "NIM-BY" (not in my backyard) principle.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai rejected the pleas made by the local populace of Pithampur and civil rights organisations to intervene in a Madhya Pradesh High Court order on December 3 to shift and destroy the hazardous waste which had been lying buried in and about the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) plant site for nearly 40 years.

"You seem to be following the NIMBY principle, that is, not in my backyard. You are saying if they want to pollute, they may do it somewhere else, but not in my backyard. Not in Indore," Justice Gavai remarked at the petitioners.

The court noted that the State action to dispose of the waste in Pithampur was based on reports by an expert committee.

Senior advocate Devdatt Kamat, appearing for

Trial run begins at Pithampur incinerator

BHOPAL

Soon after the Supreme Court refused to intervene in the matter, the process of conducting the first trial run to dispose a 10-tonne batch of Union Carbide waste began at an incineration facility in Madhya Pradesh's Pithampur on Thursday, officials said. Superintendent of Police, Dhar, Manoj Kumar Singh said that the 10 tonnes of the waste have been unloaded from the containers. The bags were being opened carefully before moving on to the incineration process, which was likely to start early on Friday, he said.

petitioner Chinmay Mishra, said the reports and recommendations for safe transit and destruction are not being followed by the State government. "Incineration will not completely get rid of the toxic waste," senior advocate Anand Grover said.

The Bench said the petitioner and interveners could also give their suggestions to the State government, which would be placed before the expert panel for consideration.

Bhopal Toxic Waste: SC Not to Intervene in High Court Order

भोपाल विषाक्त कचरा: सुप्रीम कोर्ट हाईकोर्ट के आदेश में हस्तक्षेप नहीं करेगा

- Supreme Court's Ruling on Bhopal Gas Tragedy Waste

- भोपाल गैस त्रासदी के कचरे पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला
- The Supreme Court refused to intervene in the Madhya Pradesh High Court's December 3 order to shift and dispose of 337 tonnes of toxic waste from the Bhopal gas tragedy at Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 3 दिसंबर को मध्य प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट द्वारा दिए गए आदेश में हस्तक्षेप करने से इनकार कर दिया, जिसमें भोपाल गैस त्रासदी से उत्पन्न 337 टन विषाक्त कचरे को पीथमपुर, मध्य प्रदेश में नष्ट करने का निर्देश दिया गया था।

- A Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai dismissed pleas from Pithampur residents and civil rights organizations challenging the waste disposal plan.

न्यायमूर्ति बी.आर. गवई की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने पीथमपुर के निवासियों और नागरिक अधिकार संगठनों की याचिकाओं को खारिज कर दिया, जो कचरे के निस्तारण के खिलाफ थीं।

- The court remarked that the petitioners were following the "NIMBY" (Not In My Backyard) principle, meaning they opposed pollution near them but not elsewhere.

अदालत ने कहा कि याचिकाकर्ता "NIMBY" (नॉट इन माई बैकयार्ड) सिद्धांत का पालन कर रहे हैं, यानी वे अपने क्षेत्र में प्रदूषण का विरोध कर रहे हैं, लेकिन अन्य जगहों पर नहीं।

Expert Committee's Role in Waste Disposal

कचरे के निस्तारण में विशेषज्ञ समिति की भूमिका



- The **State government's decision** to dispose of the waste in **Pithampur** was based on **expert committee reports**.
राज्य सरकार का यह निर्णय कि पीथमपुर में कचरे का निस्तारण किया जाए, विशेषज्ञ समिति की रिपोर्टों पर आधारित था।
- **Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat**, representing the petitioners, argued that the **State government was not following safety protocols for toxic waste disposal**.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता देवदत्त कामत, जो याचिकाकर्ताओं का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे, उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि राज्य सरकार विषाक्त कचरे के निस्तारण के लिए सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल का पालन नहीं कर रही है।
- **Senior advocate Anand Grover** stated that **incineration would not completely eliminate toxic waste**, raising concerns over environmental safety.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता आनंद ग्रोवर ने कहा कि दहन (incineration) से विषाक्त कचरा पूरी तरह समाप्त नहीं होगा, जिससे पर्यावरणीय सुरक्षा पर चिंता बढ़ गई।

Court's Final Directive

अदालत का अंतिम निर्देश

- The **Supreme Court suggested** that **petitioners should provide their concerns and suggestions to the State government**, which will be reviewed by the expert panel.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सुझाव दिया कि याचिकाकर्ता अपनी चिंताओं और सुझावों को राज्य सरकार के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करें, जिन्हें विशेषज्ञ पैनल द्वारा समीक्षा के लिए लिया जाएगा।
- The ruling ensures that **the hazardous waste disposal process will continue as per the High Court's decision**.
यह निर्णय सुनिश्चित करता है कि उच्च न्यायालय के आदेश के अनुसार विषाक्त कचरे का निस्तारण जारी रहेगा।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- The **Supreme Court's refusal to intervene** clears the way for the **Bhopal toxic waste disposal at Pithampur**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट के हस्तक्षेप से इनकार करने के बाद, भोपाल के विषाक्त कचरे के पीथमपुर में निस्तारण का रास्ता साफ हो गया।
- **Residents and activists remain concerned** about **environmental risks** and **incomplete waste elimination**.
स्थानीय निवासी और कार्यकर्ता अभी भी पर्यावरणीय जोखिमों और अपूर्ण कचरा निस्तारण को लेकर चिंतित हैं।
- The **State government and expert panel will review suggestions** to ensure **proper safety measures** during waste disposal.



राज्य सरकार और विशेषज्ञ पैनल सुझावों की समीक्षा करेंगे ताकि कचरा निस्तारण के दौरान उचित सुरक्षा उपाय सुनिश्चित किए जा सकें।

India's Olive Ridley turtle numbers improve, but climate skews sex ratio

**GS Paper III:
Environment**

NEW DELHI

A 16-year-long assessment of trends in turtle populations in India says the numbers of the Olive Ridley species suggest a “steady or growing” population. However, rising sand temperatures due to climate change are causing a large proportion of these turtles to be females, “raising questions” on the long-term viability of the population.

The report, spanning studies from 2008 to 2024, has been prepared by the Dakshin Foundation and is a long-term monitoring project carried out in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and several State Forest departments. It provides important information about population trends, threats, and conservation along India's



This month, **Rushikulya** witnessed one of the largest mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles in recent years. BISWARANJAN ROUT

mainland and island coasts. Along with the Olive Ridley, the most populous of marine turtles, the study encompasses other species of sea turtles found in the Indian territory such as the leatherback turtles of the Andaman and Nicobar islands and the Green Turtles of the Lakshadweep islands.

Sea turtles are long-lived, late-maturing, and highly migratory species. Any changes in their populations occur over years or

decades, making long-term monitoring essential for understanding population trends and environmental impacts.

Striking phenomenon

A striking natural phenomenon that evokes considerable public interest is the *arribada* or mass nesting of the Olive Ridley turtle, when tens or hundreds of thousands of female turtles come ashore to nest simultaneously. Gahirmatha and Rushikulya in Odisha are

two of the largest “rookeries” or nesting grounds worldwide, with other similar sized ones found only in Mexico and Costa Rica.

This month, Rushikulya witnessed one of the largest *arribadas* in recent years, with 400,000 to 500,000 turtles nesting in a span of just a few days.

“The overall trend from nearly two decades of monitoring is that the Ridley population is stable or increasing. The fact that *arribadas* don't occur in some years is puzzling as our offshore monitoring indicates that there are large numbers of turtles in the water. However, it may not be a cause for immediate alarm. Nevertheless, we must remain wary of threats to both coastal and oceanic habitats,” Professor Karthik Shankar, who led the study, said in a statement.

India's Olive Ridley Turtle Numbers Improve, but Climate Skews Sex Ratio



भारत में ओलिव रिडले कछुओं की संख्या में सुधार, लेकिन जलवायु परिवर्तन से लिंग अनुपात प्रभावित

- Population Trends and Climate Concerns
- जनसंख्या प्रवृत्तियाँ और जलवायु संबंधी चिंताएँ
- A 16-year-long assessment (2008-2024) of turtle populations in India shows that Olive Ridley turtle numbers are stable or growing.
भारत में 16 वर्षों (2008-2024) तक किए गए मूल्यांकन से पता चलता है कि ओलिव रिडले कछुओं की संख्या स्थिर या बढ़ रही है।
- Climate change is raising sand temperatures, leading to more female turtles being born, raising concerns about the long-term survival of the species.
जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण रेत का तापमान बढ़ रहा है, जिससे अधिक संख्या में मादा कछुए जन्म ले रहे हैं, जिससे प्रजाति के दीर्घकालिक अस्तित्व पर सवाल उठ रहे हैं।
- The study was conducted by the Dakshin Foundation in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and various State Forest Departments.
यह अध्ययन दक्षिण फाउंडेशन द्वारा भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान (IISc), बेंगलुरु और विभिन्न राज्य वन विभागों के सहयोग से किया गया।

Significance of the Study

अध्ययन का महत्व

- The report provides crucial data on population trends, threats, and conservation measures for India's mainland and island coasts.
रिपोर्ट में भारत के मुख्य भूमि और द्वीप तटों पर जनसंख्या प्रवृत्तियों, खतरों और संरक्षण उपायों की महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी दी गई है।
- Apart from the Olive Ridley turtles, the study includes other species like:
ओलिव रिडले कछुओं के अलावा, अध्ययन में अन्य प्रजातियाँ भी शामिल हैं, जैसे:
 - Leatherback turtles of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह के लेदरबैक कछुए।
 - Green turtles of the Lakshadweep Islands.
लक्षद्वीप द्वीप समूह के ग्रीन कछुए।
- Sea turtles are long-lived, late-maturing, and highly migratory species, making long-term monitoring essential for understanding environmental changes.
समुद्री कछुए दीर्घायु, देर से परिपक्व होने वाले और अत्यधिक प्रवासी प्रजातियाँ हैं, इसलिए पर्यावरणीय परिवर्तनों को समझने के लिए दीर्घकालिक निगरानी आवश्यक है।

Mass Nesting Phenomenon: Arribada

सामूहिक अंडे देने की प्रक्रिया: अरिबाडा



- Arribada is a natural phenomenon where thousands of female Olive Ridley turtles come ashore to nest at the same time.
अरिबाडा एक प्राकृतिक घटना है, जिसमें हजारों मादा ओलिव रिडले कछुए एक साथ समुद्र तट पर अंडे देने आते हैं।
- Gahirmatha and Rushikulya in Odisha are two of the world's largest nesting sites, with similar sites only in Mexico and Costa Rica.
ओडिशा में गहीरमाथा और रशिकुल्या दुनिया के सबसे बड़े कछुआ प्रजनन स्थलों में से हैं, जहाँ मेक्सिको और कोस्टा रिका जैसे अन्य स्थानों पर ही ऐसी घटना देखी जाती है।
- In March 2024, Rushikulya witnessed one of the largest arribadas, with 400,000 to 500,000 turtles nesting in just a few days.
मार्च 2024 में, रशिकुल्या ने अब तक की सबसे बड़ी अरिबाडा में से एक देखी, जिसमें 400,000 से 500,000 कछुओं ने कुछ ही दिनों में अंडे दिए।

Concerns and Future Conservation Efforts

चिंताएँ और भविष्य के संरक्षण प्रयास

- Professor Karthik Shankar, who led the study, stated that the Olive Ridley population is stable or increasing.
अध्ययन का नेतृत्व करने वाले प्रोफेसर कार्तिक शंकर ने कहा कि ओलिव रिडले कछुओं की संख्या स्थिर या बढ़ रही है।
- However, arribadas do not occur every year, which is puzzling as offshore monitoring indicates a large turtle population in the waters.
हालाँकि, अरिबाडा हर साल नहीं होती, जो आश्चर्यजनक है क्योंकि समुद्री निगरानी से पता चलता है कि पानी में बड़ी संख्या में कछुए मौजूद हैं।
- He warned that while there is no immediate cause for alarm, threats to coastal and oceanic habitats must be closely monitored.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि हालाँकि तत्काल चिंता की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है, लेकिन तटीय और समुद्री पर्यावासों के खतरों की निगरानी जरूरी है।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- The Olive Ridley turtle population in India is improving, but climate change is affecting their natural balance, particularly skewing the sex ratio.
भारत में ओलिव रिडले कछुओं की संख्या में सुधार हो रहा है, लेकिन जलवायु परिवर्तन उनके प्राकृतिक संतुलन को प्रभावित कर रहा है, विशेष रूप से लिंग अनुपात को।
- Long-term conservation efforts and habitat protection are crucial for ensuring the species' survival in the future.



दीर्घकालिक संरक्षण प्रयास और पर्यावास की सुरक्षा इस प्रजाति के भविष्य के अस्तित्व को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक हैं।

'Banks will take cautionary stance on lending to NBFCs'

Both secured and unsecured loans showing signs of stress in the sector; gradual increase in exposure to NBFCs will be concentrated on those with higher rating, says Ind-Ra's Pankaj Naik

GS Paper III: Banking

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

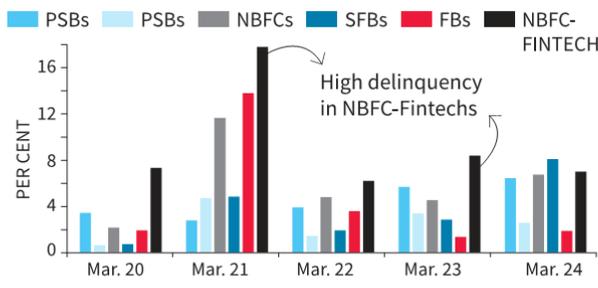
Banks will stay conservative in the short run while lending to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) due to fears of performance in the sector, according to Pankaj Naik, Director of India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

"They [banks] will take a cautionary stance because all is not well in the NBFC sector," he said.

Mr. Naik noted that both secured and unsecured loans were showing signs of stress in NBFCs. Asset quality pressures will show up in FY26, he added. Mr.

Underlying stress

Delinquency levels for personal loans below ₹50,000 were persistently high in small finance banks and NBFC-Fintechs, RBI had warned last year. The chart shows the bank type-wise delinquency levels for personal loans below ₹50,000



Naik further said a gradual increase in bank's exposure to NBFCs would be concentrated on the ones with higher rating.

"They will focus on the top tier NBFCs, if at all they want to increase their exposure," he added.

Pricing of loans to

NBFCs, too, are not expected to come down immediately in the near term, said Mr. Naik. "Just because the risk rate is now becoming normal or low or back to their earlier level, doesn't mean that banks will start increasing their exposure on the NBFC space," he added.

Other researchers cited stress in the microfinance institutions (MFI) sector also to add to the risk aversion of banks. "Consumer incomes have moderated and delinquencies have risen in the MFI segment, which is likely to keep lenders more risk averse for the time being," Nomura said in a research note.

Banks Will Take Cautionary Stance on Lending to NBFCs

बैंक NBFCs को कर्ज देने में सतर्क रुख अपनाएंगे

- Banks' Conservative Approach Towards NBFCs
- NBFCs के प्रति बैंकों का सतर्क दृष्टिकोण
- Banks will remain conservative in the short term while lending to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) due to concerns over their performance.



बैंक निकट भविष्य में गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों (NBFCs) को कर्ज देने में सतर्क रहेंगे, क्योंकि उनकी प्रदर्शन स्थिति को लेकर चिंताएँ हैं।

- **Pankaj Naik, Director at India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)**, stated that **all is not well in the NBFC sector**, prompting banks to **adopt a cautious lending approach**. इंडिया रेटिंग्स एंड रिसर्च (Ind-Ra) के निदेशक पंकज नाइक ने कहा कि NBFC क्षेत्र की स्थिति ठीक नहीं है, इसलिए बैंक ऋण देने में सतर्क रुख अपनाएंगे।
- **Both secured and unsecured loans are showing signs of stress, and asset quality pressures will emerge in FY26.** सुरक्षित और असुरक्षित दोनों प्रकार के ऋणों में तनाव के संकेत दिख रहे हैं, और वित्त वर्ष 2026 में संपत्ति की गुणवत्ता पर दबाव दिखाई देगा।

Selective Lending to Higher-Rated NBFCs

उच्च-रेटिंग वाली NBFCs को प्राथमिकता

- **Banks will gradually increase their exposure to NBFCs but will focus only on top-tier, highly-rated companies.** बैंक धीरे-धीरे NBFCs में निवेश बढ़ाएंगे, लेकिन सिर्फ शीर्ष स्तर की, उच्च रेटिंग वाली कंपनियों पर ध्यान देंगे।
- **Loan pricing to NBFCs is not expected to decline in the near future, even if risk rates normalize.** NBFCs को दिए जाने वाले ऋणों की ब्याज दरें निकट भविष्य में कम होने की संभावना नहीं है, भले ही जोखिम दर सामान्य हो जाए।
- **Mr. Naik clarified that banks will not rush to increase lending just because risk levels have returned to normal.** नाइक ने स्पष्ट किया कि बैंक सिर्फ इसलिए जल्दी ऋण नहीं बढ़ाएंगे, क्योंकि जोखिम स्तर सामान्य हो गए हैं।

Microfinance Sector's Impact on Risk Perception

सूक्ष्म-वित्तीय क्षेत्र का जोखिम पर प्रभाव

- **Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) are also under stress, contributing to banks' increased risk aversion.** सूक्ष्म-वित्तीय संस्थानों (MFIs) पर भी दबाव है, जिससे बैंक जोखिम लेने से बच रहे हैं।
- **Consumer incomes have moderated, and delinquencies in the MFI sector have risen, making banks hesitant to lend further.** उपभोक्ताओं की आय में स्थिरता आई है, और MFI क्षेत्र में ऋण चूक (डिफॉल्ट) बढ़ी है, जिससे बैंक अधिक ऋण देने से हिचकिचा रहे हैं।
- **A Nomura research note stated that rising delinquencies in the MFI sector will keep lenders cautious for now.**



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CONTACT: 9971932488



नोमुरा की एक शोध रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि MFI क्षेत्र में बढ़ती ऋण चूक से बैंक फिलहाल अधिक सतर्क रहेंगे।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- **Banks will continue to take a cautionary approach** towards lending to NBFCs, prioritizing **high-rated companies**.
बैंक NBFCs को कर्ज देने में सतर्कता बरतते रहेंगे, और केवल उच्च-रेटिंग वाली कंपनियों को प्राथमिकता देंगे।
- **Stress in secured and unsecured loans**, along with **challenges in the microfinance sector**, will make banks **more risk-averse**.
सुरक्षित और असुरक्षित ऋणों में तनाव, साथ ही सूक्ष्म-वित्तीय क्षेत्र की चुनौतियाँ, बैंकों को जोखिम लेने से बचने के लिए मजबूर करेंगी।

The **NBFC sector must strengthen its financial stability** to **regain banks' confidence** and **ensure long-term growth**.
NBFC क्षेत्र को अपनी वित्तीय स्थिरता मजबूत करनी होगी, ताकि बैंकों का विश्वास फिर से जीता जा सके और दीर्घकालिक विकास सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।



Piyush Goyal urges industry heads to shed protectionist mindset

GS Paper III: External Sector

MUMBAI

Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday urged Indian industry leaders to shed their protectionist mindset and focus on becoming globally competitive, instead of depending on government support through subsidies, high import duties, and other protective measures.

"Till when can we look up to the government [for support]? Or, till when can we win on crutches of subsidies and support, incentives, high import duties, the protectionist mindset, and being very defensive in our engagement with the world?" Mr. Goyal asked, speaking at an event organised by the IMC Chamber of Commerce in Mumbai.

The Minister made it clear that the country must move beyond short-term protectionist policies and adopt a competitive and self-sustaining approach in global trade.

"We as a nation will have to decide to get out of this protectionist mindset and weak-kneed thinking," the Minister said, emphasising that relying on government intervention would not help the country achieve long-term economic growth.

Mr. Goyal stressed that true competitiveness would come from the industry's ability to innovate, upgrade manufacturing practices, enhance skills, and improve efficiency.

Piyush Goyal Urges Industry Heads to Shed Protectionist Mindset

पीयूष गोयल ने उद्योगपतियों से संरक्षणवादी मानसिकता छोड़ने का आग्रह किया

Call for Global Competitiveness

वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा के लिए आह्वान

Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal urged Indian industry leaders to move away from a protectionist mindset and focus on global competitiveness.

केंद्रीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने भारतीय उद्योगपतियों से संरक्षणवादी मानसिकता छोड़ने और वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने का आग्रह किया।

- He emphasized that businesses should not rely on government support in the form of subsidies, high import duties, or protective measures.

उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि व्यवसायों को सरकारी सहायता जैसे सब्सिडी, उच्च आयात शुल्क, या अन्य सुरक्षात्मक उपायों पर निर्भर नहीं रहना चाहिए।

Need for Self-Sustaining Growth

स्व-निर्भर वृद्धि की आवश्यकता

- Speaking at an event organized by the IMC Chamber of Commerce in Mumbai, Mr. Goyal questioned, "Till when can we look up to the government for support?"

मुंबई में IMC चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स द्वारा आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में बोलते हुए, श्री गोयल ने पूछा, "हम कब तक सरकार पर निर्भर रह सकते हैं?"

- He made it clear that short-term protectionist policies will not help India achieve long-term economic growth.

उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि अल्पकालिक संरक्षणवादी नीतियाँ भारत को दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक विकास हासिल करने में मदद नहीं करेंगी।



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- The country must **adopt a competitive and self-sustaining approach** to succeed in global trade.

देश को वैश्विक व्यापार में सफल होने के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक और आत्मनिर्भर दृष्टिकोण अपनाना चाहिए।

True Competitiveness Through Innovation

नवाचार के माध्यम से वास्तविक प्रतिस्पर्धा

- Mr. Goyal emphasized that **true competitiveness** would come from:
श्री गोयल ने जोर देकर कहा कि वास्तविक प्रतिस्पर्धा निम्नलिखित से आएगी:
 - **Innovation and upgradation of manufacturing practices.**
नवाचार और विनिर्माण प्रथाओं के उन्नयन से।
 - **Enhancement of skills and workforce efficiency.**
कौशल और कार्यबल दक्षता में सुधार से।
 - **Better engagement with global markets without defensive strategies.**
रक्षात्मक रणनीतियों के बिना वैश्विक बाजारों के साथ बेहतर सहभागिता से।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- **Piyush Goyal's message** to industry leaders is clear: **India must compete on a global scale without over-reliance on government protection.**
पीयूष गोयल का उद्योगपतियों के लिए संदेश स्पष्ट है: भारत को सरकारी सुरक्षा पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता के बिना वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धा करनी होगी।
- **Long-term economic success** will depend on **self-sufficiency, innovation, and efficiency in production and trade.**
दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक सफलता स्व-निर्भरता, नवाचार, और उत्पादन एवं व्यापार में दक्षता पर निर्भर करेगी।



'U.S. tariffs to hit gold jewellery exports'

GS Paper III: External Sector

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The likelihood of India's key export products to the U.S. attracting higher tariffs ranging from 5% to 20% [in case the Union government fails to nullify the action by providing increased market access and buying more technology from the U.S.], could negatively impact India's gem and jewellery exports to that market, as per a study conducted by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), India's apex trade body.

India's gold jewellery exports to the U.S. could decrease by as much as 50% to \$1.5 billion and the loss of 20 tonne of jewellery can lead to direct job losses for 1-1.5 lakh people only in the gold jewellery seg-

India's gold jewellery exports to the U.S. can halve to \$1.5 bn and cost the sector up to 1.5 lakh jobs

ment, said Sabyasachi Ray, executive director, GJEPC.

The study has also mentioned Indian gold jewellery manufacturers could shift base to Oman, Singapore, the UAE and even Hong Kong to take advantage of the relatively lower tariffs in those countries.

GJEPC exporter members opined the Centre must pursue a preferential trade pact with the U.S. and engage in talks to highlight trade concerns and seek tariff relaxation. India's gem and jewellery exports to the U.S. stood at \$9.45 billion in FY24.

U.S. Tariffs to Hit Gold Jewellery Exports

अमेरिकी टैरिफ से भारतीय स्वर्ण

आभूषण निर्यात प्रभावित होगा

Impact of Higher U.S. Tariffs on Indian Exports

भारतीय निर्यात पर अमेरिकी टैरिफ का प्रभाव

The U.S. may impose higher tariffs ranging from 5% to 20% on key Indian exports if India does not provide increased market access and purchase more technology from the U.S.

यदि भारत अमेरिकी बाजार में अधिक पहुंच नहीं देता और अमेरिकी तकनीक की खरीद नहीं बढ़ाता, तो अमेरिका भारतीय निर्यात पर 5% से 20% तक के उच्च टैरिफ लगा सकता है।

- This could negatively impact India's gem and jewellery exports, a concern highlighted by a study conducted by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

यह भारत के रत्न और आभूषण निर्यात को नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित कर सकता है, जैसा कि रत्न और आभूषण निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद (GJEPC) के एक अध्ययन में बताया गया है।

Projected Losses in Gold Jewellery Exports

स्वर्ण आभूषण निर्यात में संभावित नुकसान

- India's gold jewellery exports to the U.S. could decline by 50% to \$1.5 billion due to increased tariffs.



उच्च टैरिफ के कारण भारत का अमेरिकी स्वर्ण आभूषण निर्यात 50% घटकर \$1.5 बिलियन हो सकता है।

- The loss of 20 tonnes of jewellery exports could lead to direct job losses for 1-1.5 lakh people in the gold jewellery sector.

20 टन आभूषण निर्यात का नुकसान स्वर्ण आभूषण क्षेत्र में 1-1.5 लाख लोगों की नौकरी छिनने का कारण बन सकता है।

Shift in Manufacturing Base

निर्माण केंद्रों में बदलाव

- Indian gold jewellery manufacturers may relocate to Oman, Singapore, UAE, or Hong Kong to benefit from lower tariffs in these regions.

भारतीय स्वर्ण आभूषण निर्माता कम टैरिफ का लाभ उठाने के लिए ओमान, सिंगापुर, यूएई और हांगकांग में अपने उत्पादन केंद्र स्थानांतरित कर सकते हैं।

Call for a Preferential Trade Agreement

वरीयतापूर्ण व्यापार समझौते की आवश्यकता

- GJEPC exporters urged the Indian government to negotiate a preferential trade pact with the U.S.

GJEPC निर्यातकों ने भारतीय सरकार से अनुरोध किया कि वह अमेरिका के साथ एक वरीयतापूर्ण व्यापार समझौते पर बातचीत करे।

- Industry leaders recommend engaging in discussions with U.S. authorities to address trade concerns and seek tariff relaxations.

**उद्योग जगत के नेताओं ने अमेरिकी अधिकारियों से बातचीत कर व्यापार संबंधी चिंताओं को हल करने और टैरिफ में छूट की मांग करने की सिफारिश की है।

Current Trade Scenario

वर्तमान व्यापार परिदृश्य

- In FY24, India's gem and jewellery exports to the U.S. stood at \$9.45 billion. वित्त वर्ष 2024 में, भारत का अमेरिकी रत्न और आभूषण निर्यात \$9.45 बिलियन था।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- Higher tariffs on gold jewellery exports will significantly impact India's trade and employment in the sector.

स्वर्ण आभूषण निर्यात पर उच्च टैरिफ भारत के व्यापार और रोजगार को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित करेगा।



- **Shifting manufacturing to other countries is an option, but a preferential trade agreement with the U.S. is essential to sustain exports.**
अन्य देशों में निर्माण स्थानांतरित करना एक विकल्प हो सकता है, लेकिन अमेरिकी बाजार में निर्यात बनाए रखने के लिए वरीयतापूर्ण व्यापार समझौता आवश्यक है।

Could African giant pouched rats offer a solution to the challenges of TB diagnosis?

A non-profit based in Tanzania says its initiative to use trained rats as a secondary diagnostic tool for tuberculosis has helped with early diagnosis and curtailed transmission in three East African countries. The rats detected TB in children, which has generally been difficult to do, at twice the rate compared to conventional testing, a study found

Neelanjana Rai

GS Paper III: S&T

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the deadliest diseases worldwide, causing over 10 million new infections each year globally. It is estimated that around 28% of the world's new TB cases occur in India. An estimated 5 lakh deaths occur due to TB each year in the country, which is about one TB death every minute. Despite significant medical advancements, detecting TB remains a major challenge, particularly in remote and underserved populations.

The government's National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) aimed to eradicate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030, but the chances of this are looking bleak. Despite the India TB Report 2024 revealing a 16% decrease in the incidence of TB and an 18% decrease in TB-related death since 2015, elimination remains a challenge.

Traditional diagnostics frequently fail to detect TB in its early stages, particularly in children and people with low bacillary loads (*M. tuberculosis* concentration present in a sputum sample). This means that many cases may go undetected, contributing to the disease's spread. Many people are also unwilling to seek a second diagnosis if the first test result was negative, and often, are only diagnosed at late stages. Slow and insufficient diagnostic facilities are another issue: residents of rural and remote areas have to travel long distances to get tested. While the government has made TB treatment free, travel is often a big cost. This is where perhaps, innovative approaches could make a significant difference.

African giant pouched rats

One such initiative is of APOPO, a non-profit organisation, headquartered in Tanzania, that trains African giant pouched rats (nicknamed HeroRATS), to detect TB in sputum samples. "These rats have an outstanding ability to sniff diseases due to their sensitive olfactory receptors," says Tefera Agizew, head of tuberculosis at APOPO. The rats, he says, demonstrate remarkable accuracy, particularly in detecting cases that traditional methods often miss, serving as a secondary diagnostic tool. Their ability to identify TB quickly and accurately helps improve early diagnosis and curtail transmission particularly in areas with limited resources. The rats, says Dr. Agizew have successfully



The rats signal a positive response by holding their nose in a scent hole for three seconds or longer. APOPO HERDRATS VIA INSTAGRAM

transformed TB diagnosis in three countries: Tanzania, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

The rats, bred and nurtured in a facility, undergo a rigorous training process, beginning at just two to three months old, lasting up to nine months. They are exposed to sputum samples, and when they successfully identify TB-positive samples, researchers signal their success with a clicking sound, followed by a reward of a smoothie. This positive reinforcement helps hone their skills. Remarkably, 100 samples can be tested in just 20 minutes, a process typically taking a technician three to four days using conventional sputum-smear microscopy.

The rat's food habits are otherwise controlled. They are fed during and after testing. Each morning, APOPO staff collect test samples from directly observed therapy (DOT) facilities for reassessment. Samples are placed under 10 sniffing holes in a rectangular chamber (205 cm x 55 cm x 55 cm) and evaluated by an average of five rats daily. Trained through operant conditioning, the rats signal a positive response by holding their nose in a scent hole for three seconds or longer. Handlers monitor and record these responses, and rat-positive samples are further analysed using Ziehl-Neelsen (ZN) microscopy and fluorescent microscopy.

A study published in *BMC Infectious Diseases* last April, demonstrated that these rats were able to detect increased tuberculosis cases in both children and adults in Tanzania. TB is generally difficult to detect in children, but the rats identified it at twice the rate compared to

A French study, published in Science Direct, found that ants detected cancer cells in three days using chemical cues and a sugar reward. Their ability to distinguish cancer types highlights their medical potential

conventional testing, the study said. The study looked at 35,766 patients, of whom 5.3% (1900/35,766) were smear-positive and 94.7% (33,866/35,766) were smear or Xpert-negatives. Of those with negative results, 2,029 TB cases were detected using rats, which otherwise would have been missed, the paper said. "They could detect six times more when the bacillary load is scanty or 1+ compared to 2+ or 3+ in both children and adults," says Dr. Agizew, who was also the lead researcher of the study. Other studies on rats detecting drug-resistant TB are ongoing.

Disease detection by animals

African giant pouched rats aren't the only animals capable of detecting diseases and TB is not the only disease where animals have been used. Some animals excel where technology falls short. Dogs for instance, are widely used: they have between 125 million and 300 million olfactory receptors and a special sensory organ called the Jacobson's organ located in their nasal passage, specifically designed to detect pheromones and other chemical signals. Some research indicates that trained dogs may be able to identify Parkinson's disease.

Unlike dogs, who require extensive training, ants learn quickly and inexpensively, making them a promising alternative for cancer detection. "Insects can help us develop diagnostic tools faster," says Debajit Saha, assistant professor at Michigan State University, U.S. A French study, published in *Science Direct*, found that ants detected cancer cells in three days using chemical cues and a sugar reward. Their ability to distinguish cancer types highlights their potential. "Our findings suggest ants can serve as fast, feasible, and less laborious tools for detecting cancer biomarkers," says lead researcher Baptiste Piqueret of Laboratoire d'Éthologie Expérimentale et Comparée, France.

Another macroscopic species (one with a highly developed sense of smell), honeybees possess highly sensitive olfactory antennal lobes. Debajit Saha's research shows they can detect lung cancer using synthetic biomarkers

(artificial human breath that contains cancerous odours). Neural activity in the honeybee antennal lobe changes in response to cancer and non-cancerous samples, distinguishing between small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with 88% accuracy. Dr. Saha and his team aim to develop a diagnostic tool capable of detecting early-stage lung cancer—a disease that can currently only be detected at late stages. "The field is growing and ever-developing. Researchers are going back to mother nature and applying what we are learning from these animals," Dr. Saha says.

The Indian scenario

With India still grappling with high rates of undiagnosed TB, especially in underserved areas, could 'HeroRATS' be a solution?

Tuberculosis specialists believe this may work. "The work of 'HeroRATS' sounds fascinating and can be looked at as a secondary means of diagnosis but whether it can be implemented in India or not, only the NTEP can determine," says Dewraj Sarkar, District TB Officer, Darjeeling, West Bengal.

Rajendra Kumar, State TB Officer of Chandigarh believes integrating rat-based TB detection into the NTEP could significantly enhance case detection, particularly among children and smear-negative patients. "The cost-effectiveness, speed, and accuracy of African giant pouched rats make them a viable secondary screening tool in high TB-burden areas," he says. A phased approach, starting in select high-TB burden areas and States, followed by controlled expansion, could ensure feasibility and effectiveness, he adds.

"If the Central TB Division takes the initiative to collaborate with APOPO and implement the programme, it will help high-burden States like Maharashtra to detect cases faster," says Sandeep Sangale, STO of Maharashtra.

Dr. Agizew says he hopes to revive discussions that were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, to introduce these trained rats to India as secondary diagnostic tools, pointing out that this collaboration could significantly accelerate diagnosis, save lives and perhaps support the country's efforts to eradicate TB.

(Neelanjana Rai is an independent journalist covering global health, indigenous communities, innovations and environmental issues. neelanjana189@gmail.com)

THE GIST

The government's plan to eradicate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030, has hit a wall. Despite a 16% decrease in the incidence of TB and an 18% decrease in TB-related deaths since 2015, elimination remains a challenge

Rats trained and bred for the purpose of sniffing out TB offer a way out of the diagnostic bottleneck that the government faces. They are proving adept at confirming cases of TB even where the samples are barely adequate

Bureaucrats in India believe that integrating rat-based TB detection could enhance case detection, particularly among children and smear-negative patients. The cost-effectiveness, speed, and accuracy of trained African giant pouched rats make them a viable screening tool in high TB-burden areas



Could African Giant Pouched Rats Offer a Solution to TB Diagnosis?

क्या अफ्रीकी विशाल पाउच वाले चूहे टीबी निदान की चुनौती का समाधान हो सकते हैं?

- Tuberculosis: A Persistent Global Challenge
- क्षय रोग: एक सतत वैश्विक चुनौती
- Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the deadliest diseases worldwide, with 10 million new infections annually.
टीबी दुनिया की सबसे घातक बीमारियों में से एक बनी हुई है, जिसमें हर साल 1 करोड़ नए संक्रमण होते हैं।
- India accounts for 28% of the world's new TB cases, with 5 lakh TB-related deaths annually, translating to one TB death every minute.
भारत दुनिया के 28% नए टीबी मामलों के लिए जिम्मेदार है, जहाँ हर साल 5 लाख मौतें होती हैं, यानी हर मिनट एक टीबी मौत।
- The National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to eradicate TB in India by 2025, but the goal seems difficult to achieve.
राष्ट्रीय टीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम (NTEP) का लक्ष्य 2025 तक भारत से टीबी को खत्म करना है, लेकिन यह अभी भी एक बड़ी चुनौती बनी हुई है।

Challenges in TB Diagnosis

टीबी निदान में चुनौतियाँ

- Traditional tests struggle to detect TB in its early stages, especially in children and patients with low bacillary loads.
पारंपरिक परीक्षण प्रारंभिक चरणों में टीबी का पता लगाने में विफल रहते हैं, विशेष रूप से बच्चों और कम बैसिलरी लोड वाले मरीजों में।
- Many patients do not seek a second test if their initial result is negative, leading to delayed diagnosis and further spread.
कई मरीज दोबारा परीक्षण नहीं कराते, यदि उनका पहला परिणाम नकारात्मक आता है, जिससे निदान में देरी और संक्रमण का प्रसार होता है।
- Limited diagnostic facilities in rural areas force people to travel long distances, making early detection difficult.
ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सीमित परीक्षण सुविधाएँ लोगों को लंबी दूरी तय करने के लिए मजबूर करती हैं, जिससे समय पर निदान मुश्किल हो जाता है।



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CONTACT: 9971932488



African Giant Pouched Rats: A Unique Solution

अफ्रीकी विशाल पाउच वाले चूहे: एक अनूठा समाधान

- APOPO, a non-profit organization in Tanzania, trains African Giant Pouched Rats (HeroRATS) to detect TB in sputum samples.
तंजानिया स्थित गैर-लाभकारी संगठन APOPO अफ्रीकी विशाल पाउच वाले चूहों (HeroRATS) को थूक के नमूनों में टीबी का पता लगाने के लिए प्रशिक्षित करता है।
- These rats have highly sensitive olfactory receptors, allowing them to sniff out TB cases missed by traditional methods.
इन चूहों में अत्यधिक संवेदनशील गंध पहचानने की क्षमता होती है, जिससे वे पारंपरिक तरीकों से छूटे हुए टीबी मामलों का पता लगा सकते हैं।
- APOPO's initiative has helped in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Ethiopia, improving early TB diagnosis and reducing transmission.
APOPO की पहल ने तंजानिया, मोज़ाम्बिक और इथियोपिया में मदद की है, जिससे प्रारंभिक टीबी निदान और संक्रमण नियंत्रण में सुधार हुआ है।

Training Process of HeroRATS

हीरोरैट्स का प्रशिक्षण प्रक्रिया

- The rats are trained from 2-3 months of age, with a nine-month training period.
चूहों को 2-3 महीने की उम्र से प्रशिक्षित किया जाता है, और यह प्रशिक्षण प्रक्रिया नौ महीने तक चलती है।
- Training involves exposure to TB-positive sputum samples, with clicker sounds and smoothie rewards reinforcing correct identification.
प्रशिक्षण में टीबी-संक्रमित थूक के नमूनों के संपर्क में लाया जाता है, और सही पहचान पर क्लिकर ध्वनि और स्मूथी इनाम दिया जाता है।
- 100 samples can be tested in just 20 minutes, compared to three to four days required for conventional testing.
सिर्फ 20 मिनट में 100 नमूनों का परीक्षण किया जा सकता है, जबकि पारंपरिक परीक्षण में तीन से चार दिन लगते हैं।

Scientific Validation of the Method

इस पद्धति का वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण

- A study published in BMC Infectious Diseases found that rats detected TB in children at twice the rate of conventional testing.
BMC इन्फेक्शियस डिजीज में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि चूहों ने बच्चों में टीबी का पता पारंपरिक परीक्षण की तुलना में दोगुनी दर पर लगाया।

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



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Out of 35,766 patients, 2,029 TB cases were detected using rats, which would have otherwise been missed.
35,766 मरीजों में से, 2,029 टीबी मामले चूहों के उपयोग से पता चले, जो अन्यथा छूट सकते थे।
- Rats were six times more effective in detecting TB when bacillary load was low (scanty or 1+).
जब बैसिलरी लोड कम (scanty या 1+) था, तब चूहे टीबी का पता लगाने में छह गुना अधिक प्रभावी थे।

Future Prospects and Ongoing Research

भविष्य की संभावनाएँ और चल रहे शोध

- Further studies are being conducted on rats detecting drug-resistant TB, which could revolutionize TB diagnosis.
दवा-प्रतिरोधी टीबी का पता लगाने के लिए चूहों पर और अध्ययन किए जा रहे हैं, जो टीबी निदान में क्रांति ला सकते हैं।
- Expanding this initiative to more TB-endemic countries like India could enhance early detection and reduce TB mortality.
भारत जैसे टीबी प्रभावित देशों में इस पहल का विस्तार प्रारंभिक निदान को बढ़ावा देने और टीबी से होने वाली मृत्यु दर को कम करने में मदद कर सकता है।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- African Giant Pouched Rats offer a promising and cost-effective solution for TB detection, especially in resource-limited settings.
अफ्रीकी विशाल पाउच वाले चूहे टीबी निदान के लिए एक आशाजनक और किफायती समाधान प्रदान करते हैं, विशेष रूप से संसाधन-संकट वाले क्षेत्रों में।
- Their speed and accuracy surpass traditional methods, making them a valuable secondary diagnostic tool.
उनकी गति और सटीकता पारंपरिक तरीकों से बेहतर है, जिससे वे एक महत्वपूर्ण द्वितीयक नैदानिक उपकरण बन सकते हैं।
- Implementing such innovative approaches in India could significantly contribute to achieving the NTEP's goal of TB elimination.
भारत में इस तरह की नवाचार तकनीकों को लागू करने से NTEP के टीबी उन्मूलन लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान मिल सकता है।

Disease Detection by Animals

जानवरों द्वारा रोगों का पता लगाना

Various Animals Used in Disease Detection

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



विभिन्न जानवरों का रोग निदान में उपयोग

African Giant Pouched Rats are not the only animals used for disease detection.

अफ्रीकी विशाल पाउच वाले चूहे ही रोग निदान के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले अकेले जानवर नहीं हैं।

- Dogs have 125 million to 300 million olfactory receptors and a special sensory organ called Jacobson's organ, enabling them to detect pheromones and other chemical signals.

कुत्तों में 125 मिलियन से 300 मिलियन गंध-संवेदक होते हैं, और उनकी नाक में जैकब्सन ऑर्गन नामक एक विशेष अंग होता है, जो उन्हें रासायनिक संकेतों और फेरोमोन का पता लगाने में सक्षम बनाता है।

- Research indicates that trained dogs may be able to detect Parkinson's disease. अनुसंधान से पता चलता है कि प्रशिक्षित कुत्ते पार्किंसंस रोग का पता लगाने में सक्षम हो सकते हैं।

Ants as a Potential Cancer Detector

कैंसर का पता लगाने में चींटियों की क्षमता

- Ants learn quickly and inexpensively, making them a promising alternative for cancer detection.

चींटियाँ तेजी से और सस्ते में सीखती हैं, जिससे वे कैंसर के निदान के लिए एक संभावित विकल्प बन सकती हैं।

- A French study in Science Direct found that ants detected cancer cells in just three days using chemical cues and sugar rewards.

साइंस डायरेक्ट में प्रकाशित एक फ्रांसीसी अध्ययन में पाया गया कि चींटियों ने सिर्फ तीन दिनों में रासायनिक संकेतों और चीनी इनाम का उपयोग करके कैंसर कोशिकाओं का पता लगाया।

- Their ability to distinguish different cancer types highlights their potential as diagnostic tools.

अलग-अलग प्रकार के कैंसर की पहचान करने की उनकी क्षमता उन्हें एक महत्वपूर्ण नैदानिक उपकरण बनाती है।

Honeybees and Lung Cancer Detection

मधुमक्खियाँ और फेफड़ों के कैंसर का पता लगाना

- Honeybees have highly sensitive olfactory antennal lobes, enabling them to detect lung cancer using synthetic biomarkers.

मधुमक्खियों में अत्यधिक संवेदनशील गंध पहचानने वाले एंटीना लोब होते हैं, जिससे वे कृत्रिम बायोमार्कर का उपयोग करके फेफड़ों के कैंसर का पता लगा सकती हैं।



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CONTACT: 9971932488



- Research shows that **honeybee neural activity changes when exposed to cancerous and non-cancerous samples**, with an **88% accuracy** in distinguishing small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) from non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).
अनुसंधान से पता चला है कि जब मधुमक्खियों को कैंसरयुक्त और गैर-कैंसरयुक्त नमूनों के संपर्क में लाया जाता है, तो उनकी तंत्रिका गतिविधि बदल जाती है, और वे 88% सटीकता के साथ छोटे-कोशिका फेफड़े के कैंसर (SCLC) और गैर-छोटे कोशिका फेफड़े के कैंसर (NSCLC) के बीच अंतर कर सकती हैं।

The Indian Scenario: Can HeroRATS Help?

भारतीय परिदृश्य: क्या HeroRATS मदद कर सकते हैं?

- India continues to struggle with **high rates of undiagnosed TB**, especially in **underserved areas**.
**भारत अभी भी टीबी के अनिर्धारित मामलों की उच्च दर से जूझ रहा है, विशेष रूप से कम सेवा प्राप्त क्षेत्रों में।
- **Tuberculosis specialists believe that HeroRATS could be a viable solution** for improving TB detection in India.
टीबी विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि HeroRATS भारत में टीबी का पता लगाने के लिए एक प्रभावी समाधान हो सकते हैं।
- **Dewraj Sarkar, District TB Officer (Darjeeling, West Bengal)** believes that HeroRATS could serve as a **secondary means of diagnosis**.
**दार्जिलिंग, पश्चिम बंगाल के जिला टीबी अधिकारी देवराज सरकार का मानना है कि HeroRATS एक द्वितीयक निदान के रूप में काम कर सकते हैं।

Expert Opinions on Implementing Rat-Based TB Detection in India

भारत में चूहों पर आधारित टीबी निदान लागू करने पर विशेषज्ञों की राय

- **Rajendra Kumar, State TB Officer (Chandigarh)** suggests integrating **rat-based TB detection into the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)** for better case detection.
चंडीगढ़ के राज्य टीबी अधिकारी राजेंद्र कुमार का सुझाव है कि **राष्ट्रीय टीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम (NTEP) में चूहों पर आधारित टीबी निदान को शामिल किया जाए।
- **A phased approach** could ensure feasibility and effectiveness, starting in **high-TB burden areas**.
एक चरणबद्ध दृष्टिकोण को अपनाकर पहले अधिक टीबी प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में लागू किया जा सकता है।
- **Sandeep Sangale, STO of Maharashtra**, emphasized that if the **Central TB Division collaborates with APOPO**, TB detection in **high-burden states like Maharashtra** could improve significantly.
महाराष्ट्र के राज्य टीबी अधिकारी संदीप सांगले ने कहा कि यदि **केंद्रीय टीबी प्रभाग APOPO के साथ सहयोग करता है, तो महाराष्ट्र जैसे उच्च-टीबी प्रभावित राज्यों में निदान में तेजी लाई जा सकती है।



Future Prospects and Implementation Plans

भविष्य की संभावनाएँ और कार्यान्वयन योजनाएँ

- Dr. Tefera Agizew of APOPO hopes to **revive discussions with India** that were interrupted by the **COVID-19 pandemic** to introduce **trained rats for TB detection**.
APOPO के डॉ. टेफेरा एगीज़ेव भारत में प्रशिक्षित चूहों के उपयोग को लेकर कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण रुकी हुई चर्चाओं को फिर से शुरू करने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।
- If successful, this collaboration could **significantly accelerate TB diagnosis, save lives, and support India's TB elimination efforts**.
यदि यह पहल सफल होती है, तो यह टीबी निदान की गति को तेज कर सकती है, जीवन बचा सकती है, और भारत के टीबी उन्मूलन प्रयासों को समर्थन दे सकती है।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- **Animal-based disease detection is a promising and cost-effective approach**, with **HeroRATS, dogs, ants, and honeybees** playing a **crucial role** in early detection.
जानवरों पर आधारित रोग निदान एक आशाजनक और किफायती तरीका है, जिसमें HeroRATS, कुत्ते, चींटियाँ और मधुमक्खियाँ प्रारंभिक निदान में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकती हैं।
- **For India, adopting trained rats for TB detection could help bridge diagnostic gaps**, particularly in **rural and high-burden areas**.
भारत के लिए, प्रशिक्षित चूहों का उपयोग टीबी निदान में किया जाना ग्रामीण और उच्च-टीबी प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में निदान की कमी को दूर करने में मदद कर सकता है।
- **Collaboration with APOPO and phased implementation could enhance TB detection rates**, improving overall healthcare outcomes.
APOPO के साथ सहयोग और चरणबद्ध कार्यान्वयन से टीबी निदान दरों में सुधार और संपूर्ण स्वास्थ्य सेवा परिणामों में बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है।



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Leaving a lasting impression: how your body responds to permanent ink

GS Paper III: S&T

Monisha Madhumita

Tattoos have long been a form of self-expression, cultural identity, and art. Beyond aesthetics, however, the process of tattooing involves a complex interaction between ink, skin, and the body's immune system. As the popularity of tattoos continues to rise, so do concerns about their long-term effects on skin health and overall well-being.

The process of tattooing

Tattooing is the process of embedding ink into the dermis, the second layer of the skin, using a needle that punctures the epidermis at a high frequency. The tattoo machine, equipped with a group of needles, moves rapidly to deposit ink particles under the skin. Unlike surface-level ink applications, such as henna, tattoo ink becomes permanent as the immune system encases the ink particles in fibroblast cells (cells that help form connective tissue), preventing them from dispersing. Diya Shaji, a professional tattoo artist from Bangalore, explains that a professional tattoo machine moves the needle anywhere between 50 to 3,000 times per minute. The ink is deposited about 1.5 to 2 millimetres deep, which ensures its permanence, as it sits in a stable layer of the skin.

Tattoo ink composition varies, with pigments derived from carbon, heavy metals,

and synthetic dyes. The human body recognises tattoo ink as a foreign substance, triggering an immune response. Macrophages attempt to remove the ink particles, which is why some fading occurs over time. However, since ink particles are too large, they become trapped in the skin.

The body's response

Nicolas Kluger, assistant professor of dermatology at Helsinki University Hospital, Finland, and a leading global expert in tattooing, explains that the body's response to tattoo ink is both immediate and long-term. As soon as the tattoo machine needle breaks the skin, capillaries react with an inflammatory response. The skin becomes red, sensitive, and raised, and this reaction can last from a few hours to a couple of days. Over time, macrophages try to remove the pigment, but not all of the ink is eliminated. Instead, it becomes entrapped in the macrophages, fibroblast cells, or remains between the collagen. While studies have not proven any direct association between tattoos and cancer, concerns remain about ink composition. Dr. Kluger points out that recognised safe manufacturers exist, but some inks contain carcinogenic heavy metals, making selection crucial.

Complications can also arise post a tattooing session. Healing problems, local infec-

tions, and bacterial or viral issues such as staphylococcus or even hepatitis can occur if sterilisation protocols are not strictly followed. Allergic reactions are another concern. Dr. Kluger says these reactions can manifest as painful, swollen lumps appearing in red, pink, or violet shades. Black ink reactions, on the other hand, are more likely to be granulomatous and could indicate underlying sarcoidosis (a disorder where the immune system overreacts and causes inflammation in various organs). Individuals with pre-existing skin conditions like psoriasis, vitiligo, or lichen planus must be cautious, as getting a tattoo when such diseases are active can trigger flare-ups, he says.

Safety regulations

Tattoo safety regulations vary worldwide. The European Union recently banned certain hazardous ink components, while the United States' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) monitors tattoo pigments. In India, tattoo regulations with regard to hygiene and safety protocols remain lax, and ink quality control is not standardised, leading to practices varying widely among tattoo parlours, increasing the risk of infections and other complications. Dr. Kluger advises that prospective clients should ensure their tattoo artist uses certified, high-quality ink and follows strict

hygiene protocols.

Ms. Shaji emphasises professional ethics in the industry, noting that good tattoo artists prioritise safety through single-use needles, sterile gloves, and high-quality ink. She explains that an experienced artist not only ensures the hygiene and safety but also advises clients on tattoo placement, aftercare, and longevity. "Tattoos are a lifelong commitment, and choosing the right design and placement is crucial," she says.

Advances in technology

Researchers are developing biodegradable tattoo inks that fade over time. Additionally, laser removal techniques are becoming more effective, offering hope for those seeking to erase their ink. Being aware of, and understanding the science behind tattooing allows individuals to make informed choices about body modifications.

(Dr. Monisha Madhumita is a consultant dermatologist at Saveetha Medical College, Chennai and member of the International Alliance for Global Health Dermatology, London, UK. mail.monisha.m@gmail.com)

For feedback and suggestions

for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

Leaving a Lasting Impression: How Your Body Responds to Permanent Ink

स्थायी प्रभाव छोड़ना: आपका शरीर स्थायी स्याही पर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया करता है

- The Process of Tattooing

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



- टैटू बनाने की प्रक्रिया
- **Tattooing embeds ink into the dermis**, the second layer of skin, using a **needle that punctures the epidermis at a high frequency**.
टैटू त्वचा की दूसरी परत डर्मिस में स्याही को प्रविष्ट करता है, जिसमें तेजी से चलने वाली सुई एपिडर्मिस को भेदती है।
- A tattoo machine moves the needle 50 to 3,000 times per minute, depositing ink 1.5 to 2 mm deep for permanence.
टैटू मशीन सुई को प्रति मिनट 50 से 3,000 बार चलाती है, जिससे स्याही 1.5 से 2 मिमी गहराई तक जमा होती है।
- The ink composition includes carbon, heavy metals, and synthetic dyes.
स्याही की संरचना में कार्बन, भारी धातुएँ, और सिंथेटिक रंग होते हैं।

The Body's Response to Tattoo Ink

टैटू स्याही पर शरीर की प्रतिक्रिया

- **Macrophages try to remove ink particles**, causing **some fading over time**, but the ink gets trapped in fibroblast cells.
मैक्रोफेज स्याही कणों को हटाने का प्रयास करते हैं, जिससे समय के साथ कुछ धुंधलापन होता है, लेकिन स्याही फाइब्रोब्लास्ट कोशिकाओं में फंस जाती है।
- **An inflammatory response occurs immediately**, making the skin **red, sensitive, and raised** for a few days.
त्वचा में तुरंत सूजन प्रतिक्रिया होती है, जिससे त्वचा लाल, संवेदनशील और उभरी हुई हो जाती है।
- **Some inks contain carcinogenic heavy metals**, raising concerns about **long-term health effects**.
कुछ स्याहियों में कैंसरकारी भारी धातुएँ होती हैं, जिससे दीर्घकालिक स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों की चिंता बढ़ जाती है।

Potential Risks and Complications

संभावित जोखिम और जटिलताएँ

- **Healing issues, local infections, and bacterial/viral infections** can occur if **hygiene protocols are not followed**.
**यदि स्वच्छता नियमों का पालन नहीं किया जाता है, तो घाव भरने में समस्या, स्थानीय संक्रमण और बैक्टीरियल/वायरल संक्रमण हो सकते हैं।
- **Allergic reactions** manifest as **swollen, painful lumps** and may indicate **sarcoidosis** in some cases.
एलर्जी प्रतिक्रियाएँ सूजी हुई, दर्दनाक गांठों के रूप में प्रकट हो सकती हैं और कुछ मामलों में सरकोइडोसिस का संकेत दे सकती हैं।



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- People with skin conditions like psoriasis and vitiligo should be cautious, as tattoos can trigger flare-ups.

सोरायसिस और विटिलिगो जैसी त्वचा समस्याओं वाले लोगों को सतर्क रहना चाहिए, क्योंकि टैटू रोग को बढ़ा सकता है।

Safety Regulations and Best Practices

सुरक्षा नियम और सर्वोत्तम अभ्यास

- The European Union bans hazardous ink components, but India lacks standardized ink regulations.
यूरोपीय संघ ने खतरनाक स्याही घटकों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया है, लेकिन भारत में मानकीकृत स्याही नियमों की कमी है।
- Certified tattoo artists use single-use needles, sterile gloves, and high-quality ink.
प्रमाणित टैटू कलाकार एकल-उपयोग सुई, बाँझ दस्ताने और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली स्याही का उपयोग करते हैं।
- Clients should verify hygiene standards and ensure the artist follows safety protocols.
ग्राहकों को स्वच्छता मानकों की जाँच करनी चाहिए और यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि कलाकार सुरक्षा नियमों का पालन करता है।

Technological Advances in Tattooing

टैटू तकनीक में प्रगति

- Biodegradable tattoo inks are being developed, designed to fade over time.
बायोडिग्रेडेबल टैटू स्याही विकसित की जा रही है, जो समय के साथ फीकी पड़ जाती है।
- Laser removal techniques are becoming more effective, offering better tattoo removal options.
लेजर हटाने की तकनीक अधिक प्रभावी हो रही है, जिससे बेहतर टैटू हटाने के विकल्प मिल रहे हैं।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- Tattoos involve a lifelong commitment, and understanding the body's reaction is essential.
टैटू जीवनभर का प्रतिबद्धता है, और शरीर की प्रतिक्रिया को समझना आवश्यक है।
- Choosing a skilled tattoo artist and high-quality ink reduces risks and enhances tattoo longevity.
कुशल टैटू कलाकार और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली स्याही का चयन करने से जोखिम कम होता है और टैटू की दीर्घायु बढ़ती है।



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As tattoo technology evolves, safer and more advanced options will continue to emerge.
जैसे-जैसे टैटू तकनीक विकसित होती है, सुरक्षित और अधिक उन्नत विकल्प उभरते रहेंगे।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Transgender Clinic Closes in Hyderabad After Aid Freeze

हैदराबाद में ट्रांसजेंडर क्लिनिक सहायता फ्रीज़ के बाद बंद

2. Govt. Appoints Tuhin Pandey as New SEBI Chairman

सरकार ने तुहिन पांडे को नया सेबी अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया

3. French Firm Technicolor Shuts Shop; 3,200 Employees Lose Jobs in India

फ्रांसीसी कंपनी टेक्नीकलर बंद; भारत में 3,200 कर्मचारी बेरोज़गार

4. Jailed PKK Founder Calls for Dissolution of His Militant Group

कैद पीकेके संस्थापक ने अपने उग्रवादी समूह को भंग करने की अपील की

5. Gene Hackman, Oscar-Winning Actor, and His Wife Found Dead at New Mexico Home

ऑस्कर विजेता अभिनेता जीन हैकमैन और उनकी पत्नी न्यू मैक्सिको स्थित घर में मृत पाए गए



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CONTACT: 9971932488



Transgender clinic closes in Hyderabad after aid freeze

PCS

Siddharth Kumar Singh

HYDERABAD

The Mitr Clinic in Hyderabad, India's first transgender healthcare centre, has shut down operations following a halt in funding by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

U.S. President Donald Trump, following his inauguration, had ordered a freeze on all foreign assistance, which included the over \$40 billion allocated for projects through the USAID. The abrupt halt in funding impacted several initiatives globally, including Project ACCELERATE, under which the Mitr Clinic operated. The clinic, launched in January 2021, offered free services.

Transgender Clinic Closes in Hyderabad After Aid Freeze

हैदराबाद में ट्रांसजेंडर क्लिनिक सहायता फ्रीज़ के बाद बंद

The Mitr Clinic in Hyderabad, India's first transgender healthcare centre, has shut down operations.

हैदराबाद में स्थित मित्र क्लिनिक, जो भारत का पहला ट्रांसजेंडर हेल्थकेयर सेंटर था, ने अपना संचालन बंद कर दिया है।

- The closure followed a halt in funding by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). यह बंदी यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स एजेंसी फॉर इंटरनेशनल डेवलपमेंट (USAID) द्वारा फंडिंग रोकने के कारण हुई।

- U.S. President Donald Trump, after his inauguration, ordered a freeze on all foreign assistance.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने अपने शपथ ग्रहण के बाद सभी विदेशी सहायता को फ्रीज़ करने का आदेश दिया।

- This freeze included the over \$40 billion allocated for projects through USAID.

इस फ्रीज़ में USAID के माध्यम से परियोजनाओं के लिए आवंटित \$40 बिलियन से अधिक की राशि भी शामिल थी।

- The abrupt halt in funding impacted several initiatives globally, including Project ACCELERATE, under which the Mitr Clinic operated.

फंडिंग की अचानक रोक से वैश्विक स्तर पर कई पहल प्रभावित हुईं, जिनमें प्रोजेक्ट ACCELERATE भी शामिल था, जिसके तहत मित्र क्लिनिक संचालित होता था।

- The clinic was launched in January 2021 and offered free services.

क्लिनिक की शुरुआत जनवरी 2021 में हुई थी और यह निःशुल्क सेवाएँ प्रदान करता था।

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

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



Tuhin Kanta Pandey

PCS
**Govt. appoints
Tuhin Pandey
as new SEBI
Chairman**

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday appointed Finance and Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Mr. Pandey would replace Madhabi Puri Buch, who completes her three-year tenure on Friday (February 28).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mr. Pandey. According to a government order issued late in the evening, his appointment is initially for a period of three years from the day he assumes charge, it said.

Ms. Buch had a stormy term marked by allegations from shortseller Hindenburg Research of conflict of interest in investigating the Adani Group. She has denied the allegations.

Govt. Appoints Tuhin Pandey as New SEBI Chairman सरकार ने तुहिन पांडे को नया सेबी अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया

The government on Thursday appointed Finance and Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the new chairman of SEBI.

सरकार ने गुरुवार को वित्त और राजस्व सचिव तुहिन कांत पांडे को सेबी के नए अध्यक्ष के रूप में नियुक्त किया।

• Mr. Pandey would replace Madhabi Puri Buch, who completes her three-year tenure on Friday (February 28).

श्री पांडे, माधबी पुरी बुच का स्थान लेंगे, जिनका तीन साल का कार्यकाल शुक्रवार (28 फरवरी) को पूरा हो रहा है।

• The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Mr. Pandey's appointment.

कैबिनेट की नियुक्ति समिति ने श्री पांडे की नियुक्ति को मंजूरी दी है।

• According to a government order issued late in the evening, his appointment is initially for three years from the day he assumes charge.

शाम को देर से जारी एक सरकारी आदेश के अनुसार, उनकी नियुक्ति प्रारंभ में तीन वर्षों के लिए होगी, जिस दिन वे कार्यभार ग्रहण करेंगे।

• Ms. Buch had a stormy term marked by allegations from short-seller Hindenburg Research of conflict of interest in investigating the Adani Group.

सुश्री बुच का कार्यकाल विवादों से भरा रहा, जिसमें शॉर्ट-सेलर हिंडेनबर्ग रिसर्च ने अडानी समूह की जांच में हितों के टकराव का आरोप लगाया।

• She has denied the allegations.

उन्होंने आरोपों से इनकार किया।



French firm Technicolor shuts shop; 3,200 employees lose jobs in India

PCS

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Technicolor India, a studio owned by Technicolor Group of Paris, that develops visual effects (VFX) and animation graphics for many full length feature films of Hollywood production houses, is shutting down its India operations centred in Bengaluru and Mumbai, as part of the group's global closure.

The firm employs 3,200 people in India. Almost 3,000 of them are in Bengaluru. It has a global headcount of over 10,000.

"Technicolour India is financially and operation-



Mufasa had grossed more than \$700 million globally. AP

ally not moving forward. We reached a state where we are not able to function as an organisation anymore," said Biren Ghose,

MD, Technicolor India at a staff town hall.

Court recovery

The news of the closure came after Technicolor Group, the parent company, filed for court recovery procedure in France citing inability to find investors to continue business further.

The India leadership and counterparts in other geographies were not privy to this finality and suddenness of the decision. "India management got to know about it only when we received an email, out of the blue, from Caroline Parot, CEO of Technicolor Group," Mr. Ghose in-

formed the staff.

Ms. Parot's email said the group was unable to find new investors despite extensive efforts and therefore filed for court 'recovery procedure' before the French Court of Justice.

Mr. Ghose said over 70% of special effects for the film *Mufasa* was developed by his team here and the movie had so far grossed over \$700 million globally.

Ashish S. Kulkarni, chairman, FICCI for AVGC-XR and chairman of MCCIA animation & gaming panel, said Technicolor's exit would trigger shakeout and consolidation in India's AVGC-XR sector.

French Firm Technicolor Shuts Shop; 3,200 Employees Lose Jobs in India

फ्रांसीसी कंपनी टेक्नीकलर बंद; भारत में 3,200 कर्मचारी बेरोज़गार

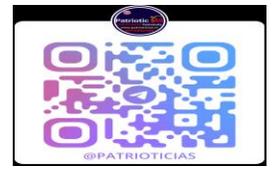
Technicolor India, a studio owned by Technicolor Group of Paris, is shutting down its India operations in Bengaluru and Mumbai as part of the group's global closure.

टेक्नीकलर इंडिया, जो पेरिस स्थित टेक्नीकलर ग्रुप का स्टूडियो है, अपने बेंगलुरु और मुंबई केंद्रित भारत संचालन को वैश्विक बंदी के तहत बंद कर रहा है।

- The firm develops visual effects (VFX) and animation graphics for many Hollywood feature films.

यह कंपनी कई हॉलीवुड फीचर फिल्मों के लिए विजुअल इफेक्ट्स (VFX) और एनिमेशन ग्राफिक्स विकसित करती है।

- The firm employs 3,200 people in India, with almost 3,000 in Bengaluru. It has a global headcount of over 10,000.



इस कंपनी में भारत में 3,200 कर्मचारी काम करते हैं, जिनमें से लगभग 3,000 बंगलुरु में हैं। इसकी वैश्विक स्तर पर 10,000 से अधिक कर्मचारियों की संख्या है।

- Biren Ghose, MD, Technicolor India, stated that the company is financially and operationally unable to move forward.

बीरन घोष, प्रबंध निदेशक, टेक्नीकलर इंडिया ने कहा कि कंपनी वित्तीय और संचालन के स्तर पर आगे बढ़ने में असमर्थ है।

Court Recovery

न्यायालयीय पुनर्प्राप्ति प्रक्रिया

- The closure news came after Technicolor Group, the parent company, filed for court recovery in France, citing an inability to find investors.

यह बंदी तब सामने आई जब मुख्य कंपनी टेक्नीकलर ग्रुप ने फ्रांस में कोर्ट रिकवरी के लिए अर्जी दायर की, यह कहते हुए कि नए निवेशक नहीं मिल रहे हैं।

- India management was unaware of the decision and got to know about it through an unexpected email from Caroline Parot, CEO of Technicolor Group.

भारत की प्रबंधन टीम इस निर्णय से अनजान थी और इसे लेकर टेक्नीकलर ग्रुप की CEO कैरोलिन पारोट से अचानक एक ईमेल प्राप्त हुआ।

- Ms. Parot's email mentioned that despite extensive efforts, the company failed to secure new investors and hence filed for court recovery before the French Court of Justice.

सुश्री पारोट के ईमेल में बताया गया कि विस्तृत प्रयासों के बावजूद, कंपनी नए निवेशक खोजने में विफल रही और इस कारण फ्रेंच कोर्ट ऑफ जस्टिस में रिकवरी प्रक्रिया के लिए अर्जी दायर की।

- Over 70% of special effects for the film Mufasa were developed by Technicolor India, and the movie has grossed over \$700 million globally.

फिल्म मुफासा के 70% से अधिक विशेष प्रभाव (VFX) टेक्नीकलर इंडिया द्वारा विकसित किए गए थे, और इस फिल्म ने वैश्विक स्तर पर \$700 मिलियन से अधिक की कमाई की है।

- Ashish S. Kulkarni, Chairman, FICCI for AVGC-XR, stated that Technicolor's exit will lead to shakeout and consolidation in India's AVGC-XR sector.

आशिष एस. कुलकर्णी, अध्यक्ष, फिक्की (AVGC-XR) ने कहा कि टेक्नीकलर के बाहर जाने से भारत के AVGC-XR सेक्टर में उथल-पुथल और समेकन होगा।



Jailed PKK founder calls for dissolution of his militant group

PCS

Agence France-Presse

ISTANBUL

Jailed PKK founder Abdullah Ocalan on Thursday called for his Kurdish militant group to lay down its weapons and dissolve itself in a landmark declaration read out in Istanbul.

"All groups must lay down their arms and PKK must dissolve itself," he said in a declaration drawn up in his cell on Imrali prison island where he has been held in solitary confinement since 1999.

The call came four months after Ankara offered an olive branch to the 75-year-old who founded the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has led a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state that has cost tens of thousands of lives.



Abdullah Ocalan

His words were read out by a delegation of lawmakers from the pro-Kurdish DEM party who visited him earlier on Thursday, the declaration sparking spontaneous applause inside the packed hall.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said on Thursday that Ocalan's call for the militant group to disarm will not affect the SDF.

Jailed PKK Founder Calls for Dissolution of His Militant Group

कैद पीकेके संस्थापक ने अपने उग्रवादी समूह को भंग करने की अपील की

Jailed PKK founder Abdullah Ocalan on Thursday called for his Kurdish militant group to lay down its weapons and dissolve itself in a landmark declaration read out in Istanbul.

गुरुवार को कैद पीकेके संस्थापक अब्दुल्ला ओकलान ने अपने कुर्दिश उग्रवादी समूह से हथियार डालने और स्वयं को भंग करने की अपील की, जिसे इस्तांबुल में एक ऐतिहासिक घोषणा के रूप में पढ़ा गया।

"All groups must lay down their arms and PKK must dissolve itself," he said in a declaration drawn up in his cell on Imrali prison island, where he has been held in solitary confinement since 1999.

"सभी समूहों को अपने हथियार डालने चाहिए और

पीकेके को स्वयं को भंग कर देना चाहिए," उन्होंने यह घोषणा इमराली जेल द्वीप पर अपने सेल में तैयार की, जहां वे 1999 से एकांत कारावास में रखे गए हैं।

- The call came four months after Ankara offered an olive branch to the 75-year-old Ocalan, who founded the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has led a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state, costing tens of thousands of lives.

यह अपील तब आई जब चार महीने पहले अंकारा ने 75 वर्षीय ओकलान के प्रति नरमी दिखाई। उन्होंने कुर्दिस्तान वर्कर्स पार्टी (PKK) की स्थापना की थी, जिसने तुर्की राज्य के खिलाफ दशकों तक विद्रोह किया, जिससे हजारों लोग मारे गए।

- His words were read out by a delegation of lawmakers from the pro-Kurdish DEM party, who visited him earlier on Thursday. The declaration sparked spontaneous



applause inside the packed hall.

उनके शब्दों को प्रो-कुर्दिश डेम पार्टी के विधायकों के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने पढ़ा, जिन्होंने गुरुवार को उनसे मुलाकात की थी। इस घोषणा से भरे हुए हॉल में स्वतः तालियां बजने लगीं।

- Meanwhile, the leader of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said on Thursday that Ocalan's call for disarmament will not affect the SDF.

इसी बीच, कुर्द नेतृत्व वाली सीरियन डेमोक्रेटिक फोर्स (SDF) के नेता ने गुरुवार को कहा कि ओकलान की हथियार डालने की अपील SDF को प्रभावित नहीं करेगी।

Gene Hackman, Oscar-winning actor, and his wife found dead at New Mexico home

PCS

Associated Press
SANTA FE

Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman, his wife and their dog were found dead in their New Mexico home, authorities said on Thursday.

Foul play was not suspected, but authorities did not disclose how they died and said an investigation was ongoing.

Hackman, 95, Betsy Arakawa, 63, and their dog were all dead when deputies entered their home to check on their welfare around 1.45 p.m. on Wednesday, Santa Fe County

Sheriff's Office spokesperson Denise Avila said.

The gruff-but-beloved Hackman was among the finest actors of his generation, appearing as villains, heroes and anti-heroes in dozens of dramas, comedies and action films from the 1960s until his retirement in the early 2000s.

He was a five-time Oscar nominee who won for *The French Connection* in 1972 and *Unforgiven* two decades later. His death comes just four days before this year's ceremony.

Hackman co-wrote three novels, starting with the swashbuckler, *Wake of*



Gene Hackman

the *Perdido Star*, with Daniel Leinhan in 1999, according to publisher Simon & Schuster. He then penned two by himself, concluding with *Pursuit* in 2013.

In recent years, he was

far less visible in public, though even the most mundane outings caught the attention of the press. *The Independent* wrote about him attending a show at the Lencis Performing Arts Center in 2018. The *New York Post* reported on him pumping gas, doing yard work and getting a chicken sandwich at Wendy's in 2023.

Aside from appearances at awards shows, he was rarely seen in the Hollywood social circuit and retired from acting about 20 years ago. His was the rare Hollywood retirement that actually lasted.

Gene Hackman, Oscar-Winning Actor, and His Wife Found Dead at New Mexico Home

ऑस्कर विजेता अभिनेता जीन

हैकमैन और उनकी पत्नी न्यू

मैक्सिको स्थित घर में मृत पाए गए

- Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman, his wife Betsy Arakawa, and their dog were found dead in their New Mexico home, authorities said on Thursday.

ऑस्कर विजेता अभिनेता जीन हैकमैन, उनकी पत्नी बेट्सी अराकावा और उनका कुत्ता गुरुवार को न्यू मैक्सिको स्थित घर में मृत पाए गए, अधिकारियों ने बताया।

- Foul play was not suspected, but authorities did not disclose how they died and said an investigation was ongoing.

किसी साजिश की आशंका नहीं जताई गई, लेकिन अधिकारियों ने यह नहीं बताया कि वे कैसे मरे, और कहा कि जांच जारी है।

- Hackman, 95, and Arakawa, 63, were found dead when deputies entered their home around 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Denise Avila said.

95 वर्षीय हैकमैन और 63 वर्षीय अराकावा को बुधवार दोपहर 1:45 बजे उनके घर में मृत पाया गया, सांता फे काउंटी शेरिफ कार्यालय की प्रवक्ता डेनिस एविला ने बताया।

- Hackman was among the finest actors of his generation, playing villains, heroes, and anti-heroes in numerous dramas, comedies, and action films from the 1960s until his retirement in the early 2000s.

हैकमैन अपने समय के बेहतरीन अभिनेताओं में से एक थे, जिन्होंने 1960 के दशक से लेकर 2000 के दशक की शुरुआत तक कई नाटक, कॉमेडी और एक्शन फिल्मों में खलनायक, नायक और प्रतिनायक की भूमिकाएं निभाईं।



- He was a **five-time Oscar nominee**, winning for **The French Connection (1972)** and **Unforgiven (1992)**. His death comes just four days before this year's ceremony.
वह पाँच बार ऑस्कर के लिए नामांकित हुए थे और द फ्रेंच कनेक्शन (1972) और अनफॉर्गिवेन (1992) के लिए जीते थे। उनकी मृत्यु इस वर्ष के ऑस्कर समारोह से सिर्फ चार दिन पहले हुई।
- Hackman **co-wrote three novels**, beginning with **Wake of the Perdido Star (1999)** with **Daniel Lenihan**, followed by **two solo novels**, concluding with **Pursuit (2013)**.
हैकमैन ने तीन उपन्यास सह-लेखन किए, जिनमें पहला था वेक ऑफ द पेरडिडो स्टार (1999) डेनियल लेनिहान के साथ, और बाद में दो एकल उपन्यास लिखे, जिनमें अंतिम 'पर्सूट' (2013) था।
- In **recent years**, he was **rarely seen in public**, but even **mundane outings** caught **media attention**.
हाल के वर्षों में, वह सार्वजनिक रूप से कम नजर आते थे, लेकिन उनकी साधारण गतिविधियां भी मीडिया का ध्यान आकर्षित करती थीं।
- The **Independent** wrote about him attending a show at the **Lensic Performing Arts Center** in 2018. The **New York Post** reported on him **pumping gas**, doing **yard work**, and getting a **chicken sandwich** at **Wendy's** in 2023.
2018 में, इंडिपेंडेंट ने उनकी लेंसिक परफॉर्मिंग आर्ट्स सेंटर में एक शो में उपस्थिति की रिपोर्ट दी। 2023 में, न्यूयॉर्क पोस्ट ने उनके गैस भरने, यार्ड का काम करने और वेंडीज़ में चिकन सैंडविच खाने की खबर दी।
- Aside from **awards show appearances**, he was **rarely seen in Hollywood's social circuit** and **retired from acting** about **20 years ago**.
पुरस्कार समारोहों में उपस्थिति के अलावा, वह हॉलीवुड के सामाजिक हलकों में शायद ही कभी देखे गए और लगभग 20 साल पहले अभिनय से संन्यास ले लिया था।
- His was a **rare Hollywood retirement** that **actually lasted**.
उनका संन्यास हॉलीवुड में दुर्लभ था, जो वास्तव में स्थायी रहा।