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PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

(05 MARCH 2025)

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05_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. DU V-C rules out plan to teach Manusmriti and Baburnama

डीयू वी-सी ने मनुस्मृति और बाबरनामा पढ़ाने की योजना से इनकार किया

2. How the Wallace Line Explains the Difference in Species Across Continents

वालिस रेखा महाद्वीपों में प्रजातियों के अंतर को कैसे समझाती है

3. India hit targeted maternal mortality rate of 100 deaths per lakh live births: Nadda

भारत ने लक्षित मातृ मृत्यु दर 100 मृत्यु प्रति लाख जीवित जन्म प्राप्त की:

नड्डा

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4.Serbian MPs injured as smoke bombs thrown in parliament सर्बियाई सांसद घायल, संसद में स्मोक बम फेंके गए

DU V-C rules out plan to teach *Manusmriti* and *Baburnama*

GS Paper I: History

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi University (DU) is set to withdraw the proposal to include Hindu religious text *Manusmriti* and *Baburnama*, the memoirs of Mughal emperor Babur, in the university's History curriculum.

DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Tuesday clarified that there was no plan to teach either of the subjects.

The proposal was initiated by the History department's Joint Committee of Courses on February 19. Opposing the move, several professors wrote to the Vice-Chancellor with some objecting to teaching the texts, while the others stating that the proposal did not contain "critical perspective".

The Vice-Chancellor said DU is a "progressive

The proposal to teach the texts was moved by a History department panel on February 19

university" and that the subjects are not "worth considering".

"I was told that it was discussed in the departmental meeting. But we do not want to teach the subjects as we are a progressive university, and it is the 21st century," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

He also said that *Baburnama* is the "autobiography of a tyrant" and has "no relevance in this time".

"DU is designing its study material keeping in mind how we can achieve the resolve of becoming a developed nation by 2047," Mr. Singh added.

DU V-C rules out plan to teach Manusmriti and Baburnama
डीयू वी-सी ने मनुस्मृति और बाबरनामा पढ़ाने की योजना से इनकार किया

Delhi University (DU) is set to withdraw the proposal to include Hindu religious text *Manusmriti* and *Baburnama*, the memoirs of Mughal emperor Babur, in the university's History curriculum.

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय (डीयू) प्रस्ताव वापस लेने वाला है, जिसमें हिंदू धार्मिक ग्रंथ मनुस्मृति और मुगल सम्राट बाबर के संस्मरण बाबरनामा को विश्वविद्यालय के इतिहास पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल करने की बात थी।

• DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Tuesday clarified that there was no plan to teach either of the subjects.

डीयू के कुलपति योगेश सिंह ने मंगलवार को स्पष्ट किया कि इन विषयों को पढ़ाने की कोई योजना नहीं है।

- The proposal was initiated by the History department's Joint Committee of Courses on February 19.

यह प्रस्ताव 19 फरवरी को इतिहास विभाग की संयुक्त पाठ्यक्रम समिति द्वारा शुरू किया गया था।

- Opposing the move, several professors wrote to the Vice-Chancellor, with some objecting to teaching the texts, while others stating that the proposal did not contain a "critical perspective".

इस कदम का विरोध करते हुए, कई प्रोफेसरों ने कुलपति को पत्र लिखा, कुछ ने इन ग्रंथों को पढ़ाने पर आपत्ति जताई, जबकि अन्य ने कहा कि प्रस्ताव में "आलोचनात्मक दृष्टिकोण" नहीं था।



- The Vice-Chancellor said DU is a "progressive university" and that the subjects are not "worth considering".
कुलपति ने कहा कि डीयू एक "प्रगतिशील विश्वविद्यालय" है और ये विषय "विचार करने योग्य नहीं" हैं।
- "I was told that it was discussed in the departmental meeting. But we do not want to teach the subjects as we are a progressive university, and it is the 21st century," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.
"मुझे बताया गया कि इस पर विभागीय बैठक में चर्चा हुई थी। लेकिन हम इन विषयों को पढ़ाना नहीं चाहते क्योंकि हम एक प्रगतिशील विश्वविद्यालय हैं और यह 21वीं सदी है," श्री सिंह ने *द हिंदू* को बताया।
- He also said that Baburnama is the "autobiography of a tyrant" and has "no relevance in this time".
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि बाबरनामा एक "सत्तावादी शासक की आत्मकथा" है और इसका "इस समय कोई प्रासंगिकता नहीं" है।
- "DU is designing its study material keeping in mind how we can achieve the resolve of becoming a developed nation by 2047", Mr. Singh added.
"डीयू अपना अध्ययन सामग्री इस तरह तैयार कर रहा है कि हम 2047 तक एक विकसित राष्ट्र बनने के संकल्प को कैसे पूरा कर सकते हैं," श्री सिंह ने जोड़ा।



A unique landscape: Mount Ruang volcano erupts in Sitaro, north Sulawesi, on April 19, 2024. AFP



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How the Wallace line explains the difference in species across continents

In the 19th century, Alfred Wallace noticed a shift in the composition of organisms as he moved from Asia to Australia. He posited an invisible barrier in the ocean running between the islands of Bali and Lombok, striking north between Borneo and Sulawesi before curving south of Mindanao

GS Paper I: Geography

Rupsy Khurana

Kangaroos and cockatoos are synonymous with Australia and tigers and orangutans with Asia. Both these continents boast rich biodiversity that is also very unique. A simple yet popular way to understand these 'separate greatnesses' has taken the shape of the Wallace line.

What is the Wallace line?

In the late 19th century, the English naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace noticed a dramatic shift in the composition of organisms as he moved from Asia to Australia, New Guinea, and other islands nearby. He posited an invisible barrier in the ocean, later called the Wallace line, running between the islands of Bali and Lombok, striking north between Borneo and Sulawesi before curving south of Mindanao. To him this line was like a fence between the different kinds of animals on the two sides.

Wallace and others conducted eight years of fieldwork to carefully plot the line across many kilometres, in the process laying the foundations of modern biogeography: the study of how species are distributed and how they got there.

Over the years, the line has attracted considerable research interest. "The Wallace line ... ties partly into the theory of evolution. Nowhere else on the earth do you see such a dramatic shift over such a narrow distance. Organisms are not just scattered randomly," Jason R. Ali, honorary associate researcher at the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research, Germany, said.

What did Wallace find on Sulawesi?

At their closest, the islands of Borneo and Sulawesi are just over 20 km apart yet they support very distinct plants, mammals, and birds. Wallace was more baffled by Sulawesi. It's one of the largest islands in the archipelago and home to species found nowhere else on the planet, including tarsiers (family Tarsiidae), the lowland anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis*), and the mountain anoa (*Bubalus quaresii*), which are both of Asian origin. Yet Sulawesi is also home to Australian marsupials like the dwarf cuscus (*Strigocuscus celebensis*).

The island frustrated Wallace, who repeatedly redrew his line because he was unsure whether it belonged to Asia or Australia. He wrote in 1876 that the animals here showed "affinities" to Africa, India, Java, the Maluku Islands, New Guinea, and the Philippines.

Why do Sulawesi have species from both sides of the line while most others didn't? Wallace had deduced the essential answer all those years ago but it has accrued greater depth with more research over time.

What does the ancient past say?

The line is part of the Malay archipelago, a geologically complex region with more than 25,000 islands.

Wallace figured that Sulawesi's animal distribution could be explained if some of these islands had been joined with the Asian mainland in the past. As the islands broke off and drifted apart, the ancestral species on each island would have become isolated and evolved independently, creating the distribution Wallace saw in the 19th century. Since

then, researchers have expanded this understanding by going further back in time. Millions of years ago, Australia broke off and drifted away from Antarctica. An ocean emerged in the growing gap and the water currents in its depths cooled the planet.

Meanwhile, Australia drifted north into Asia, creating the volcanic islands of Indonesia. Various studies found that variations in monsoons, aridity, and sea levels between these islands spurred island species to adapt to their new conditions and diversify, until as recently as four million years ago.

The movement of continents was one part of the puzzle. A study published in 2023 revealed another when scientists took a closer look at how species across the Wallace line were related. They analysed data of 20,000 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Despite global cooling, they found, Malay's tropical islands stayed warmer and wetter than Australia. Thus, Asian fauna used these islands as stepping stones to Australia whereas Australian species, having evolved in cooler climates, struggled to make their way across the islands to Asia. "Species from Asia can migrate through the rainforest-rich northern route, as the ecosystems are similar to their origins," Ali said. "Australian species can only move into Asia along the southern route, around Timor and nearby islands. This path emerged much later – only a few million years ago – making migration more challenging for Australian species."

Does the line matter?

By combining insights from multiple

disciplines, the aforementioned studies helped explain Wallace's findings to a degree that revealed the line to be a mirage: it was visible but the real reasons why it exists are rooted in the deeper facts of nature.

Today, even newer tools have joined older ones to further clarify the region's biogeography. "We are learning more about which adaptations allow species to move throughout the region by using advanced evolutionary modelling and computer simulations," Alexander Skeels, a postdoctoral research fellow at Australian National University, Canberra, said.

The factors that influenced species dispersal and settlement in the past are still relevant today.

The Indo-Malayan archipelago faces one of the world's highest rates of habitat destruction. Understanding its biogeography will be crucial for ecologists to predict how species will respond to the loss of their homes, compounded by the effects of climate change.

"New technologies are helping us understand that 'lines' that separate Asia and Australia may be simplifying the story," Skeels said. Ali echoed him, saying redrawing the Wallace line or any other line like it is "futile".

"Different datasets and methods will reveal different results. These boundaries will always be fuzzy. Instead of redrawing lines, it is more valuable to focus on how these species will be affected by habitat destruction in future," Ali added.

Rupsy Khurana is Science Communication and Outreach Lead at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru.

How the Wallace Line Explains the Difference in Species Across Continents

वालिस रेखा महाद्वीपों में प्रजातियों के अंतर को कैसे समझाती है

- In the 19th century, Alfred Wallace noticed a shift in the composition of organisms as he moved from Asia to Australia. He posited an invisible barrier in the ocean running between the islands of Bali and Lombok, striking north between Borneo and Sulawesi, before curving south of Mindanao.

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19वीं सदी में, अल्फ्रेड वालिस ने जीवों की संरचना में बदलाव देखा जब वह एशिया से ऑस्ट्रेलिया की ओर बढ़े। उन्होंने महासागर में एक अदृश्य सीमा की कल्पना की, जो बाली और लोम्बोक द्वीपों के बीच से होकर गुजरती है, बोर्नियो और सुलावेसी के बीच उत्तर की ओर बढ़ती है, और फिर मिंडानाओ के दक्षिण में मुड़ती है।

- Kangaroos and cockatoos are synonymous with Australia, while tigers and orangutans are linked with Asia. Both these continents boast rich and unique biodiversity.

कंगारू और कॉकाटू ऑस्ट्रेलिया के प्रतीक हैं, जबकि बाघ और ओरंगुटान एशिया से जुड़े हैं। ये दोनों महाद्वीप समृद्ध और अनूठी जैव विविधता से भरपूर हैं।

What is the Wallace Line?

वालिस रेखा क्या है?

- In the late 19th century, English naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace noticed a dramatic shift in the composition of organisms as he moved from Asia to Australia, New Guinea, and nearby islands.

19वीं सदी के अंत में, अंग्रेज़ प्रकृतिविद अल्फ्रेड रसेल वालिस ने एशिया से ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यू गिनी और आसपास के द्वीपों में जाते हुए जीवों की संरचना में नाटकीय बदलाव देखा।

- He proposed an invisible barrier in the ocean, later called the Wallace Line, running between Bali and Lombok, striking north between Borneo and Sulawesi, before curving south of Mindanao.

उन्होंने महासागर में एक अदृश्य सीमा की परिकल्पना की, जिसे बाद में वालिस रेखा कहा गया, जो बाली और लोम्बोक के बीच से होकर गुजरती है, बोर्नियो और सुलावेसी के बीच उत्तर की ओर बढ़ती है और फिर मिंडानाओ के दक्षिण में मुड़ती है।

- To Wallace, this line was like a fence separating different kinds of animals on both sides.

वालिस के अनुसार, यह रेखा दोनों ओर के विभिन्न प्रकार के जानवरों को अलग करने वाली एक बाड़ जैसी थी।

- Wallace and others conducted eight years of fieldwork to carefully plot the line across many kilometers, laying the foundations of modern biogeography—the study of how species are distributed and how they got there.

वालिस और अन्य वैज्ञानिकों ने आठ वर्षों तक फील्डवर्क किया और कई किलोमीटर तक इस रेखा को सावधानीपूर्वक चिन्हित किया, जिससे आधुनिक जैवभूगोल की नींव रखी गई—जो यह अध्ययन करता है कि प्रजातियाँ कैसे वितरित होती हैं और वे वहां कैसे पहुंचीं।

- Over the years, this line has attracted considerable research interest.

वर्षों से, यह रेखा काफी शोधकर्ताओं की रुचि का विषय बनी हुई है।

- Jason R. Ali, honorary associate researcher at the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research, Germany, said:

"The Wallace Line ... ties partly into the theory of evolution. Nowhere else on the



earth do you see such a dramatic shift over such a narrow distance. Organisms are not just scattered randomly."

जेसन आर. अली, सेनकेनबर्ग सोसाइटी फॉर नेचर रिसर्च, जर्मनी के मानद सहयोगी शोधकर्ता ने कहा:

"वालिस रेखा आंशिक रूप से विकासवाद के सिद्धांत से जुड़ी हुई है। पृथ्वी पर कहीं और इतनी कम दूरी में इतना बड़ा बदलाव देखने को नहीं मिलता। जीव केवल यादृच्छिक रूप से बिखरे नहीं होते।"

What Did Wallace Find on Sulawesi?

सुलावेसी द्वीप पर वालिस को क्या मिला?

- At their closest, the islands of **Borneo and Sulawesi** are just **over 20 km apart**, yet they support **very distinct plants, mammals, and birds**.

बोर्नियो और सुलावेसी द्वीप सबसे नज़दीकी बिंदु पर सिर्फ 20 किमी की दूरी पर हैं, फिर भी यहां बहुत अलग तरह के पौधे, स्तनधारी और पक्षी पाए जाते हैं।

- Wallace was **more baffled by Sulawesi**. It is one of the **largest islands in the archipelago** and home to **species found nowhere else on the planet**, including: वालिस सुलावेसी को लेकर अधिक उलझन में थे। यह द्वीपसमूह के सबसे बड़े द्वीपों में से एक है और यहां ऐसी प्रजातियाँ पाई जाती हैं जो दुनिया में कहीं और नहीं मिलतीं, जैसे:

- **Tarsiers (family Tarsiidae)**
टार्सियर (परिवार: टार्सीडाए)
- **Lowland Anoa (Bubalus depressicornis)**
निचले क्षेत्र का अनोआ (बुबालस डिप्रेसिकॉर्निस)
- **Mountain Anoa (Bubalus quarlesi)**
पहाड़ी अनोआ (बुबालस क्वारलेसी)

- These are of **Asian origin**, yet **Sulawesi is also home to Australian marsupials** like the **Dwarf Cuscus (Strigocuscus celebensis)**.

ये एशियाई मूल की प्रजातियाँ हैं, फिर भी सुलावेसी में ऑस्ट्रेलियाई मार्सुपियल जैसे बौना कुस्कस (स्ट्रिगोकुस्कस सेलेबेंसिस) भी पाए जाते हैं।

- The island **frustrated Wallace**, who **repeatedly redrew his line** because he was unsure whether it **belonged to Asia or Australia**.

यह द्वीप वालिस को उलझन में डालता रहा, और उन्होंने अपनी रेखा बार-बार दोबारा खींची, क्योंकि वह निश्चित नहीं थे कि यह एशिया का हिस्सा है या ऑस्ट्रेलिया का।

- He wrote in **1876** that the animals here showed "**affinities**" to:

1876 में, उन्होंने लिखा कि यहां के जीवों में "**संबंध**" दिखाई देते हैं:

- **Africa**
अफ्रीका
- **India**
भारत
- **Java**
जावा



- The Maluku Islands
मोलुकु द्वीप
- New Guinea
न्यू गिनी
- The Philippines
फिलीपींस

Why Does Sulawesi Have Species from Both Sides of the Line?

सुलावेसी में दोनों पक्षों की प्रजातियाँ क्यों हैं?

- Wallace had deduced the essential answer all those years ago, but more research has added greater depth over time.

वालिस ने सालों पहले इस सवाल का मूल उत्तर खोज लिया था, लेकिन अधिक शोध से समय के साथ इसमें और गहराई जुड़ गई।

What does the ancient past say?

प्राचीन अतीत क्या कहता है?

- The line is part of the Malay archipelago, a geologically complex region with more than 25,000 islands.
यह रेखा मलय द्वीपसमूह का हिस्सा है, जो भूवैज्ञानिक रूप से जटिल क्षेत्र है और इसमें 25,000 से अधिक द्वीप हैं।
- Wallace figured that Sulawesi's animal distribution could be explained if some of these islands had been joined with the Asian mainland in the past.
वालिस ने अनुमान लगाया कि सुलावेसी के पशु वितरण को समझाया जा सकता है यदि अतीत में ये द्वीप एशियाई मुख्य भूमि से जुड़े हुए थे।
- As the islands broke off and drifted apart, the ancestral species on each island became isolated and evolved independently, creating the distribution Wallace saw in the 19th century.
जैसे ही द्वीप अलग हुए और बह गए, प्रत्येक द्वीप की पूर्वज प्रजातियाँ अलग-थलग हो गईं और स्वतंत्र रूप से विकसित हुईं, जिससे वालिस ने 19वीं सदी में देखे गए वितरण की व्याख्या की।
- Since then, researchers have expanded this understanding by going further back in time.
तब से, शोधकर्ताओं ने इस समझ को और विस्तारित किया और इसे अतीत में और पीछे ले गए।
- Millions of years ago, Australia broke off and drifted away from Antarctica. An ocean emerged in the growing gap, and water currents in its depths cooled the planet.
लाखों साल पहले, ऑस्ट्रेलिया अंटार्कटिका से अलग हुआ और दूर बह गया। इस बढ़ते अंतर में एक महासागर बना, और इसके गहरे जल प्रवाह ने पृथ्वी को ठंडा कर दिया।



- Meanwhile, **Australia drifted north into Asia**, creating the **volcanic islands of Indonesia**.
इसी बीच, ऑस्ट्रेलिया उत्तर की ओर एशिया की ओर बहा, जिससे इंडोनेशिया के ज्वालामुखीय द्वीप बने।
- Various studies found that **variations in monsoons, aridity, and sea levels** between these islands spurred **island species to adapt to new conditions and diversify**, until as recently as **four million years ago**.
विभिन्न अध्ययनों में पाया गया कि **मानसून, शुष्कता और समुद्र स्तर में भिन्नता** के कारण द्वीपों की **प्रजातियाँ नई परिस्थितियों के अनुकूल हुईं और विविधतापूर्ण हुईं**, और यह प्रक्रिया **चार मिलियन वर्ष पहले तक जारी रही**।
- **The movement of continents was one part of the puzzle**.
महाद्वीपों की गति इस पहली का एक हिस्सा थी।
- A study published in **2023** revealed another aspect when **scientists analysed data of 20,000 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians**.
2023 में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में एक और पहलू उजागर हुआ जब वैज्ञानिकों ने 20,000 पक्षियों, स्तनधारियों, सरीसृपों और उभयचरों की प्रजातियों के डेटा का विश्लेषण किया।
- Despite **global cooling**, they found that **Malay's tropical islands stayed warmer and wetter than Australia**.
वैश्विक शीतलन के बावजूद, वैज्ञानिकों ने पाया कि **मलय के उष्णकटिबंधीय द्वीप ऑस्ट्रेलिया की तुलना में अधिक गर्म और नम बने रहे**।
- Thus, **Asian fauna used these islands as stepping stones to Australia**, whereas **Australian species, having evolved in cooler climates, struggled to reach Asia**.
इस प्रकार, **एशियाई जीवों ने इन द्वीपों का उपयोग ऑस्ट्रेलिया तक पहुँचने के लिए किया**, जबकि **ठंडे जलवायु में विकसित ऑस्ट्रेलियाई प्रजातियों के लिए एशिया पहुँचना कठिन रहा**।
- **Ali said**, "Species from Asia can migrate through the **rainforest-rich northern route**, as the ecosystems are similar to their origins."
अली ने कहा, "एशिया से प्रजातियाँ **सघन वर्षावन वाले उत्तरी मार्ग** के माध्यम से प्रवास कर सकती हैं, क्योंकि वहाँ की पारिस्थितिकी उनके मूल निवास स्थान से मिलती-जुलती है।"
- **Australian species can only move into Asia along the southern route**, around **Timor and nearby islands**. This path emerged **much later—only a few million years ago—making migration more challenging**.
ऑस्ट्रेलियाई प्रजातियाँ केवल दक्षिणी मार्ग से ही एशिया में प्रवेश कर सकती हैं, जो **तिमोर और आस-पास के द्वीपों से होकर जाता है**। यह मार्ग **काफी बाद में, केवल कुछ मिलियन साल पहले बना**, जिससे प्रवास और भी कठिन हो गया।

Does the line matter?

क्या यह रेखा महत्वपूर्ण है?

- By combining insights from **multiple disciplines**, these studies helped explain **Wallace's findings** to a degree that **revealed the line to be a mirage**.



कई विषयों के अध्ययन को मिलाकर, इन शोधों ने वालिस के निष्कर्षों को समझाने में मदद की, जिससे पता चला कि यह रेखा एक दृष्टि भ्रम (मिराज) है।

- Today, **newer tools** have joined older ones to further clarify the **region's biogeography**.

आज, नए उपकरण पुराने तरीकों के साथ मिलकर क्षेत्र की जैव भूगोल को और स्पष्ट कर रहे हैं।

- **Alexander Skeels**, postdoctoral research fellow at **Australian National University, Canberra**, said:

ऑस्ट्रेलियन नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी, कैनबरा के पोस्टडॉक्टरल शोधकर्ता, अलेक्जेंडर स्कील्स ने कहा:

"We are learning more about **which adaptations allow species to move throughout the region** by using **advanced evolutionary modeling and computer simulations**."

"हम उन्नत विकासत्मक मॉडलिंग और कंप्यूटर सिमुलेशन का उपयोग करके यह समझ रहे हैं कि कौन-से अनुकूलन प्रजातियों को इस क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरित करने की अनुमति देते हैं।"

- The **factors that influenced species dispersal and settlement in the past are still relevant today**.

अतीत में जो कारक प्रजातियों के फैलाव और बसने को प्रभावित करते थे, वे आज भी प्रासंगिक हैं।

- The **Indo-Malayan archipelago faces one of the world's highest rates of habitat destruction**.

इंडो-मलय द्वीपसमूह को दुनिया में सबसे अधिक आवास विनाश दरों में से एक का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

- Understanding its **biogeography will be crucial for ecologists to predict how species will respond to the loss of their homes**, compounded by **climate change**.

इसकी जैव भूगोल को समझना पारिस्थितिकीविदों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होगा, ताकि वे अनुमान लगा सकें कि प्रजातियाँ अपने आवासों के नुकसान और जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों पर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया देंगी।

- **Ali said**, "Instead of redrawing lines, it is more valuable to focus on **how these species will be affected by habitat destruction in the future**."

अली ने कहा, "रेखाएँ फिर से खींचने के बजाय, यह अधिक मूल्यवान है कि हम भविष्य में आवास विनाश के कारण इन प्रजातियों पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों पर ध्यान दें।"



India hit targeted maternal mortality rate of 100 deaths per lakh live births: Nadda

GS Paper I: Society

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India has achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target of a maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 100 deaths per one lakh live births, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said on Tuesday.

The nation had also achieved an 83% decline in MMR between 1990 and 2020, which was much higher than the decline in Global MMR, he added.

Mr. Nadda was chairing the ninth meeting of the Mission Steering Group, the highest policy-making and governance body for the health sector under the National Health Mission (NHM).

The Minister said that a 69% decline was observed in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India during this period (1990-2020), while the decline in Global IMR was 55%. Additionally, there has been a 75% decline in the "Under 5 [years] Mortality Rate" while the global rate of decline was 58%.

At the meeting, the Mi-



India's 69% decline in infant mortality rate (1990-2020) is higher than the Global IMR dip of 55%, the Minister says. FILE PHOTO

nister stressed the need to translate the agendas and objectives of different health schemes into action, and the importance of the role of officers, including Chief Medical Officers (CMO), at the ground level to achieve it.

"Enhancing and strengthening the capacities of CMOs is vital as is the need for training and capacity-building exercises, so that their capacities can be utilised in the best way possible; that will pave the way for achieving required results of healthcare schemes at the grassroots level," Mr. Nadda said.

Mr. Nadda also spoke about the role of ASHA workers in the healthcare system, and remarked on the need for their empowerment and welfare through revised incentives for routine activities, and providing enhanced honorariums.

While commending the developments and new technological advances working to strengthen the health infrastructure, Mr. Nadda also said the quality of the latest additions, including the Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM), should be ensured.

India hit targeted maternal mortality rate of 100 deaths per lakh live births: Nadda

भारत ने लक्षित मातृ मृत्यु दर 100 मृत्यु प्रति लाख जीवित जन्म प्राप्त की: नड्डा

India has achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target of a maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 100 deaths per one lakh live births, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said on Tuesday.

भारत ने राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य नीति (NHP) का लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर लिया है, जिसमें मातृ मृत्यु दर (MMR) 100 मृत्यु प्रति एक लाख जीवित जन्म है, केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य

मंत्री जे.पी. नड्डा ने मंगलवार को कहा।

• The nation had also achieved an **83% decline in MMR between 1990 and 2020**, which was much **higher than the decline in Global MMR**, he added.



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

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CONTACT: 9971932488



• देश ने 1990 से 2020 के बीच मातृ मृत्यु दर (MMR) में 83% की गिरावट भी हासिल की है, जो कि वैश्विक मातृ मृत्यु दर में गिरावट से कहीं अधिक है, उन्होंने जोड़ा।

• Mr. Nadda was chairing the **ninth meeting of the Mission Steering Group**, the **highest policy-making and governance body** for the health sector under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**.

• नड्डा नौवीं बैठक की अध्यक्षता कर रहे थे जो कि राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NHM) के तहत स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र के लिए सर्वोच्च नीति-निर्माण और शासन निकाय है।

• The Minister said that a **69% decline** was observed in **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** in India during 1990-2020, while the **decline in Global IMR** was 55%.

• मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत में 1990-2020 के दौरान शिशु मृत्यु दर (IMR) में 69% की गिरावट दर्ज की गई, जबकि वैश्विक शिशु मृत्यु दर में गिरावट 55% रही।

• Additionally, there has been a **75% decline** in the **"Under 5 Mortality Rate"**, while the **global rate of decline** was 58%.

• इसके अतिरिक्त, "पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों की मृत्यु दर" में 75% की गिरावट आई है, जबकि वैश्विक स्तर पर गिरावट 58% रही।

• At the meeting, the Minister stressed the need to **translate the agendas and objectives of different health schemes into action** and the **importance of the role of officers, including Chief Medical Officers (CMO)**, at the ground level to achieve it.

• बैठक में, मंत्री ने विभिन्न स्वास्थ्य योजनाओं के एजेंडा और उद्देश्यों को क्रियान्वित करने की आवश्यकता और जमीनी स्तर पर मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारियों (CMO) सहित अधिकारियों की भूमिका के महत्व को रेखांकित किया।

• **"Enhancing and strengthening the capacities of CMOs** is vital as is the **need for training and capacity-building exercises**, so that their **capacities can be utilised in the best way possible**; that will pave the way for **achieving required results of healthcare schemes at the grassroots level**," Mr. Nadda said.

• "मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारियों (CMO) की क्षमताओं को बढ़ाना और मजबूत करना आवश्यक है, साथ ही प्रशिक्षण और क्षमता-निर्माण अभ्यास की आवश्यकता भी है, ताकि उनकी क्षमताओं का सर्वोत्तम तरीके से उपयोग किया जा सके; यह जमीनी स्तर पर स्वास्थ्य देखभाल योजनाओं के आवश्यक परिणाम प्राप्त करने का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगा," नड्डा ने कहा।



• Mr. Nadda also spoke about the **role of ASHA workers in the healthcare system**, and remarked on the **need for their empowerment and welfare through revised incentives for routine activities and providing enhanced honorariums.**

• नड्डा ने स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली में आशा कार्यकर्ताओं की भूमिका पर भी बात की और रूटीन गतिविधियों के लिए संशोधित प्रोत्साहनों और बढ़े हुए मानदेय के माध्यम से उनके सशक्तिकरण और कल्याण की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

• While commending the **developments and new technological advances working to strengthen the health infrastructure**, Mr. Nadda also said the **quality of the latest additions, including the Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM), should be ensured.**

• स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना को मजबूत करने के लिए हो रहे विकास और नई तकनीकी प्रगति की सराहना करते हुए, नड्डा ने यह भी कहा कि **भारत स्वास्थ्य पहल सहयोग हित और मैत्री (BHISHM) सहित नवीनतम परिवर्धनों की गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित की जानी चाहिए।**

BELGRADE

Serbian MPs injured as smoke bombs thrown in parliament



GS Paper I: World Geography

AFP

At least three MPs were injured on Tuesday, one of them seriously, after smoke bombs and flares were thrown in Serbia's parliament. MPs were scheduled to vote on a law that would increase funding for university education, but opposition parties wanted to first confirm the resignation of Prime Minister Milos Vucevic. AP

Serbian MPs injured as smoke bombs thrown in parliament

सर्बियाई सांसद घायल, संसद में स्मोक बम फेंके गए

At least three MPs were injured on Tuesday, one of them seriously.

कम से कम तीन सांसद मंगलवार को घायल हुए, जिनमें से एक गंभीर रूप से घायल हुआ।

• **Smoke bombs and flares were thrown in Serbia's parliament.**

सर्बिया की संसद में स्मोक बम और फ्लेयर फेंके गए।



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

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- MPs were scheduled to vote on a **law** that would increase funding for **university education**.
सांसदों को एक कानून पर मतदान करना था, जो विश्वविद्यालय शिक्षा के लिए वित्त पोषण बढ़ाएगा।
- **Opposition parties** wanted to first confirm the **resignation** of **Prime Minister Milos Vucevic**.
विपक्षी दल पहले प्रधानमंत्री मिलोस वूचेविक के त्यागपत्र की पुष्टि करना चाहते थे।
- **AP** reported the incident.
इस घटना की रिपोर्ट **AP** ने दी।

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

1. Double trouble

डबल ट्रबल

2. Remodelling the UAE-India aviation partnership

यूएई-भारत विमानन साझेदारी का पुनर्रचना

3. Issues around Delimitation

सीमांकन से जुड़े मुद्दे

4. Current Status of U.S.-Taiwan Relations

अमेरिका-ताइवान संबंधों की वर्तमान स्थिति

5. States need to protect patients from being fleeced by private hospitals, says SC

राज्यों को निजी अस्पतालों द्वारा मरीजों के शोषण से बचाना चाहिए, सुप्रीम कोर्ट

6. Trump world is uncertain, but India can find opportunities

ट्रंप युग अनिश्चित है, लेकिन भारत को अवसर मिल सकते हैं



GS Paper II: Polling

Double trouble

The Aadhaar seems the default bet to restrict a voter to one polling location

The integrity of the electoral system in India is dependent upon the confidence reposed in it by prospective voters and the participatory political parties. In recent years, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has drawn flak – from overblown to deserved reasons – from political parties and civil society activists concerned about trends in Indian democracy. A new complaint after recent State elections relates to the increased number of electors in the Assembly polls when compared to the numbers registered in the general election for the same year (2024). While a report in *The Hindu* found that such discrepancies in electorate registration were not unusual when compared to previous election cycles, the question (raised vociferously by the Opposition Congress party) as to how a State such as Maharashtra registered an increase of 48 lakh voters in just six months since the general election has not been adequately answered by the ECI. This along with the ECI's disclosure that the nature of registration allowed for different electors to have the same Electors Photo Identification Card (EPIC) number, has allowed Opposition parties, particularly the Trinamool Congress, to raise questions about the credibility of the registration process. What is worrisome is the possibility of electors voting across States.

Prima facie, this discrepancy in EPIC numbers – which the ECI has averred that it will rectify by updating the numbers in its voter database to make them unique – is not problematic. Even if the EPIC number is shared by different voters, they can only vote with their verified ids. Yet, the larger problem, of a possibility of a voter having multiple EPIC numbers across different States, calls the process in question. For example, a migrant voter can vote in a particular State of residence and in his/her home State if elections are held in close succession as there is a good possibility of the duplicate EPIC number remaining in the database. The most effective solution would be to link the Aadhaar number and biometric verification for voting. But this is still not foolproof. The Aadhaar's purpose is to identify residents, and not citizens, and would have to be supplemented by another proof for voting eligibility. Second, an Aadhaar number on electoral rolls could result in misuse such as profiling, and the ECI has to mask it when the rolls are made available to political parties. Besides, biometric verification for de-duplication should be supplemented with clear alternative identity verification as the former has the potential of excluding genuine voters because of technological failures. The ECI must be open to undertaking a clear de-duplication exercise that will allow a voter to have only one EPIC number and voter id, with the eligibility to vote only in their area of residence.

Double trouble

डबल ट्रबल

The Aadhaar seems the default bet to restrict a voter to one polling location.

आधार एक मतदाता को एक मतदान स्थल तक सीमित करने का प्राथमिक उपाय लगता है।

• The integrity of the electoral system in India depends on the confidence of voters and political parties.

भारत की चुनावी प्रणाली की अखंडता मतदाताओं और राजनीतिक दलों के विश्वास पर निर्भर करती है।

• In recent years, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has faced criticism from political parties and civil society activists.

हाल के वर्षों में, भारतीय निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) को राजनीतिक दलों और नागरिक समाज कार्यकर्ताओं से आलोचना मिली है।

• A new complaint after recent State elections relates to the increased number of electors compared to the general election of 2024.

हाल के राज्य चुनावों के बाद एक नई शिकायत में मतदाताओं की संख्या में वृद्धि की तुलना 2024 के आम चुनाव से की गई।

• A report in *The Hindu* found that such discrepancies in electorate registration were not unusual.

द हिंदू की एक रिपोर्ट में पाया गया कि मतदाता पंजीकरण में इस तरह की विसंगतियां असामान्य नहीं हैं।

• Opposition Congress party raised concerns about Maharashtra, where the number of voters increased by 48 lakh in just six months.

विपक्षी कांग्रेस पार्टी ने महाराष्ट्र को लेकर चिंता जताई, जहां सिर्फ छह महीनों में मतदाताओं की संख्या 48 लाख बढ़ गई।

• The ECI has not adequately answered how this increase happened.

ECI ने इस वृद्धि के पीछे का कारण स्पष्ट रूप से नहीं बताया है।



- The ECI's disclosure showed that different electors could have the same **Electors Photo Identification Card (EPIC) number**.
ECI के खुलासे से पता चला कि अलग-अलग मतदाताओं के पास एक ही मतदाता फोटो पहचान पत्र (EPIC) संख्या हो सकती है।
- This has led **opposition parties**, especially **Trinamool Congress**, to question the credibility of the **registration process**.
इससे विपक्षी दलों, विशेष रूप से तृणमूल कांग्रेस, ने पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया की विश्वसनीयता पर सवाल उठाए हैं।
- The main concern is the possibility of electors **voting across States**.
मुख्य चिंता यह है कि मतदाता अलग-अलग राज्यों में मतदान कर सकते हैं।
- **EPIC number discrepancies** are not problematic as per **ECI**, as voters can only vote with **verified IDs**.
ECI के अनुसार EPIC संख्या की विसंगतियां कोई बड़ी समस्या नहीं हैं, क्योंकि मतदाता केवल सत्यापित पहचान पत्र के साथ मतदान कर सकते हैं।
- However, the problem arises if a voter has **multiple EPIC numbers across different States**.
लेकिन समस्या तब आती है जब किसी मतदाता के पास अलग-अलग राज्यों में एक से अधिक EPIC नंबर होते हैं।
- A **migrant voter** could vote in both their **State of residence** and **home State** if elections are held close together.
एक प्रवासी मतदाता अपने निवास राज्य और मूल राज्य दोनों में मतदान कर सकता है यदि चुनाव पास-पास आयोजित हों।
- The most effective solution would be to link **Aadhaar number** and use **biometric verification** for voting.
सबसे प्रभावी समाधान आधार नंबर को जोड़ना और बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन के माध्यम से मतदान कराना होगा।
- However, **Aadhaar is meant for residents, not citizens**, so additional proof would be needed for voting eligibility.
हालांकि, आधार निवासियों के लिए है, नागरिकों के लिए नहीं, इसलिए मतदान पात्रता के लिए अतिरिक्त प्रमाण की आवश्यकता होगी।
- An **Aadhaar number on electoral rolls** could lead to misuse, such as **profiling**.
निर्वाचन सूची में आधार नंबर जोड़ने से प्रोफाइलिंग जैसे दुरुपयोग की संभावना हो सकती है।
- The **ECI must mask Aadhaar numbers** when making voter lists available to **political parties**.
ECI को आधार नंबर छिपाने चाहिए जब राजनीतिक दलों को मतदाता सूची दी जाती है।
- **Biometric verification** for de-duplication should have **alternative identity verification** to prevent **genuine voter exclusion** due to technical failures.
डुप्लीकेशन रोकने के लिए बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन के साथ वैकल्पिक पहचान सत्यापन भी होना चाहिए, ताकि तकनीकी विफलता के कारण वास्तविक मतदाताओं को बाहर न किया जाए।



- The ECI must ensure a clear de-duplication process, so each voter has only one EPIC number and voter ID.

ECI को एक स्पष्ट डुप्लीकेशन हटाने की प्रक्रिया अपनानी चाहिए, जिससे हर मतदाता के पास केवल एक EPIC नंबर और मतदाता पहचान पत्र हो।

- Voters should be eligible to vote **only in their area of residence.**

मतदाता को केवल अपने निवास क्षेत्र में ही मतदान करने की अनुमति होनी चाहिए।

Remodelling the UAE-India aviation partnership

GS Paper II:
India-UAE

During my Mumbai International Airport in Maharashtra, I was left deeply impressed by the scale of India's aviation ambitions. Navi Mumbai International Airport has the potential to serve as a game-changer in taking India's aviation sector to exciting new heights, providing new avenues for the Indian travelling public to benefit from an increasingly inter-connected world.

As the pace of growth in India's aviation sector – it is already the world's third-largest domestic market in terms of passenger numbers – continues to quicken and the Government of India's initiatives such as the Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) airport scheme are rapidly implemented, it is essential that an equally visionary approach to regulation and international partnerships is also considered.

The UAE as a vital travel destination

For decades, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has proven itself to be a close strategic partner and friend to India. Today, the UAE is India's most significant outbound travel market, with over 4.5 million Indian tourists visiting the UAE in 2023. Every week, Indian carriers fly over 600 times to the UAE, while UAE carriers operate over 500 weekly services to India. On the surface, these numbers appear significant. However, they are far below meeting current, let alone, future consumer demand.

The impact of what is effectively a mismatch between supply and demand has directly contributed to spiralling ticket prices and a lack of choice for the UAE and Indian travelling public alike.

Under current bilateral air service arrangements, the UAE's carriers are limited to



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Beyond revisiting the regulatory frameworks, the UAE can support India's ambition to become a global aviation powerhouse

operating to a total of only 15 Indian cities, thus having no choice but to ignore the consistent demands of key Indian growth centres, including Surat, Visakhapatnam, Indore, Tiruchirappalli and Patna to operate services. Similarly, Indian carriers are unable to increase their level of frequencies to Dubai, despite unprecedented interest from Indians to visit family and engage in business and leisure activities in this vital global hub.

The benefits of a modernised strategy

With estimates suggesting that for every 1% increase in Indian passport holders, a further 10 million Indians will seek to travel overseas, this situation will only grow more acute. Restrictive bilateral regulations will contribute to further increases in the price of airline tickets, limit the ability of Indian citizens to travel abroad, and potentially inhibit the advancement of broader UAE-India investment, trade, and economic partnerships.

Just as the UAE and India have expanded cooperation through trade agreements such as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), there is an urgent need for a more progressive and open approach on aviation. A modernised aviation strategy will act as an economic multiplier, drive investment, and ensure that our aviation partnership can become a key pillar of regional and international connectivity and growth.

Beyond revisiting the regulatory frameworks that guide our aviation relationship, the UAE is keen to support, through new investments and partnerships, India's ambition to become a global aviation powerhouse.

Whether this support is in the form of

knowledge-sharing and the training of Indian pilots, partnering in India's rapidly emerging aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) industry, promoting India's globally renowned tourism sector, investing in the Indian government's UDAN airport scheme to better connect Tier-2 and Tier-3 Indian cities, or in achieving win-win outcomes for our respective airline carriers, it is imperative that we seek new areas of collaboration in this critically important sector.

Cooperation over competition

Fundamentally, an opportunity exists to establish a combined sky and aviation eco-system that privileges cooperation over competition. Through greater engagement, we can ensure that the respective aviation sectors of both our countries are able to grow and succeed, whilst offering the citizens of the UAE and India the ability to connect, engage, and thrive.

Just as Dubai and Abu Dhabi benefit from their status as global aviation hubs, cities throughout India have the potential to attain similar levels of seamless connectivity. By better connecting and supporting the aviation ambitions of emerging Indian cities, we can together ensure that inclusive and sustainable economic growth are felt not only within India, but also far beyond its borders.

Enhanced cooperation in the aviation sector is just one example of how the UAE-India partnership can evolve to unlock new avenues of mutually beneficial growth and integration. Building upon the significant strides we have achieved over recent years in our bilateral strategic ties, even the sky is not the limit in what we can achieve in our aviation partnership.

Remodelling the UAE-India aviation partnership

यूएई-भारत विमानन साझेदारी का पुनर्रचना

During a recent tour of the Navi Mumbai International Airport in Maharashtra, I was deeply impressed by India's aviation ambitions.



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हाल ही में महाराष्ट्र में नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के दौरे के दौरान, मैं भारत की विमानन महत्वाकांक्षाओं से बहुत प्रभावित हुआ।

- **Navi Mumbai International Airport** has the potential to be a **game-changer** for India's aviation sector.
नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र के लिए गेम-चेंजर साबित हो सकता है।
- This airport will open new avenues for **Indian travelers** in an increasingly **inter-connected world**.
यह हवाई अड्डा भारतीय यात्रियों के लिए एक अधिक जुड़ी हुई दुनिया में नए अवसर खोलेगा।
- **India's aviation sector** is already the **world's third-largest domestic market** in terms of **passenger numbers**.
भारत का विमानन क्षेत्र पहले ही यात्री संख्या के आधार पर दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा घरेलू बाजार बन चुका है।
- The **Government of India's initiatives**, such as **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)**, are rapidly expanding the sector.
भारत सरकार की पहल, जैसे उड़े देश का आम नागरिक (उड़ान), तेजी से इस क्षेत्र का विस्तार कर रही है।
- A **visionary approach** is needed in **regulation and international partnerships**.
विनियमन और अंतरराष्ट्रीय साझेदारी में एक दूरदर्शी दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है।

The UAE as a vital travel destination

यूएई एक महत्वपूर्ण यात्रा गंतव्य के रूप में

- **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has been a **strategic partner** and friend to India for decades.
संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) दशकों से भारत का रणनीतिक भागीदार और मित्र रहा है।
- **In 2023, over 4.5 million Indian tourists** visited the **UAE**, making it **India's most significant outbound travel market**.
2023 में, 4.5 मिलियन से अधिक भारतीय पर्यटकों ने यूएई का दौरा किया, जिससे यह भारत का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रा बाजार बन गया।
- Every week, **Indian carriers** operate over **600 flights** to the **UAE**, while **UAE carriers** operate over **500 weekly services** to India.
हर हफ्ते, भारतीय एयरलाइंस यूएई के लिए 600 से अधिक उड़ानें संचालित करती हैं, जबकि यूएई एयरलाइंस भारत के लिए 500 से अधिक साप्ताहिक उड़ानें संचालित करती हैं।
- Despite these numbers, the demand **far exceeds the supply**.
इन संख्याओं के बावजूद, मांग आपूर्ति से कहीं अधिक है।
- This **supply-demand mismatch** has led to **rising ticket prices** and **limited choices** for travelers from both countries.
इस आपूर्ति और मांग के असंतुलन के कारण टिकट की कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं और यात्रियों के पास सीमित विकल्प हैं।

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- Under **current bilateral air service agreements**, **UAE carriers** are limited to operating in **only 15 Indian cities**.
वर्तमान द्विपक्षीय हवाई सेवा समझौतों के तहत, यूएई एयरलाइंस को केवल 15 भारतीय शहरों में संचालन की अनुमति है।
- Due to these restrictions, key **Indian growth centers** like **Surat, Visakhapatnam, Indore, Tiruchirappalli, and Patna** are **ignored**.
इन प्रतिबंधों के कारण, सूरत, विशाखापत्तनम, इंदौर, तिरुचिरापल्ली और पटना जैसे प्रमुख भारतीय विकास केंद्र नजरअंदाज किए जाते हैं।
- Similarly, **Indian carriers** are unable to increase their flight frequencies to **Dubai**, despite **high demand**.
इसी तरह, भारतीय एयरलाइंस उच्च मांग के बावजूद दुबई के लिए अपनी उड़ानों की संख्या नहीं बढ़ा सकती हैं।
- Many **Indians** wish to visit **family, conduct business, and engage in leisure activities** in **Dubai**, a vital **global hub**.
कई भारतीय अपने परिवार से मिलने, व्यापार करने और अवकाश गतिविधियों में भाग लेने के लिए दुबई जाना चाहते हैं, जो एक महत्वपूर्ण वैश्विक केंद्र है।

The benefits of a modernised strategy

आधुनिकीकरण की रणनीति के लाभ

- Estimates suggest that for every **1% increase** in **Indian passport holders**, an additional **10 million Indians** will seek to travel overseas.
अनुमान बताते हैं कि भारतीय पासपोर्ट धारकों में 1% की वृद्धि से 1 करोड़ भारतीयों की विदेश यात्रा की मांग बढ़ जाएगी।
- Restrictive **bilateral regulations** will lead to **higher airline ticket prices**, limit **Indian citizens' ability** to travel abroad, and hinder **UAE-India trade and investment**.
सख्त द्विपक्षीय नियमों के कारण हवाई टिकट की कीमतें बढ़ेंगी, भारतीय नागरिकों की विदेश यात्रा सीमित होगी, और यूएई-भारत व्यापार और निवेश प्रभावित होगा।
- **UAE and India** have expanded cooperation through the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, and now a progressive **aviation policy** is needed.
यूएई और भारत ने व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौते (CEPA) के तहत सहयोग बढ़ाया है, और अब एक प्रगतिशील विमानन नीति की आवश्यकता है।
- **A modernised aviation strategy** will act as an **economic multiplier**, attract **investment**, and strengthen **regional and international connectivity**.
एक आधुनिक विमानन रणनीति आर्थिक वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देगी, निवेश आकर्षित करेगी, और क्षेत्रीय व अंतरराष्ट्रीय कनेक्टिविटी को मजबूत करेगी।
- **UAE** is ready to support India's **aviation growth** through **investments and partnerships**.
यूएई निवेश और साझेदारी के माध्यम से भारत के विमानन विकास का समर्थन करने के लिए तैयार है।



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- Support may include **knowledge-sharing, training Indian pilots, and collaborating in aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) industry.**
इस सहयोग में ज्ञान साझा करना, भारतीय पायलटों को प्रशिक्षण देना, और विमानन रखरखाव, मरम्मत और पुनर्निर्माण (MRO) उद्योग में भागीदारी शामिल हो सकती है।
- Investing in **India's UDAN scheme will help connect Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.**
भारत की उड़ान योजना में निवेश से टीयर-2 और टीयर-3 शहरों को बेहतर ढंग से जोड़ा जा सकेगा।
- A collaborative approach can achieve **win-win outcomes** for both **Indian and UAE airlines.**
एक सहयोगी दृष्टिकोण से भारतीय और यूएई एयरलाइंस के लिए लाभकारी परिणाम सुनिश्चित किए जा सकते हैं।

Cooperation over competition

प्रतियोगिता के बजाय सहयोग

- There is an opportunity to create a **shared aviation ecosystem** based on **cooperation instead of competition.**
सहयोग पर आधारित एक साझा विमानन परिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनाने का अवसर मौजूद है, जहां प्रतियोगिता की जगह सहयोग को प्राथमिकता दी जाए।
- Stronger **UAE-India aviation ties** will enable both sectors to **grow and succeed**, providing **better connectivity** to citizens.
मजबूत यूएई-भारत विमानन संबंध दोनों क्षेत्रों को विकसित और सफल होने में मदद करेंगे, जिससे नागरिकों को बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी मिलेगी।
- **Dubai and Abu Dhabi** have become **global aviation hubs**, and similar growth is possible for **Indian cities.**
दुबई और अबू धाबी वैश्विक विमानन केंद्र बन चुके हैं, और इसी तरह भारतीय शहरों के लिए भी यह विकास संभव है।
- Enhancing **aviation links** in **emerging Indian cities** will promote **inclusive and sustainable economic growth** beyond India's borders.
उभरते भारतीय शहरों में विमानन संपर्क बढ़ाने से समावेशी और स्थायी आर्थिक विकास को भारत की सीमाओं से बाहर भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा।
- Strengthening the **aviation sector** is just one way to deepen the **UAE-India partnership** for **mutual growth and integration.**
विमानन क्षेत्र को मजबूत करना यूएई-भारत साझेदारी को आपसी विकास और एकीकरण के लिए गहरा करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण तरीका है।
- With **strong bilateral strategic ties**, there are **limitless opportunities** in the **UAE-India aviation partnership.**
मजबूत द्विपक्षीय रणनीतिक संबंधों के साथ, यूएई-भारत विमानन साझेदारी में असीमित संभावनाएं मौजूद हैं।



What are the issues around delimitation?

When was the last delimitation exercise done? What did the Home Minister state with respect to increasing the number of seats in States and how it will be done? Which States will be at a disadvantage should representation based on projected population come into being?

GS Paper II: Parliament

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan, R

The story so far:

There has been a renewed debate about delimitation after the issue was raised by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies is to be carried out on the basis of the first Census after 2026.

What are constitutional provisions?
Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies. This exercise is performed by the 'Delimitation Commission' that is set up by an act of Parliament. Such an exercise was carried out based on the 1951, 1961 and 1971 Census. The number of seats in the Lok Sabha, based on the 1971 Census, was fixed at 543, when the population was 54.8 crore. However, since then, it has been frozen in order to encourage population control measures. This number is to be readjusted based on the first Census after 2026. As the 2021 Census that was originally postponed due to COVID-19 is yet to commence, there have been debates linking it to the ensuing delimitation.

What are the issues?

The population explosion that happened in our country during the last five decades has been uneven with some States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan having a greater increase than States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. There are two scenarios that are being discussed with respect to the revised delimitation exercise.

The first is to continue with the existing 543 seats and their redistribution amongst various States (Exhibit 1). The second is to increase the number of seats

Proportional representation

The number of seats in the Lok Sabha, based on the 1971 Census, was fixed at 543, when the population was 54.8 crore. However, since then, it has been frozen in order to encourage population control measures

Exhibit 1: If seats are retained at 543 and reapportioned among States based on 2026* population

State	Number of seats at present	Number of seats projected	Net Gain/(Loss)	State	Number of seats at present	Number of seats projected	Net Gain
Uttar Pradesh	80	91	11	Uttar Pradesh	80	143	63
Bihar	40	50	10	Bihar	40	79	39
Rajasthan	25	31	6	Rajasthan	25	50	25
Madhya Pradesh	29	33	4	Madhya Pradesh	29	52	23
Tamil Nadu	39	31	-8	Tamil Nadu	39	49	10
Andhra Pradesh + Telangana	42	34	-8	Andhra Pradesh + Telangana	42	54	12
Kerala	20	12	-8	Kerala	20	20	-
Karnataka	28	26	-2	Karnataka	28	41	13
Punjab	13	12	-1	Punjab	13	18	5
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	-1	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	-
Uttarakhand	5	4	-1	Uttarakhand	5	7	2
Northeastern States (excluding Assam)	11	11	-	Northeastern States (excluding Assam)	11	11	-

*projected figures

Source: Based on Vaishnav et al, Carnegie endowment

to 848, with proportionate increase among various States (Exhibit 2). Home Minister Amit Shah stated in a recent public meeting that the number of seats will not be reduced for any State and that it would be increased on a 'pro-rata' basis for all States including the southern States. The basis for this 'pro-rata' share for States – whether it will be based on the existing percentage in the share of seats or on projected population – is not clear.

As per Exhibit 2 which is based on projected population, it is evident that

southern States, smaller States in the north like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, as well as the northeastern States are bound to be at a disadvantage when compared to the larger northern States. This may go against the 'basic structure' of federalism in our polity. It will lead to a feeling of disenchantment in the States that stand to lose in their proportional representation, and thereby political significance, despite controlling their population.

Southern States that have a 24% share in the number of seats at present would

see it decline by 5%.

What can be a solution?

'Democracy' means 'rule or government by the people'. It follows that the government is elected by the majority with the broad principle of 'one citizen-one vote-one value'. However, it is pertinent to note that this principle has been diluted, in the interest of population control, since 1976 when the delimitation exercise was postponed for the first time.

In a federation like the U.S., the number of seats in the House of Representatives has been capped at 435 since 1913, though the population of the country has increased almost four times from 9.4 crore in 1911 to an estimated 34 crore in 2024.

The main job of a Member of Parliament (MP) is to legislate on 'Union List' matters and hold the Union government accountable. Majority of the schemes of the Union Government are implemented by State governments. The country has functioned with 543 Lok Sabha MPs for the past five decades while the population increased from 55 crore to 145 crore. India's population is projected to peak at around 165-170 crore, an increase of around 15% from the current level, in the next three decades and then decline. Considering the above factors, the 543 MPs in Lok Sabha may be capped at the existing number. It would ensure status quo in representation from various States and uphold the federal principle.

The MPs and leaders of both regional and national political parties from the south, smaller States in north and the northeastern States should consider it their responsibility to demand such a cap from the Parliament in order to protect the political interest of the regions they represent. The number of MLAs in each State may be increased in line with the projected population to address the democratic representational requirement.

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THE GIST

Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.

Home Minister Amit Shah stated in a recent public meeting that the number of seats will not be reduced for any State and that it would be increased on a 'pro-rata' basis for all States including the southern States.

'Democracy' means 'rule or government by the people'. It follows that the government is elected by the majority with the broad principle of 'one citizen-one vote-one value'.

Issues around Delimitation

सीमांकन से जुड़े मुद्दे

- There has been a renewed debate on delimitation after the issue was raised by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा यह मुद्दा उठाए जाने के बाद सीमांकन पर नई बहस शुरू हुई है।

- The delimitation of constituencies for Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies is to be carried out based on the first Census after 2026.

लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं के सीमांकन की प्रक्रिया 2026 के बाद की पहली जनगणना के आधार पर की जाएगी।



Constitutional Provisions

संवैधानिक प्रावधान

- **Delimitation** refers to the process of **fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies** in each **State** for the **Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies**.
सीमांकन का अर्थ है लोकसभा और विधानसभाओं के लिए राज्यों में सीटों की संख्या और क्षेत्रीय सीमाओं को तय करना।
- The **Delimitation Commission** is set up by an **act of Parliament** to conduct this exercise.
सीमांकन आयोग को संसद के एक अधिनियम द्वारा गठित किया जाता है।
- **Previous delimitation exercises** were conducted based on the **1951, 1961, and 1971 Census**.
पहले सीमांकन अभ्यास 1951, 1961 और 1971 की जनगणना के आधार पर किए गए थे।
- The number of **Lok Sabha seats** was fixed at **543** based on the **1971 Census**, when the population was **54.8 crore**.
लोकसभा सीटों की संख्या 1971 की जनगणना के आधार पर 543 तय की गई थी, जब जनसंख्या 54.8 करोड़ थी।
- Since then, this number has been **frozen** to **encourage population control measures**.
तब से, इस संख्या को जनसंख्या नियंत्रण उपायों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए स्थिर रखा गया है।
- The number of **seats will be readjusted** based on the **first Census after 2026**.
2026 के बाद की पहली जनगणना के आधार पर सीटों की संख्या को पुनः समायोजित किया जाएगा।
- The **2021 Census**, which was postponed due to **COVID-19**, has not yet begun, leading to debates about **delimitation**.
कोविड-19 के कारण स्थगित हुई 2021 की जनगणना अभी तक शुरू नहीं हुई है, जिससे सीमांकन पर बहस हो रही है।

Issues with Delimitation

सीमांकन से जुड़ी समस्याएं

- The **population explosion** over the past **five decades** has been **uneven** across States.
पिछले पांच दशकों में जनसंख्या वृद्धि राज्यों में असमान रही है।
- States like **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan** have seen a **higher population growth**.
उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान में जनसंख्या वृद्धि अधिक रही है।
- In contrast, States like **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh** have had **lower population growth**.
इसके विपरीत, केरल, तमिलनाडु, कर्नाटक और आंध्र प्रदेश में जनसंख्या वृद्धि कम रही है।



Two Possible Scenarios for Delimitation

सीमांकन के दो संभावित परिदृश्य

- **First Scenario:** Continue with **543 Lok Sabha seats** and redistribute them among various States.
पहला परिदृश्य: 543 लोकसभा सीटों को बरकरार रखा जाए और उन्हें विभिन्न राज्यों में पुनः वितरित किया जाए।
- **Second Scenario:** Increase the **number of seats to 848**, with a proportionate increase in all States.
दूसरा परिदृश्य: सीटों की संख्या 848 कर दी जाए और सभी राज्यों में आनुपातिक वृद्धि की जाए।

Home Minister's Statement on Seat Increase

गृह मंत्री का सीटों की वृद्धि पर बयान

- **Home Minister Amit Shah** stated that **no State will see a reduction** in the number of seats.
गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने कहा कि किसी भी राज्य की सीटों की संख्या नहीं घटेगी।
- The number of seats will be **increased on a 'pro-rata' basis for all States**, including **Southern States**.
सभी राज्यों, विशेष रूप से दक्षिणी राज्यों के लिए सीटों की संख्या 'प्रो-राटा' आधार पर बढ़ाई जाएगी।
- It is unclear whether this **'pro-rata' increase** will be based on the **current share of seats** or the **projected population**.
यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि यह 'प्रो-राटा' वृद्धि वर्तमान सीटों के प्रतिशत पर आधारित होगी या अनुमानित जनसंख्या पर।

Which States Will Be at a Disadvantage?

किन राज्यों को नुकसान होगा?

- If **representation** is based on **projected population**, then **Southern States** like **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh** may be at a **disadvantage**.
यदि प्रतिनिधित्व अनुमानित जनसंख्या पर आधारित हुआ, तो तमिलनाडु, केरल, कर्नाटक और आंध्र प्रदेश जैसे दक्षिणी राज्यों को नुकसान हो सकता है।
- These States have **successfully controlled population growth**, but may get **fewer seats** compared to States with **higher population growth**.
इन राज्यों ने जनसंख्या वृद्धि को सफलतापूर्वक नियंत्रित किया है, लेकिन उनकी सीटें उन राज्यों की तुलना में कम हो सकती हैं, जहां जनसंख्या वृद्धि अधिक हुई है।
- **Northern States** like **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan** may gain **more seats** due to their **higher population growth**.



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उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान जैसे उत्तर भारतीय राज्यों को उनकी अधिक जनसंख्या वृद्धि के कारण अधिक सीटें मिल सकती हैं।

What is the current status of U.S.-Taiwan relations?

There has been a rise in Chinese aggression across the Taiwan Strait. At the same time, Donald Trump has hinted at Taiwan being too far away for the U.S. to be of any help should Beijing adopt a military route

GS Paper II: Global World Order

WORLD INSIGHT

Gunjan Singh

The recent February 16 update of the U.S. State Department factsheet on Taiwan calls for a revisit of U.S.-Taiwan relations. The factsheet now does not assert that “we do not support Taiwan independence” and states that the U.S. will support “Taiwan’s membership in international organisations where applicable”. The deletion was termed a routine update by Washington and was welcomed by Taiwan. However, it did receive strong opposition from Beijing. As per China’s Foreign Ministry, “The US State Department’s revision of the list of facts regarding US-Taiwan relations represents a serious regression in its stance on Taiwan...(and) sends a seriously

erroneous message to the separatist forces advocating for Taiwan independence”. The driver of U.S. Taiwan policy is the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), 1979, which, “Declares it to be the policy of the United States to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan...and to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character”. This policy underscores the regular arms sales from the U.S. to Taiwan which has received ire from Beijing.

Trump on Taiwan

U.S. President Donald Trump has proven himself to be unpredictable, and talks of tariffs have made U.S.-China relations challenging. However, U.S.-Taiwan relations are also getting complicated.

Mr. Trump during his campaign had hinted that he believes that Taiwan has

stolen the chip industry from the U.S. He has also asserted that he is keen that Taiwan should pay the U.S. for protection, and that Taiwan should increase its defence budget. Taiwan today is in the process of negotiating a U.S. arms deal of 7-10 billion dollars. It has also increased its defence budget to 2.5% of its GDP. Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has announced that he will be communicating more with Mr. Trump and will also be looking for increasing investments in the U.S. The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) has announced that it is planning to invest around \$100 billion in developing manufacturing in the U.S., raising its investments to around \$165 billion. Mr. Trump has also made statements to the effect of hinting at Taiwan being too far away for the U.S. to be of any help should Beijing adopt a military route. However, the fact remains that Mr. Trump’s last

administration had approved arms deal worth \$10 billion and sold arms worth \$18 billion to Taiwan. He also signed laws which improved U.S.-Taiwan relations such as the Taipei Act, Taiwan Travel Act and Taiwan Assurance Act.

Taiwan’s vulnerable position

There has been a consistent rise in Chinese aggression in the form of military exercises across the Taiwan strait. Chinese President Xi Jinping has also been building a global narrative in the hope to further isolate Taiwan. Beijing has had a tough relationship with the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party’s (DPP) government since 2016. During the last three terms of the DPP, Taiwan lost diplomatic allies to Beijing. Today only 12 countries have diplomatic relations with Taipei. The 2024 elections happened under excessive military exercises by China across the Taiwan Strait. Along with regular military drills, Beijing has also resorted to using spy balloons and cyber-attacks. These tactics have been an attempt to keep the threat of military invasion real.

A conflictual relationship between the U.S. and China can raise existential challenges for Taiwan. For Mr. Xi, it is about national rejuvenation, while for Washington, Taiwan matters as a chip hub and as a market for U.S. weapons.

The writer is Associate Professor, OP Jindal Global University.

Current Status of U.S.-Taiwan Relations अमेरिका-ताइवान संबंधों की वर्तमान स्थिति

There has been a rise in Chinese aggression across the Taiwan Strait.
ताइवान जलडमरूमध्य में चीनी आक्रामकता में वृद्धि हुई है।

- Donald Trump hinted that Taiwan is too far away for the U.S. to help if Beijing takes military action.

डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने संकेत दिया कि यदि बीजिंग सैन्य कार्रवाई करता है, तो ताइवान अमेरिका से बहुत दूर है मदद के लिए।

Update on U.S. State Department Factsheet
अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग के फैक्टशीट का अपडेट

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- The **February 16 update** of the **U.S. State Department factsheet** on Taiwan has raised questions on U.S.-Taiwan relations.
16 फरवरी के अपडेट में अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग की फैक्टशीट ने अमेरिका-ताइवान संबंधों को लेकर सवाल उठाए हैं।
- The factsheet no longer states that "**we do not support Taiwan independence**".
अब फैक्टशीट में यह उल्लेख नहीं है कि "हम ताइवान की स्वतंत्रता का समर्थन नहीं करते"।
- The U.S. now supports "**Taiwan's membership in international organizations where applicable**".
अमेरिका अब "जहां संभव हो, वहां ताइवान की अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठनों में सदस्यता" का समर्थन करता है।
- **Washington** called this a **routine update**, while **Taiwan welcomed it**, but **Beijing strongly opposed it**.
वॉशिंगटन ने इसे सामान्य अपडेट बताया, ताइवान ने इसका स्वागत किया, लेकिन बीजिंग ने कड़ा विरोध किया।
- **China's Foreign Ministry** stated that this change **sends an erroneous message to Taiwan independence supporters**.
चीन के विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि यह बदलाव ताइवान की स्वतंत्रता का समर्थन करने वालों को गलत संदेश देता है।

Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), 1979

ताइवान संबंध अधिनियम (TRA), 1979

The TRA declares that the U.S. will maintain close commercial, cultural, and friendly relations with Taiwan.

TRA के तहत, अमेरिका ताइवान के साथ व्यापारिक, सांस्कृतिक और मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंध बनाए रखेगा।

- The U.S. will also **provide Taiwan with defensive arms**, which has angered **Beijing**.
अमेरिका ताइवान को रक्षात्मक हथियार उपलब्ध कराएगा, जिससे बीजिंग नाराज है।

Trump on Taiwan

ताइवान पर ट्रंप का रुख

- **Donald Trump** has made **unpredictable statements** regarding **U.S.-China and U.S.-Taiwan relations**.
डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने अमेरिका-चीन और अमेरिका-ताइवान संबंधों पर अनपेक्षित बयान दिए हैं।
- During his campaign, **Trump accused Taiwan of stealing the U.S. chip industry**.
अपने अभियान के दौरान, ट्रंप ने ताइवान पर अमेरिकी चिप उद्योग चुराने का आरोप लगाया।
- Trump also suggested that **Taiwan should pay the U.S. for protection and increase its defense budget**.



ट्रंप ने यह भी कहा कि ताइवान को अपनी सुरक्षा के लिए अमेरिका को भुगतान करना चाहिए और अपना रक्षा बजट बढ़ाना चाहिए।

- Taiwan is currently negotiating a U.S. arms deal worth \$7-10 billion and has increased its defense budget to 2.5% of GDP.
ताइवान वर्तमान में 7-10 बिलियन डॉलर के अमेरिकी हथियार सौदे पर बातचीत कर रहा है और अपने रक्षा बजट को जीडीपी के 2.5% तक बढ़ा चुका है।
- Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te plans to communicate more with Trump and increase investments in the U.S.
ताइवान के राष्ट्रपति लाई चिंग-ते ने ट्रंप के साथ अधिक संवाद करने और अमेरिका में निवेश बढ़ाने की योजना बनाई है।
- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) plans to invest \$100 billion in U.S. chip manufacturing, bringing total investments to \$165 billion.
ताइवान सेमीकंडक्टर मैन्युफैक्चरिंग कंपनी (TSMC) ने अमेरिका में 100 बिलियन डॉलर का निवेश करने की योजना बनाई है, जिससे कुल निवेश 165 बिलियन डॉलर हो जाएगा।
- Trump previously approved \$10 billion in arms deals and sold \$18 billion worth of arms to Taiwan.
ट्रंप ने पहले 10 बिलियन डॉलर के हथियार सौदों को मंजूरी दी थी और 18 बिलियन डॉलर के हथियार ताइवान को बेचे थे।
- His administration passed laws strengthening U.S.-Taiwan ties, including the Taipei Act, Taiwan Travel Act, and Taiwan Assurance Act.
उनकी सरकार ने ताइपेई अधिनियम, ताइवान यात्रा अधिनियम और ताइवान आश्वासन अधिनियम जैसे अमेरिका-ताइवान संबंध मजबूत करने वाले कानून पारित किए।

Taiwan's Vulnerable Position

ताइवान की असुरक्षित स्थिति

- Chinese aggression has increased in the form of military exercises across the Taiwan Strait.
ताइवान जलडमरूमध्य में सैन्य अभ्यास के रूप में चीनी आक्रामकता बढ़ गई है।
- Chinese President Xi Jinping is building a global narrative to further isolate Taiwan.
चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग ताइवान को और अलग-थलग करने के लिए वैश्विक प्रचार कर रहे हैं।
- Beijing has had a tense relationship with Taiwan's pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) government since 2016.
बीजिंग का 2016 से ताइवान की स्वतंत्रता समर्थक डेमोक्रेटिक प्रोग्रेसिव पार्टी (DPP) सरकार के साथ तनावपूर्ण संबंध रहा है।
- During the last three terms of the DPP, Taiwan lost diplomatic allies to Beijing.
DPP सरकार के पिछले तीन कार्यकालों के दौरान, ताइवान ने कई राजनयिक सहयोगी बीजिंग के पक्ष में खो दिए।



- Today, only 12 countries have diplomatic relations with Taiwan.
आज केवल 12 देशों के ताइवान के साथ राजनयिक संबंध हैं।
- The 2024 elections in Taiwan occurred amid heightened Chinese military exercises across the Taiwan Strait.
2024 के ताइवान चुनाव ताइवान जलडमरूमध्य में बढ़ी हुई चीनी सैन्य गतिविधियों के बीच हुए।
- Along with military drills, China has used spy balloons and cyber-attacks to keep the threat of military invasion real.
सैन्य अभ्यासों के साथ, चीन ने जासूसी गुब्बारों और साइबर हमलों का उपयोग किया ताकि सैन्य आक्रमण का खतरा वास्तविक बना रहे।

Strategic Importance of Taiwan

ताइवान का सामरिक महत्व

- A conflict between the U.S. and China can pose existential challenges for Taiwan.
अमेरिका और चीन के बीच संघर्ष ताइवान के लिए अस्तित्व का संकट खड़ा कर सकता है।

States need to protect patients from being fleeced by private hospitals, says SC

GS Paper II: Health Sector
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed States to consider framing guidelines to ensure patients are not “exploited” or compelled by private hospitals to buy medicines, implants, consumables and medical devices at inflated prices from their own pharmacies or outlets.

The court, at the same time, cautioned the States from taking a hard line while formulating the guidelines that would affect private investment in the health sector.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant took a balanced view that States, until they developed the infrastructure, would need private hospitals to fill in the gaps in their health sector.

“Not only people, but



States look to private hospitals for providing basic and specialised service to the public at large,” the court noted.

The hearing was based on a plea filed by petitioner-in-person Siddharth Dalmia. Mr. Dalmia said in court that he had personally felt the brunt of the exploitation when a relative had undergone extensive treatment in a private hospital.

Refraining from commenting on the merits of

Mr. Dalmia’s allegations of “exploitation” and unreasonable charges levied by private hospitals, the Bench said it merely wanted to sensitise the State governments to the situation. The court said the issue raised in the petition amounted to the taking of a policy decision. The subject of health and sanitation, hospitals and dispensaries were State subjects. The policy-makers of each State had to take a call on the measures they wanted to adopt, the court noted.

“It will not be advisable for the court to issue mandatory conditions that would hamper the establishment of hospitals by the private sector,” the Bench said. Disposing of the petition, the court said it merely wanted to draw the attention of the States to the constitutional framework.

• For Xi Jinping, Taiwan is crucial for national rejuvenation. शी जिनपिंग के लिए राष्ट्रीय पुनर्जागरण के लिए ताइवान महत्वपूर्ण है।

• For Washington, Taiwan matters as a chip hub and a market for U.S. weapons.

वॉशिंगटन के लिए, ताइवान एक चिप हब और अमेरिकी हथियारों के बाजार के रूप में महत्वपूर्ण है।

States need to protect patients from being fleeced by private hospitals, says SC

राज्यों को निजी अस्पतालों द्वारा मरीजों के शोषण से बचना चाहिए, सुप्रीम कोर्ट

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed States



to consider framing guidelines to ensure that patients are not exploited by private hospitals.

मंगलवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राज्यों को निर्देश दिया कि वे दिशानिर्देश बनाने पर विचार करें ताकि निजी अस्पतालों द्वारा मरीजों का शोषण न हो।

- Patients should not be forced to buy medicines, implants, consumables, and medical devices at inflated prices from hospital pharmacies.
मरीजों को दवाईयां, इम्प्लान्ट, उपभोग्य सामग्री और चिकित्सा उपकरण अस्पताल की फार्मसी से उंची कीमतों पर खरीदने के लिए मजबूर नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।
- At the same time, the court cautioned States against taking a hard stance that might affect private investment in the health sector.
साथ ही, अदालत ने राज्यों को सचेत किया कि वे कठोर नीतियां न बनाएं, जिससे स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में निजी निवेश प्रभावित हो।

Balanced View by the Supreme Court सुप्रीम कोर्ट का संतुलित दृष्टिकोण

- A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant stated that States still depend on private hospitals to fill gaps in healthcare services.
न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने कहा कि राज्य अभी भी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में निजी अस्पतालों पर निर्भर हैं।
- "Not only people, but States also rely on private hospitals for basic and specialized healthcare," the court noted.
अदालत ने कहा, "सिर्फ लोग ही नहीं, बल्कि राज्य भी बुनियादी और विशेष स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के लिए निजी अस्पतालों पर निर्भर हैं।"

Case Background मामले की पृष्ठभूमि

- The hearing was based on a plea filed by petitioner-in-person Siddharth Dalmia.
यह सुनवाई याचिकाकर्ता सिद्धार्थ डालमिया द्वारा दायर याचिका पर आधारित थी।
- Dalmia stated that he had personally experienced exploitation when a relative underwent extensive treatment in a private hospital.
डालमिया ने कहा कि उन्होंने व्यक्तिगत रूप से शोषण का अनुभव किया, जब उनके एक रिश्तेदार का एक निजी अस्पताल में लंबा इलाज चला।
- The Bench refrained from commenting on the merits of Dalmia's allegations but aimed to sensitize State governments to the issue.



पीठ ने डालमिया के आरोपों पर टिप्पणी करने से परहेज किया, लेकिन राज्यों को इस मुद्दे के प्रति जागरूक करने की इच्छा जताई।

Policy Decision and Role of States नीतिगत निर्णय और राज्यों की भूमिका

- The court noted that the issue requires a **policy decision** as **health, sanitation, hospitals, and dispensaries** are **State subjects**.
अदालत ने कहा कि यह मुद्दा नीतिगत निर्णय से जुड़ा है, क्योंकि स्वास्थ्य, स्वच्छता, अस्पताल और औषधालय राज्यों के विषय हैं।
- **Each State's policymakers** must decide on the measures **they want to adopt**.
प्रत्येक राज्य के नीति-निर्माताओं को यह तय करना होगा कि वे कौन से उपाय अपनाना चाहते हैं।
- The court refused to impose **mandatory conditions** that could hamper **private hospital expansion**.
अदालत ने ऐसे अनिवार्य नियम लगाने से इनकार किया, जो निजी अस्पतालों के विस्तार में बाधा डाल सकते हैं।
- **Disposing of the petition**, the court stated that it **only aimed to draw the attention of States to the constitutional framework**.
याचिका का निपटारा करते हुए, अदालत ने कहा कि उसका उद्देश्य सिर्फ राज्यों का ध्यान संवैधानिक ढांचे की ओर आकर्षित करना है।

'Trump world is uncertain, but India can find opportunities'

GS Paper II: India-US

Varghese K. George
ABU DHABI

India can find opportunities in the global supply chain economy which is being disrupted by U.S. President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff policy, according to Arun M. Kumar, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce in the Barack Obama administration.

Mr. Kumar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the U.S. was a success in terms of reinforcing bilateral ties on multiple fronts, and India should now focus on the details of the proposed trade agreement between the two countries. "...it is a moment that should be dealt with great, deep thought and great intentionality of what needs to be achieved," Mr. Kumar said.

Himanshu Shah, foun-

der of Shah Capital, a global investment firm based in Raleigh, North Carolina, which manages \$600 million in assets, thinks the new U.S. administration "is unpredictable and not good for business", but India may not face a severe blow. "India has geopolitical advantages. Hence, tariffs won't be as bad as is being feared," Mr. Shah said.

Mr. Kumar said it was difficult to understand the rational basis for the decisions of the Trump administration on tariffs, and one had to wait for them to play out. Mr. Kumar and Mr. Shah were speaking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of a global conference organised by Indiaspora, a forum of people of Indian origin from around the world.

"We will be entering an era of great uncertainty for multiple reasons. Presi-



The Apple example is splendid. India is squarely in the middle of the global value chain for making iPhones, and it's going to create 1,00,000 or more jobs in the country

ARUN M. KUMAR
Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce

dent Trump has always stated he prefers bilateral agreements rather than multilateral agreements. We are going into a season where there will be a lot more aggression from the United States in terms of tariffs. Now, part of it is justifiable, because it is true that U.S. tariffs are much lower than the tariffs of many other countries. So it probably can lead to appropriate correction, because in today's world,

lower tariffs can be helpful to all parties," Mr. Kumar said.

He noted that U.S. aggression against Mexico and Canada betrayed a possible lack of thinking behind the actions of the Trump administration. "It's very difficult to understand what the rational basis of those positions are. After all, the U.S., including under the previous Trump administration, had expanded trade with

these two countries." Mr. Kumar believes that the pressure to bring down tariffs will help India's ambition to be part of the global supply chain. "The Apple example is splendid. India is squarely in the middle of the global value chain for making iPhones, and it's going to create 1,00,000 or more jobs in India," he said.

Complex products

According to Mr. Kumar, the idea that countries can have self-contained economic systems insulated from global trade is not feasible in the current world. "...because even simple products today have components that come from multiple countries, go through various stages of processing in multiple countries, and that's very true of all complex products..." Arun M. Kumar, former U.S. Assis-

tant Secretary of Commerce" said Mr. Kumar.

He believes that India, as supplier of migrants to the U.S., should take measures to curtail illegal immigration, which is an area of severe concern for the Trump administration. "The Prime Minister made a very pertinent comment on this in the White House press conference when he said that there needs to be a focus on preventing trafficking of people.

Mr. Shah expects migration into the U.S. to be down by as much as a third of current levels and also a decline in U.S. investments abroad.

"Outbound U.S. investment will potentially be down by at least 20% in the first two years. There is a distinct possibility that Indian companies may invest more in the U.S., especially conglomerates and pharmaceuticals," he said.



Trump world is uncertain, but India can find opportunities ट्रंप युग अनिश्चित है, लेकिन भारत को अवसर मिल सकते हैं

India can find opportunities in the global supply chain economy, which is being disrupted by Donald Trump's aggressive tariff policy. भारत को वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला अर्थव्यवस्था में अवसर मिल सकते हैं, जिसे डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की आक्रामक टैरिफ नीति प्रभावित कर रही है।

- Arun M. Kumar, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce under Barack Obama, stated this.
यह बात अरुण एम. कुमार, पूर्व अमेरिकी वाणिज्य सहायक सचिव (बराक ओबामा प्रशासन) ने कही।
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. strengthened bilateral ties, and India should now focus on the proposed trade agreement.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अमेरिका यात्रा ने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूत किया, और अब भारत को प्रस्तावित व्यापार समझौते पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- This moment should be handled with deep thought and clear objectives, according to Mr. Kumar.
अरुण एम. कुमार के अनुसार, इस अवसर को गहन विचार और स्पष्ट उद्देश्यों के साथ संभालना चाहिए।

Concerns About the U.S. Administration

अमेरिकी प्रशासन को लेकर चिंताएं

- Himanshu Shah, founder of Shah Capital, believes that the new U.S. administration is unpredictable and not good for business.
हिमांशु शाह, शाह कैपिटल के संस्थापक, का मानना है कि नया अमेरिकी प्रशासन अप्रत्याशित है और व्यवसाय के लिए अनुकूल नहीं है।
- However, India has geopolitical advantages, so tariffs won't be as bad as feared.
हालांकि, भारत के पास भू-राजनीतिक लाभ हैं, इसलिए टैरिफ उतने बुरे नहीं होंगे, जितना आशंका जताई जा रही है।
- Trump's tariff decisions lack clear rationale, and their impact will take time to become evident.
ट्रंप के टैरिफ निर्णयों में स्पष्ट तर्क की कमी है, और उनके प्रभाव को समझने में समय लगेगा।
- Mr. Kumar and Mr. Shah shared these views during a global conference by Indiaspora, a forum of Indian-origin people worldwide.
अरुण एम. कुमार और हिमांशु शाह ने यह विचार इंडियास्पोरा द्वारा आयोजित वैश्विक सम्मेलन में व्यक्त किए, जो भारतीय मूल के लोगों का मंच है।



U.S. Trade Policies and Their Impact

अमेरिकी व्यापार नीतियां और उनका प्रभाव

- The world is entering an era of great uncertainty, with Trump preferring bilateral agreements over multilateral ones.
दुनिया बड़े अनिश्चितता के दौर में प्रवेश कर रही है, क्योंकि ट्रंप बहुपक्षीय समझौतों की बजाय द्विपक्षीय समझौतों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- The U.S. is expected to take a more aggressive stance on tariffs, as its tariff rates are lower compared to many countries.
अमेरिका टैरिफ पर अधिक आक्रामक रुख अपनाने की संभावना है, क्योंकि उसकी टैरिफ दरें कई अन्य देशों की तुलना में कम हैं।
- This tariff pressure could help India integrate further into the global supply chain.
यह टैरिफ दबाव भारत को वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में बेहतर एकीकृत करने में मदद कर सकता है।
- Apple's expansion in India is a great example, as it has placed India at the center of iPhone manufacturing, creating over 1,00,000 jobs.
एप्पल का भारत में विस्तार इसका एक शानदार उदाहरण है, जिसने भारत को आईफोन निर्माण के केंद्र में रखा है और 1,00,000 से अधिक नौकरियां सृजित की हैं।

Global Trade and Economic Integration

वैश्विक व्यापार और आर्थिक एकीकरण

- A self-contained economy insulated from global trade is not feasible today, as even simple products have components from multiple countries.
आज के समय में, वैश्विक व्यापार से कटी हुई आत्मनिर्भर अर्थव्यवस्था संभव नहीं है, क्योंकि सरल उत्पादों के भी कई देशों में निर्मित घटक होते हैं।
- Complex products require multi-stage processing across various countries, making global supply chains indispensable.
जटिल उत्पादों के लिए विभिन्न देशों में कई चरणों में प्रसंस्करण की आवश्यकता होती है, जिससे वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएं अनिवार्य बन जाती हैं।

Immigration and Investment Trends

आप्रवासन और निवेश प्रवृत्तियां

- India, as a key supplier of migrants to the U.S., should take measures to curb illegal immigration, which is a major concern for Trump.
भारत, अमेरिका को प्रवासियों की आपूर्ति करने वाला प्रमुख देश होने के नाते, अवैध आव्रजन को रोकने के उपाय करे, क्योंकि यह ट्रंप प्रशासन के लिए एक बड़ी चिंता है।



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

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- Prime Minister Modi emphasized preventing human trafficking during his White House press conference.
प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने व्हाइट हाउस प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में मानव तस्करी रोकने पर जोर दिया।
- U.S. immigration is expected to drop by a third, and U.S. outbound investment may decline by at least 20% in the first two years.
अमेरिका में आव्रजन एक तिहाई तक घटने की संभावना है, और अमेरिका से बाहर जाने वाला निवेश पहले दो वर्षों में कम से कम 20% गिर सकता है।
- Indian companies may invest more in the U.S., especially in conglomerates and pharmaceuticals.
भारतीय कंपनियां अमेरिका में अधिक निवेश कर सकती हैं, विशेष रूप से कॉन्ग्लोमरेट्स और फार्मास्यूटिकल्स सेक्टर में।

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

1.Kerala passes resolution against offshore mining

केरल ने अपतटीय खनन के खिलाफ प्रस्ताव पारित किया

2.Little has changed in the Income-Tax Bill, 2025

आयकर विधेयक, 2025 में बहुत कम बदलाव हुआ है

3.Government talks big on gender budget, delivers little

सरकार जेंडर बजट पर बड़ी बातें करती है, लेकिन कम डिलीवरी करती है

4.SC directs States, U.T.s to provide full records of forest lands in 6 months

SC ने राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को 6 महीने में वन भूमि का पूरा रिकॉर्ड उपलब्ध कराने का निर्देश दिया

5.Belgium defence giant ties up with Indian firm to manufacture tank turrets

बेल्जियम की रक्षा कंपनी ने भारतीय फर्म के साथ टैंक टरेट्स के निर्माण के लिए साझेदारी की

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6.IMF: Overexposure by NBFCs May Imperil Financial System

आईएमएफ: एनबीएफसी का अत्यधिक एक्सपोजर वित्तीय प्रणाली के लिए खतरा

7.Blue Ghost Moon Landing Part of U.S. Plan to Dominate Space

ब्लू घोस्ट चंद्रमा लैंडिंग अमेरिका की अंतरिक्ष में प्रभुत्व स्थापित करने की योजना का हिस्सा

8.Kashmir University Has a Plan to Help Farmers Manage a Dry Summer

कश्मीर विश्वविद्यालय ने सूखे गर्मी के मौसम से निपटने के लिए किसानों की मदद करने की योजना बनाई

9.Helping Crops Survive Also Means Keeping Pests at Bay

फसलों को बचाने का मतलब कीटों को दूर रखना भी है



Kerala passes resolution against offshore mining

State argues that allowing offshore mining along its coast can have devastating consequences for Kerala's marine resources and economy; CM Pinarayi highlights threats posed to national security

**GS Paper III:
Environment**

The Hindu
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Centre's plan to permit offshore mining along the State's coast.

The resolution, presented by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, expressed grave concern over the amendments to the **Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002**, which allowed private participation in deep-sea mineral exploration and mining. The amendment, passed in 2023, has paved the way



File photo of fishing boats anchored at Kollam harbour following hartal against Centre's offshore mining project off the Kerala coast.

for the Union Ministry of Mines to auction deep-sea mineral blocks. The State government argues that this move can have devas-

tating consequences for the State's marine resources and economy.

The Chief Minister highlighted the potential des-

truction of the fragile marine ecosystem, while stressing that the move would severely impact both fish resources and biodiversity in the deep sea.

The resolution pointed out that experts have raised alarms about the significant risks posed by the new legislation.

Mr. Vijayan also highlighted the threats posed to national security, considering the policy would grant private entities access to strategic minerals found in deep-sea areas. The resolution also delved into the economic implications for Kerala's fishing community and the State in general.

Kerala passes resolution against offshore mining

केरल ने अपतटीय खनन के खिलाफ प्रस्ताव पारित किया

The Kerala Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Centre's plan to allow offshore mining along the State's coast.

मंगलवार को केरल विधानसभा ने राज्य के तट पर अपतटीय खनन की अनुमति देने की केंद्र सरकार की योजना के खिलाफ सर्वसम्मति से प्रस्ताव पारित किया।

- The resolution was presented by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. मुख्यमंत्री पिनाराई विजयन ने प्रस्ताव पेश किया।



- The resolution expressed **grave concern** over the amendments to the **Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002**, which now allows **private participation** in **deep-sea mineral exploration and mining**.
प्रस्ताव में अपतटीय क्षेत्र खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2002 में किए गए संशोधनों पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की गई, जो अब गहरे समुद्र में खनिज अन्वेषण और खनन में निजी भागीदारी की अनुमति देता है।
- The **amendment** was passed in **2023**, enabling the **Union Ministry of Mines** to **auction deep-sea mineral blocks**.
2023 में पारित संशोधन ने केंद्रीय खान मंत्रालय को गहरे समुद्री खनिज ब्लॉकों की नीलामी की अनुमति दी।

Environmental and Economic Concerns

पर्यावरणीय और आर्थिक चिंताएं

- The **State government** argues that **offshore mining** could have **devastating consequences** for **Kerala's marine resources and economy**.
राज्य सरकार का मानना है कि अपतटीय खनन केरल के समुद्री संसाधनों और अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए विनाशकारी परिणाम ला सकता है।
- **CM Pinarayi Vijayan** warned that **deep-sea mining** could **destroy the fragile marine ecosystem**.
मुख्यमंत्री पिनाराई विजयन ने चेतावनी दी कि गहरे समुद्र में खनन से नाजुक समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र नष्ट हो सकता है।
- The move would **severely impact fish resources and biodiversity** in the **deep sea**.
यह कदम गहरे समुद्र में मछली संसाधनों और जैव विविधता को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित करेगा।
- The **resolution** highlighted that **experts have raised alarms** about the **significant risks** posed by the new legislation.
प्रस्ताव में उल्लेख किया गया कि विशेषज्ञों ने नए कानून के गंभीर खतरों को लेकर चेतावनी दी है।

National Security Concerns

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताएं

- **CM Vijayan** also emphasized the **national security threats** linked to **offshore mining**.
मुख्यमंत्री विजयन ने अपतटीय खनन से जुड़ी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा चिंताओं पर भी जोर दिया।
- The policy would grant **private entities access** to **strategic minerals** found in **deep-sea areas**, posing **security risks**.
यह नीति निजी कंपनियों को गहरे समुद्री क्षेत्रों में पाए जाने वाले रणनीतिक खनिजों तक पहुंच प्रदान करेगी, जिससे सुरक्षा जोखिम पैदा होंगे।



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

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Impact on Kerala's Fishing Community

केरल के मछली पालन समुदाय पर प्रभाव

- The **resolution** also addressed the **economic impact** of offshore mining on Kerala's fishing community.
प्रस्ताव में केरल के मछली पालन समुदाय पर अपतटीय खनन के आर्थिक प्रभाव का भी उल्लेख किया गया।
- It stressed that **fishing livelihoods** would be **severely affected**, impacting **thousands of fishermen**.
इसमें जोर दिया गया कि मछली पालन से जुड़े लोगों की आजीविका गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित होगी, जिससे हजारों मछुआरों पर असर पड़ेगा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Little has changed in the Income-Tax Bill, 2025

GS Paper III: Taxation

In February this year, the Union Finance Minister introduced the Income-Tax Bill, 2025, in Parliament. If enacted, the legislation will replace the Income-Tax Act, 1961, and, according to the government, will simplify the law for both taxpayers and administrators alike.

The current law, of 1961, the government claims, has become unwieldy and unclear not only for the common person but also for professionals, littered as it is with provisos, exceptions, and non-obstante clauses. The newly designed draft purports to clear the fog and foster greater certainty in taxation, with a view to reducing litigation and creating a fairer, more predictable tax environment.

There can be little doubt that these are worthy causes to pursue. But a reading of the Bill shows us that behind the cosmetic and structural alterations that it seeks to make, little else will change. Many of the complexities and ambiguities that plague the current legislation remain unbroken. And, in some areas, the Bill seeks to make into law a set of powers that are troublingly authoritarian, even more so than what the present, already severe, legislation permits.

Jurisdictions across the world have tried to move towards legislative drafting that promotes the use of plain language. The underlying idea is that laws should be more accessible to the broader public, thereby enhancing transparency and making governments more accountable.

Some critics argue that plain language and precision do not always go hand in hand – that the technicality of legalese ensures greater accuracy and specificity; that a quest for clarity can at times come at the cost of exactness. However, global examples have shown us that simplifying legal language is not necessarily detrimental to accuracy. In fact, clearer laws can help eliminate confusion, improve compliance and ultimately reduce litigation.

Complex and knotty text

But the Bill, despite its vaunted objective, scarcely embraces this approach. It continues to rely on dense and convoluted text, doing little to make the law more accessible to the common taxpayer. For instance, we are led to believe that the replacement of the phrase “notwithstanding anything contained to the contrary...” with the words “irrespective of anything to the contrary” will help simplify the law.

The use of the term “notwithstanding” denotes what lawyers describe as a “non-obstante” clause; it has a rich legal history attached to it. In theory, the word “irrespective” ought to now be accorded the same meaning, but it is hard to comprehend how this change helps unravel the law to the everyday taxpayer.



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Despite its purported objective of clearing the fog, the Bill does little to make the law more accessible to the common taxpayer

It is worth bearing in mind that fiscal laws are not the easiest to draft in simple terms. But the Bill's failure here emanates at least partly out of the absence of any change in government policy. The state's approach to how it taxes income remains what it has been for years. In the absence of any fundamental adjustment in the law's basic thrust, the draft winds up akin to something of a manual or a digest – a marginally more concise guide to the existing 1961 law.

The Bill does seek to remove a few of the outdated redundancies in the prevailing statute. In places, definitions have been made crisper, and some of the timelines and compliance requirements have been consolidated into tables and schedules. But all of this could well have been achieved through streamlined amendments rather than a complete overhauling of the existing statute.

What is more, for all the efforts that the Bill seeks to make, its provisions continue to perplex. The framers appear to have overlooked the fact that a mere shifting of timelines from clauses and paragraphs to tables and schedules will not eliminate the law's inherently litigious nature, especially when those tables include cross-references to other sections of the Act.

Cosmetic alterations

To make matters worse, despite its intended repeal, the new law will also incorporate by reference some of the existing legislation's clauses. For example, the term “income” is defined under Section 2(49) to include a series of things such as profits and gains, dividend and allowances, as well as everything covered under Section 2(24) of the present law. If a definition needs reference to the old legislation, one might well wonder what we are really gaining from this exercise.

Bringing about textual alterations without altering the statute's basic philosophy presents another problem. Since 1961, India's courts have rigorously interpreted the legislation's provisions, clarifying the law for taxpayers. Now, changes made through the Bill may reopen settled debates, subjecting the same provisions to renewed interpretation. The result might well be more litigation and less certainty.

Consider one of the more heavily contested areas under the Act: the power of the income-tax authorities to reopen completed assessments. Until April 2021, the Revenue could make reassessments only if it had “reason to believe” that income had escaped the tax net – a phrase that sparked endless court battles. The law was then changed to allow reassessments wherever authorities had “information” suggesting income had escaped assessment. The term “information” was defined to include, among other things, data obtained through a “risk management strategy”

framed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes. However, in a law brimming with definitions, “risk management strategy” remained undefined.

Although some of these gaps have been addressed by the courts, delegating critical power to the executive has opened the door to potential abuse. The Bill does little to filter this provision. Instead, it adopts the existing text and rearranges its structure. It is difficult to see how this approach will alleviate litigation.

The point of search and seizure

Perhaps the most worrying aspect of the Bill is its approach to search and seizure. The current law grants to the taxman enormous police power to search persons and their properties, and seize goods found during a search. Although this authority has been upheld by the courts previously, its validity following the Supreme Court of India's judgment in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* (2017), where the fundamental right to privacy was affirmed, is suspect.

Rather than addressing this concern, the Bill extends the power of search into new domains. It does so by allowing officials to inspect “any information stored in an electronic media or computer system”. A computer system is defined widely to include all manners of data storage and what is described as a “virtual digital space” – among other things, email servers, social media accounts and digital application platforms. Should a taxpayer deny access to these spaces, the authorities can now override access codes to enter the system.

In sanctioning this the Bill marks a significant departure from the law as it stands, which does not explicitly permit digital intrusions. Until now, officers have still been demanding access to laptops and hard disks, although it could be contended that these directions are in breach of the law. But if the Bill is enacted, officials, in furtherance of a search, can legitimately trawl through emails and messages received and sent on Gmail, X, or Instagram, and every other such platform.

In times where digital communication is so deeply integrated into both professional and personal life, to permit government easy access to intimate and sensitive data is fraught with danger. The Bill offers no judicial oversight over these powers. To the contrary, it enables authorities to keep to themselves the reasons undergirding a search.

When the Select Committee of the Lok Sabha scrutinises the Bill, it may well find that this is an exercise best shelved. Rather than a sweeping effort at repeal and reenactment, we may be better served if Parliament can tidy up some of the misgivings in the present law and rid it of its more draconian commands.

Little has changed in the Income-Tax Bill, 2025

आयकर विधेयक, 2025 में बहुत कम बदलाव हुआ है

In February 2024, the Union Finance Minister introduced the Income-Tax Bill, 2025 in Parliament.

फरवरी 2024 में, केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री ने आयकर विधेयक, 2025 को संसद में पेश किया।



- If enacted, the **Bill will replace the Income-Tax Act, 1961** and aims to **simplify tax laws** for taxpayers and administrators.
यदि यह कानून बनता है, तो यह 1961 के आयकर अधिनियम को प्रतिस्थापित करेगा और करदाताओं व प्रशासकों के लिए कर कानूनों को सरल बनाने का लक्ष्य रखता है।
- The government claims that the **1961 Act has become unclear and complex due to numerous provisos, exceptions, and clauses**.
सरकार का कहना है कि 1961 का अधिनियम कई उपबंधों, अपवादों और धाराओं के कारण जटिल और अस्पष्ट हो गया है।
- The **new Bill aims to reduce litigation, ensure greater tax certainty, and create a fair tax system**.
नया विधेयक मुकदमों को कम करने, कर में अधिक स्पष्टता लाने और एक न्यायसंगत कर प्रणाली बनाने का प्रयास करता है।

Minimal Changes in the New Bill

नए विधेयक में मामूली बदलाव

- Despite these objectives, a **reading of the Bill suggests that it makes only cosmetic and structural changes**.
इन उद्देश्यों के बावजूद, विधेयक का अध्ययन करने पर पता चलता है कि इसमें केवल सतही और संरचनात्मक बदलाव किए गए हैं।
- Many **complexities and ambiguities of the 1961 law remain unchanged**.
1961 के कानून की कई जटिलताएं और अस्पष्टताएं अब भी बनी हुई हैं।
- In some areas, the **Bill gives even more authoritarian powers** than the existing legislation.
कुछ मामलों में, विधेयक वर्तमान कानून से भी अधिक सख्त शक्तियां प्रदान करता है।

Need for Simpler Legal Language

सरल कानूनी भाषा की आवश्यकता

- Many countries are moving towards **plain language laws** to make legal texts **more accessible** and governments **more accountable**.
कई देश सरल भाषा में कानून बनाने की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं ताकि कानूनी पाठ अधिक सुलभ हो और सरकारें जवाबदेह बन सकें।
- Some critics argue that **legal precision is lost** with **simpler language**, but global examples show that clarity **reduces confusion and litigation**.
कुछ आलोचकों का मानना है कि सरल भाषा से कानूनी सटीकता प्रभावित होती है, लेकिन वैश्विक उदाहरण बताते हैं कि स्पष्टता से भ्रम और मुकदमेबाजी कम होती है।



Continued Complexity in the Bill

विधेयक में बनी हुई जटिलता

- The Bill continues to use convoluted text, making tax laws inaccessible to common taxpayers.
विधेयक अभी भी जटिल भाषा का उपयोग करता है, जिससे आम करदाताओं के लिए कर कानून समझना मुश्किल बना रहता है।
- Replacing phrases like “notwithstanding anything contained to the contrary” with “irrespective of anything to the contrary” does little to simplify the law.
"न notwithstanding anything contained to the contrary" को "irrespective of anything to the contrary" से बदलने से कानून को समझना आसान नहीं हुआ है।
- Fiscal laws are inherently complex, but the Bill fails to simplify them due to lack of change in government policy.
राजस्व कानून स्वभाव से जटिल होते हैं, लेकिन विधेयक सरल बनाने में विफल रहता है, क्योंकि सरकारी नीतियों में कोई बड़ा बदलाव नहीं किया गया है।
- Instead of a complete overhaul, these changes could have been made through amendments in the 1961 Act.
पूरे कानून को बदलने की बजाय, ये बदलाव 1961 अधिनियम में संशोधन करके किए जा सकते थे।

Persistent Issues in the Bill

विधेयक में बनी समस्याएं

- Although the Bill removes outdated provisions and consolidates definitions and compliance timelines, it fails to address core issues.
हालांकि विधेयक पुरानी व्यवस्थाओं को हटा कर परिभाषाओं और अनुपालन समयसीमा को समेकित करता है, लेकिन यह मुख्य समस्याओं को हल करने में विफल रहता है।
- Simply shifting timelines and compliance details to tables and schedules does not eliminate litigious aspects of the law.
केवल समयसीमा और अनुपालन विवरण को तालिकाओं और अनुसूचियों में स्थानांतरित करने से कानून की मुकदमेबाजी प्रवृत्ति समाप्त नहीं होती।
- The Bill cross-references multiple sections, making it just as confusing as the 1961 Act.
विधेयक कई धाराओं को आपस में जोड़ता है, जिससे यह 1961 अधिनियम जितना ही जटिल बना रहता है।

Cosmetic alterations

सतही बदलाव



- Despite **repealing the old law**, the **new Income-Tax Bill, 2025** still incorporates **several clauses** from the **existing legislation**.
पुराने कानून को समाप्त करने के बावजूद, नया आयकर विधेयक, 2025 अब भी मौजूदा कानून की कई धाराओं को शामिल करता है।
- For example, **Section 2(49) defines "income"** by referring to **Section 2(24) of the 1961 Act**, making one question **what has really changed**.
उदाहरण के लिए, धारा 2(49) में "आय" की परिभाषा 1961 अधिनियम की धारा 2(24) के संदर्भ में दी गई है, जिससे यह सवाल उठता है कि वास्तव में क्या बदला है।
- The **Bill does not alter the fundamental philosophy** of taxation, leading to **continuing legal complexities**.
विधेयक कराधान की मौलिक विचारधारा को नहीं बदलता, जिससे कानूनी जटिलताएं बनी रहती हैं।
- Courts have **already settled many tax disputes** under the **1961 Act**, but **new wording may lead to renewed litigation**.
अदालतों ने 1961 अधिनियम के तहत पहले ही कई कर विवादों को सुलझा लिया है, लेकिन नई भाषा के कारण मुकदमों का सिलसिला फिर शुरू हो सकता है।

Reassessment of Taxation

पुनर्मूल्यांकन की प्रक्रिया

- One of the **most contested areas** in tax law is the **power to reopen tax assessments**.
कर कानून में सबसे विवादास्पद मुद्दों में से एक है कर निर्धारण को दोबारा खोलने की शक्ति।
- Until **April 2021**, reassessment could be done only if authorities had **"reason to believe"** that **income had escaped tax**.
अप्रैल 2021 तक, पुनर्मूल्यांकन केवल तभी संभव था जब अधिकारियों को यह "विश्वास करने का कारण" मिलता कि आय कर से बची हुई है।
- After 2021, reassessments were allowed if authorities had **"information"**, but the definition of **"risk management strategy"** remained unclear.
2021 के बाद, पुनर्मूल्यांकन "सूचना" के आधार पर किया जाने लगा, लेकिन "जोखिम प्रबंधन रणनीति" की परिभाषा स्पष्ट नहीं थी।
- Courts have filled **some legal gaps**, but the **Bill does not fix these uncertainties**, increasing the **risk of arbitrary reassessments**.
अदालतों ने कुछ कानूनी खामियों को दूर किया है, लेकिन विधेयक इन अनिश्चितताओं को दूर नहीं करता, जिससे मनमाने पुनर्मूल्यांकन का खतरा बढ़ता है।

Expansion of Search and Seizure Powers

तलाशी और जब्ती की शक्तियों का विस्तार



- The Bill increases the tax department's powers for search and seizure, which were already extensive.
विधेयक कर विभाग की तलाशी और जब्ती की शक्तियों को बढ़ाता है, जो पहले से ही बहुत व्यापक थीं।
- Courts had previously upheld these powers, but the 2017 Supreme Court ruling in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India has strengthened the fundamental right to privacy.
अदालतों ने पहले इन शक्तियों को बरकरार रखा था, लेकिन 2017 में जस्टिस के.एस. पुट्टास्वामी बनाम भारत संघ के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले ने निजता के मौलिक अधिकार को मजबूत किया।
- Instead of limiting these powers, the Bill extends search powers into digital domains.
इन शक्तियों को सीमित करने के बजाय, विधेयक डिजिटल क्षेत्रों में तलाशी की शक्तियों का विस्तार करता है।
- Tax authorities can now access any electronic media, computer systems, email servers, social media accounts, and digital platforms.
कर अधिकारी अब किसी भी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया, कंप्यूटर सिस्टम, ईमेल सर्वर, सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट और डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म तक पहुंच सकते हैं।
- If a taxpayer denies access, the authorities can override access codes to enter the system.
यदि कोई करदाता पहुंच से इनकार करता है, तो अधिकारी सिस्टम में जबरन प्रवेश कर सकते हैं।
- The Bill does not provide judicial oversight, making digital intrusions a major privacy concern.
विधेयक न्यायिक निगरानी की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं करता, जिससे डिजिटल हस्तक्षेप एक बड़ा गोपनीयता मुद्दा बन जाता है।

Need for Reconsideration

पुनर्विचार की आवश्यकता

- The Select Committee of Lok Sabha should consider whether the Bill should be passed in its current form.
लोकसभा की चयन समिति को विचार करना चाहिए कि क्या विधेयक को वर्तमान रूप में पारित किया जाना चाहिए।
- Instead of completely repealing the 1961 Act, Parliament should focus on fixing major flaws and removing excessive provisions.
1961 अधिनियम को पूरी तरह समाप्त करने के बजाय, संसद को मुख्य खामियों को सुधारने और अत्यधिक प्रावधानों को हटाने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।



Government talks big on gender budget, delivers little

GS Paper III: Gender Budgeting

Gujarat allocates more than 37% of its Budget to women, whereas Maharashtra allocates a mere 3%

DATA POINT

**Shabana Mitra,
Sharavni Prakash
Anjhana Ramesh**

The Union and State governments regularly talk about their commitment to women's empowerment. One of the four pillars of a Viksit Bharat 2047 is *mahila* or woman. The Finance Minister mentioned women several times in her 74-minute speech during the Union Budget.

One of the most powerful tools to show commitment to the cause of women's empowerment is through fiscal backing. This year, the gender budget has increased to 8.9% of the overall Budget. **Chart 1** shows the gender budget over the years as a share of the overall Budget (in percentage). It is important to note here that there is no separate gender budget in the overall Budget; this term simply refers to all the allocations to gender-related schemes under various ministries and departments.

Where does the money go? Gender budgets have three components: Part A comprises schemes with 100% provision for women and girls; Part B comprises schemes with 30-99% allocations for women and girls; and Part C reflects schemes with allocations for women and girls below 30% of the provision. Part C was introduced only in the 2024-25 Budget. Over time, as seen in **Chart 2**, the proportion of Part A has decreased and the proportion of Part B has increased.

Since the inception of the concept of a gender budget, the highest number of ministries/departments (49) have reported allocations for gender-related schemes this year. Twelve new ministries/departments have reported allocations for gender-related schemes this year. This indicates that there is a push to diversify the gender budget from the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

ment. Around 10 ministries/departments have reported more than 30% of their allocations to gender-related schemes for FY 2025-26.

In her Budget speech, the Finance Minister mentioned increased allocations to women and said that this has been made possible by increasing funds for women-led enterprises. The Budget mentions several promises for women and women led-development, especially in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) space. But is the Budget really going to cater to all this?

Only 0.7% of the gender budget has been allocated to the Ministry of MSMEs (**Chart 3**). The Ministry offers schemes such as the Mahila Coir Yojana, the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme, and the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries. The allocation for skill development of women in the entrepreneurial space is only ₹38.4 crore, which is 0.0009% of the gender budget. Surprisingly, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Capacity Building and Skill Development Scheme under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has only been allocated around 0.23% of the gender budget.

Almost 10% of the gender budget has been allocated to the Department of School Education and Literacy and the Department of Higher Education. Education and technical training are among the pillars of sustainable long-term growth. They provide a highly literate and skilled workforce. These investments will also effectively close the gender gap in the labour market. Investments such as these are a step towards Viksit Bharat.

The agricultural industry that has contributed the most to the increased female labour force participation rate over the years has only been allotted 4.2% of the gender budget. Interestingly, ₹15,000 crore out of the ₹18,739 crore of

the allocation to the Agriculture Department is to the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme, which falls under Part C. Under the scheme, income support of ₹6,000 per year in three equal instalments is provided to all land-holding farmer families. However, since the land that the women work on is mostly owned by men, they will not benefit from the scheme.

In 2023-24, 64.5% of women (15-59 years) cited childcare and personal commitments as the reason for not working, indicating the urgent need for childcare services. However, Saksham Anganwadi and the Poshan 2.0 scheme have only been allocated 3.9% of the gender budget. More importantly, this share has not increased significantly in the past few years.

Approximately 17.5% has been allocated to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (housing scheme). Also, 8.9% of the gender budget has been allotted to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. While these schemes do empower women, it is important to invest in skill development and provide child and elderly care for long-term empowerment. For a Viksit Bharat, there needs to be focussed investments towards women-led development in the domains of manufacturing and finance.

Further, the States have varied experiences with allocating funds to women-centric programmes. Gujarat allocates more than 37% of its budget to women, whereas Maharashtra allocates a mere 3%.

Therefore, though there is much conversation about women being the pillars of economic growth in India, the Union and State governments are not backing really this promise. Without state support, it is going to be challenging to achieve gender parity or work towards women-led development.

Shabana Mitra, Sharavni Prakash and Anjhana Ramesh are researchers at ICRIER

Tipping the scales

The data for the charts were sourced from India's Budget documents. They include the author's computation of gender budgets



Chart 1: The chart shows the proportion of the Union Budget towards gender (%)

It is important to note here that there is no separate gender budget in the overall Budget; this term simply refers to all the allocations to gender-related schemes under various ministries and departments



Chart 2:

Distribution of gender budget over years

Part A: Schemes with 100% provision for women and girls;
Part B: Schemes with 30-99% allocations for women and girls
Part C: Schemes with allocations for women and girls below 30% of the provision

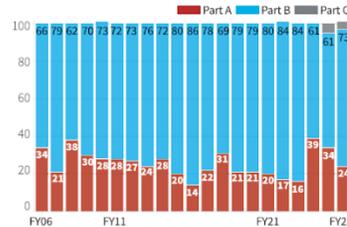
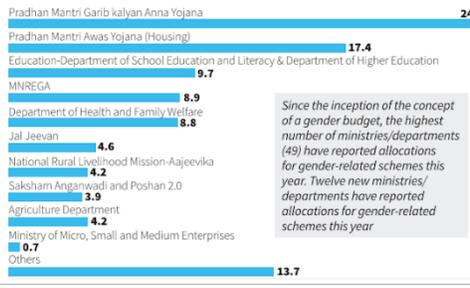


Chart 3: The chart shows the scheme/department/ministry-wise distribution of the gender budget. Figures in %



Since the inception of the concept of a gender budget, the highest number of ministries/departments (49) have reported allocations for gender-related schemes this year. Twelve new ministries/departments have reported allocations for gender-related schemes this year

Government talks big on gender budget, delivers little

सरकार जेंडर बजट पर बड़ी बातें करती है, लेकिन कम डिलीवरी करती है

The Union and State governments regularly talk about their commitment to women's empowerment.



केंद्र और राज्य सरकारें नियमित रूप से महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता की बात करती हैं।

- One of the four pillars of a *Viksit Bharat 2047* is *mahila* (woman).
विकसित भारत 2047 के चार स्तंभों में से एक महिला है।
- The Finance Minister mentioned women several times in her 74-minute speech during the Union Budget.
वित्त मंत्री ने केंद्रीय बजट के दौरान अपनी 74-मिनट की स्पीच में महिलाओं का कई बार उल्लेख किया।
- A powerful tool to show commitment to women's empowerment is fiscal backing.
महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता दिखाने का एक शक्तिशाली तरीका वित्तीय सहायता है।
- The gender budget has increased to 8.9% of the overall Budget this year.
इस वर्ष, जेंडर बजट कुल बजट का 8.9% हो गया है।
- There is no separate gender budget; it refers to allocations for gender-related schemes under various ministries.
कोई अलग जेंडर बजट नहीं है; यह विभिन्न मंत्रालयों के तहत जेंडर-सम्बंधित योजनाओं के लिए आवंटनों को दर्शाता है।

Where does the money go?

पैसा कहाँ जाता है?

- Gender budgets have three components:
जेंडर बजट के तीन भाग होते हैं:
 - Part A: Schemes with 100% provision for women and girls.
भाग A: ऐसी योजनाएं जिनमें 100% प्रावधान महिलाओं और लड़कियों के लिए होता है।
 - Part B: Schemes with 30-99% allocations for women and girls.
भाग B: ऐसी योजनाएं जिनमें 30-99% आवंटन महिलाओं और लड़कियों के लिए होता है।
 - Part C: Schemes with allocations for women and girls below 30% (introduced in 2024-25 Budget).
भाग C: ऐसी योजनाएं जिनमें महिलाओं और लड़कियों के लिए 30% से कम आवंटन होता है (2024-25 बजट में शुरू किया गया)।
- Over time, *Part A* allocations have decreased, and *Part B* allocations have increased.
समय के साथ, भाग A के आवंटन में कमी आई है और भाग B के आवंटन में वृद्धि हुई है।
- This year, 49 ministries/departments have reported gender-related allocations, the highest ever.
इस वर्ष, 49 मंत्रालयों/विभागों ने जेंडर-सम्बंधित आवंटन की सूचना दी, जो अब तक का सबसे अधिक है।
- 12 new ministries/departments have reported gender-related allocations for the first time.
12 नए मंत्रालयों/विभागों ने पहली बार जेंडर-सम्बंधित आवंटन की सूचना दी।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Around 10 ministries/departments have allocated more than 30% of their budget to gender-related schemes for FY 2025-26.
लगभग 10 मंत्रालयों/विभागों ने FY 2025-26 के लिए अपने बजट का 30% से अधिक जेंडर-सम्बंधित योजनाओं में आवंटित किया।

Budget allocations for women-led enterprises

महिला-नेतृत्व वाले उद्यमों के लिए बजट आवंटन

- Despite promises, only 0.7% of the gender budget has been allocated to the Ministry of MSMEs.
वादों के बावजूद, केवल 0.7% जेंडर बजट सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (MSME) मंत्रालय को आवंटित किया गया है।
- Allocation for women's skill development in entrepreneurship is only ₹38.4 crore (0.0009% of the gender budget).
उद्यमिता में महिलाओं के कौशल विकास के लिए केवल ₹38.4 करोड़ (0.0009% जेंडर बजट) आवंटित किया गया है।
- Ministry of Skill Development and the Capacity Building Scheme under the IT Ministry have only 0.23% of the gender budget.
कौशल विकास मंत्रालय और आईटी मंत्रालय की क्षमता निर्माण योजना को केवल 0.23% जेंडर बजट मिला है।

Education and skill development investments

शिक्षा और कौशल विकास में निवेश

- Almost 10% of the gender budget is allocated to School and Higher Education departments.
कुल जेंडर बजट का लगभग 10% स्कूल और उच्च शिक्षा विभागों को आवंटित किया गया है।
- Education and technical training help reduce the gender gap in the labor market.
शिक्षा और तकनीकी प्रशिक्षण श्रम बाजार में जेंडर गैप को कम करने में मदद करते हैं।

Agriculture and women's participation

कृषि और महिलाओं की भागीदारी

- Agriculture, which has increased female labor force participation, gets only 4.2% of the gender budget.
कृषि, जिसने महिला श्रम भागीदारी को बढ़ाया है, को केवल 4.2% जेंडर बजट मिला है।
- ₹15,000 crore of the ₹18,739 crore agriculture allocation is under PM-Kisan, which benefits mostly male landowners.



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₹18,739 करोड़ के कृषि आवंटन में से ₹15,000 करोड़ पीएम-किसान योजना के तहत है, जो ज्यादातर पुरुष भूमि मालिकों को लाभ पहुंचाता है।

Childcare and social support

बाल देखभाल और सामाजिक सहायता

- In 2023-24, 64.5% of women (15-59 years) cited childcare as a reason for not working.
2023-24 में, 64.5% महिलाओं (15-59 वर्ष) ने नौकरी न करने का कारण बाल देखभाल बताया।
- Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 schemes received only 3.9% of the gender budget.

सक्षम आंगनवाड़ी और पोषण 2.0 योजनाओं को केवल 3.9% जेंडर बजट मिला।

Other allocations and state variations

अन्य आवंटन और राज्यों में भिन्नता

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana received 17.5% of the gender budget.
प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना को 17.5% जेंडर बजट मिला।
- MGNREGS received 8.9% of the gender budget.
मनरेगा को 8.9% जेंडर बजट मिला।
- Gujarat allocates over 37% of its budget to women, while Maharashtra only 3%.
गुजरात अपने बजट का 37% से अधिक महिलाओं के लिए आवंटित करता है, जबकि महाराष्ट्र केवल 3%।
- Despite promises, the lack of financial backing makes achieving gender parity challenging.

वादों के बावजूद, वित्तीय सहायता की कमी के कारण जेंडर समानता प्राप्त करना कठिन है।



SC directs States, U.T.s to provide full records of forest lands in 6 months

GS Paper III: Environment

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a stern warning that the Chief Secretaries of the States and the Administrators of the Union Territories would be held personally liable if they failed to constitute expert committees to identify forests in their respective jurisdictions in a month, followed by the preparation of consolidated records of these lands within the next six months.

The order by a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih came after Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati submitted that several States had still not constituted expert committees in compliance with a Supreme Court judgment on December 12, 1996 and subsequent court orders.

The Centre's law officer said that most States had not completed the exercise of consolidation of records



The term 'forest' will apply to any area recorded as such in government records.

of their forest lands under Rule 16(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam Rules, 2023. Rule 16 brings "forest-like areas" identified by the expert committees and unclassified and community forest lands under the protection of the law.

The Bench reiterated that the expression "forest" would be understood according to its "broad and all-encompassing" dictionary meaning as held in its *T.N. Godavarman Thiru-*

mulpad vs Union of India and others judgment of December 1996 until further court orders.

The 1996 judgment, besides including forests as understood in the dictionary sense, had held that the expression "forest" in Section 2 of the original Forest Act of 1980 would cover all statutorily recognised forests whether they were designated as reserved, protected or otherwise. Forests and their conservation would apply to any area recorded as "forest" in the government record, irrespective of the ownership or classification. The 1996 judgment was reinforced by the top court in three subsequent orders in November 2023, February 2024 and as late as February 3, 2025.

The Supreme Court was hearing a challenge to the amendments made to the Forest Act in 2023. The petitioners have claimed that the amendments restrict

the meaning of "forest" to two categories of lands, that is, those declared or notified as forests by law and areas recorded in government records as forests on or after October 25, 1980.

Petitioners, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan and senior advocate Prashanto Chandra Sen and Gopal Sankaranarayanan, have argued that while the total coverage of forests in the country was in the vicinity of 7.13 lakh sq.km, about 1.97 lakh sq.km would be excluded by the constrictions introduced by the amendment. They contend that the dilution would create ecological imbalance.

On Tuesday, the top court directed the States and Union Territories to complete the entire exercise in "letter and spirit" and submit a report to the Union government. The Centre would place the report before the top court.

SC directs States, U.T.s to provide full records of forest lands in 6 months

SC ने राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को 6 महीने में वन भूमि का पूरा रिकॉर्ड उपलब्ध कराने का निर्देश दिया

The Supreme Court issued a stern warning that Chief Secretaries and Administrators would be personally liable if they failed to form expert committees within a month.



सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कड़ी चेतावनी दी कि यदि मुख्य सचिव और प्रशासक एक महीने के भीतर विशेषज्ञ समितियों का गठन नहीं करते हैं, तो वे व्यक्तिगत रूप से उत्तरदायी होंगे।

- The consolidated records of forest lands must be prepared within the next *six months*.
वन भूमि का समेकित रिकॉर्ड अगले छह महीने के भीतर तैयार किया जाना चाहिए।
- The order was passed by Justices *B.R. Gavai* and *A.G. Masih* after Additional Solicitor-General *Aishwarya Bhati* submitted that several States had not formed expert committees.
यह आदेश न्यायमूर्ति *बी.आर. गवई* और *ए.जी. मसीह* द्वारा दिया गया, जब अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल *ऐश्वर्या भाटी* ने बताया कि कई राज्यों ने अभी तक विशेषज्ञ समितियों का गठन नहीं किया है।
- Most States had not completed the consolidation of forest land records under *Rule 16(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam Rules, 2023*.
अधिकांश राज्यों ने *वन (संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन) अधिनियम नियम, 2023* के *नियम 16(1)* के तहत वन भूमि के रिकॉर्ड का समेकन पूरा नहीं किया था।
- Rule 16 includes *forest-like areas*, unclassed forests, and community forest lands under legal protection.
नियम 16 वन जैसे क्षेत्र, अवर्गीकृत वन और सामुदायिक वन भूमि को कानूनी संरक्षण में शामिल करता है।

Definition of Forests as per Supreme Court

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अनुसार वन की परिभाषा

- The expression “forest” will be understood in a *broad and all-encompassing* dictionary sense, as per the *1996 T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs Union of India* judgment.
“वन” शब्द को *व्यापक* और *समावेशी* शब्दकोश अर्थ में समझा जाएगा, जैसा कि *1996 टी.एन. गोदावरमन थिरुमुलपद बनाम भारत संघ* मामले में कहा गया था।
- The 1996 judgment included all statutorily recognized forests, whether *reserved, protected, or otherwise*.
1996 के निर्णय में सभी विधिवत मान्यता प्राप्त वन शामिल थे, चाहे वे आरक्षित, संरक्षित या अन्य कोई हों।
- Forests recorded in government records would be protected, irrespective of ownership or classification.
सरकारी रिकॉर्ड में दर्ज वन संरक्षित किए जाएंगे, चाहे उनका स्वामित्व या वर्गीकरण कुछ भी हो।
- The 1996 judgment was reinforced by Supreme Court orders in *November 2023, February 2024, and February 3, 2025*.



1996 के फैसले को सुप्रीम कोर्ट के नवंबर 2023, फरवरी 2024 और 3 फरवरी 2025 के आदेशों द्वारा और मजबूत किया गया।

Challenge to the 2023 Amendments in Forest Act

वन अधिनियम 2023 के संशोधनों को चुनौती

- Petitioners challenged the 2023 Forest Act amendments, arguing that they restrict the definition of “forest” to two categories:
याचिकाकर्ताओं ने 2023 वन अधिनियम के संशोधनों को यह कहते हुए चुनौती दी कि यह “वन” की परिभाषा को दो श्रेणियों तक सीमित करता है:
 - Forests declared or notified by law.
कानूनी रूप से घोषित या अधिसूचित वन।
 - Forests recorded in government records on or after October 25, 1980.
सरकारी रिकॉर्ड में 25 अक्टूबर 1980 या उसके बाद दर्ज वन।
- Advocates Prashant Bhushan, Prashanto Chandra Sen, and Gopal Sankaranarayanan argued that 1.97 lakh sq. km of forests would be excluded due to these restrictions.
वकील प्रशांत भूषण, प्रशांत चंद्र सेन और गोपाल शंकरनारायणन ने तर्क दिया कि इन प्रतिबंधों के कारण 1.97 लाख वर्ग किमी वन क्षेत्र बाहर हो जाएगा।
- They warned that such dilution would create an ecological imbalance.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि इस तरह का कमजोर करना पारिस्थितिक असंतुलन पैदा करेगा।

Final Supreme Court Directive

अंतिम सुप्रीम कोर्ट निर्देश

- The Supreme Court directed States and U.T.s to complete the identification and consolidation process in *letter and spirit*.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को इस प्रक्रिया को पूरी ईमानदारी और गंभीरता से पूरा करने का निर्देश दिया।
- States and U.T.s must submit their reports to the Union government, which will present them before the Supreme Court.
राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को अपनी रिपोर्ट केंद्र सरकार को सौंपनी होगी, जिसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट में प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा।



Belgium defence giant ties up with Indian firm to manufacture tank turrets

बेल्जियम की रक्षा कंपनी ने भारतीय फर्म के साथ टैंक टरेट्स के निर्माण के लिए साझेदारी की

Belgium defence giant ties up with Indian firm to manufacture tank turrets

GS Paper III: Defence

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD), the world's top-turret manufacturer for battle tanks, and the Pune-based Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH) Pvt. Ltd. announced a Joint Venture (JV) in India with initial focus on the Indian Army's light tank contest under way.

They had already tied up for supplying turrets for Zorawar, the light tank developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) which is currently in advanced stages of trials. The development comes as India and Belgium look to scale up defence cooperation and are set to sign a memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation by the end of 2025.

The light tank is a critical requirement for the Indian Army, a need identified during the stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh.

It will be a 60:40 JV between JCD and EPH in



The Pune-based Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics will handle the Indian segment of the deal. FILE PHOTO

which the former will bring the technology and know-how while the latter will focus on the manufacturing, according to Thierry Renaudin, Chief Executive Officer, JCD. "We will get a new world-class turret...," he said.

While the initial focus on the Indian light tank requirement could eventually go up to 700 tanks, the focus of the JV is much broader, said Francois Michel, Group Chief Executive Officer, John Cockerill. "There are several programmes in India that justify this JV. Our alignment is not for one single project, it goes way beyond. We have the best technology

available for tank turrets today. India's strength in electronics and Artificial Intelligence will allow us to build very efficient systems," he said during a select media interaction.

Giving an overview of EPH, Ingrid Rasquinha, Joint Managing Director, said that the company has been in the defence sector for 25 years, manufacturing simulators and missile launchers. "The ₹300 crore company, which has manufacturing facility at Chakan in Pune, generates 35-40% of its revenue from defence, one of its five verticals," Prashant Gadepalli, Director-Operations and Marketing, EPH, said.

Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD), the world's top turret manufacturer for battle tanks, and Pune-based Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH) Pvt. Ltd. announced a Joint Venture (JV) in India.

बेल्जियम की जॉन कॉकरिल डिफेंस (JCD), जो युद्धक टैंकों के लिए विश्व की शीर्ष टरेट निर्माता कंपनी है, और पुणे स्थित इलेक्ट्रो न्यूमैटिक्स एंड हाइड्रोलिक्स (EPH) प्रा. लि. ने भारत में संयुक्त उद्यम (JV) की घोषणा की।

• The initial focus of the JV is the Indian Army's *light tank contest* currently under way. संयुक्त उद्यम का प्रारंभिक ध्यान भारतीय सेना की *लाइट टैंक प्रतियोगिता* पर है, जो वर्तमान में चल रही है।

• JCD and EPH have already partnered to supply turrets for *Zorawar*, the light tank developed by DRDO and L&T, which is in advanced trial stages.

JCD और EPH पहले से ही *ज़ोरावर* टैंक के



टरेट आपूर्ति के लिए साझेदारी कर चुके हैं, जिसे DRDO और L&T ने विकसित किया है और यह उन्नत परीक्षण चरण में है।

- India and Belgium are set to sign a *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* on defence cooperation by the *end of 2025*.

भारत और बेलजियम 2025 के अंत तक रक्षा सहयोग पर *समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU)* पर हस्ताक्षर करने वाले हैं।

Importance of the Light Tank for India

भारत के लिए लाइट टैंक का महत्त्व

- The light tank is a *critical requirement* for the Indian Army, identified during the *standoff with China* in eastern Ladakh.

लाइट टैंक भारतीय सेना के लिए *अत्यंत आवश्यक* है, जिसकी जरूरत *पूर्वी लद्दाख में चीन के साथ गतिरोध* के दौरान महसूस की गई थी।

Joint Venture Details

संयुक्त उद्यम का विवरण

- The JV will have a *60:40* partnership, where JCD will bring *technology and expertise*, while EPH will handle *manufacturing*.

संयुक्त उद्यम में *60:40* का साझेदारी अनुपात होगा, जिसमें JCD *तकनीक और विशेषज्ञता* लाएगा और EPH *निर्माण* पर ध्यान देगा।

- According to *Thierry Renaudin*, CEO of JCD, the JV will create a *new world-class turret*.

JCD के सीईओ *थियरी रेनाुदिन* के अनुसार, यह संयुक्त उद्यम *विश्वस्तरीय टरेट* विकसित करेगा।

- The initial focus is on *700 light tanks* for India, but the JV has broader objectives beyond this.

प्रारंभिक ध्यान *700 लाइट टैंकों* पर होगा, लेकिन संयुक्त उद्यम के उद्देश्य इससे कहीं अधिक व्यापक हैं।

- Francois Michel, Group CEO of John Cockerill, stated that *India's strengths in electronics and Artificial Intelligence (AI)* would help in building efficient turret systems.

जॉन कॉकरिल के समूह सीईओ *फ्रांस्वा मिशेल* ने कहा कि *भारत की इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI)* में विशेषज्ञता प्रभावी टरेट सिस्टम बनाने में मदद करेगी।

Overview of Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH)

इलेक्ट्रो न्यूमैटिक्स एंड हाइड्रोलिक्स (EPH) का परिचय



- EPH has been in the defence sector for **25 years**, manufacturing *simulators and missile launchers*.
EPH पिछले 25 वर्षों से रक्षा क्षेत्र में काम कर रही है और *सिमुलेटर एवं मिसाइल लॉन्चर* का निर्माण करती है।
- The company, based in *Chakan, Pune*, has a revenue of **₹300 crore**, with **35-40%** of its revenue coming from defence.
चाकण, पुणे स्थित यह कंपनी **₹300 करोड़** का वार्षिक राजस्व अर्जित करती है, जिसमें से **35-40%** रक्षा क्षेत्र से आता है।

IMF: overexposure by NBFCs may imperil financial system

Study finds 63% of power sector loans were from 3 large infra financing firms in FY24; NBFCs such as IREDA at higher risk; IMF flags PSBs' inefficacy to maintain 9% CAR in the event of a stagflation

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

GS Paper III: Banking System

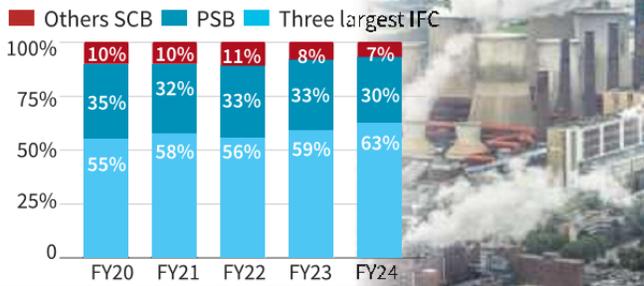
Stress in non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) may pose risk in the financial system due to their overexposure to power and infrastructure sector and interconnectedness with other markets, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a report.

The report titled 'India Financial System Stability Assessment' found that 63% of the power sector loans were from three large infrastructure financing companies (a type of a NBFC) in fiscal 2024.

This had increased from 55% in 2019-20. Moreover, 56% of their lending was financed by market instru-

Rising power sector exposure

Share of IFCs in total lending to power sector has increased in the past five years



ments and only the rest were by bank borrowings in Q2 of fiscal 2024.

The dependence on bank borrowings for financing their lending nevertheless increased since fiscal 2019. State-owned NBFCs like IREDA are at a higher risk, the IMF said.

Besides spillover of

NBFC stress, the IMF also studied banks' resilience if a stagflation were to occur – a situation when growth slows and inflation soars.

In the stress test, IMF found that in the event of a stagflation, public sector banks (PSBs) may have difficulties maintaining a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of

barely 9%. The IMF said that though the likelihood of stagflation had receded in 2024, there were geopolitical risks, and monetary policy mis-calibration of major central banks could result in an increase in interest rates, which could slow economic growth.

"Assuming zero growth to their loan portfolio, PSBs can maintain barely the 9% CAR in the recession scenarios. This means that PSBs should strengthen their capital base, including by retaining their earnings instead of paying dividends to the government as in the past few years, to ensure they can support economic recovery in a potential future downturn," the IMF found.



IMF: Overexposure by NBFCs May Imperil Financial System आईएमएफ: एनबीएफसी का अत्यधिक एक्सपोजर वित्तीय प्रणाली के लिए खतरा

Stress in Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) may pose a risk to the financial system due to their overexposure to the power and infrastructure sector and interconnectedness with other markets, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a report.

गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों (NBFCs) में तनाव वित्तीय प्रणाली के लिए जोखिम बन सकता है, क्योंकि वे बिजली और बुनियादी ढांचा क्षेत्र में अत्यधिक निवेश और अन्य बाजारों से जुड़े हुए हैं, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा।

- The report titled 'India Financial System Stability Assessment' found that **63% of power sector loans** were from **three large infrastructure financing companies** (a type of NBFC) in **fiscal 2024**.
'इंडिया फाइनेंशियल सिस्टम स्टेबिलिटी असेसमेंट' नामक रिपोर्ट में पाया गया कि 63% बिजली क्षेत्र के ऋण तीन बड़े बुनियादी ढांचा वित्तपोषण कंपनियों (एक प्रकार की एनबीएफसी) से थे वित्त वर्ष 2024 में।
- This **increased from 55% in 2019-20**. Moreover, **56% of their lending** was financed by **market instruments**, while the rest was financed by **bank borrowings in Q2 of fiscal 2024**.
यह आंकड़ा 2019-20 में 55% से बढ़कर 63% हो गया। इसके अलावा, 56% ऋण बाजार उपकरणों से वित्तपोषित था, जबकि शेष वित्त वर्ष 2024 की दूसरी तिमाही में बैंक उधार से आया।
- The dependence on **bank borrowings for financing their lending** has increased since **fiscal 2019**.
ऋण वित्तपोषण के लिए बैंक उधारी पर निर्भरता वित्त वर्ष 2019 से बढ़ी है।
- **State-owned NBFCs like IREDA** are at **higher risk**, the IMF said.
आईआरईडीए (IREDA) जैसी सरकारी एनबीएफसी अधिक जोखिम में हैं, आईएमएफ ने कहा।
- **Besides the spillover of NBFC stress**, the IMF also studied **banks' resilience in case of stagflation**—a situation when **growth slows and inflation soars**.
एनबीएफसी तनाव के प्रभाव के अलावा, आईएमएफ ने बैंकों की क्षमता का अध्ययन किया यदि स्टैगफ्लेशन होता है—एक स्थिति जहां विकास धीमा और महंगाई बढ़ जाती है।
- In the **stress test**, the IMF found that in the event of **stagflation**, **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** may struggle to maintain a **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)** of barely **9%**.



तनाव परीक्षण में, आईएमएफ ने पाया कि यदि स्टैगफ्लेशन होता है, तो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक (PSBs) मुश्किल से 9% पूंजी पर्याप्तता अनुपात (CAR) बनाए रख सकते हैं।

- The IMF noted that while the likelihood of stagflation had receded in 2024, geopolitical risks and monetary policy mis-calibration of major central banks could result in higher interest rates and slower economic growth.

आईएमएफ ने कहा कि हालांकि 2024 में स्टैगफ्लेशन की संभावना कम हुई है, लेकिन भू-राजनीतिक जोखिम और प्रमुख केंद्रीय बैंकों की मौद्रिक नीति की गलत गणना से ब्याज दरों में वृद्धि और आर्थिक वृद्धि की गति धीमी हो सकती है।

- “Assuming zero growth in their loan portfolio, PSBs can barely maintain the 9% CAR in recession scenarios.

“अगर उनके ऋण पोर्टफोलियो में कोई वृद्धि नहीं होती, तो पीएसबी मंदी के परिदृश्य में मुश्किल से 9% CAR बनाए रख सकते हैं।

- This means that PSBs should strengthen their capital base by retaining their earnings instead of paying dividends to the government, as in previous years.

इसका मतलब है कि पीएसबी को अपनी पूंजी आधार मजबूत करनी चाहिए, सरकार को लाभांश देने के बजाय अपनी आय बनाए रखनी चाहिए, जैसा कि पिछले वर्षों में किया गया।

- This will ensure that banks can support economic recovery in case of a potential future downturn.

इससे यह सुनिश्चित होगा कि बैंक किसी संभावित भविष्य की मंदी में आर्थिक सुधार का समर्थन कर सकें।



'Blue Ghost moon landing part of U.S. plan to dominate space'

IGS Paper III: S&T

Firefly Aerospace succeeded in its first attempt to land on the moon with its uncrewed Blue Ghost spacecraft on Sunday, kicking off a two-week research mission as a handful of private firms compete to reach the frontlines of a global moon race.

The size of a compact car, the four-legged Blue Ghost carried 10 scientific payloads as it touched down at around 0835 GMT (1405 IST) near an ancient volcanic vent on Mare Crisium, a large basin in the northeast corner of the moon's earth-facing side.

Acting NASA administrator Janet Petro said at Fi-



Landmark feat: Private lunar lander Blue Ghost after touching down on the moon with a special delivery for NASA on Sunday. AP

refly's landing event that the moon remains part of America's goal to "dominate" space.

"I think this administration really wants to keep America first, and I think the way that we keep

America first is by dominating in all the domains of space," she said.

"So as long as we keep dominating that space, I think we're going to be putting America first," Ms. Petro added.

Blue Ghost Moon Landing Part of U.S. Plan to Dominate Space

ब्लू घोस्ट चंद्रमा लैंडिंग अमेरिका की अंतरिक्ष में प्रभुत्व स्थापित करने की योजना का हिस्सा

Firefly Aerospace succeeded in its first attempt to land on the moon with its uncrewed Blue Ghost spacecraft on Sunday.



फायरफ्लाई एयरोस्पेस ने अपने ब्लू घोस्ट अंतरिक्ष यान के साथ रविवार को चंद्रमा पर पहली बार सफल लैंडिंग की।

- This marks the **beginning of a two-week research mission**, as private firms compete in the **global moon race**.
यह दो सप्ताह के अनुसंधान मिशन की शुरुआत है, क्योंकि निजी कंपनियां वैश्विक चंद्र दौड़ में प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रही हैं।
- The **Blue Ghost**, about the **size of a compact car**, has **four legs** and carried **10 scientific payloads**.
ब्लू घोस्ट, जो एक छोटी कार के आकार का है, में चार पैर हैं और यह 10 वैज्ञानिक उपकरणों को लेकर गया।
- It touched down at around **0835 GMT (1405 IST)** near an **ancient volcanic vent** on **Mare Crisium**, a large basin in the **northeast corner** of the moon's **Earth-facing side**.
यह 0835 GMT (1405 IST) के आसपास मारे क्रिसियम में एक प्राचीन ज्वालामुखीय वेंट के पास उतरा, जो चंद्रमा के पृथ्वी की ओर मुख वाले भाग के उत्तर-पूर्व कोने में एक बड़ा बेसिन है।
- **Acting NASA Administrator Janet Petro** said at **Firefly's landing event** that the moon remains part of America's goal to **"dominate" space**.
नासा की कार्यवाहक प्रशासक जेनेट पेट्रो ने फायरफ्लाई की लैंडिंग घटना में कहा कि चंद्रमा अमेरिका की अंतरिक्ष में प्रभुत्व स्थापित करने की योजना का हिस्सा बना रहेगा।
- She stated, **"I think this administration really wants to keep America first, and the way to do that is by dominating in all domains of space."**
उन्होंने कहा, "मुझे लगता है कि यह प्रशासन वास्तव में अमेरिका को पहले रखना चाहता है, और इसे सुनिश्चित करने का तरीका सभी अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्रों में प्रभुत्व बनाए रखना है।"
- She added, **"As long as we keep dominating that space, I think we're going to be putting America first."**
उन्होंने आगे कहा, "जब तक हम अंतरिक्ष में प्रभुत्व बनाए रखते हैं, तब तक हम अमेरिका को पहले स्थान पर रख सकेंगे।"

Kashmir University Has a Plan to Help Farmers Manage a Dry Summer

कश्मीर विश्वविद्यालय ने सूखे गर्मी के मौसम से निपटने के लिए किसानों की मदद करने की योजना बनाई



Kashmir had a dry winter this year, with a rainfall deficit of around 80%.

इस साल कश्मीर में सर्दी सूखी रही, जिसमें लगभग 80% वर्षा की कमी रही।

- Researchers at SKUAST have prepared planting and adaptation strategies for farmers in the region.
एसकेयूएसटी (SKUAST) के शोधकर्ताओं ने किसानों के लिए बुवाई और अनुकूलन रणनीतियाँ तैयार की हैं।
- This includes measures to preserve moisture, micro-irrigation, crop rotation plans, and the creation of a seed stock.
इसमें नमी संरक्षण, माइक्रो-सिंचाई, फसल चक्र योजना, और बीज भंडार तैयार करने जैसे उपाय शामिल हैं।

Crop Contingency Plan

फसल आकस्मिक योजना

- Experts warned that if dry weather continues, it could lead to a drought-like situation in spring and summer.
विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी कि यदि सूखा मौसम जारी रहता है, तो यह बसंत और गर्मी में सूखे जैसी स्थिति पैदा कर सकता है।
- It may severely affect water-dependent sectors such as irrigated agriculture (paddy), horticulture, hydroelectric power production, and drinking water supply.
यह पानी पर निर्भर क्षेत्रों जैसे सिंचित कृषि (धान), बागवानी, जलविद्युत उत्पादन, और पेयजल आपूर्ति को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित कर सकता है।
- Forests are also at risk of wildfires, and some incidents have already been reported.
जंगलों में भी आग लगने का खतरा है, और कुछ घटनाएं पहले ही दर्ज की जा चुकी हैं।
- SKUAST researchers have prepared a "crop contingency plan" led by Vice-Chancellor Nazir Ganai.
एसकेयूएसटी के शोधकर्ताओं ने कुलपति नज़ीर गणाई के नेतृत्व में "फसल आकस्मिक योजना" तैयार की है।
- The plan operates on two fronts:
 - Logistics support, providing farmers with benefits and assistance in drought conditions.
 - लॉजिस्टिक्स समर्थन, जिसमें किसानों को सूखे की स्थिति में लाभ और सहायता प्रदान करना शामिल है।
 - Farm advisory services to guide them in adapting to weather changes.
 - फार्म सलाह सेवाएँ, जो उन्हें मौसम में बदलाव के अनुसार अनुकूलन करने में मार्गदर्शन देती हैं।



- **Seed availability is crucial in drought-like conditions, as farmers rely on certified seeds.**
सूखे जैसी परिस्थितियों में बीज उपलब्धता महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि किसान प्रमाणित बीजों पर निर्भर होते हैं।
- **Kashmir needs 1.5 lakh quintals of seed annually, and SKUAST produces at least 100 quintals of breeder seed for field and vegetable crops.**
कश्मीर को हर साल 1.5 लाख क्विंटल बीज की आवश्यकता होती है, और एसकेयूएएसटी फील्ड और सब्जी फसलों के लिए कम से कम 100 क्विंटल ब्रिडर बीज तैयार करता है।
- **Scientists recommend drought-tolerant crops like maize varieties SMC-8, SMH-5, and pulses, as they require less water and can still yield well.**
वैज्ञानिक सूखा सहिष्णु फसलों जैसे मक्का (SMC-8, SMH-5) और दालों की सिफारिश करते हैं, क्योंकि ये कम पानी में भी अच्छी उपज दे सकती हैं।

Helping Crops Survive

फसलों को बचाने के उपाय

- **Mulching techniques help in preserving moisture and improving soil condition.**
मलचिंग तकनीक से नमी बनाए रखने और मिट्टी की स्थिति सुधारने में मदद मिलती है।
- **Anti-transpirant agents block plants from releasing water into the air, helping conserve water.**
एंटी-ट्रंसपिरेंट एजेंट पौधों द्वारा पानी छोड़ने की प्रक्रिया को रोकते हैं, जिससे पानी संरक्षित रहता है।
- **Similar measures are applied to horticultural crops like apples.**
इसी तरह के उपाय बागवानी फसलों, जैसे सेब, पर भी लागू किए जाते हैं।
- **Micro-irrigation systems like drip irrigation and mist sprayers are promoted, and demonstration units have been set up in saffron fields.**
ड्रिप सिंचाई और मिस्ट स्प्रेयर जैसी सूक्ष्म सिंचाई प्रणालियों को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है, और केसर के खेतों में प्रदर्शन इकाइयाँ स्थापित की गई हैं।
- **These efforts aim to help farmers adapt to climate change and sustain agricultural productivity.**
इन प्रयासों का लक्ष्य किसानों को जलवायु परिवर्तन के अनुकूल बनाने और कृषि उत्पादकता बनाए रखने में मदद करना है।



Kashmir university has a plan to help farmers manage a dry summer

Kashmir had a dry winter this year, with a rainfall deficit of around 80%; in anticipation, researchers at SKUAST have prepared planting and adaptation strategies for farmers in the region; this includes **measures to preserve moisture, micro-irrigation, crop rotation plans, and the creation of a seed stock**

Hirra Azmat

GS Paper III: Agriculture

From seed distribution to crop calendars, the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) has an action plan to tackle the dry conditions it expects in Kashmir this summer.

Kashmir has had a dry winter this year, with the months of January and February recording a rainfall deficit of around 80%. Even though the weather department had forecast a wet spell until February 28, there has also been a significant shortfall of snow in Kashmir, plus the attendant consequences.

Crop contingency plan

Experts have previously warned that if the dry weather continued, it could lead to a drought-like situation in the subsequent spring and summer. They have also stressed that it could severely affect water-dependent sectors such as irrigated agriculture (paddy), horticulture, hydroelectric power production, and even drinking water supply.

Forests are also at risk of wildfires and a few have already been reported.

In anticipation, researchers at SKUAST have prepared planting and adaptation strategies for farmers in the region.

Asif Bashir Shikari, head of the National Seed Project at SKUAST, said Kashmir has been experiencing erratic weather for several years now. This year, the snowless winter has left the region in a precarious situation.

He added that SKUAST has prepared a "crop contingency plan" led by its vice-chancellor, Nazir Ganai, for short- and long-term mitigation of a drought-like situation.

"Briefly, our action plan for these weather fluctuations operates on two fronts. First, on logistics support, what we provide to farmers and other stakeholders in terms of benefits and support in a situation like drought; and second, it comprises farm advisory services," Asif said. "Among agricultural inputs, seed availability is the most important, especially in drought-like conditions, where having the right planting material is paramount."

"Annually, we require 1.5 lakh quintals of seed, with farmers specifically depending on certified seed. To meet this demand, the university produces at least 100 quintals of breeder seed of field and vegetable crops," he added.

The scientist stressed that in case of a drought-like situation, he and his peers recommend the consumption of crops other than rice and "accordingly facilitate the enhanced seed availability of drought-tolerant maize varieties and hybrids, such as SMC-8 and SMH-5, and



The old Mehjoor Nagar Bridge on February 19, 2025, following a prolonged dry spell in Srinagar. PTI

pulses, as these crops are more resilient to dry conditions. Pulses, in particular, require less water and can still produce a reasonable yield with minimal losses."

Helping crops survive

"Apart from seed management, we emphasise implementing other drought mitigation strategies. For vegetable crops, techniques like mulching – covering the topsoil with material such as bark, wood chips, leaves, and other organic material in order to preserve moisture and improve the soil condition – can be practiced," Asif said.

Experts also recommended using anti-transpirant agents, which block plants from releasing water into the air. Similar measures are applied to horticultural crops like apples.

"We also promote micro-irrigation systems, such as drip irrigation, by installing demonstration units in farmers' fields. Water-saving technologies such as mist sprayers are already in use in saffron fields," according to Asif. "Through these combined efforts, we aim to help farmers adapt to changing weather conditions and sustain agricultural productivity."

Helping crops survive also means keeping pests at bay. With rising temperatures, pests that were previously docile have become invasive and more active. For example, a common pest called aphids completes its life cycle much faster and produces more generations per year in warmer weather. Leaf miner blotch, a pest of apple crops, has graduated from being a minor to a major concern for the same reason, researchers said. "This necessitates issuing advisories to farmers and suggesting innovative chemical control



We cultivate fodder seeds in Jammu. Last year, we produced 300 quintals of foundation seed and supplied it to the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

measures in such situations," Zafar Mehdi, associate professor in the Division of Basic Sciences and Humanities at SKUAST, said.

The action plan has multiple categories of advisory services. "The meteorological department provides weather data, and based on that, we develop crop calendars." These calendars specify normal crop cycles as well as alternate crops that should be planted in case of drought conditions," Zafar added.

"Take Budgam, for example, a significant vegetable-producing region," Asif said. "Abrupt climatic changes in the Kashmir Valley, including rising temperatures and [incidence of] drought, threaten vegetable crop production. Kharif vegetables, particularly those from the *Solanaceae* and *Cucurbitaceae* families, suffer from heat and water stress, affecting germination, pollen sterility, growth, and yield."

The corresponding interventions in this scenario, he continued, include selecting heat-tolerant crops to plant, like fava bean, and cowpea, as well as short-duration varieties.

He also suggested adjusting the planting schedules, using improved seedling production techniques, and employing techniques that conserve soils' nutrients and moisture.

"Efficient irrigation methods like drip and micro-sprinkler systems, along with organic soil amendments and foliar nutrition, can enhance resilience and ensure sustainable vegetable production," Asif added.

A persistent problem

Unlike food crops, however, fruit crops can't be rescued by crop rotation. They need direct mitigation strategies. "For example, advisories outline the necessary sprays for early blooming, including applications of growth regulators," according to Asif. "If almond trees bloom early, specific measures are suggested to protect the fruit. Similarly, in the event of water loss, sprays containing anti-transpirants and other essential chemicals are recommended."

He added that the availability of fodder seed has also been a persistent problem because the local production of seeds is limited. And in a drought-like situation, the production drops further.

"Since fodder is typically harvested at the green stage, seed production does not occur within the valley. However, seed production is essential, and the university has taken significant steps in this regard. As part of a strategic approach, we cultivate fodder seeds in the Jammu region. Last year, we produced approximately 300 quintals of foundation seed and supplied it to the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry for further multiplication," Asif said.

(Hirra Azmat is a Kashmir-based journalist who writes extensively on health and the environment. Her stories have appeared in various local and national publications. azmathirra@gmail.com)

THE GIST

The action plan for weather fluctuations supports farmers by providing logistics, farm advisory services, and breeder seed produced by SKUAST. The right planting material is paramount in drought-like conditions

Researchers aid with drought mitigation strategies like mulching. They also advise on the use of anti-transpirant agents, promote micro-irrigation systems, and develop crop calendars which specify alternate crops to be planted in case of drought

Fruit crops can't be rescued by rotation. They need direct mitigation, which includes sprays for early blooming and growth regulators. In the event of water loss, sprays containing anti-transpirants and other chemicals are recommended

Helping Crops Survive Also Means Keeping Pests at Bay
फसलों को बचाने का मतलब कीटों को दूर रखना भी है

With rising temperatures, pests that were previously docile have become more invasive and active.



बढ़ते तापमान के कारण, जो कीट पहले शांत रहते थे, वे अब अधिक आक्रामक और सक्रिय हो गए हैं।

- For example, **aphids**, a common pest, **completes its life cycle faster** and produces **more generations per year in warmer weather**.
उदाहरण के लिए, एफिड्स (aphids), जो एक सामान्य कीट है, गर्म मौसम में अपना जीवन चक्र तेजी से पूरा करता है और साल में अधिक पीढ़ियां उत्पन्न करता है।
- **Leaf miner blotch**, a pest of **apple crops**, has gone from being a **minor issue to a major concern** for the same reason.
लीफ माइनर ब्लॉच, जो सेब की फसल का कीट है, छोटी समस्या से बड़ी चिंता का विषय बन गया है।
- **Issuing advisories and suggesting chemical control measures** is necessary in such situations, said **Zafar Mehdi**, Associate Professor at **SKUAST**.
एसकेयूएएसटी के एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर ज़फर मेहदी ने कहा कि ऐसी परिस्थितियों में किसानों को सलाह जारी करना और रासायनिक नियंत्रण उपाय सुझाना आवश्यक है।

Action Plan and Advisory Services

कार्य योजना और परामर्श सेवाएँ

- The action plan includes **multiple advisory services**.
कार्य योजना में कई परामर्श सेवाएँ शामिल हैं।
- The **meteorological department provides weather data**, based on which **crop calendars** are developed.
मौसम विभाग मौसम डेटा प्रदान करता है, जिसके आधार पर फसल कैलेंडर तैयार किए जाते हैं।
- These **calendars specify normal crop cycles** and suggest **alternate crops** in case of **drought conditions**.
ये कैलेंडर सामान्य फसल चक्रों को दर्शाते हैं और सूखे की स्थिति में वैकल्पिक फसलों का सुझाव देते हैं।
- **Budgam**, a significant **vegetable-producing region**, faces threats due to **abrupt climatic changes**.
बड़गाम, जो एक महत्वपूर्ण सब्जी उत्पादक क्षेत्र है, को अचानक होने वाले जलवायु परिवर्तनों से खतरा है।
- **Kharif vegetables**, especially from **Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae families**, suffer from **heat and water stress**, impacting **germination, pollen sterility, growth, and yield**.
खरीफ सब्जियां, विशेष रूप से सोलनासी और कुकुर्बिटेसी परिवार की, गर्मी और पानी की कमी से प्रभावित होती हैं, जिससे अंकुरण, परागण क्षमता, वृद्धि और उपज पर असर पड़ता है।

Interventions to Combat Climate Stress

जलवायु तनाव से निपटने के उपाय



- **Heat-tolerant crops** like fava bean and cowpea are recommended.
गर्मी सहिष्णु फसलें, जैसे फावा बीन और लोबिया लगाने की सलाह दी जाती है।
- Adjusting **planting schedules** and using **improved seedling production techniques** are also suggested.
बुवाई के समय में बदलाव और बेहतर पौध उत्पादन तकनीकों का उपयोग करने की सिफारिश की जाती है।
- Techniques that **conserve soil nutrients and moisture** help sustain crop production.
मिट्टी के पोषक तत्वों और नमी को संरक्षित करने वाली तकनीकें फसल उत्पादन बनाए रखने में मदद करती हैं।
- **Efficient irrigation methods**, such as **drip and micro-sprinkler systems**, along with **organic soil amendments and foliar nutrition**, enhance resilience.
ड्रिप और माइक्रो-स्प्रिंकलर सिस्टम जैसी कुशल सिंचाई विधियाँ, साथ ही जैविक मिट्टी संशोधन और पत्तों से पोषण, फसलों को मजबूत बनाते हैं।

Persistent Problems in Fruit Crops

फलों की फसलों में लगातार समस्याएँ

- **Unlike food crops**, fruit crops **cannot be saved by crop rotation** and need **direct mitigation strategies**.
अनाज फसलों के विपरीत, फल की फसलें फसल चक्र से नहीं बचाई जा सकतीं और इन्हें प्रत्यक्ष समाधान रणनीतियों की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Advisories recommend **necessary sprays for early blooming** using **growth regulators**.
परामर्श में जल्दी फूल आने पर आवश्यक स्प्रे और विकास नियंत्रकों का उपयोग करने की सलाह दी जाती है।
- **For early-blooming almond trees**, specific measures are suggested to **protect the fruit**.
जल्दी फूल देने वाले बादाम के पेड़ों के लिए, फल को सुरक्षित रखने के विशेष उपाय सुझाए जाते हैं।
- In case of **water loss**, **sprays containing anti-transpirants and essential chemicals** are used.
पानी की कमी की स्थिति में, एंटी-ट्रांसपिरेंट और आवश्यक रसायनों वाले स्प्रे का उपयोग किया जाता है।

Fodder Seed Availability Issues

चारे के बीज की उपलब्धता की समस्या

- **Fodder seed production** is limited, and **drought conditions reduce availability further**.
चारे के बीज का उत्पादन सीमित है, और सूखे की स्थिति में इसकी उपलब्धता और भी कम हो जाती है।



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- Since fodder is harvested at the green stage, seed production does not occur in the valley.
क्योंकि चारे की कटाई हरे चरण में होती है, इसलिए घाटी में बीज उत्पादन नहीं होता।
- SKUAST has taken **significant steps to address this issue by cultivating fodder seeds in the Jammu region.**
एसकेयूएसटी ने इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए हैं, जिसमें जम्मू क्षेत्र में चारे के बीज की खेती शामिल है।
- **Last year, SKUAST produced approximately 300 quintals of foundation seed and supplied it to the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry for multiplication.**
पिछले वर्ष, एसकेयूएसटी ने लगभग 300 क्विंटल फाउंडेशन बीज का उत्पादन किया और इसे कृषि और पशुपालन विभाग को आपूर्ति किया ताकि इसे आगे बढ़ाया जा सके।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Rescue Teams Step Up Work at SLBC Tunnel in Telangana तेलंगाना में एसएलबीसी सुरंग में बचाव दल ने तेज किया कार्य



Rescue Teams Step Up Work at SLBC Tunnel in Telangana तेलंगाना में एसएलबीसी सुरंग में बचाव दल ने तेज किया कार्य

Rescue teams step up work at SLBC tunnel in Telangana

PCS

Ravi Reddy
B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Eleven days into the rescue operation at the collapsed Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Domalapeda of Nagarkurnool district in Telangana, rescue teams stepped up their work with the hope of a breakthrough.

Two excavators are being operated by the Army inside the tunnel now. "Search operation has got expedited with the use of the second excavator since Monday night. The conveyor belt has also started functioning today [Tuesday]," a senior official who is part of the rescue operation told *The Hindu* from the SLBC tunnel site.

Most of the mangled metal from the Tunnel Boring

Machine (TBM) has been cut. "But there is a bit of delay in loading these metal parts on the loco platform. We are exploring if the excavator can be used for this purpose," sources said.

To aid in the rescue operation, a ventilator shaft would be installed in the last 50 metres. "This will help rescue personnel reach the end of the tunnel easily," it was said.

SCCL team

Officials said the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) rescue team with rat miners are carefully digging some pockets. The SCCL management has been asked to increase the manpower. "They are best suited for removal of silt and other material, and aid in the rescue efforts," it was revealed.

Eleven days into the rescue operation, teams continue work at the collapsed Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Domalapeda, Nagarkurnool district, Telangana, hoping for a breakthrough.

ग्यारह दिन बाद भी बचाव अभियान जारी, टीमों गिरी हुई श्रीशैलम लेफ्ट बैंक कैनाल (एसएलबीसी) सुरंग, डोमलापेडा, नागरकुरनूल जिला, तेलंगाना में सफलता की उम्मीद के साथ कार्य कर रही हैं।

- Two excavators are currently being operated by the Army inside the tunnel. सेना द्वारा दो खुदाई मशीनें (एक्सकेवेटर) सुरंग के अंदर चलाई जा रही हैं।
- The search operation was expedited with the use of the second excavator on Monday night. सोमवार रात दूसरे खुदाई मशीन के उपयोग से खोज अभियान तेज हो गया।
- A conveyor belt started functioning on Tuesday, improving the efficiency of debris removal. मंगलवार को कन्वेयर बेल्ट शुरू हुई, जिससे मलबा



One of the two excavators in the collapsed part of the SLBC tunnel in Telangana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

हटाने की प्रक्रिया में तेजी आई।

Challenges in Metal Removal

धातु हटाने में चुनौतियाँ

- Most of the mangled metal from the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) has been cut. सुरंग बोरिंग मशीन (टीबीएम) से अधिकांश मुड़ी-तुड़ी धातु काटी जा चुकी है।
- There is a delay in loading these metal parts onto the loco platform. इन धातु भागों को लोको प्लेटफॉर्म पर लोड करने में देरी हो रही है।
- Officials are exploring if excavators can be used for metal removal. अधिकारी देख रहे हैं कि क्या धातु हटाने के लिए खुदाई मशीनों का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।

Ventilator Shaft for Easier Access

आसानी से पहुँच के लिए वेंटिलेटर शाफ्ट

- A ventilator shaft will be installed in the last 50 meters of the tunnel. सुरंग के अंतिम 50 मीटर में एक वेंटिलेटर शाफ्ट स्थापित की जाएगी।
- This will help rescue personnel reach the end of the tunnel easily. यह बचाव कर्मियों को सुरंग के अंत तक आसानी से पहुँचने में मदद करेगा।

SCCL Team's Role in Rescue

एससीसीएल टीम की बचाव अभियान में भूमिका

- Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) rescue team with rat miners is carefully digging small pockets.



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सिंगरेनी कोलियरिज कंपनी लिमिटेड (एससीसीएल) की बचाव टीम, रैट माइन्स के साथ, छोटे स्थानों की खुदाई कर रही है।

- **SCCL management** has been asked to **increase manpower** for better efficiency. एससीसीएल प्रबंधन को अधिक श्रमिक लगाने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं।
- SCCL experts are **best suited for removing silt and debris**, making their role crucial in the **rescue operation**.

एससीसीएल विशेषज्ञ गाद और मलबा हटाने में सर्वश्रेष्ठ हैं, जिससे वे बचाव अभियान में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहे हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS

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