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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
(06 MARCH 2025)

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06_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Aurangzeb Row

औरंगजेब विवाद

2. Aurangzeb Remark: SP MLA Suspended from Assembly

औरंगजेब टिप्पणी: एसपी विधायक विधानसभा से निलंबित

3. Who will apologise to the 'Himalayans'?

'हिमालयवासियों' से माफी कौन मांगेगा?

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Calm after the confluence: The deserted sands of the Sangam in Prayagraj, which wears a desolate look on Wednesday, days after the conclusion of the Maha Kumbh. PTI

PATRIOTIC



Aurangzeb Remark: SP MLA Suspended from Assembly औरंगज़ेब टिप्पणी: एसपी विधायक विधानसभा से निलंबित

Aurangzeb remark: SP MLA suspended from Assembly

GS Paper I: Aurangzeb

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Amid a controversy over his praising of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Abu Azmi was on Wednesday suspended from the Maharashtra Assembly till the end of the ongoing Budget Session. The ruling Mahayuti alliance had demanded the suspension, accusing him of being a "traitor".

Higher Education Minister Chandrakant Patil, who moved the resolution for the suspension, said, "Mr. Azmi's comments are unbecoming of his stature and he has humiliated the Assembly."

On Monday, the SP MLA, praising Aurangzeb, said India flourished during his reign, with "a GDP of 24%". "For Aurangzeb, it was all about power and wealth, religion has nothing to do with it, and I don't believe he was a cruel ruler," he added.

After the suspension, the Mankhurd legislator said, "Despite retracting my statements, apologising for my opinion, they suspended me. This is go-



Abu Azmi

vernment's arbitrariness. I and my family are facing death threats. I am receiving thousands of calls from unknown numbers, cursing me. I have done nothing wrong. Made statements on the basis of evidence by historians. I will meet the Speaker and see a way out."

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance also criticised Mr. Azmi. Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar came in support of the government action.

The controversy had its echo in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath slammed Mr. Azmi. "The SP should remove him and bring to Uttar Pradesh. We will give him the right treatment," he said.

Amid a controversy over his praising of **Mughal emperor Aurangzeb**, Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Abu Azmi was on Wednesday suspended from the Maharashtra Assembly till the end of the ongoing Budget Session.

मुगल सम्राट औरंगज़ेब की प्रशंसा को लेकर हुए विवाद के बीच, समाजवादी पार्टी (एसपी) विधायक अबू आज़मी को बुधवार को महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा से वर्तमान बजट सत्र के अंत तक निलंबित कर दिया गया।

• The ruling **Mahayuti alliance** had demanded the suspension, accusing him of being a "traitor".

सत्तारूढ़ महा यूति गठबंधन ने निलंबन की मांग की, उन पर "गद्दार" होने का आरोप लगाया।

• **Higher Education Minister Chandrakant Patil**, who moved the resolution for the suspension, said, "Mr. Azmi's comments are unbecoming of his stature and he has humiliated the Assembly."

उच्च शिक्षा मंत्री चंद्रकांत पाटिल, जिन्होंने निलंबन के लिए प्रस्ताव पेश किया, ने कहा, "श्री आज़मी की टिप्पणी उनके पद के अनुरूप नहीं है और उन्होंने विधानसभा का अपमान किया है।"

Azmi's Statement on Aurangzeb

आज़मी का औरंगज़ेब पर बयान

• On **Monday**, the **SP MLA**, praising **Aurangzeb**, said **India flourished during his reign, with "a GDP of 24%"**.

सोमवार को, एसपी विधायक ने औरंगज़ेब की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि उनके शासन में भारत समृद्ध था, जिसकी "जीडीपी 24%" थी।

• "For **Aurangzeb**, it was all about **power and wealth**, religion had nothing to do with it, and I don't believe he was a **cruel ruler**," he added.

"औरंगज़ेब के लिए यह केवल सत्ता और धन का विषय था, धर्म का इससे कोई लेना-देना नहीं था, और मुझे नहीं लगता कि वह क्रूर शासक थे," उन्होंने कहा।



Reactions and Threats

प्रतिक्रियाएँ और धमकियाँ

- After the **suspension**, the **Mankhurd legislator** said, “**Despite retracting my statements and apologising**, they still **suspended me**. This is **government’s arbitrariness**.”
निलंबन के बाद, मानखुर्द के विधायक ने कहा, “मैंने अपने बयान वापस ले लिए और माफी भी मांगी, फिर भी मुझे निलंबित कर दिया। यह सरकार की मनमानी है।”
- “**I and my family are facing death threats**. I am receiving **thousands of calls** from **unknown numbers**, cursing me.”
“मैं और मेरा परिवार मौत की धमकियों का सामना कर रहे हैं। मुझे अनजान नंबरों से हजारों कॉल आ रहे हैं, जिनमें मुझे गालियाँ दी जा रही हैं।”
- “I have done **nothing wrong**. I made statements **on the basis of evidence by historians**. I will meet the **Speaker** and **see a way out**.”
“मैंने कुछ गलत नहीं किया। मैंने इतिहासकारों के प्रमाणों के आधार पर बयान दिए। मैं अध्यक्ष से मिलूंगा और इसका समाधान तलाशूंगा।”

Political Responses

राजनीतिक प्रतिक्रियाएँ

- The **Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance** also **criticised Mr. Azmi**.
विपक्षी महा विकास अघाड़ी गठबंधन ने भी श्री आजमी की आलोचना की।
- **Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar** supported the **government action**.
कांग्रेस नेता विजय वडेट्टीवार ने सरकारी कार्रवाई का समर्थन किया।
- The **controversy** had its **echo in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly**, where **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** slammed **Mr. Azmi**.
यह विवाद उत्तर प्रदेश विधानसभा में भी गूँजा, जहाँ मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने श्री आजमी पर निशाना साधा।
- “The **SP should remove him and bring him to Uttar Pradesh**. We will give him the **right treatment**,” he said.
“समाजवादी पार्टी को उन्हें हटाकर उत्तर प्रदेश लाना चाहिए। हम उन्हें उचित सबक सिखाएँगे,” उन्होंने कहा।

Aurangzeb (1657-1707)

औरंगज़ेब (1657-1707)



- **Aurangzeb (1657-1707)**, also known as **Alamgir**, was the **sixth emperor** of the **Mughal Empire**, ruling from **1658 to 1707**.
औरंगज़ेब (1657-1707), जिसे आलमगीर के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, मुगल साम्राज्य के छठे सम्राट थे, जिन्होंने 1658 से 1707 तक शासन किया।
- His reign marked a significant departure from the policies of his predecessors, emphasizing **orthodox Islamic principles** and expanding the empire to its **greatest territorial extent**.
उनके शासन ने उनके पूर्ववर्तियों की नीतियों से एक बड़ा बदलाव दिखाया, जिसमें कट्टर इस्लामिक सिद्धांतों पर जोर दिया गया और साम्राज्य को इसके सबसे बड़े क्षेत्रीय विस्तार तक पहुँचाया।

Religious Policies

धार्मिक नीतियाँ

- **Orthodox Islamic Patronage**: Upon ascending the throne, Aurangzeb sought to enforce **strict adherence to Islamic laws**. He discontinued practices he deemed **un-Islamic**, such as the celebration of the **Persian New Year (Nowruz)**, and prohibited **music and dance** at the royal court.

कट्टर इस्लामिक संरक्षण: सिंहासन पर बैठने के बाद, औरंगज़ेब ने इस्लामी कानूनों के सख्त पालन को लागू करने की कोशिश की। उन्होंने फारसी नववर्ष (नवरोज़) जैसे त्योहारों को गैर-इस्लामिक मानते हुए बंद कर दिया और शाही दरबार में संगीत और नृत्य पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।

- **Reimposition of Jizyah Tax**: In **1679**, Aurangzeb reinstated the **Jizyah**, a tax levied on **non-Muslims**, which had been **abolished** by his predecessors. This move was perceived as a step towards **Islamic orthodoxy** and **alienated many Hindu subjects**.

जज़िया कर की पुनः बहाली: 1679 में, औरंगज़ेब ने जज़िया कर को फिर से लागू किया, जो गैर-मुसलमानों पर लगाया जाता था और जिसे उनके पूर्ववर्तियों ने समाप्त कर दिया था। इस कदम को इस्लामिक कट्टरता की ओर एक कदम माना गया और इससे कई हिंदू प्रजा नाराज़ हो गई।

- **Destruction of Temples**: Aurangzeb ordered the **demolition** of several **Hindu temples**, including prominent ones like the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** in **Varanasi** and the **Keshav Rai Temple** in **Mathura**. These actions were part of his policy to **promote Islam** and **suppress other religions**.

मंदिरों का ध्वंस: औरंगज़ेब ने कई हिंदू मंदिरों को ध्वस्त करने का आदेश दिया, जिनमें वाराणसी का काशी विश्वनाथ मंदिर और मथुरा का केशव राय मंदिर जैसे प्रमुख मंदिर शामिल थे। ये कार्रवाइयाँ इस्लाम को बढ़ावा देने और अन्य धर्मों को दबाने की नीति का हिस्सा थीं।

Conflict with Chatrapati Shivaji

छत्रपति शिवाजी के साथ संघर्ष



- **Rise of Shivaji:** Shivaji Bhonsle, born in 1630, was the son of **Shahji Bhonsle** and **Jijabai**. Under the mentorship of **Dadaji Kondadev**, he mastered **guerrilla warfare tactics**, which became instrumental in his resistance against larger forces.
शिवाजी का उदय: 1630 में जन्मे शिवाजी भोसले, शाहजी भोसले और जीजाबाई के पुत्र थे। दादाजी कोंडदेव के मार्गदर्शन में, उन्होंने **गुरिल्ला युद्ध रणनीतियाँ** सीखीं, जो बड़े दुश्मनों के खिलाफ उनके संघर्ष में महत्वपूर्ण साबित हुईं।
- **Assassination of Afzal Khan:** In 1659, Shivaji employed **guerrilla tactics** to kill **Afzal Khan**, a formidable general of the **Bijapur Sultanate**, marking a significant victory that bolstered his reputation.
अफजल खान की हत्या: 1659 में, शिवाजी ने **गुरिल्ला रणनीति** का उपयोग करके **बीजापुर सल्तनत** के शक्तिशाली सेनापति **अफजल खान** को मार दिया। यह उनकी एक महत्वपूर्ण जीत थी, जिससे उनकी प्रतिष्ठा और बढ़ी।
- **Clashes with Mughal Forces:** Alarmed by Shivaji's growing power, **Aurangzeb** dispatched his **maternal uncle, Shaista Khan**, to subdue him. In a daring raid in 1663, Shivaji attacked **Shaista Khan's quarters**, injuring him and killing his son.
मुगल सेना के साथ झड़पें: शिवाजी की बढ़ती शक्ति को देखकर **औरंगज़ेब** ने अपने **मामा, शाइस्ता खान** को भेजा ताकि वह शिवाजी को दबा सके। 1663 में एक साहसिक हमले में, शिवाजी ने **शाइस्ता खान के शिविर** पर हमला किया, जिससे **शाइस्ता खान घायल हो गया और उसका बेटा मारा गया**।
- **Treaty of Purandar (1665):** Faced with mounting **Mughal pressure**, Shivaji signed the **Treaty of Purandar in 1665** with **Raja Jai Singh I of Amber**, a Mughal commander. As per the treaty, **Shivaji ceded 23 out of 35 forts** to the Mughals and agreed to serve as a **vassal**.
पुरंदर संधि (1665): मुगलों के बढ़ते दबाव के कारण, शिवाजी ने 1665 में **आमेर के राजा जय सिंह प्रथम** (जो एक मुगल सेनापति थे) के साथ **पुरंदर की संधि** पर हस्ताक्षर किए। इस संधि के तहत, शिवाजी ने अपने 35 किलों में से 23 किले मुगलों को सौंप दिए और मुगलों के अधीन रहने पर सहमति जताई।
- **Escape from Agra:** In 1666, during a visit to **Aurangzeb's court in Agra**, Shivaji felt insulted and was placed under **house arrest**. He orchestrated a **daring escape**, concealed in baskets, and returned to the **Deccan** to resume his campaigns.
आगरा से भागना: 1666 में, जब शिवाजी **औरंगज़ेब के आगरा दरबार** में गए, तो उन्हें **अपमानित महसूस हुआ** और उन्हें **गृह नजरबंद** कर दिया गया। उन्होंने एक **साहसिक भागने की योजना** बनाई, **टोकरियों में छिपकर बच निकले**, और **दक्षिण भारत (दक्कन)** लौटकर अपने अभियान फिर से शुरू किए।



- **Coronation and Legacy:** Shivaji crowned himself Chatrapati (Emperor) in 1674, establishing the Maratha Empire. His death in 1680 posed a significant challenge to Aurangzeb, as the Marathas continued their resistance under leaders like Sambhaji and later Rajaram.

राज्याभिषेक और विरासत: 1674 में, शिवाजी ने स्वयं को छत्रपति (सम्राट) घोषित किया और मराठा साम्राज्य की स्थापना की। 1680 में उनकी मृत्यु के बाद, यह औरंगज़ेब के लिए एक बड़ी चुनौती बन गई, क्योंकि मराठाओं ने संभाजी और बाद में राजाराम के नेतृत्व में संघर्ष जारी रखा।

Annexation of Deccan Sultanates

दक्कन सल्तनतों का विलय

- **Bijapur (1686):** Aurangzeb annexed the Bijapur Sultanate in 1686, eliminating a significant Deccan power and expanding Mughal territory.
बीजापुर (1686): 1686 में औरंगज़ेब ने बीजापुर सल्तनत को मुगल साम्राज्य में मिला लिया, जिससे एक महत्वपूर्ण दक्कनी शक्ति समाप्त हो गई और मुगल साम्राज्य का विस्तार हुआ।
- **Golconda (1687):** In 1687, he captured the Golconda Sultanate, known for its diamond mines, further consolidating Mughal control over the Deccan.
गोलकुंडा (1687): 1687 में, औरंगज़ेब ने गोलकुंडा सल्तनत पर कब्ज़ा कर लिया, जो अपनी हीरे की खानों के लिए प्रसिद्ध थी। इससे दक्कन पर मुगलों का नियंत्रण और मजबूत हुआ।



Who will apologise to the 'Himalayans'?

GS Paper I: Tribes

Recently, Norway's Parliament issued a formal apology for its assimilation policies targeting the Sami, Kven, and Forest Finn peoples. These policies, known as **Norwegianisation**, were implemented between the 1850s and 1960s to suppress indigenous languages and cultures. Alongside the apology, the government proposed measures to address ongoing discrimination, such as protecting indigenous languages and monitoring inclusion efforts starting in 2027.

Although Norway has repealed discriminatory laws and established symbolic rights, such as a Sami Parliament, challenges persist. Sami languages remain endangered, and indigenous groups face inequities in healthcare, education, and land rights.

Nordic, Himalayan parallels

The experiences of Nordic and Himalayan communities share some parallels. The Himalayan region spans 2,500 kilometres from Afghanistan to northeast India and contains the world's largest ice reserves after the two poles. Like the Nordics, Himalayan communities face climate-induced disasters and centuries of resource exploitation.

The region is home to 52 million people from various tribes, clans, ethnicities, and religions. These include the Gaddis and Kinnauras in Himachal Pradesh; Lepchas, Bhutiyas, and Mons in Sikkim and Ladakh; and diverse groups in Arunachal Pradesh, such as the Abor, Aka, Apatani, and Mishmi. The Khas, Kalash, and other ethnic groups span Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nepal. These communities have faced waves of assimilation through colonialism, post-independence nation-building, and neoliberal economic policies.

During British colonial rule, trade and forest laws impacted Himalayan communities. In the northeast, tribes were coerced into



Tikender Singh Panwar

Former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, and Member, Kerala Urban Commission. Adviser to a few Himalayan think tanks working on alternative models of development

Traditional practices and ethnic diversity in the Himalayan region are increasingly marginalised in favour of profit-driven initiatives

accepting colonial trade terms, involving goods such as tea, gold, silk, and opium. In some regions, trade blockades devastated local economies. According to A.S.R. Foreign proceedings, 1881, "An interesting result of blockade of 1874, as reported by Colonel Graham, revealed cultural operations of the hill people were suspended because they could not procure iron from the plains to manufacture dao jhooms and marriages stopped as the supply of silk cloth was blocked."

Likewise, in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, forest laws were enacted to ensure a regular supply of timber for laying the railway lines in India. An article in 'Prehistory of Community Forestry in India', underlines that "between 1853 and 1910 more than eighty thousand kilometres of track were laid in the subcontinent. Great chunks of forest were destroyed to meet the demand for railway sleepers. The sal forests of Garhwal and Kumaun, for example, were felled in even to desolation."

After India's independence, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru advocated for respecting tribal ways of life. Mr. Nehru pointed out: "...I am not at all sure which is the better way of living, the tribal or own. In some respects I am quite certain theirs is better. Therefore, it is grossly presumptuous on our part to approach them with an air of superiority, or to tell them what to do or not to do. There is no point in trying to make them a second-rate copy of ourselves."

This humanistic approach influenced policies for about 15 years. However, by the 5th and 6th Five-Year Plans, rapid resource exploitation in tribal regions began to disrupt local ecosystems and cultures.

The 1990s marked a significant shift in Himalayan governance. Unlike other Indian States, which had some industrial base, Himalayan States emerged due to geographical and multi-ethnic considerations. This era introduced fiscal policies that

pressured States to generate their own revenue. Tourism and hydropower became dominant economic activities, leading to extensive environmental degradation and cultural erosion.

Hydropower projects, in particular, exemplify the exploitative development model. In March 2015, then-Chief Minister Nabam Tuki said: "After the commissioning of just three ongoing hydro-power projects in the State, that it would earn ₹445 crore annually as revenue from 12% power supplied by the projects free for the State to sell. At the completion of all ongoing projects, Arunachal Pradesh would meet 40% of India's power demand and graduate from severe dependence to financial self-sufficiency." This is another feature of assimilation.

However, such projects often bypass local laws, undermining tribal land ownership governed by customary practices. Despite legal protections, a nexus of bureaucrats, politicians, and corporations has facilitated large-scale land acquisition for hydropower development. This "hydro-criminality," as described by civil society groups, exemplifies the prioritisation of economic growth over cultural preservation and environmental sustainability. Traditional practices and ethnic diversity in the Himalayan region are increasingly marginalised in favour of profit-driven initiatives.

Lessons from Norway

Norway's apology to the Sami people highlights the importance of acknowledging historical injustices and committing to reconciliation. For the Himalayan region, a similar acknowledgment is long overdue. The exploitation of natural resources and the erosion of cultural identities demand accountability and a shift toward sustainable, inclusive development.

While Norway's federal government has taken a step toward justice, the question remains: who will apologise to the 'Himalayans'?



Who will apologise to the 'Himalayans'?

'हिमालयवासियों' से माफी कौन मांगेगा?

Recently, Norway's Parliament issued a formal apology for its assimilation policies targeting the Sami, Kven, and Forest Finn peoples.

हाल ही में, नॉर्वे की संसद ने सामी, क्वेन और फॉरेस्ट फिन लोगों को लक्षित करने वाली समावेशन नीतियों के लिए औपचारिक माफी जारी की।

- These policies, known as **Norwegianisation**, were implemented between the **1850s and 1960s** to suppress **indigenous languages and cultures**.
इन नीतियों को नॉर्वेजियनाइजेशन के रूप में जाना जाता है और 1850 से 1960 के दशक के बीच लागू किया गया था, ताकि स्वदेशी भाषाओं और संस्कृतियों को दबाया जा सके।
- Alongside the **apology**, the government proposed measures to address **ongoing discrimination**, such as **protecting indigenous languages and monitoring inclusion efforts starting in 2027**.
माफी के साथ, सरकार ने चल रहे भेदभाव को दूर करने के लिए उपायों का प्रस्ताव रखा, जैसे स्वदेशी भाषाओं की सुरक्षा और 2027 से समावेशन प्रयासों की निगरानी।
- Although Norway has **repealed discriminatory laws** and established **symbolic rights**, such as a **Sami Parliament**, challenges persist.
हालांकि, नॉर्वे ने भेदभावपूर्ण कानूनों को रद्द कर दिया है और प्रतीकात्मक अधिकार जैसे कि सामी संसद स्थापित किए हैं, लेकिन चुनौतियां बनी हुई हैं।
- **Sami languages remain endangered**, and **indigenous groups face inequities in healthcare, education, and land rights**.
सामी भाषाएं अभी भी संकटग्रस्त हैं, और स्वदेशी समूहों को स्वास्थ्य देखभाल, शिक्षा और भूमि अधिकारों में असमानताओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

Nordic, Himalayan parallels

नॉर्डिक और हिमालयी समानताएँ

- The experiences of **Nordic and Himalayan communities** share some **parallels**.
नॉर्डिक और हिमालयी समुदायों के अनुभवों में कुछ समानताएँ हैं।
- The **Himalayan region** spans **2,500 kilometres** from **Afghanistan to northeast India** and contains the **world's largest ice reserves** after the **two poles**.



हिमालयी क्षेत्र अफगानिस्तान से पूर्वोत्तर भारत तक 2,500 किलोमीटर फैला हुआ है और यह दो ध्रुवों के बाद दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा बर्फ भंडार रखता है।

- Like the **Nordics, Himalayan communities face climate-induced disasters and centuries of resource exploitation.**

नॉर्डिक लोगों की तरह, हिमालयी समुदाय भी जलवायु-प्रेरित आपदाओं और सदियों से संसाधनों के दोहन का सामना कर रहे हैं।

- The region is home to **52 million people from various tribes, clans, ethnicities, and religions.**

यह क्षेत्र 52 मिलियन लोगों का घर है, जो विभिन्न जनजातियों, कबीले, जातीयताओं और धर्मों से हैं।

- These include the **Gaddis and Kinnauras in Himachal Pradesh; Lepchas, Bhutiyas, and Mons in Sikkim and Ladakh; and diverse groups in Arunachal Pradesh, such as the Abor, Aka, Apatani, and Mishmi.**

इनमें हिमाचल प्रदेश के गद्दी और किन्नौरा, सिक्किम और लद्दाख के लेपचा, भूटिया और मोन, और अरुणाचल प्रदेश के विभिन्न समूह जैसे अबोर, आका, अपातानी और मिशमी शामिल हैं।

- The **Khas, Kalash, and other ethnic groups span Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nepal.** खास, कालाश और अन्य जातीय समूह अफगानिस्तान, पाकिस्तान और नेपाल तक फैले हुए हैं।
- These communities have faced **waves of assimilation through colonialism, post-independence nation-building, and neoliberal economic policies.**

इन समुदायों को औपनिवेशिक शासन, स्वतंत्रता-उपरांत राष्ट्र निर्माण और नवउदारवादी आर्थिक नीतियों के माध्यम से समावेशन की लहरों का सामना करना पड़ा है।

Colonial and post-independence impact

औपनिवेशिक और स्वतंत्रता-उपरांत प्रभाव

- During **British colonial rule, trade and forest laws impacted Himalayan communities.**

ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक शासन के दौरान, व्यापार और वन कानूनों ने हिमालयी समुदायों को प्रभावित किया।

- In the **northeast, tribes were coerced into accepting colonial trade terms, involving goods such as tea, gold, silk, and opium.**

पूर्वोत्तर भारत में, जनजातियों को चाय, सोना, रेशम और अफीम जैसे उत्पादों से जुड़े औपनिवेशिक व्यापार शर्तों को स्वीकार करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया।

- In some regions, **trade blockades devastated local economies.**

कुछ क्षेत्रों में, व्यापार नाकाबंदी ने स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को तबाह कर दिया।

- According to **A.S.R. Foreign Proceedings, 1881, a blockade in 1874 led to the suspension of cultural operations, as the hill people could not procure iron for dao jhooms or silk cloth for marriages.**

ए.एस.आर. विदेशी कार्यवाही, 1881 के अनुसार, 1874 की नाकाबंदी के कारण संस्कृतिक गतिविधियाँ



बाधित हो गईं, क्योंकि पहाड़ी लोग दाओ झूम बनाने के लिए लोहा या शादी के लिए रेशमी कपड़ा नहीं प्राप्त कर सके।

- In Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, forest laws ensured a regular supply of timber for laying railway lines in India.

हिमाचल प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड में, वन कानूनों को इस तरह लागू किया गया कि भारत में रेलवे लाइनों के लिए लकड़ी की नियमित आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित हो सके।

- An article in 'Prehistory of Community Forestry in India' highlights that between 1853 and 1910, more than 80,000 kilometres of track were laid, leading to mass deforestation.

'भारत में सामुदायिक वानिकी का पूर्व इतिहास' के अनुसार, 1853 से 1910 के बीच 80,000 किलोमीटर से अधिक रेलवे ट्रैक बिछाए गए, जिससे बड़े पैमाने पर वनों की कटाई हुई।

- The sal forests of Garhwal and Kumaun were felled to desolation.

गढ़वाल और कुमाऊं के साल के जंगलों को समाप्ति की हद तक काटा गया।

Post-independence policies

स्वतंत्रता-उपरांत नीतियाँ

- After India's independence, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru advocated for respecting tribal ways of life.

भारत की स्वतंत्रता के बाद, प्रधानमंत्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने जनजातीय जीवनशैली के सम्मान का समर्थन किया।

- Nehru stated: "I am not at all sure which is the better way of living, the tribal or our own... Therefore, it is grossly presumptuous on our part to approach them with an air of superiority."

नेहरू ने कहा: "मुझे बिल्कुल भी यकीन नहीं है कि जीने का बेहतर तरीका कौन सा है, जनजातीय या हमारा... इसलिए, यह हमारी ओर से अत्यधिक अहंकारी होगा कि हम उन्हें श्रेष्ठता की भावना से देखें।"

- This humanistic approach influenced policies for about 15 years, but by the 5th and 6th Five-Year Plans, rapid resource exploitation began disrupting local ecosystems and cultures.

यह मानवतावादी दृष्टिकोण लगभग 15 वर्षों तक नीति-निर्माण में प्रभावी रहा, लेकिन 5वीं और 6वीं पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं के दौरान, तेज संसाधन दोहन ने स्थानीय पारिस्थितिकी और संस्कृतियों को प्रभावित करना शुरू कर दिया।

Shift in Himalayan Governance in the 1990s

1990 के दशक में हिमालयी शासन में बदलाव

- The 1990s marked a significant shift in Himalayan governance.

1990 का दशक हिमालयी शासन में एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव का प्रतीक बना।



- Unlike other **Indian States**, which had some **industrial base**, **Himalayan States** emerged due to **geographical and multi-ethnic considerations**.
अन्य भारतीय राज्यों के विपरीत, जिनके पास कुछ औद्योगिक आधार था, हिमालयी राज्य भौगोलिक और बहु-जातीय कारकों के कारण उभरे।
- This era introduced **fiscal policies** that pressured States to **generate their own revenue**.
इस दौर में राजकोषीय नीतियाँ लागू की गईं, जिससे राज्यों पर स्वयं का राजस्व उत्पन्न करने का दबाव बढ़ गया।
- **Tourism and hydropower** became **dominant economic activities**, leading to **extensive environmental degradation and cultural erosion**.
पर्यटन और जलविद्युत प्रमुख आर्थिक गतिविधियाँ बन गईं, जिससे व्यापक पर्यावरणीय क्षति और सांस्कृतिक क्षरण हुआ।

Hydropower and Exploitative Development

जलविद्युत और शोषणकारी विकास

- **Hydropower projects** exemplify the **exploitative development model**.
जलविद्युत परियोजनाएँ शोषणकारी विकास मॉडल का उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करती हैं।
- In **March 2015**, then-**Chief Minister Nabam Tuki** stated that after the commissioning of just **three hydro-power projects**, the State would earn **₹445 crore annually** from **12% free power** supplied to the State.
मार्च 2015 में, तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री नबाम टुकी ने कहा कि केवल तीन जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं के चालू होने के बाद राज्य को **12% मुफ्त बिजली** से **₹445 करोड़ वार्षिक** राजस्व प्राप्त होगा।
- He further claimed that after the completion of all projects, **Arunachal Pradesh** would meet **40% of India's power demand** and achieve **financial self-sufficiency**.
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि सभी परियोजनाओं के पूरा होने पर, **अरुणाचल प्रदेश** भारत की **40% बिजली मांग** पूरी करेगा और **आर्थिक आत्मनिर्भरता** प्राप्त करेगा।
- However, **such projects often bypass local laws**, undermining **tribal land ownership governed by customary practices**.
हालांकि, ऐसी परियोजनाएँ अक्सर **स्थानीय कानूनों** को दरकिनार कर देती हैं और **परंपरागत प्रथाओं** द्वारा शासित **जनजातीय भूमि स्वामित्व** को कमजोर करती हैं।
- **Despite legal protections, a nexus of bureaucrats, politicians, and corporations has enabled large-scale land acquisition for hydropower development**.
कानूनी सुरक्षा के बावजूद, नौकरशाहों, राजनेताओं और कंपनियों के गठजोड़ ने जलविद्युत विकास के लिए **बड़े पैमाने पर भूमि अधिग्रहण** को संभव बनाया।
- This **"hydro-criminality"**, as described by **civil society groups**, prioritises **economic growth over cultural preservation and environmental sustainability**.
सिविल सोसाइटी समूहों द्वारा वर्णित **"हाइड्रो-क्राइमिनैलिटी"**, आर्थिक विकास को सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण और पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता से अधिक प्राथमिकता देती है।



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- **Traditional practices and ethnic diversity** in the **Himalayan region** are increasingly **marginalised** in favour of **profit-driven initiatives**.

हिमालयी क्षेत्र में पारंपरिक प्रथाएँ और जातीय विविधता लाभ-प्रधान योजनाओं के पक्ष में हाशिए पर जा रही हैं।

Lessons from Norway

नॉर्वे से सीखने योग्य बातें

- **Norway's apology** to the **Sami people** highlights the importance of **acknowledging historical injustices and committing to reconciliation**.

नॉर्वे की माफी सामी लोगों के प्रति ऐतिहासिक अन्याय को स्वीकारने और सुलह की प्रतिबद्धता के महत्व को दर्शाती है।

- For the **Himalayan region**, a similar acknowledgment is **long overdue**.

हिमालयी क्षेत्र के लिए ऐसा स्वीकृति वक्तव्य बहुत पहले आ जाना चाहिए था।

- The **exploitation of natural resources** and the **erosion of cultural identities** demand **accountability** and a shift toward **sustainable, inclusive development**.

प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के शोषण और सांस्कृतिक पहचान के क्षरण के लिए जवाबदेही और सतत, समावेशी विकास की ओर परिवर्तन आवश्यक है।

- While **Norway's federal government** has taken a **step toward justice**, the question remains: **who will apologise to the 'Himalayans'?**

जहां नॉर्वे की संघीय सरकार ने न्याय की दिशा में कदम बढ़ाया है, वहीं यह प्रश्न बना हुआ है:

'हिमालयवासियों' से माफी कौन मांगेगा?

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

1. **U.S. Will Impose Reciprocal Tariffs from April 2: Trump**
अमेरिका 2 अप्रैल से प्रतिशोधी शुल्क लगाएगा: ट्रंप
2. **Retain Existing LS Seats for Next 30 Years: T.N. Parties**
अगले 30 वर्षों तक मौजूदा लोकसभा सीटें बरकरार रखें: तमिलनाडु दल
3. **Little Progress in Centralising Administration of Eklavya Schools**
एकलव्य स्कूलों के प्रशासन के केंद्रीकरण में कम प्रगति
4. **Humour, Perversity**
हास्य, विकृति
5. **Over-centralisation threatens federal health policy**
अत्यधिक केंद्रीकरण संघीय स्वास्थ्य नीति के लिए खतरा
6. **Warriors of Hope**
आशा कार्यकर्ताओं को प्रभावी भूमिका निभाने के लिए उचित पारिश्रमिक की आवश्यकता
7. **A Brief History of the Russia-Ukraine War**
रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध का संक्षिप्त इतिहास
8. **No Response from India on Trump Tariffs So Far**
ट्रंप टैरिफ पर अब तक भारत की कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं
9. **India a Good Venue for Production and Capacity Expansion**
भारत उत्पादन और क्षमता विस्तार के लिए एक उपयुक्त स्थान
10. **Army Surrounds South Sudan Vice-President's Residence as Allies Are Arrested**
दक्षिण सूडान में उपराष्ट्रपति के आवास को सेना ने घेरा, सहयोगी गिरफ्तार



11. Greenland is ours, says PM Egede, defying Trump threat
"ग्रीनलैंड हमारा है," प्रधानमंत्री एगडे ने ट्रंप की धमकी को नकारते हुए कहा

U.S. will impose reciprocal tariffs from April 2: Trump

U.S. President terms 'high' levies by India, others as 'very unfair'; he says if these countries don't manufacture their products in America, they will pay a tariff and in 'some cases, a rather large one'

GS Paper II: India-US

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump criticised the high tariffs charged by India and other countries, terming them as "very unfair" and announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2 on nations that impose levies on American goods.

Mr. Trump made these remarks in an address to the Joint Session of the Congress on Tuesday. It was the first address of his second term in the White House. Mr. Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the U.S. on January 20.

"If you don't make your product in America, however, under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and in some

Trade in numbers

Tables show top exports and imports between the U.S. and India from April 2024 to Nov. 2024

India's total exports to the U.S.

\$52.9 billion

TOP EXPORTS TO U.S.

Electrical machinery	\$7.6bn
Precious stones/metals	\$6.3bn
Pharmaceuticals	\$5.9bn



India's total imports from the U.S.

\$29.6 billion

TOP IMPORTS FROM U.S.

Mineral fuels and oils	\$9.9bn
Precious stones/metals	\$3.2bn
Nuclear reactors & boilers	\$2.8bn

cases, a rather large one," Mr. Trump said. "Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada – have you heard of them? And countless other nations charge us tremendously higher ta-

riffs than we charge them," the U.S. President said.

India's tariffs

"It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100 per cent." In February, Mr. Trump said that his administration would "soon" impose reciprocal tariffs on countries such as India and China, reiterating what he had

said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. capital last month.

He has made it clear to Prime Minister Modi that India will not be spared from the reciprocal tariffs and emphasised that "nobody can argue with me" on tariff structure.

CONTINUED ON

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U.S. Will Impose Reciprocal Tariffs from April 2: Trump

अमेरिका 2 अप्रैल से प्रतिशोधी शुल्क लगाएगा: ट्रंप



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U.S. President Donald Trump criticised the high tariffs charged by India and other countries, terming them as “very unfair”.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने भारत और अन्य देशों द्वारा लगाए गए उच्च शुल्क की आलोचना की और इसे "बहुत अनुचित" बताया।

- **He announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2 on nations that impose levies on American goods.**
उन्होंने घोषणा की कि 2 अप्रैल से उन देशों पर प्रतिशोधी शुल्क लगाया जाएगा जो अमेरिकी सामानों पर कर लगाते हैं।
- **Mr. Trump made these remarks in an address to the Joint Session of Congress on Tuesday.**
श्री ट्रंप ने यह बयान मंगलवार को कांग्रेस के संयुक्त सत्र को संबोधित करते हुए दिया।
- **It was the first address of his second term in the White House.**
यह व्हाइट हाउस में उनके दूसरे कार्यकाल का पहला भाषण था।
- **Mr. Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the U.S. on January 20.**
श्री ट्रंप ने 20 जनवरी को अमेरिका के 47वें राष्ट्रपति के रूप में शपथ ली।

Tariff Policy Under Trump Administration

ट्रंप प्रशासन की शुल्क नीति

- **“If you don’t make your product in America, you will pay a tariff and in some cases, a rather large one,” Mr. Trump said.**
“**अगर आप अपना उत्पाद अमेरिका में नहीं बनाते, तो आपको एक शुल्क देना होगा, और कुछ मामलों में यह काफी अधिक होगा,” श्री ट्रंप ने कहा।
- **“Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades, and now it’s our turn to start using them against those countries.”**
“**अन्य देश दशकों से हम पर शुल्क लगा रहे हैं, अब हमारी बारी है कि हम उन्हें उन देशों पर लागू करें।”
- **“On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico, and Canada charge tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them,” he said.**
“यूरोपीय संघ, चीन, ब्राजील, भारत, मैक्सिको और कनाडा जैसे देश हमें औसतन बहुत अधिक शुल्क लगाते हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

India’s Tariffs Under Criticism

भारत के शुल्क की आलोचना

- **“It’s very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100%,” Mr. Trump remarked.**
“यह बहुत अनुचित है। भारत हम पर 100% से अधिक ऑटो शुल्क लगाता है,” श्री ट्रंप ने कहा।



- In February, Mr. Trump said that his administration would “soon” impose reciprocal tariffs on countries such as India and China.
फरवरी में, श्री ट्रंप ने कहा कि उनका प्रशासन जल्द ही भारत और चीन जैसे देशों पर प्रतिशोधी शुल्क लगाएगा।
- He reiterated this stance during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Washington last month.

उन्होंने यह बात पिछले महीने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की वाशिंगटन यात्रा के दौरान भी दोहराई।

- Mr. Trump made it clear to Prime Minister Modi that India will not be spared from reciprocal tariffs.

श्री ट्रंप ने स्पष्ट कर दिया कि भारत को प्रतिशोधी शुल्क से छूट नहीं मिलेगी।

- He emphasised that “nobody can argue with me” on tariff structure.

उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि "कोई भी मुझसे शुल्क संरचना पर बहस नहीं कर सकता"।

Retain Existing LS Seats for Next 30 Years: T.N. Parties

अगले 30 वर्षों तक मौजूदा लोकसभा सीटें बरकरार रखें: तमिलनाडु दल

An all-party meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday unanimously urged the Centre to retain the existing number of Lok Sabha seats and constitutional boundaries for the next 30 years beyond 2026.

बुधवार को तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन की अध्यक्षता में हुई सर्वदलीय बैठक ने केंद्र सरकार से 2026 के बाद अगले 30 वर्षों तक मौजूदा लोकसभा सीटों और संवैधानिक सीमाओं को बनाए रखने का आग्रह किया।

- A resolution adopted at the meeting stated that Tamil Nadu’s existing 7.18% of total seats must not be reduced under any circumstances during the delimitation exercise.

बैठक में पारित प्रस्ताव में कहा गया कि तमिलनाडु की मौजूदा 7.18% लोकसभा

Retain existing LS seats for next 30 years: T.N. parties



Firm stand: T.N. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin arrives at the Secretariat for the all-party meeting in Chennai. RAGU R.

GS Paper II: Delimitation

An all-party meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin here on Wednesday unanimously urged the Centre to retain the existing number of Lok Sabha seats and the constitutional boundaries for the next 30 years beyond 2026. A resolution adopted at the meeting said Tamil Nadu’s existing 7.18% of the total seats must not be reduced under any circumstances during the delimitation exercise. [In 2001, the 84th Constitutional Amendment had frozen the constituency boundaries till the first Census after 2026.]

The meeting also decided to constitute a Joint Action Committee comprising representatives of political parties from all southern States to create awareness and take forward the struggle to prevent reduction of seats.

“It is unjustifiable to reduce the number of Lok Sabha seats of the southern States because they have effectively implemented population control measures. The Centre should retain the existing

arrangement for the next 30 years beginning from 2026 as promised by then Prime Minister [Atal Bihari Vajpayee] in 2000 that delimitation would be decided based on the 1971 census. It is necessary to make other States implement population control measures,” Mr. Stalin said, proposing resolutions to be adopted in the all-party meeting.

‘Grave danger’

The resolutions condemned the delimitation exercise planned by the BJP-led Union government, saying it was posing a grave danger to the political representation of Tamil Nadu and other southern States.

Mr. Stalin said the delimitation would result in indelible injustice to Tamil Nadu if the Lok Sabha seats were reduced, as the BJP government was not ready to listen even to the voices of 39 MPs. “We must take a firm stand on the issue. We have to unequivocally oppose the delimitation based on the census in 2026,” he said.

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सीटों को परिसीमन प्रक्रिया के दौरान किसी भी स्थिति में कम नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

- In 2001, the 84th Constitutional Amendment had frozen the constituency boundaries till the first Census after 2026.

2001 में, 84वें संवैधानिक संशोधन के तहत 2026 के बाद पहली जनगणना तक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र की सीमाओं को स्थगित कर दिया गया था।

Joint Action Committee Formation

संयुक्त कार्रवाई समिति का गठन

- The meeting also decided to constitute a **Joint Action Committee** comprising representatives of political parties from all southern States.
बैठक में यह भी निर्णय लिया गया कि दक्षिणी राज्यों के सभी राजनीतिक दलों के प्रतिनिधियों की एक संयुक्त कार्रवाई समिति गठित की जाएगी।
- The committee will create awareness and take forward the struggle to prevent reduction of seats.
यह समिति जागरूकता पैदा करेगी और सीटों की संख्या में कटौती को रोकने के लिए संघर्ष को आगे बढ़ाएगी।
- "It is unjustifiable to reduce the number of Lok Sabha seats of southern States because they have effectively implemented population control measures," said Mr. Stalin.
श्री स्टालिन ने कहा, "दक्षिणी राज्यों की लोकसभा सीटों को कम करना अनुचित है, क्योंकि उन्होंने जनसंख्या नियंत्रण उपायों को प्रभावी ढंग से लागू किया है।"

Reference to Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Promise

अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की घोषणा का संदर्भ

- The Centre should retain the existing arrangement for the next 30 years beginning from 2026, as promised by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2000.
2000 में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी द्वारा किए गए वादे के अनुसार, केंद्र सरकार को 2026 से अगले 30 वर्षों तक मौजूदा व्यवस्था बनाए रखनी चाहिए।
- Mr. Stalin proposed resolutions to be adopted in the all-party meeting, emphasizing that delimitation should be based on the 1971 Census.
श्री स्टालिन ने सर्वदलीय बैठक में प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें 1971 की जनगणना के आधार पर परिसीमन करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया गया।

'Grave Danger' Due to Delimitation

परिसीमन से 'गंभीर खतरा'

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- The resolutions condemned the delimitation exercise planned by the BJP-led Union government, stating that it posed a grave danger to the political representation of Tamil Nadu and other southern States.
प्रस्तावों में बीजेपी के नेतृत्व वाली केंद्र सरकार द्वारा नियोजित परिसीमन प्रक्रिया की निंदा की गई, जिसमें इसे तमिलनाडु और अन्य दक्षिणी राज्यों के राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए गंभीर खतरा बताया गया।
- **Mr. Stalin warned that if Lok Sabha seats were reduced, it would cause indelible injustice to Tamil Nadu.**
श्री स्टालिन ने चेतावनी दी कि यदि लोकसभा सीटों की संख्या घटाई गई, तो यह तमिलनाडु के लिए स्थायी अन्याय होगा।
- He also stated that the **BJP government was not ready to listen to the voices of even 39 MPs.**
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि बीजेपी सरकार 39 सांसदों की आवाज सुनने के लिए भी तैयार नहीं है।
- **"We must take a firm stand on the issue and unequivocally oppose delimitation based on the Census in 2026,"** he added.
"हमें इस मुद्दे पर दृढ़ रुख अपनाना होगा और 2026 की जनगणना के आधार पर परिसीमन का स्पष्ट रूप से विरोध करना होगा," उन्होंने कहा।

Little progress in centralising administration of Eklavya schools

GS Paper II:
Government Scheme
NEW DELHI

Five years after the Centre introduced fresh guidelines to elevate its flagship Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal children to the standards of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) by centralising their administration, among other steps, little progress has been made.

Proposals to begin the second round of centralised recruitment for over 6,000 school staff members, set up regional offices to administer the schools, and raise the recurring cost per child per year to make them on a par with JNVs have been held up at various levels of the government for months now, *The Hindu* has learnt.

As a result, the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), set up with the vision of centralising Eklavya schools, has been left to operate without any mandated authority over the State so-



Ever since the Union government revised the EMRS scheme in 2020, it has aggressively sanctioned new schools. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cities that run the day-to-day operations of these schools.

Ever since the government revised the EMRS scheme in 2020, it has aggressively sanctioned new schools, with a total of 728 sanctioned till February 28, of which 477 are functional. NESTS administrators these schools with a sanctioned strength of just 28 permanent and six temporary staff, most of them retired government servants hired as consultants.

In comparison, there are 661 sanctioned JNVs,

which are administered by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti through its headquarters and eight regional offices, which have a combined sanctioned staff strength of 491.

No response

Questions sent to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs about the status of the centralisation and to what degree it is being pursued have not yet elicited a response. NESTS offered no comment when *The Hindu* reached out to the Office of the Commissioner.

The centralisation process was first announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2023-24 Budget speech when she said that over 38,000 staffers would be hired centrally for the Eklavya schools over the following three years. The first round of recruitment, completed in 2024, saw over 10,000 staffers being hired, though officials admitted to some "teething problems" with the centralisation process and the mandated requirement of Hindi competency.

Many teachers recruited from the Hindi-speaking States were posted to southern States, where the language, food, and culture were unfamiliar, prompting a series of transfer requests, as reported by *The Hindu* at the time.

With just one year left of the three-year recruitment timeline, the proposal to hire a second batch of over 6,000 staffers has been pending with the Tribal Af-

fairs Ministry for over three months, with queries now being raised about the centralised process, according to a government official associated with running Eklavya schools when the proposal was being prepared.

Pending proposals

The source said a proposal to hike the recurring cost per child per year from the ₹1.09 lakh set in 2020 to ₹1.70 lakh – on a par with JNVs – has been awaiting the Department of Expenditure's nod, despite a nudge from NESTS in November last year. Another proposal to set up at least 10 regional offices under NESTS, sent in December 2024, is also pending.

While NESTS's mandate allows it to issue administration guidelines and directions for State societies to follow, sources told *The Hindu* that without structural overhaul, the body has virtually no power of "oversight, inspections" over the State societies.

According to internal circulars, NESTS has uncovered several "financial improprieties" in the operations of State societies. For instance, they often get individual schools to book expenditures incurred by the societies.

NESTS also found that the schools are not purchasing daily-use items for students, such as uniforms and textbooks, as they are meant to, but are instead transferring the money for this to their parents' accounts.

A circular from December 2024 reiterated that State societies are meant to function as regional offices, also warning newly recruited staff against challenging NESTS's authority.

Another source said filing the sanctioned positions at NESTS has become more of a task, explaining that job notices for these positions often receive no applications from within the government as "there is no scope for promotion and pay is very low".



Little Progress in Centralising Administration of Eklavya Schools

एकलव्य स्कूलों के प्रशासन के केंद्रीकरण में कम प्रगति

Five years after the Centre introduced fresh guidelines to elevate Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) to the standards of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) by centralising their administration, little progress has been made.

पांच साल बाद, जब केंद्र सरकार ने एकलव्य मॉडल आवासीय विद्यालय (ईएमआरएस) को जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय (जेएनवी) के स्तर तक लाने के लिए प्रशासन को केंद्रीकृत करने के नए दिशानिर्देश जारी किए, तब भी बहुत कम प्रगति हुई है।

- Proposals to begin the second round of centralised recruitment for over 6,000 school staff members, set up regional offices, and raise the recurring cost per child per year have been held up at various levels of the government for months. 6,000 से अधिक स्कूल कर्मचारियों की केंद्रीय भर्ती के दूसरे चरण की शुरुआत, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों की स्थापना, और प्रति छात्र वार्षिक व्यय बढ़ाने के प्रस्ताव सरकारी स्तरों पर महीनों से अटके हुए हैं।
- As a result, the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), set up with the vision of centralising Eklavya schools, operates without any mandated authority over the State societies that run these schools. इसके परिणामस्वरूप, राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय छात्र शिक्षा समिति (NESTS), जिसे एकलव्य स्कूलों के केंद्रीकरण के उद्देश्य से स्थापित किया गया था, राज्य समितियों पर कोई वैधानिक अधिकार नहीं रखती, जो इन स्कूलों का संचालन करती हैं।

Expansion of EMRS Schools and Administrative Challenges

ईएमआरएस स्कूलों का विस्तार और प्रशासनिक चुनौतियाँ

- Since the government revised the EMRS scheme in 2020, it has aggressively sanctioned new schools, with a total of 728 sanctioned till February 28, of which 477 are functional. 2020 में सरकार द्वारा ईएमआरएस योजना के संशोधन के बाद, सरकार ने नए स्कूलों को तेजी से मंजूरी दी, जिससे 28 फरवरी तक 728 स्कूल स्वीकृत हुए, जिनमें से 477 कार्यरत हैं।
- NESTS administers these schools with a sanctioned strength of just 28 permanent and six temporary staff, most of whom are retired government servants hired as consultants. NESTS इन स्कूलों का प्रशासन करता है, लेकिन इसमें केवल 28 स्थायी और 6 अस्थायी कर्मचारी स्वीकृत हैं, जिनमें से अधिकांश सेवानिवृत्त सरकारी कर्मचारी सलाहकार के रूप में नियुक्त किए गए हैं।



Comparison with JNV Administration

जेएनवी प्रशासन की तुलना

- In comparison, there are **661 sanctioned JNVs**, which are administered by the **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti** through its headquarters and eight regional offices. इसके विपरीत, 661 स्वीकृत जेएनवी हैं, जिन्हें नवोदय विद्यालय समिति द्वारा मुख्यालय और 8 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों के माध्यम से संचालित किया जाता है।
- These regional offices have a **combined sanctioned staff strength of 491**, making administration **much more structured** than in EMRS schools. इन क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों में कुल 491 स्वीकृत कर्मचारी हैं, जिससे प्रशासन ईएमआरएस स्कूलों की तुलना में अधिक संगठित है।

No Response from Tribal Affairs Ministry

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय की ओर से कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं

- Questions sent to the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** about the **status of centralisation** and its **progress** have not yet elicited a response. जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय को केंद्रीकरण की स्थिति और उसकी प्रगति पर भेजे गए प्रश्नों का अभी तक कोई उत्तर नहीं मिला।
- **NESTS** offered no comment when **The Hindu** reached out to the **Office of the Commissioner**. नेस्ट्स (NESTS) ने कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की, जब द हिंदू ने आयुक्त कार्यालय से संपर्क किया।

Announcement in 2023-24 Budget

2023-24 के बजट में घोषणा

- The **centralisation process** was first announced by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** in the **2023-24 Budget speech**. वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने 2023-24 के बजट भाषण में केंद्रीकरण प्रक्रिया की पहली बार घोषणा की।
- She stated that **over 38,000 staffers** would be hired centrally for **Eklavya schools** over the next **three years**. उन्होंने कहा कि अगले तीन वर्षों में, 38,000 से अधिक कर्मचारियों की केंद्रीय भर्ती एकलव्य स्कूलों के लिए की जाएगी।
- The **first round of recruitment**, completed in **2024**, saw **over 10,000 staffers** being hired. पहले चरण की भर्ती, जो 2024 में पूरी हुई, में 10,000 से अधिक कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति हुई।

Challenges in Recruitment

भर्ती में चुनौतियाँ



- Officials admitted to some “teething problems” with the centralisation process and the mandated requirement of Hindi competency.
अधिकारियों ने स्वीकार किया कि केंद्रीकरण प्रक्रिया और हिंदी दक्षता की अनिवार्यता को लेकर शुरुआती दिक्कतें आईं।
- Many teachers from Hindi-speaking States were posted in southern States, leading to language, food, and cultural difficulties, prompting a series of transfer requests.
कई हिंदी भाषी राज्यों के शिक्षकों को दक्षिणी राज्यों में तैनात किया गया, जिससे भाषा, भोजन और संस्कृति से जुड़ी कठिनाइयाँ आईं, और स्थानांतरण अनुरोधों की संख्या बढ़ गई।
- With one year left in the three-year recruitment plan, the proposal to hire a second batch of over 6,000 staffers has been pending for over three months with the Tribal Affairs Ministry.
तीन साल की भर्ती योजना में केवल एक वर्ष बचा है, लेकिन 6,000 से अधिक कर्मचारियों की दूसरी भर्ती का प्रस्ताव तीन महीने से जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय में लंबित है।

Pending Proposals

लंबित प्रस्ताव

- A proposal to increase the recurring cost per child per year from ₹1.09 lakh (set in 2020) to ₹1.70 lakh, making it equal to JNVs, has been awaiting approval from the Department of Expenditure since November 2024.
प्रति छात्र वार्षिक व्यय को ₹1.09 लाख (2020 में निर्धारित) से बढ़ाकर ₹1.70 लाख करने का प्रस्ताव, जिससे इसे जेएनवी के बराबर लाया जा सके, नवंबर 2024 से व्यय विभाग की मंजूरी के इंतजार में है।
- Another proposal to set up at least 10 regional offices under NESTS, sent in December 2024, is also pending.
दिसंबर 2024 में भेजा गया प्रस्ताव, जिसमें NESTS के तहत कम से कम 10 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों की स्थापना की बात थी, अब भी लंबित है।

Lack of Oversight and Financial Irregularities

निगरानी की कमी और वित्तीय अनियमितताएँ

- Although NESTS is mandated to issue administrative guidelines for State societies, sources revealed that without structural changes, it lacks oversight and inspection powers.
हालांकि NESTS को राज्य समितियों के लिए प्रशासनिक दिशानिर्देश जारी करने का अधिकार प्राप्त है, लेकिन स्रोतों के अनुसार संरचनात्मक बदलाव के बिना, इसके पास निगरानी और निरीक्षण की शक्ति नहीं है।
- Internal circulars have uncovered financial irregularities in State societies' operations.
आंतरिक परिपत्रों ने राज्य समितियों के संचालन में वित्तीय अनियमितताओं का खुलासा किया है।



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- **Schools are not purchasing essential items like uniforms and textbooks, instead, they transfer the money to parents' accounts.**
स्कूल छात्रों के लिए आवश्यक वस्तुएँ, जैसे यूनीफॉर्म और पाठ्यपुस्तकें, नहीं खरीद रहे हैं, बल्कि यह धनराशि सीधे माता-पिता के खातों में स्थानांतरित कर रहे हैं।
- A December 2024 circular reiterated that **State societies must function as regional offices** and warned **newly recruited staff against challenging NESTS's authority.**
दिसंबर 2024 के परिपत्र में दोहराया गया कि राज्य समितियों को क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों के रूप में कार्य करना चाहिए और नव नियुक्त कर्मचारियों को NESTS के अधिकार को चुनौती देने से बचने की चेतावनी दी गई।

Recruitment Issues at NESTS

NESTS में भर्ती संबंधी समस्याएँ

- **Filling sanctioned positions at NESTS has become a challenge, as job notices often receive no applications** from government employees.
NESTS में स्वीकृत पदों को भरना एक बड़ी चुनौती बन गया है, क्योंकि सरकारी कर्मचारियों से इन पदों के लिए कोई आवेदन नहीं आ रहे हैं।
- A **key reason** is the **lack of promotion opportunities and low pay**, making these positions **unattractive** to potential applicants.
इसका मुख्य कारण है पदोन्नति के अवसरों की कमी और कम वेतन, जिससे ये पद आवेदकों के लिए आकर्षक नहीं बन रहे हैं।

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- **Objective:** EMRS aims to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) children in remote areas, ensuring their holistic development and integration into mainstream society.
- **Establishment:** Initiated in **1997-98**, the scheme focuses on setting up residential schools in tribal regions across India.
- **Administration:** Managed by the **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Features:**
 - **Residential Facilities:** Provides free lodging and boarding to students from Class VI to XII.
 - **Curriculum:** Follows the CBSE curriculum with an emphasis on preserving tribal culture and languages.
 - **Capacity:** Each school is designed for **480 students**, with special provisions to increase capacity in high-density tribal areas.
- **Recent Developments:**

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- The government has approved the establishment of **740 EMRSs** across the country to enhance educational infrastructure for tribal students.
- As of **March 2025**, **367 schools** are operational, benefiting thousands of tribal students.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV)

- **Objective:** JNVs aim to identify and nurture talented children from rural areas by providing them with quality education comparable to the best residential schools.
- **Establishment:** The first JNV was established in **1985** under the **National Policy on Education**.
- **Administration:** Operated by the **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti** under the Ministry of Education.
Features:
 - **Residential Facilities:** Offers free education, lodging, and boarding to students from Class VI to XII.
 - **Curriculum:** Affiliated with CBSE, emphasizing both academic excellence and co-curricular activities.
 - **Admission Process:** Selection through the **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test (JNVST)**, primarily targeting rural students.
- **Recent Developments:**
 - As of **March 2025**, there are **661 JNVs** functioning across India, with plans to establish more to cover every district.
 - The government has approved the opening of **62 new JNVs** to cater to the increasing demand for quality rural education.



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GS Paper II: FRs

Humour, perversity

With laws there to deal with obscenity, new regulations may be superfluous

In suggesting that the Government should come with regulatory measures to prevent vulgarity or perversity in the name of humour being aired, the Supreme Court has expanded the scope of petitions by YouTubers caught in a criminal case over alleged obscenity in a digital programme. The Court has sounded the right note by calling for a discussion among stakeholders on regulations that would not impinge on the freedom of speech and expression and will be within the framework of "reasonable restrictions" permitted in the Constitution. However, such regulations may be superfluous, as existing laws provide for dealing with possible obscenity or vulgarity in electronic and digital content. That those associated with the controversial programme, 'India's Got Latent', are facing FIRs and have sought protection from arrests show that the present regulations may be sufficient. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), display of content in electronic form shall be deemed to be obscene, "if it is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest", and is a punishable offence. Similar penal provisions are available in the IT Act. The Programme Code under the Cable Television Network Rules prohibits programmes that offend decency, among other things. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 provide for age-based classification and a three-tier system of grievance redress, under which users could approach the platform, a self-regulatory body and a government inter-departmental committee.

The debate between 'clean' and 'dirty' humour is age-old, but the distinction is well-understood. It is only in the context of public outrage over specific instances of obscenity or vulgarity that voices are raised about the need to maintain decency and morality. In this case, the folly of the participants in making sexually perverse comments is matched by the zeal of the complainants and the police, mainly because of the content being leaked outside a paying audience. The participants may have thus rendered themselves vulnerable to prosecution, but a mature society should consider whether anyone should go to prison for such a verbal offence. The tendency to get the police to file FIRs wherever someone complains is also to be deprecated. The Internet's universal reach should not become an excuse to confer universal jurisdiction. This often takes the case to the Court, as those named in such FIRs want multiple cases to be clubbed, leading to attention and a widening of the debate. An extreme case such as this does evoke extreme reactions, but law enforcement and legal institutions should not be overzealous in their response.

प्रतिबंधित करता है जो शालीनता का उल्लंघन करते हैं।

Humour, Perversity

हास्य, विकृति

With laws there to deal with obscenity, new regulations may be superfluous.

अश्लीलता से निपटने के लिए कानून पहले से मौजूद हैं, नए नियम अनावश्यक हो सकते हैं।

• The Supreme Court has suggested regulatory measures to prevent vulgarity or perversity in the name of humour.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हास्य के नाम पर अश्लीलता या विकृति को रोकने के लिए नियामक उपाय सुझाए हैं।

• The Court has emphasized that such regulations should not violate freedom of speech and expression but stay within reasonable restrictions under the Constitution.

कोर्ट ने जोर दिया है कि ऐसे नियम अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता का उल्लंघन न करें और संविधान में दिए गए उचित प्रतिबंधों के दायरे में रहें।

• However, such regulations may be unnecessary, as existing laws are sufficient to deal with obscenity and vulgarity in electronic and digital content.

हालांकि, ऐसे नियम अनावश्यक हो सकते हैं, क्योंकि मौजूदा कानून इलेक्ट्रॉनिक और डिजिटल सामग्री में अश्लीलता और अभद्रता से निपटने के लिए पर्याप्त हैं।

• The accused in the controversial show 'India's Got Latent' are facing FIRs and have sought protection from arrest. विवादास्पद शो 'इंडियाज गॉट लैटेंट' से जुड़े लोगों पर FIR दर्ज हैं और उन्होंने गिरफ्तारी से सुरक्षा मांगी है।

• Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), any electronic content is considered obscene if it is lascivious or appeals to prurient interest. It is a punishable offense.

भारतीय न्याय संहिता (BNS) के तहत, कोई भी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामग्री कामुक या अश्लील मानी जाती है, और यह दंडनीय अपराध है।

• Similar penal provisions exist under the IT Act. इसी तरह के दंडात्मक प्रावधान IT अधिनियम में भी मौजूद हैं।

• The Programme Code under the Cable Television Network Rules prohibits programmes that offend decency. केबल टेलीविजन नेटवर्क नियमों के तहत कार्यक्रम कोड उन कार्यक्रमों को

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- The **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** provide for **age-based classification** and a **three-tier grievance redressal system**.
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (मध्यस्थ दिशानिर्देश और डिजिटल मीडिया नैतिकता संहिता) नियम, 2021 आयु-आधारित वर्गीकरण और तीन-स्तरीय शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली प्रदान करते हैं।
- The debate on **clean vs dirty humour** is **age-old**, and the **distinction** is well understood.
स्वच्छ बनाम अश्लील हास्य पर बहस पुरानी है, और इन दोनों के बीच अंतर स्पष्ट रूप से समझा जाता है।
- **Public outrage** arises mainly when **obscenity or vulgarity** is leaked outside its **intended paying audience**.
अश्लीलता या अभद्रता का मुद्दा तब उठता है जब यह अपने निर्धारित भुगतान करने वाले दर्शकों से बाहर लीक हो जाती है।
- The **participants** of the show made **sexually perverse comments**, leading to **legal trouble**.
शो के प्रतिभागियों ने यौन विकृत टिप्पणियां कीं, जिससे कानूनी परेशानी हुई।
- A **mature society** should consider whether a person should be **imprisoned** for a **verbal offense**.
एक परिपक्व समाज को विचार करना चाहिए कि क्या किसी को मौखिक अपराध के लिए कैद में डालना उचित है।
- The **tendency** to file **FIRs** for any **complaint** is **undesirable**.
किसी भी शिकायत पर FIR दर्ज कराने की प्रवृत्ति अवांछनीय है।
- The **Internet's universal reach** should not be used to impose **universal jurisdiction**.
इंटरनेट की सार्वभौमिक पहुंच को सार्वभौमिक अधिकार क्षेत्र लागू करने का आधार नहीं बनाया जाना चाहिए।
- Legal cases often escalate to **court**, where multiple **FIRs** are clubbed, leading to **wider debates**.
कानूनी मामले अक्सर अदालत तक पहुंच जाते हैं, जहां कई FIR को जोड़ा जाता है, जिससे विस्तृत बहस होती है।
- Extreme cases evoke **extreme reactions**, but **law enforcement** should not act with **overzealousness**.
अत्यधिक मामलों में तीव्र प्रतिक्रियाएं होती हैं, लेकिन कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों को अति उत्साही नहीं होना चाहिए।



Over-centralisation threatens federal health policy

GS Paper II: Domicile Based Reservation

The Supreme Court judgment, in *Dr. Tanvi Behl vs Shrey Goyal (2025)*, which struck down domicile-based reservations in post-graduate medical admissions in the respective medical colleges in States, marks a significant shift in India's medical education policy. The ruling, holding that such reservations violate **Article 14** of the Constitution, dismantles a mechanism that States have long relied upon to ensure a stable medical workforce suited to public health needs. While upholding meritocracy, it misapprehends the complex relationship between **medical education policies and State public health planning**. By entrenching a centralising bias in India's medical education framework, it risks **disincentivising State investment in government medical colleges – transforming competitive federalism into a race to the bottom**.

Domicile quotas in State health planning Domicile-based reservations in post-graduate medical courses serve a crucial function in aligning State investment in medical education with health-care personnel retention. States allocate substantial resources to train medical students, expecting that these graduates will contribute to the local health-care system. Given chronic specialist shortages, **domicile quotas ensure a predictable supply of doctors familiar with the State's health-care landscape**. The Court's reliance on *Pradeep Jain vs Union of India (1984)* to eliminate domicile-based post-graduate reservations overlooks the essential distinction between undergraduate and post-graduate education. Unlike MBBS programmes, where students gain foundational knowledge, post-graduate courses are the primary channel through which States replenish their specialist workforce. Removing domicile quotas disrupts this pipeline, making States becoming increasingly reliant on external recruitment – a process fraught with unpredictability and inefficiencies.

By striking down domicile quotas, the judgment weakens the incentive for States to invest in medical education. A well-functioning system of competitive federalism encourages States to develop robust institutions to attract and retain talent. However, if States cannot ensure that their investment translates into a local specialist workforce, their incentive to fund medical education diminishes. Without domicile reservations, States may deprioritise medical college funding, leading to declining infrastructure and worsening regional health-care disparities. This stands in contrast to premier central institutions such as the All India Institute

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The ruling striking down domicile-based reservations in post-graduate medical admission overlooks the functional realities of public health governance

of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), and the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), which are granted selection autonomy. State medical colleges – arguably even more vital to India's public health architecture – are now denied a similar prerogative, disadvantaging States in planning for their long-term healthcare needs.

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life, including access to adequate health care, while public health remains under State legislative competence. Medical colleges are not merely institutions of higher education; they are also a crucial part of the State's health infrastructure. Viewing them solely as centres for producing medical graduates is a limited perspective. A broader, systems-based approach highlights the connection between the right to life, public health, and medical education. Given the role of State government medical colleges in sustaining public health, it is essential to recognise the State government's need for autonomy in the selection process at the undergraduate, post-graduate and super-specialty levels. This ensures that medical education aligns with local health-care needs, reinforcing that these institutions serve a greater purpose than academics alone. Excessive centralisation, unwittingly powered by court rulings, restricts States from formulating policies suited to their public health needs and socio-economic circumstances. Legislatures and the judiciary must acknowledge that government medical colleges are integral to State health-care infrastructure.

The fallacy of absolute meritocracy

The Court's insistence on a rigid meritocratic framework ignores the structural inequities inherent in India's medical entrance system. An analysis of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Postgraduate), or NEET-PG, results reveals significant flaws in how merit is assessed, including instances where candidates with negative marks qualify due to percentile-based cutoffs.

A recent example from 2023 saw the National Medical Commission, following directives from the Ministry of Health, reduce the qualifying percentile for NEET PG and Super Speciality examinations to zero to fill vacant seats. If undergraduate admissions recognise regional and socio-economic disparities, there is little justification for excluding such considerations from post-graduate admissions. Furthermore, the judgment perpetuates a narrow conception of

merit that disregards its social context. As noted in judgments on medical education in cases such as *Jagdish Saran & Ors vs Union Of India & Ors (1982)*, *Pradeep Jain (1984)*, *Neil Aurelio Nunes & Ors vs Union of India (2022)*, and *Om Rathod vs The Director General Of Health Services (2024)*, administrative efficiency should be measured not by abstract merit alone but by outcomes that promote societal good and redress structural inequalities. By prioritising candidates more likely to remain and serve in their home States – as acknowledged by the Economic Survey 2024-25 – domicile-based reservations enhance health-care access and mitigate regional disparities – aligning with a broader, more inclusive definition of merit.

Need for a reconsideration

While the Court's ruling follows precedents from *Pradeep Jain* and the Constitution Bench, it merits re-evaluation. The original framework, which drew a rigid line between undergraduate and post-graduate admissions, was formulated in a different health-care landscape. Today, retaining specialists within State health systems is more pressing than ever, particularly in light of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising burden of non-communicable diseases. Rather than eliminating domicile quotas outright, a more balanced approach would integrate these reservations with public service obligations. For instance, Tamil Nadu's medical education framework links quotas to service mandates in public institutions, ensuring that State investment yields tangible health-care benefits. Such models deserve greater judicial and policy consideration rather than outright dismissal.

The ruling reflects a well-intentioned but flawed application of meritocracy that overlooks the functional realities of public health governance and blurs the line between constitutional interpretation and detailed policy design. By reinforcing centralised control over medical admissions, it risks weakening State investment, exacerbating regional disparities, and eroding competitive federalism. A reconsideration of this verdict is imperative to ensure that States retain the autonomy necessary to structure their medical education policies in alignment with their health-care priorities. Contrary to the Court's concerns that domicile quotas pose a grave national risk, over-centralisation threatens federal health policy. If India aims to build a robust and sustainable health-care system, judicial doctrine must evolve to accommodate the complex interplay between medical education, federalism, and public health policy.

Over-centralisation threatens federal health policy

अत्यधिक केंद्रीकरण संघीय स्वास्थ्य नीति के लिए खतरा

The recent Supreme Court judgment, in **Dr. Tanvi Behl vs Shrey Goyal (2025)**, struck down domicile-based reservations in post-graduate medical admissions in State medical colleges.

हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले ने, डॉ. तन्वी बेहल बनाम श्रेय गोयल (2025) में, राज्य



मेडिकल कॉलेजों में पीजी मेडिकल प्रवेश के लिए डोमिसाइल-आधारित आरक्षण को खत्म कर दिया।

- The ruling held that such reservations **violate Article 14** of the Constitution.
इस फैसले में कहा गया कि इस तरह के आरक्षण संविधान के अनुच्छेद 14 का उल्लंघन करते हैं।
- It dismantles a mechanism that **States relied on** to ensure a **stable medical workforce** suited to public health needs.
यह उस प्रणाली को खत्म कर देता है, जिस पर राज्य एक स्थिर चिकित्सा कार्यबल सुनिश्चित करने के लिए निर्भर थे, जो सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य जरूरतों के अनुकूल हो।
- While upholding **meritocracy**, the judgment **misapprehends** the link between **medical education policies** and **State public health planning**.
मेरिट प्रणाली को बरकरार रखते हुए, यह फैसला मेडिकल शिक्षा नीतियों और राज्य की सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य योजना के बीच के संबंध को गलत समझता है।
- It reinforces a **centralising bias in India's medical education framework**, which could **discourage State investment in government medical colleges**.
यह भारत की चिकित्सा शिक्षा प्रणाली में केंद्रीकरण की प्रवृत्ति को मजबूत करता है, जिससे राज्यों के सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेजों में निवेश घट सकता है।
- This shift **risks transforming competitive federalism** into a **race to the bottom**.
यह बदलाव प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक संघवाद को गिरावट की ओर ले जा सकता है।

Domicile quotas in State health planning

राज्य की स्वास्थ्य योजना में डोमिसाइल कोटा

- **Domicile-based reservations in PG medical courses help align State investment with health-care personnel retention**.
पीजी मेडिकल पाठ्यक्रमों में डोमिसाइल-आधारित आरक्षण राज्य निवेश को स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों की उपलब्धता से जोड़ने में मदद करता है।
- **States invest heavily** in training medical students, expecting them to **serve the local health-care system**.
राज्य चिकित्सा छात्रों के प्रशिक्षण में भारी निवेश करते हैं, यह उम्मीद करते हुए कि वे स्थानीय स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणाली में काम करेंगे।
- **Given chronic specialist shortages**, domicile quotas ensure a **predictable supply of doctors familiar with State health-care needs**.
विशेषज्ञ डॉक्टरों की लगातार कमी को देखते हुए, डोमिसाइल कोटा राज्य की स्वास्थ्य आवश्यकताओं से परिचित डॉक्टरों की स्थिर आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करता है।
- The Court relied on **Pradeep Jain vs Union of India (1984)** but overlooked the **difference between UG and PG medical education**.



न्यायालय ने प्रदीप जैन बनाम भारत संघ (1984) पर भरोसा किया, लेकिन यूजी और पीजी मेडिकल शिक्षा के अंतर को नजरअंदाज कर दिया।

- Unlike MBBS programmes, where students get basic medical knowledge, PG courses are crucial for training specialists.

एमबीबीएस कार्यक्रमों के विपरीत, जहां छात्र मूलभूत चिकित्सा ज्ञान प्राप्त करते हैं, पीजी पाठ्यक्रम विशेषज्ञ डॉक्टरों के प्रशिक्षण में अहम भूमिका निभाते हैं।

- Without domicile quotas, States will have to rely on external recruitment, which is unpredictable and inefficient.

डोमिसाइल कोटा हटाने से राज्यों को बाहरी भर्तियों पर निर्भर रहना पड़ेगा, जो अप्रत्याशित और अक्षम है।

- Striking down domicile quotas reduces State incentives to invest in medical education.

डोमिसाइल कोटा खत्म करने से राज्यों का चिकित्सा शिक्षा में निवेश करने का प्रोत्साहन घट सकता है।

- A healthy competitive federalism should encourage States to develop strong institutions to retain medical talent.

एक स्वस्थ प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद को राज्यों को मजबूत संस्थानों का विकास करने और मेडिकल प्रतिभा बनाए रखने के लिए प्रेरित करना चाहिए।

- Without guarantees for local workforce retention, States may deprioritise medical college funding.

अगर स्थानीय स्वास्थ्य कार्यबल बनाए रखने की कोई गारंटी नहीं होगी, तो राज्य मेडिकल कॉलेजों के वित्त पोषण को प्राथमिकता नहीं देंगे।

- This could lead to declining infrastructure and worsening regional health disparities.

इससे स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना का अवक्रमण और क्षेत्रीय स्वास्थ्य असमानताओं में वृद्धि हो सकती है।

- In contrast, central institutions like AIIMS, PGIMER, and JIPMER have selection autonomy.

इसके विपरीत, एम्स, पीजीआईएमईआर और जेआईपीएमईआर जैसी केंद्रीय संस्थाओं को चयन की स्वतंत्रता दी गई है।

- State medical colleges, which are crucial to India's public health, are denied similar autonomy, affecting long-term health planning.

राज्य मेडिकल कॉलेज, जो भारत के सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, उन्हें ऐसी स्वतंत्रता नहीं दी गई, जिससे दीर्घकालिक स्वास्थ्य योजना प्रभावित होगी।

Article 21 and State Autonomy in Medical Education

अनुच्छेद 21 और चिकित्सा शिक्षा में राज्य की स्वायत्तता

- Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life, including access to adequate health care, while public health remains under State legislative competence.

भारतीय संविधान का अनुच्छेद 21 जीवन के अधिकार की गारंटी देता है, जिसमें पर्याप्त स्वास्थ्य देखभाल तक पहुंच शामिल है, जबकि सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य राज्य विधान की सीमा में आता है।



- **Medical colleges** are not just **higher education institutions**; they are also a **crucial part of the State's health infrastructure**.
मेडिकल कॉलेज केवल उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान नहीं हैं; वे राज्य के स्वास्थ्य ढांचे का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा भी हैं।
- Viewing medical colleges solely as **centres for producing graduates** is a **limited perspective**.
मेडिकल कॉलेजों को केवल स्नातक तैयार करने वाले केंद्र के रूप में देखना सीमित दृष्टिकोण है।
- A **broader approach** highlights the **connection between the right to life, public health, and medical education**.
एक व्यापक दृष्टिकोण जीवन के अधिकार, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य और चिकित्सा शिक्षा के बीच संबंध को उजागर करता है।
- **State government medical colleges** play a key role in **sustaining public health, making State autonomy in medical admissions crucial**.
राज्य सरकार के मेडिकल कॉलेज सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, जिससे चिकित्सा प्रवेश में राज्य की स्वायत्तता महत्वपूर्ण हो जाती है।
- **Excessive centralisation** through court rulings **restricts States from formulating policies suited to their health and socio-economic needs**.
अत्यधिक केंद्रीकरण अदालत के फैसलों के माध्यम से राज्यों को उनकी स्वास्थ्य और सामाजिक-आर्थिक आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार नीतियां बनाने से रोकता है।
- **Legislatures and judiciary** must acknowledge that **government medical colleges** are **integral to State health-care infrastructure**.
विधायिका और न्यायपालिका को यह स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज राज्य के स्वास्थ्य देखभाल ढांचे का अभिन्न हिस्सा हैं।

The Fallacy of Absolute Meritocracy

पूर्ण मेरिटोक्रेसी की भ्रांति

- The Court's **rigid meritocratic framework** ignores **structural inequities** in India's **medical entrance system**.
न्यायालय की कठोर मेरिटोक्रैटिक रूपरेखा भारत की चिकित्सा प्रवेश प्रणाली में संरचनात्मक असमानताओं को नजरअंदाज करती है।
- **NEET-PG results** reveal flaws in how **merit is assessed**, including cases where **candidates with negative marks qualify** due to **percentile-based cut-offs**.
नीट-पीजी परिणाम यह दर्शाते हैं कि मेरिट के मूल्यांकन में खामियां हैं, जिनमें नकारात्मक अंक पाने वाले उम्मीदवार भी परसेंटाइल कट-ऑफ के कारण योग्य घोषित हो जाते हैं।
- In **2023**, the **National Medical Commission**, following directives from the **Ministry of Health**, reduced the **qualifying percentile for NEET PG and Super Speciality exams to zero** to fill vacant seats.



2023 में, राष्ट्रीय चिकित्सा आयोग (NMC) ने स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के निर्देशों के तहत नीट पीजी और सुपर स्पेशियलिटी परीक्षाओं की क्वालिफाइंग परसेंटाइल को शून्य कर दिया ताकि खाली सीटें भरी जा सकें।

- If undergraduate admissions acknowledge regional and socio-economic disparities, there is little justification for excluding such considerations from post-graduate admissions.

यदि स्नातक प्रवेश क्षेत्रीय और सामाजिक-आर्थिक असमानताओं को मान्यता देता है, तो पीजी प्रवेश में इसे बाहर रखने का कोई औचित्य नहीं है।

- Past judgments such as Jagdish Saran (1982), Pradeep Jain (1984), Neil Aurelio Nunes (2022), and Om Rathod (2024) recognise that administrative efficiency should be measured not just by abstract merit but also by social impact.

जगदीश सरन (1982), प्रदीप जैन (1984), नील ऑरैलियो नूनस (2022), और ओम राठौड़ (2024) जैसे पूर्व निर्णय स्वीकार करते हैं कि प्रशासनिक दक्षता को केवल सैद्धांतिक मेरिट से नहीं बल्कि सामाजिक प्रभाव से भी मापा जाना चाहिए।

- The Economic Survey 2024-25 acknowledges that domicile-based reservations enhance health-care access and mitigate regional disparities, aligning with an inclusive definition of merit.

आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण 2024-25 यह स्वीकार करता है कि डोमिसाइल-आधारित आरक्षण स्वास्थ्य देखभाल पहुंच में सुधार और क्षेत्रीय असमानताओं को कम करने में मदद करता है, जो समावेशी मेरिट की परिभाषा के अनुरूप है।

Need for a Reconsideration

पुनर्विचार की आवश्यकता

- The Court's ruling follows precedents from Pradeep Jain and the Constitution Bench but requires re-evaluation.

न्यायालय का निर्णय प्रदीप जैन और संविधान पीठ के पूर्व निर्णयों का अनुसरण करता है, लेकिन इसे पुनः मूल्यांकन की आवश्यकता है।

- The original framework separating UG and PG admissions was developed in a different health-care landscape.

स्नातक और पीजी प्रवेश को अलग करने की मूल रूपरेखा एक अलग स्वास्थ्य देखभाल परिदृश्य में विकसित हुई थी।

- Retaining specialists within State health systems is more pressing than ever, especially after COVID-19 and the rising burden of non-communicable diseases.

राज्य की स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में विशेषज्ञों को बनाए रखना पहले से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो गया है, खासकर कोविड-19 और गैर-संचारी रोगों के बढ़ते बोझ के बाद।

- Instead of eliminating domicile quotas, a balanced approach would integrate reservations with public service obligations.

डोमिसाइल कोटा समाप्त करने के बजाय, एक संतुलित दृष्टिकोण आरक्षण को सार्वजनिक सेवा दायित्वों से जोड़ सकता है।



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- **Tamil Nadu's medical education framework links quotas to service mandates, ensuring State investment translates into tangible health-care benefits.**
तमिलनाडु की चिकित्सा शिक्षा प्रणाली आरक्षण को सेवा अनिवार्यता से जोड़ती है, जिससे राज्य का निवेश वास्तविक स्वास्थ्य लाभों में बदल जाता है।
- **The ruling reflects a well-intentioned but flawed application of meritocracy, overlooking public health governance realities.**
यह निर्णय एक अच्छी मंशा लेकिन दोषपूर्ण मेरिटोक्रेसी के अनुप्रयोग को दर्शाता है, जो सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन की वास्तविकताओं को नजरअंदाज करता है।
- **Judicial doctrine must evolve to accommodate the complex relationship between medical education, federalism, and public health policy.**
न्यायिक सिद्धांत को विकसित होना चाहिए ताकि चिकित्सा शिक्षा, संघवाद और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य नीति के बीच के जटिल संबंध को समायोजित किया जा सके।

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Warriors of hope

ASHAs need adequate remuneration
to be effective in their role

When an acronym was coined to refer to a newly-created cadre of health workers for the country, as political gestures are wont to, care was taken to ensure the word invoked a sense of promise. The government decided to call them Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA in Hindi means hope). In 2005, the Centre launched the National Rural Health Mission, and nominated ASHAs to be the link between the community and the public health-care delivery system. Today, there are over a million ASHAs across the country, and each one is firmly ensconced as the fulcrum of public health care in their area of operation in rural India. They now perform a full complement of functions: record birth and death data, implement interventions in non-communicable diseases and communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases; and serve a crucial reproductive, maternal, new born, child and adolescent health role, among others. Monitoring health, hygiene and sanitation in the community is also upon them. The role that the ASHAs played during the COVID-19 pandemic as health-care workers trusted by the community raised their profile significantly, and the humble Indian health worker went global. The ASHAs were chosen for the WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Award in 2022, and were recognised for their 'outstanding contribution towards protecting and promoting health'. A recent PLOS Global Public Health study established that the likelihood women access maternal services, and have a safer, institution-based delivery, goes up by 1.6 times if they were connected with ASHAs.

And yet, 20 years after the ASHAs were created, the workers are still on the streets, protesting for fair wages and equitable treatment. The flaw lies in the way they were designated at the inception – as volunteers. As such, they remain eligible only for a meagre fixed salary from the Centre and the rest of the compensation provided as incentive (shared by the Centre and States) against a deliverable, for instance, for facilitating an institutional birth. As per estimates, an ASHA worker can make anything between ₹5,000 and ₹15,000 a month. In 2018, the government approved an ASHA benefit package, providing coverage for accidents, deaths and disability. But the truth is there is a heavy load on the ASHAs; they work long hours, travel long distances, frequently miss meals, and have little time to take care of their own health needs. It is high time that the government fulfils the hopes of its warriors of hope, and treats ASHAs as permanent employees, instead of as volunteers, to enable them to draw adequate compensation and emoluments comparable to what is given to government employees.

Warriors of Hope

आशा कार्यकर्ताओं को प्रभावी भूमिका निभाने के लिए
उचित पारिश्रमिक की आवश्यकता

When an acronym was coined for a newly-created cadre of health workers, the government ensured the word invoked a sense of promise.

जब एक संक्षिप्त नाम नए बनाए गए स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ताओं के समूह के लिए गढ़ा गया, तो सरकार ने सुनिश्चित किया कि यह आशा का भाव प्रकट करे।

• The government decided to call them **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA)**, which in Hindi means **hope**.

सरकार ने उन्हें प्रमाणित सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (आशा) नाम दिया, जो हिंदी में आशा (Hope) का अर्थ रखता है।

• In 2005, the Centre launched the **National Rural Health Mission** and nominated ASHAs to be the link between the community and the public health-care delivery system.

2005 में केंद्र सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन शुरू किया और आशा कार्यकर्ताओं को समुदाय और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणाली के बीच कड़ी बनाया।

• Today, there are **over a million ASHAs** across the country, firmly established as the **fulcrum of public health care** in rural India.

आज देशभर में 10 लाख से अधिक आशा कार्यकर्ता हैं, जो ग्रामीण भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की रीढ़ बन चुकी हैं।

• ASHAs perform multiple functions:

आशा कार्यकर्ता कई भूमिकाएँ निभाती हैं:

○ Recording birth and death data

जन्म और मृत्यु के आंकड़े दर्ज करना

○ Implementing interventions in non-communicable and communicable diseases

संक्रामक और गैर-संक्रामक रोगों में हस्तक्षेप लागू करना

○ Handling neglected tropical diseases

उपेक्षित उष्णकटिबंधीय रोगों का प्रबंधन करना

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- Playing a **crucial role in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health**
प्रजनन, मातृत्व, नवजात, बाल और किशोर स्वास्थ्य में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाना
- Monitoring **health, hygiene, and sanitation** in the community
समुदाय में स्वास्थ्य, स्वच्छता और सफाई की निगरानी करना
- During the **COVID-19 pandemic**, ASHAs gained **global recognition** as **trusted health-care workers**.
कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान, आशा कार्यकर्ताओं को विश्व स्तर पर पहचान मिली और वे विश्वसनीय स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता बनीं।
- In **2022**, ASHAs received the **WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Award** for their **outstanding contribution to health**.
2022 में, आशा कार्यकर्ताओं को WHO महानिदेशक का वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य नेताओं का पुरस्कार मिला, जो उनके स्वास्थ्य में असाधारण योगदान के लिए था।
- A **PLOS Global Public Health study** found that **women are 1.6 times more likely** to access **maternal services** and have **institutional deliveries** if connected with ASHAs.
PLOS ग्लोबल पब्लिक हेल्थ अध्ययन के अनुसार, यदि महिलाएँ आशा कार्यकर्ताओं से जुड़ी होती हैं, तो वे 1.6 गुना अधिक मातृ सेवाओं का उपयोग करती हैं और **संस्थानिक प्रसव** कराती हैं।

Demand for Fair Wages and Treatment

उचित वेतन और समान व्यवहार की माँग

- Even after **20 years**, ASHAs are still **protesting for fair wages and equitable treatment**.
20 साल बाद भी, आशा कार्यकर्ता उचित वेतन और समान व्यवहार के लिए विरोध कर रही हैं।
- The issue lies in their designation as **volunteers**, making them eligible for only a **meager fixed salary** from the Centre.
समस्या उनकी स्वयंसेवक के रूप में नियुक्ति में है, जिससे वे केवल केंद्र से **कम वेतन** प्राप्त करने की पात्र हैं।
- They receive **incentives** (shared by **Centre and States**) based on **deliverables**, such as facilitating an **institutional birth**.
उन्हें **प्रोत्साहन राशि** (जो केंद्र और राज्यों द्वारा साझा की जाती है) केवल **विशिष्ट कार्यों** जैसे **संस्थानिक प्रसव** में मदद करने पर दी जाती है।
- **ASHA workers earn between ₹5,000 and ₹15,000 per month**, depending on their **workload**.
आशा कार्यकर्ताओं की मासिक आय **₹5,000 से ₹15,000** के बीच होती है, जो उनके कार्यभार पर निर्भर करती है।
- In **2018**, the government introduced an **ASHA benefit package**, covering **accidents, deaths, and disabilities**.



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2018 में सरकार ने आशा लाभ पैकेज लागू किया, जिसमें दुर्घटना, मृत्यु और विकलांगता का कवरेज शामिल है।

- However, ASHAs work long hours, travel long distances, frequently miss meals, and have little time for their own health.

फिर भी, आशा कार्यकर्ता लंबे समय तक काम करती हैं, लंबी दूरी तय करती हैं, अक्सर भोजन छोड़ देती हैं, और अपने स्वास्थ्य की देखभाल के लिए समय नहीं निकाल पातीं।

- The government must fulfill the hopes of these warriors by recognizing them as permanent employees.

सरकार को इन आशा की योद्धाओं की उम्मीदें पूरी करनी चाहिए और उन्हें स्थायी कर्मचारी के रूप में मान्यता देनी चाहिए।

- They deserve adequate compensation and benefits comparable to government employees.

उन्हें उचित वेतन और सुविधाएँ मिलनी चाहिए, जो सरकारी कर्मचारियों के बराबर हों।

PATRIOTIC IAS



A brief history of the Russia-Ukraine war

Why has U.S. President Donald Trump taken a dramatic shift when it comes to U.S.'s policy on Ukraine and NATO? Does the U.S. still consider Russia as a systemic threat? Are European leaders supportive of the U.S. plan? What lies ahead for the Russia-Ukraine war?

GS Paper II: Russia Ukraine War

WORLD INSIGHT

Stanley Johny

The story so far:

The Ukraine conflict has witnessed dramatic developments in recent weeks. U.S. President Donald Trump has brought in a 180-degree shift in U.S.'s policy towards the war. Disagreements between Kyiv and Washington on how to end the war have led to an unprecedented public spat between Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Mr. Trump in the Oval Office, following which the U.S. paused all military aid for the war-torn European nation. Within a day, Mr. Zelenskyy 'regretted' the spat, announced Kyiv's readiness to declare a partial truce and work with Mr. Trump to achieve lasting peace. Europe seems caught off guard as the geopolitical glacial plates are shifting fast. Russia is watching and waiting, while the war grinds on.

How did the war begin?

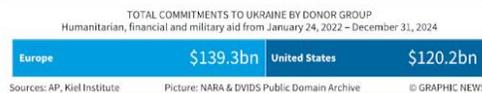
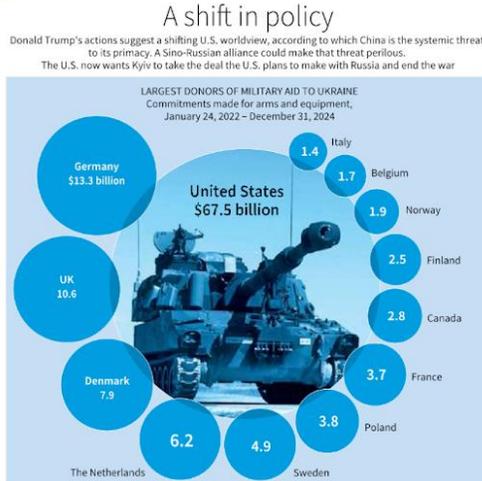
When Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, he probably thought the war would be over within days. So did Ukraine's western partners, including the U.S., who vacated their embassies in Kyiv right before the war began. But when Ukraine, armed with U.S.-supplied weapons, denied a quick victory to the Russians, the West stepped in. The U.S., under the Biden administration, adopted a two-pronged approach towards the war – impose biting sanctions on Russia to weaken its war machinery and economy, and arm Ukraine to the teeth to fight the Russians on the battlefield. "We want to see Russia weakened," Mr. Biden's Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said in April 2022. This approach was relatively successful in the war's initial phase. By September 2022, Russian troops were forced to withdraw from the settlements they had captured in the Kharkiv Oblast in the northeast. In November, Russia pulled back forces from Kherson city and parts of Mykolaiv on the right bank of the Dnipro River in the south.

But in between Russia's retreats from Kharkiv and Kherson, President Vladimir Putin had doubled down on the war: he annexed four Ukrainian oblasts – Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson – and announced a partial mobilisation. The message from the Kremlin was that it was ready to fight a long war. On the economy front, Mr. Putin pivoted towards Asia where the huge markets of China, India and others helped Moscow offset the impact of the sanctions.

Where does the war stand today?

In 2023, Russia gradually turned the tide of the war, inch by bloody inch. It took Soledar in January and Bakhmut in May, after a months-long campaign. In 2024, Russia expedited its battlefield advances by capturing Avdiivka in February, Krasnohorivka in September and Vuhledar in October. At no point since 2023, had Ukraine seemed capable of defeating the Russians and recapturing the lost territories. In June 2023, Ukraine launched a much-awaited counteroffensive, with advanced western weapons, in the south, but it fizzled out in the face of Russia's dogged defence.

In August 2024, Ukraine captured some 1,000 sq. km of Russian territory in the Kursk region in a surprise attack aimed at mounting pressure on Russia's advancing troops in the east. But Russia



refused to walk into the trap and pressed ahead with its offensive in the east, the soft belly of Ukraine's resistance. In 2024, Russian forces captured an estimated 4,168 sq. km in both Ukraine and Russia's Kursk. In January 2025, Russian troops seized Velyka Novosilka and parts of Toretsk. They have also been trying to encircle Pokrovsk. Ukraine in recent months stepped up drone and missile attacks deep inside Russian territory as well as in the Black Sea, hurting Russia's security. But on the battlefield, it has been on the backfoot for over two years.

Why has Trump changed America's Ukraine policy?

Mr. Trump had promised during his election campaign that he would bring the war to a quick end. After taking office in January, he moved fast. First, Pete Hegseth, the U.S. Defence Secretary, told the Ukraine Defence Contact Group, an alliance of 57 countries and the EU put in place by the Biden administration to help Kyiv, that Ukraine would not become a NATO member. He also ruled out American security guarantees for Ukraine and said any European guarantee would not be covered under NATO's collective security clause. Immediately after Mr. Hegseth's comments, Mr. Trump held a telephone call with Mr. Putin. Within days, Russia and the U.S. had two rounds of direct talks. Mr. Trump seems determined to reset America's ties with

Russia.

One explanation for this approach is that the U.S. doesn't see Russia as a threat any more. The U.S., in that sense, is breaking with the post-Second World War trans-Atlantic consensus, and is going back to the pre-First World War offshore balancing (the U.S. is protected by the world's two greatest oceans and shares borders with two meek powers in the south and north). In this Realist worldview, China is the systemic threat to the U.S.'s primacy and a Sino-Russian alliance could make that threat perilous. It would entail a reorientation of America's policy towards Russia – in a reverse order of what Henry Kissinger did in the 1970s when he and President Richard Nixon exploited the Sino-Soviet split and reached out to Beijing. In this grand reset plan, Ukraine is just a hindrance. Mr. Trump believes Ukraine can't win the war even with American support, and wants Kyiv to take the deal the U.S. plans to make with Russia and end the war.

How does Europe look at the developments?

Europe seems to be struggling to come to terms with what's happening. When Ukraine was promised NATO membership by U.S. President George W. Bush in 2008, Germany and France were hesitant. After Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 and supported a rebellion in

Pete Hegseth, the U.S. Defence Secretary, told the Ukraine Defence Contact Group, an alliance of 57 countries and the European Union put in place by the Biden administration to help Kyiv, that Ukraine would not become a NATO member

Ukraine's east, Germany and France played a role in negotiating the Minsk process to bring peace to Ukraine. But the U.S. was not very keen on the Minsk accords, and continued to back Ukraine militarily. No side – Kyiv, the separatists in the east, and Russia – implemented the accords. The crisis escalated into a full-blown war on Europe's watch. After the war began, Europe had to pay a huge economic cost. The Nord Stream pipeline, linking Russia across the Baltic Sea to Germany, was blown away (most likely by the Ukrainians, according to American media). The stoppage of the flow of cheap Russian gas triggered a cost-of-living crisis and de-industrialisation, which deepened public antipathy towards Europe's political establishment in several countries. For example, Germany is in recession for the third consecutive year, and the German far-right is ascendant.

And now, the U.S., which was in the lead of the pro-Ukraine alliance, is breaking with the policy and directly talking to Russia, excluding both Ukraine and Europe. European countries have called two summit-level meetings since Mr. Trump came to office, and promised to do more to help Ukraine. But the question is whether Europe, which itself is divided, has the capacity to provide security guarantees to Ukraine without America's backing. At present, Europe doesn't have many options but to go with the American plan. Europe also has bigger problems than Ukraine. It is worried about the future of NATO as the Trump administration is reorienting America's post-War foreign and security policy.

Where does it leave Ukraine?

Ukraine has lost more than 20% of its territories to Russia and tens of thousands of soldiers were killed in the war. Millions of Ukrainians have fled the country. Its economy is in shambles, and the energy sector is facing a major crisis because of Russia's repeated bombing of its infrastructure. The country is dependent on external supplies to meet at least half of its weapons requirements – including artillery and ammunition. Ukraine is also facing a manpower crunch on the battlefield (Mr. Trump says Ukraine is "running low on soldiers", while Vice President J.D. Vance says Russia has a "huge numerical advantage").

The country is therefore in dire straits. The U.S. says it's not practical to expect Ukraine to retake its lost territories – the Ukrainians and Europeans would grudgingly agree. The U.S. promised NATO membership to Ukraine in 2008. In 2025, the U.S. says Ukraine can forget about NATO membership. Ukraine wants at least security guarantees, but America is reluctant to provide any such guarantee. So, if Ukraine continues the war, it could lose more territories. If it stops the war, it will have to do so on the terms set by Russia and America. In the outset, no good options left for Mr. Zelenskyy and his Generals. Great powers fight proxy wars when their interests clash. Great powers reset ties when their interests align. The pawns and proxies suffer. Ukraine's story is not different.

THE GIST

When Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, he probably thought the war would be over within days. So did Ukraine's western partners, including the U.S., who vacated their embassies in Kyiv right before the war began.

The U.S., under the Biden administration, adopted a two-pronged approach towards the war – impose biting sanctions on Russia to weaken its war machinery and economy, and arm Ukraine to the teeth to fight the Russians on the battlefield.

And now, the U.S., which was in the lead of the pro-Ukraine alliance, is breaking with the policy and directly talking to Russia, excluding both Ukraine and Europe

A Brief History of the Russia-Ukraine War



रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध का संक्षिप्त इतिहास

The Ukraine conflict has seen dramatic developments in recent weeks.

यूक्रेन संघर्ष ने हाल के हफ्तों में नाटकीय परिवर्तन देखे हैं।

- U.S. President Donald Trump has made a **180-degree shift** in U.S. policy towards the war.
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने युद्ध को लेकर **180-डिग्री बदलाव** किया है।
- Disagreements between **Kyiv and Washington** on how to **end the war** led to a **public spat** between **Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** and **Mr. Trump** in the **Oval Office**.
कीव और वाशिंगटन के बीच युद्ध को समाप्त करने को लेकर असहमति हुई, जिससे यूक्रेन के राष्ट्रपति वलोडिमिर ज़ेलेन्स्की और मिस्टर ट्रंप के बीच ओवल ऑफिस में खुली बहस हो गई।
- Following this, the **U.S. paused all military aid** for Ukraine.
इसके बाद, अमेरिका ने यूक्रेन के लिए सभी सैन्य सहायता रोक दी।
- Within a day, **Mr. Zelenskyy regretted** the spat and announced **Kyiv's readiness** to declare a **partial truce** and work with **Mr. Trump** for **lasting peace**.
एक दिन के भीतर, मिस्टर ज़ेलेन्स्की ने खेद व्यक्त किया और आंशिक संघर्ष विराम की घोषणा कर शांतिवार्ता के लिए मिस्टर ट्रंप के साथ काम करने की इच्छा जताई।
- **Europe** seems caught **off guard** as the **geopolitical landscape shifts rapidly**.
यूरोप इन तेज़ी से बदलते भू-राजनीतिक परिवर्तनों से अचकचाया हुआ है।
- **Russia** is **watching and waiting**, while the war continues.
रूस स्थिति पर नज़र बनाए हुए है, जबकि युद्ध जारी है।

How Did the War Begin?

युद्ध कैसे शुरू हुआ?

- Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the **invasion of Ukraine** on **February 24, 2022**.
रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन ने 24 फरवरी 2022 को यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण किया।
- He likely believed the war would end **within days**, as did **Ukraine's Western partners**, including the **U.S.**, who **evacuated embassies in Kyiv** before the war.
उन्हें लगा कि युद्ध कुछ दिनों में समाप्त हो जाएगा, यही विश्वास यूक्रेन के पश्चिमी सहयोगियों को भी था, जिसमें अमेरिका भी शामिल था, जिसने युद्ध से पहले कीव से अपने दूतावास हटा लिए।
- **Ukraine**, armed with **U.S.-supplied weapons**, denied a **quick Russian victory**.
यूक्रेन, जो अमेरिकी हथियारों से लैस था, ने रूस को त्वरित जीत से वंचित कर दिया।



- The U.S. (under Biden administration) adopted a **two-pronged approach**:
अमेरिका (बाइडेन प्रशासन के तहत) ने दोहरी रणनीति अपनाई:
 - **Imposing strict sanctions** on Russia to weaken its **war machinery and economy**.
रूस पर कठोर प्रतिबंध लगाए ताकि उसकी **युद्ध शक्ति और अर्थव्यवस्था** कमजोर हो जाए।
 - **Arming Ukraine** heavily to **fight Russian troops** on the battlefield.
यूक्रेन को भारी हथियारों से लैस किया ताकि वह **रूसी सेना से युद्ध** कर सके।
- In **April 2022**, U.S. Defence Secretary **Lloyd Austin** stated: **“We want to see Russia weakened.”**
अप्रैल 2022 में, अमेरिकी रक्षा सचिव लॉयड ऑस्टिन ने कहा: "हम रूस को कमजोर होते देखना चाहते हैं।"
- This strategy initially succeeded:
यह रणनीति शुरुआत में सफल रही:
 - By **September 2022**, Russia withdrew from **Kharkiv** in the northeast.
सितंबर 2022 तक, रूस ने उत्तर-पूर्व में **खार्किव** से पीछे हटना पड़ा।
 - In **November 2022**, Russia pulled back from **Kherson city** and parts of **Mykolaiv**.
नवंबर 2022 में, रूस ने खेरसॉन शहर और माइकोलाइव के कुछ हिस्सों से पीछे हटना पड़ा।
- However, **President Putin** doubled down on the war:
हालांकि, राष्ट्रपति पुतिन ने युद्ध को और तेज़ कर दिया:
 - He **annexed four Ukrainian oblasts**: **Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson**.
उन्होंने यूक्रेन के चार क्षेत्रों - डोनेट्स्क, लुहान्स्क, ज़ापोरिज़िया, और खेरसॉन को अधिग्रहित कर लिया।
 - He announced a **partial mobilization** to **continue the war**.
उन्होंने आंशिक सैन्य लामबंदी की घोषणा कर **युद्ध जारी रखने** की बात कही।
- Economically, **Russia pivoted towards Asia**, relying on **China, India, and other markets** to offset sanctions.
आर्थिक रूप से, रूस एशिया की ओर मुड़ा, जहां उसने चीन, भारत और अन्य बाजारों पर निर्भर होकर प्रतिबंधों के प्रभाव को कम किया।

Where Does the War Stand Today?

युद्ध की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है?

- In **2023**, Russia regained control, capturing **Soledar (January)** and **Bakhmut (May)**.
2023 में, रूस ने नियंत्रण फिर से मजबूत किया, और जनवरी में सोलेदार व मई में बखमुत पर कब्जा किया।
- In **2024**, Russia advanced further, capturing:
2024 में, रूस ने और अधिक बढ़त बनाई और कब्जा किया:



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- Avdiivka (February)
अवदीवका (फरवरी)
- Krasnohorivka (September)
क्रासनोहोरिवका (सितंबर)
- Vuhledar (October)
वुहलेदार (अक्टूबर)
- By mid-2024, Ukraine's counteroffensive failed despite advanced Western weapons.
2024 के मध्य तक, यूक्रेन का जवाबी हमला विफल हो गया, हालांकि उसे पश्चिमी देशों के उन्नत हथियार मिले थे।
- In August 2024, Ukraine captured 1,000 sq. km of Russian territory in the Kursk region, attempting to pressure Russia's troops.
अगस्त 2024 में, यूक्रेन ने कुर्स्क क्षेत्र में 1,000 वर्ग किमी रूसी क्षेत्र पर कब्जा किया, जिससे रूस की सेना पर दबाव बनाने का प्रयास किया।
- Russia continued advancing in eastern Ukraine, capturing 4,168 sq. km in Ukraine and Russia's Kursk by the end of 2024.
2024 के अंत तक, रूस ने यूक्रेन और रूस के कुर्स्क क्षेत्र में 4,168 वर्ग किमी क्षेत्र पर कब्जा कर लिया।
- In January 2025, Russia seized Velyka Novosilka and parts of Toretsk, while attempting to encircle Pokrovsk.
जनवरी 2025 में, रूस ने वेलिका नोवोसिल्का और टोरेत्स्क के कुछ हिस्सों पर कब्जा किया, और पोकरोवस्क को घेरने की कोशिश कर रहा है।
- Ukraine intensified drone and missile attacks, targeting Russia's security and the Black Sea.
यूक्रेन ने ड्रोन और मिसाइल हमले तेज़ कर दिए, जो रूस की सुरक्षा और ब्लैक सी को निशाना बना रहे हैं।
- However, on the battlefield, Ukraine has been on the backfoot for over two years.
लेकिन, युद्ध के मैदान में, यूक्रेन पिछले दो वर्षों से पीछे हट रहा है।

Why Has Trump Changed America's Ukraine Policy?

ट्रंप ने अमेरिका की यूक्रेन नीति क्यों बदली?

- Mr. Trump had promised during his election campaign that he would bring the war to a quick end.
मिस्टर ट्रंप ने अपने चुनावी अभियान के दौरान वादा किया था कि वह युद्ध को जल्दी समाप्त करेंगे।
- After taking office in January 2025, he acted quickly.
जनवरी 2025 में पदभार संभालने के बाद, उन्होंने तुरंत कार्रवाई की।
- Pete Hegseth (U.S. Defence Secretary) informed the Ukraine Defence Contact Group (an alliance of 57 countries and the EU) that Ukraine would not become a NATO member.



अमेरिकी रक्षा सचिव पीट हेगसेथ ने यूक्रेन रक्षा संपर्क समूह (57 देशों और EU का गठबंधन) को बताया कि यूक्रेन नाटो का सदस्य नहीं बनेगा।

- He ruled out American security guarantees for Ukraine and clarified that any European security guarantees would not be under NATO's collective security clause.

उन्होंने यूक्रेन के लिए अमेरिकी सुरक्षा गारंटी से इनकार किया और स्पष्ट किया कि कोई भी यूरोपीय सुरक्षा गारंटी नाटो के सामूहिक सुरक्षा प्रावधान के तहत नहीं होगी।

- Soon after, Mr. Trump had a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

इसके तुरंत बाद, मिस्टर ट्रंप ने रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन से टेलीफोन पर बात की।

- Within days, Russia and the U.S. held two rounds of direct talks.

कुछ दिनों के भीतर, रूस और अमेरिका के बीच दो दौर की प्रत्यक्ष बातचीत हुई।

- Mr. Trump appears determined to reset U.S.-Russia relations.

मिस्टर ट्रंप अमेरिका और रूस के संबंधों को फिर से स्थापित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध दिखते हैं

Does the U.S. Still See Russia as a Threat?

क्या अमेरिका अब भी रूस को एक खतरे के रूप में देखता है?

- One explanation is that the U.S. no longer sees Russia as a major threat. एक कारण यह हो सकता है कि अमेरिका अब रूस को प्रमुख खतरे के रूप में नहीं देखता।
- The U.S. is breaking away from the post-World War II trans-Atlantic consensus and returning to pre-World War I offshore balancing. अमेरिका द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद के ट्रांस-अटलांटिक समझौते से अलग हो रहा है और प्रथम विश्व युद्ध से पहले की संतुलन नीति की ओर लौट रहा है।
- In this realist worldview, the main systemic threat to the U.S. is China, and a Sino-Russian alliance could be dangerous. इस यथार्थवादी दृष्टिकोण में, अमेरिका के लिए मुख्य खतरा चीन है, और यदि चीन-रूस गठबंधन मजबूत हुआ, तो यह खतरा बढ़ सकता है।
- The U.S. wants to reorient its policy towards Russia in a reverse approach to what Henry Kissinger and President Nixon did in the 1970s when they used the Sino-Soviet split to align with China. अमेरिका रूस की ओर अपनी नीति को पुनः निर्धारित करना चाहता है, ठीक वैसे ही जैसे 1970 के दशक में हेनरी किसिंजर और राष्ट्रपति निक्सन ने चीन-रूस दरार का उपयोग करके चीन के साथ गठबंधन किया था।
- In this grand reset plan, Ukraine is seen as an obstacle. इस बड़े बदलाव की योजना में, यूक्रेन को एक बाधा के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।
- Mr. Trump believes Ukraine cannot win the war even with U.S. support, so he wants Kyiv to accept the deal the U.S. will make with Russia.



मिस्टर ट्रंप मानते हैं कि यूक्रेन, अमेरिका के समर्थन के बावजूद युद्ध नहीं जीत सकता, इसलिए वह चाहते हैं कि कीव रूस के साथ अमेरिका की डील को स्वीकार कर ले

How Does Europe View These Developments?

यूरोप इन घटनाक्रमों को कैसे देखता है?

- **Europe is struggling** to adjust to these changes.
यूरोप इन बदलावों से जूझ रहा है।
- In **2008**, U.S. President **George W. Bush** promised **Ukraine NATO membership**, but **Germany and France were hesitant**.
2008 में, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति जॉर्ज डब्ल्यू. बुश ने यूक्रेन को नाटो सदस्यता का वादा किया, लेकिन जर्मनी और फ्रांस अनिच्छुक थे।
- After **Russia annexed Crimea in 2014**, Germany and France helped negotiate the **Minsk Accords** for peace in Ukraine.
2014 में रूस द्वारा क्रीमिया पर कब्जा करने के बाद, जर्मनी और फ्रांस ने यूक्रेन में शांति के लिए मिन्स्क समझौते कराने में मदद की।
- However, the **U.S. continued to support Ukraine militarily** and the **Minsk Accords were never fully implemented**.
लेकिन, अमेरिका ने यूक्रेन को सैन्य रूप से समर्थन देना जारी रखा, और मिन्स्क समझौते पूरी तरह लागू नहीं हो सके।
- The war has cost Europe heavily:
युद्ध ने यूरोप को भारी आर्थिक नुकसान पहुँचाया:
 - The **Nord Stream pipeline**, linking **Russia to Germany**, was **destroyed (likely by Ukrainians, as per U.S. media reports)**.
रूस और जर्मनी को जोड़ने वाली नॉर्ड स्ट्रीम पाइपलाइन नष्ट कर दी गई (संभावित रूप से यूक्रेनियों द्वारा, अमेरिकी मीडिया रिपोर्टों के अनुसार)।
 - The **loss of cheap Russian gas** triggered a **cost-of-living crisis** and **de-industrialization**.
सस्ते रूसी गैस की आपूर्ति बंद होने से जीवनयापन संकट और औद्योगीकरण में गिरावट आई।
 - **Germany is in recession for the third consecutive year**, and **far-right politics is rising**.
जर्मनी लगातार तीसरे वर्ष मंदी में है, और दक्षिणपंथी राजनीति बढ़ रही है।
- Now, the **U.S. is directly engaging with Russia**, excluding both **Ukraine and Europe**.
अब, अमेरिका रूस के साथ सीधे बातचीत कर रहा है, जिसमें यूक्रेन और यूरोप को शामिल नहीं कर रहा।
- **European countries have held two summit-level meetings** but are **divided on how to support Ukraine without U.S. backing**.
यूरोपीय देशों ने दो उच्च-स्तरीय बैठकें की हैं, लेकिन वे अमेरिकी समर्थन के बिना यूक्रेन की सहायता करने को लेकर विभाजित हैं।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Europe also worries about the future of NATO, as the Trump administration is reshaping U.S. foreign and security policy.

यूरोप को नाटो के भविष्य की चिंता भी है, क्योंकि ट्रंप प्रशासन अमेरिकी विदेश और सुरक्षा नीति को बदल रहा है।

Where Does It Leave Ukraine?

इस स्थिति में यूक्रेन कहाँ खड़ा है?

- Ukraine has lost more than 20% of its territory to Russia and tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed.
यूक्रेन अपने 20% से अधिक क्षेत्र को रूस के हाथों खो चुका है, और दसियों हजार सैनिक मारे जा चुके हैं।
- Millions of Ukrainians have fled the country.
लाखों यूक्रेनी नागरिक देश छोड़ चुके हैं।
- Ukraine's economy is in ruins, and its energy sector is collapsing due to repeated Russian bombings.
यूक्रेन की अर्थव्यवस्था बर्बाद हो चुकी है, और रूस के बार-बार हमलों से उसका ऊर्जा क्षेत्र नष्ट हो रहा है।
- Ukraine relies on external support for at least half of its weapons needs.
यूक्रेन को अपने कम से कम आधे हथियारों की जरूरतों के लिए बाहरी समर्थन पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है।
- The U.S. says it's unrealistic for Ukraine to retake lost territory, and Ukraine is running low on soldiers.
अमेरिका का कहना है कि यूक्रेन के लिए खोया हुआ क्षेत्र वापस लेना व्यावहारिक नहीं है, और यूक्रेन के पास सैनिकों की कमी हो रही है।
- If Ukraine continues the war, it risks losing more land; if it ends the war, it will be on Russia's terms.
यदि यूक्रेन युद्ध जारी रखता है, तो वह और क्षेत्र खो सकता है; यदि वह युद्ध समाप्त करता है, तो उसे रूस की शर्तों को मानना होगा।



No response from India on Trump tariffs so far

Disappointing, but may not be the final word, say Indian officials on **U.S. reciprocal tariffs from April 2**; Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is in the middle of talks on a bilateral trade agreement

GS Paper II: India-US

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

The government did not respond on Wednesday to U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement that his administration plans to go ahead with reciprocal tariffs against India.

Mr. Trump's speech came a day after Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal met his U.S. counterpart, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, and was due to meet U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer for talks on the first phase of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) to be finalised later this year. The BTA was decided during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington on February 13.

India's inclusion in the list of countries that would still face reciprocal tariffs after April 2 is believed to be a disappointment for those in the government who expected that Mr. Mo-



Big expectations: Last month, India and the United States had said that they will target \$500 billion in bilateral trade by 2030. AFP

di's visit, and the promise of "fair-trade terms" in the BTA, could have postponed Mr. Trump's decision. However, officials say there is still time for negotiation with the Trump administration.

Global responses

India's silence on Wednesday was in contrast to countries such as China, Mexico, and Canada, which have already announced counter-reciprocal tariffs on U.S. goods. China and Canada have also filed complaints with the World Trade Organiza-

tion (WTO) against the U.S. measures. While Brazil has so far not responded to the reciprocal tariffs, its President, Lula da Silva, had defied Mr. Trump's threat over a further "100% tariffs" on BRICS countries last week, saying that such threats would not stop the emerging economies from seeking alternatives to U.S. dollar dominance, "no matter what".

All eyes are now on the statements coming out of Mr. Goyal's meetings in Washington this week on discussions for the BTA's first phase. He and U.S. of-

icials are believed to be looking at a number of areas where tariffs can be cut.

Ahead of Mr. Modi's visit last month, New Delhi had already announced tariff cuts on bourbon whiskey, wines, motorcycles, and electric vehicles.

'Fair-trade terms'

According to the joint statement issued in February, India and the U.S. will target \$500 billion in bilateral trade by 2030, more than doubling last year's trade value of about \$200 billion, by ensuring "fairness, national security and job creation".

"Recognising that this level of ambition would require new, fair-trade terms, the leaders announced plans to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of 2025," the statement had said, indicating an expectation of having a deal in place by September 2025.

No Response from India on Trump Tariffs So Far

ट्रंप टैरिफ पर अब तक भारत की कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं

The Indian government did not respond on Wednesday to U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of reciprocal tariffs against



India.

बुधवार को भारतीय सरकार ने अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा भारत पर प्रतिपक्षीय टैरिफ लगाने की घोषणा पर कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी।

- Mr. Trump's speech came a day after Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.
मिस्टर ट्रंप का बयान उस दिन आया जब वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने अमेरिकी वाणिज्य सचिव हॉवर्ड लुटनिक से मुलाकात की।
- Mr. Goyal was also scheduled to meet U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer for discussions on the first phase of a **Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)**.
मिस्टर गोयल की अमेरिकी व्यापार प्रतिनिधि जैमीसन ग्रियर से भी मुलाकात तय थी, जिसमें द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते (BTA) के पहले चरण पर चर्चा होनी थी।
- The BTA was agreed upon during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington on February 13, 2025.
BTA को सहमति तब मिली जब प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 13 फरवरी 2025 को वाशिंगटन का दौरा किया।

India's Disappointment but Hopes for Negotiation

भारत की निराशा, लेकिन बातचीत की उम्मीद

- India's inclusion in the list of countries facing reciprocal tariffs after April 2 is seen as disappointing.
भारत का उन देशों की सूची में शामिल होना, जिन्हें 2 अप्रैल के बाद प्रतिपक्षीय टैरिफ का सामना करना पड़ेगा, निराशाजनक माना जा रहा है।
- The government had hoped that Mr. Modi's visit and promise of "fair-trade terms" in the BTA would have delayed Mr. Trump's decision.
सरकार को उम्मीद थी कि मिस्टर मोदी की यात्रा और BTA में "निष्पक्ष व्यापार शर्तों" के वादे से मिस्टर ट्रंप के फैसले में देरी होगी।
- However, officials believe there is still time to negotiate with the Trump administration.
हालांकि, अधिकारियों का मानना है कि अभी भी ट्रंप प्रशासन के साथ बातचीत की गुंजाइश है।

Global Responses to U.S. Tariffs

अमेरिकी टैरिफ पर वैश्विक प्रतिक्रियाएँ

- India remained silent, whereas China, Mexico, and Canada announced counter-tariffs on U.S. goods.



भारत चुप रहा, जबकि चीन, मैक्सिको और कनाडा ने अमेरिकी उत्पादों पर जवाबी टैरिफ लगाने की घोषणा की।

- **China and Canada filed complaints with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against U.S. measures.**

चीन और कनाडा ने विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) में अमेरिका के उपायों के खिलाफ शिकायत दर्ज कराई।

- **Brazil has not yet responded, but President Lula da Silva recently opposed Mr. Trump's 100% tariffs on BRICS countries.**

ब्राज़ील ने अब तक कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी, लेकिन राष्ट्रपति लूला दा सिल्वा ने हाल ही में BRICS देशों पर ट्रंप के 100% टैरिफ के फैसले का विरोध किया।

- **Lula da Silva stated that these threats would not stop emerging economies from seeking alternatives to U.S. dollar dominance.**

लूला दा सिल्वा ने कहा कि ये धमकियाँ उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को अमेरिकी डॉलर के प्रभुत्व के विकल्प खोजने से नहीं रोक पाएंगी।

India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement Talks

भारत-अमेरिका द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते पर वार्ता

- **All attention is now on Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's meetings in Washington regarding the first phase of the BTA.**

अब सभी की निगाहें वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल की वाशिंगटन में हो रही बैठकों पर हैं, जहां BTA के पहले चरण पर चर्चा हो रही है।

- **Both Indian and U.S. officials are exploring areas where tariffs can be reduced.** भारतीय और अमेरिकी अधिकारी उन क्षेत्रों की तलाश कर रहे हैं, जहाँ टैरिफ कम किए जा सकते हैं।

- **Before Mr. Modi's visit last month, India had already announced tariff cuts on:**

पिछले महीने मिस्टर मोदी की यात्रा से पहले, भारत ने पहले ही इन उत्पादों पर टैरिफ में कटौती की थी:

- **Bourbon whiskey**
बोर्बन व्हिस्की
- **Wines**
शराब
- **Motorcycles**
मोटरसाइकिलें
- **Electric vehicles**
इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन

Fair-Trade Terms and Trade Targets

निष्पक्ष व्यापार शर्तें और व्यापार लक्ष्य



- According to the **February 2025 joint statement**, India and the U.S. aim to achieve **\$500 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.**

फरवरी 2025 के संयुक्त बयान के अनुसार, भारत और अमेरिका का लक्ष्य 2030 तक \$500 बिलियन का द्विपक्षीय व्यापार हासिल करना है।

'India a good venue for production and capacity expansion'

GS Paper II: India-US

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

"In Europe, sometimes we are very good in over-regulating and the current European Commission is very strong on the agenda of simplification of regulations," said **Andrius Kubilius**, European Commissioner for Defence and Space, in a conversation with *The Hindu*. The EU can look at India not only as a "good destination" for production and capacity expansion but also as "an example" of how to make regulation more smart, he added.

From an economic point of view, the 21st century, apart from being the "Century of Space", will also be the "Century of India", he said, adding the partnership between India and the EU was "limitless".

"There are plenty of platforms where we can put very clear proposals, both short-term and long-term, and how we can develop this cooperation and partnership between India and the EU, which would be beneficial for both sides, and beneficial globally and internationally," Mr. Kubilius said.

Strategic pact

He identified the strategic pact on security and defence proposed by Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen, on the lines of the EU's pact with Japan and South Korea; the new strategic space dialogue; and the forthcoming negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement that Ms. von der Leyen and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had agreed to conclude by the year-end, as various possibilities.

The two sides are also set to hold the India-EU Summit by the end of the year, wherein they expect to renew the current Strategic Roadmap for 2020-2025.

On the regulatory front, he said over-regulation was impacting competitiveness in Europe, and they had since proposed simplification. One of the challenges for the European defence industry in ramping up was not funding, which was always an issue but can be resolved, but "how to build a factory".

"It takes so much of time and here again, India could be very attractive," Mr. Kubilius said, adding they heard that some Indian businesses can build factories in 12 months,



Andrius Kubilius

The European Commissioner for Defence and Space says partnership with India is limitless

which would take four years in Europe.

In an unprecedented visit, Ms. von der Leyen, accompanied by 22 members of the College of Commissioners, visited India last week.

Defence was a major focus area, and the two leaders agreed on further focused discussions on defence industry and policy to explore opportunities from new initiatives and programmes.

Mr. Kubilius termed the geopolitical situation as "turbulent times", referring to the Russian war against Ukraine. "There are a lot of intelligence services publicly reporting that Russia can be ready to start new oppression against EU member states before 2030. So it brings, for Europeans, a very clear understanding that we need to ramp up our preparedness, our capabilities, our defence industry, defence production and so on."

Indo-Pacific stability

Elaborating, he said that it was not Russia alone that was creating all the possible threats to Europe. "But we see also some kind of, what they call, axis of aggressive authoritarians. Starting from Russia, we have Iran, North Korea, and China is not far away from that axis. That creates possible instabilities here in the Indo-Pacific. That is why we need to look into joint efforts on possibly how to guarantee security in this region, not just for India."

Adding that India played a very important role in the region, Mr. Kubilius said the Indo-Pacific was also important for the EU as it was very important for their economic development.

• In **2024**, the bilateral trade value was around **\$200 billion.**

2024 में, द्विपक्षीय व्यापार लगभग \$200 बिलियन था।

• Both nations aim to **ensure fairness, national security, and job creation** through the **Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).**

दोनों देश **BTA के माध्यम से निष्पक्षता, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और रोजगार सृजन सुनिश्चित करना चाहते हैं।**

• The leaders plan to **finalize the first phase of the BTA by fall 2025.**

नेताओं ने **2025 के पतझड़ (सितंबर) तक BTA के पहले चरण को अंतिम रूप देने की योजना बनाई है।**

India a Good Venue for Production and Capacity Expansion

भारत उत्पादन और क्षमता विस्तार के लिए एक उपयुक्त

स्थान

Andrius Kubilius, European Commissioner for Defence and Space, stated that in Europe, over-regulation is a problem.

यूरोपीय रक्षा और अंतरिक्ष आयुक्त, एंड्रियस कुबिलियस ने कहा कि यूरोप में अधिक नियमन (over-regulation) एक समस्या है।

• The current European Commission is working towards simplifying regulations.

वर्तमान यूरोपीय आयोग नियमों को सरल बनाने के एजेंडे पर कार्य कर रहा है।

• The EU sees India not only as a "good destination" for production and capacity expansion but also as "an example" for smart regulation.

यूरोपीय संघ (EU) भारत को सिर्फ उत्पादन और क्षमता विस्तार के लिए एक अच्छा स्थान ही नहीं, बल्कि स्मार्ट रेगुलेशन का एक उदाहरण भी मानता है।

India-EU Economic Partnership

भारत-यूरोपीय संघ की आर्थिक भागीदारी



- The 21st century will not only be the "Century of Space" but also the "Century of India".
21वीं सदी न केवल "अंतरिक्ष की सदी" होगी, बल्कि "भारत की सदी" भी होगी।
- The India-EU partnership is described as "limitless".
भारत-यूरोपीय संघ की साझेदारी को "असीमित" बताया गया है।
- There are many platforms where short-term and long-term proposals can be developed to enhance cooperation.
ऐसे कई मंच हैं जहां लघु और दीर्घकालिक प्रस्तावों को विकसित कर सहयोग बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

Strategic Pact and Free Trade Agreement

सामरिक समझौता और मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA)

- Mr. Kubilius highlighted a strategic pact on security and defense, similar to the EU's pact with Japan and South Korea.
मिस्टर कुबिलियस ने सुरक्षा और रक्षा पर एक रणनीतिक समझौते का उल्लेख किया, जो यूरोपीय संघ के जापान और दक्षिण कोरिया के साथ समझौते के समान है।
- The new strategic space dialogue and ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between India and the EU were discussed.
नए सामरिक अंतरिक्ष संवाद और भारत-यूरोपीय संघ के बीच चल रही मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) वार्ता पर चर्चा हुई।
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen agreed to finalize the FTA by the end of the year.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयन ने वर्ष के अंत तक FTA को अंतिम रूप देने पर सहमति जताई।
- The India-EU Summit is expected by the end of 2025, where the Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025 will be renewed.
भारत-यूरोपीय संघ शिखर सम्मेलन 2025 के अंत तक होने की संभावना है, जिसमें रणनीतिक रोडमैप 2020-2025 को नवीनीकृत किया जाएगा।

India's Advantage in Industrial Growth

औद्योगिक विकास में भारत की भूमिका

- Over-regulation in Europe is affecting competitiveness and industrial growth.
यूरोप में अधिक नियमन (over-regulation) प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता और औद्योगिक विकास को प्रभावित कर रहा है।
- One of the biggest challenges in European defense production is not funding, but building factories quickly.
यूरोपीय रक्षा उत्पादन में सबसे बड़ी चुनौती धन की नहीं, बल्कि कारखाने तेजी से बनाने की है।



- In India, factories can be built in 12 months, whereas in Europe, the same process takes four years.
भारत में कारखाने 12 महीनों में बनाए जा सकते हैं, जबकि यूरोप में इसके लिए चार साल लगते हैं।
- This makes India an attractive destination for industrial expansion.
इससे भारत औद्योगिक विस्तार के लिए एक आकर्षक स्थान बन जाता है।

EU-India Cooperation in Defense and Security

रक्षा और सुरक्षा में भारत-यूरोपीय संघ सहयोग

- **Ms. von der Leyen**, along with 22 members of the European Commission, visited India last week.
मिस वॉन डेर लेयन 22 यूरोपीय आयोग के सदस्यों के साथ पिछले सप्ताह भारत आईं।
- Defense was a key focus area, and both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in defense industry and policy.
रक्षा एक प्रमुख क्षेत्र था, और दोनों पक्षों ने रक्षा उद्योग और नीति में सहयोग बढ़ाने पर सहमति जताई।
- **Mr. Kubilius** described the geopolitical situation as “turbulent times”, referring to the Russia-Ukraine war.
मिस्टर कुबिलियस ने भू-राजनीतिक स्थिति को “अशांत समय” बताया, और रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध का हवाला दिया।
- He stated that intelligence reports suggest Russia could act against EU member states before 2030.
उन्होंने कहा कि खुफिया रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, रूस 2030 से पहले यूरोपीय संघ के सदस्य देशों पर कार्रवाई कर सकता है।
- This has led Europe to focus on strengthening its defense industry and production capabilities.
इससे यूरोप ने अपनी रक्षा उद्योग और उत्पादन क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है।

Indo-Pacific Stability and Global Security

इंडो-पैसिफिक स्थिरता और वैश्विक सुरक्षा

- Russia is not the only threat to Europe; other authoritarian powers like Iran, North Korea, and China are also concerns.
रूस अकेला यूरोप के लिए खतरा नहीं है; ईरान, उत्तर कोरिया और चीन जैसी अन्य सत्तावादी शक्तियाँ भी चिंता का विषय हैं।
- These countries are forming an “axis of aggressive authoritarians”, creating instability.
ये देश “आक्रामक सत्तावादियों का गठबंधन” बना रहे हैं, जिससे अस्थिरता पैदा हो रही है।
- The Indo-Pacific region is also strategically important for the EU, as it plays a key role in economic growth and security.



इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र यूरोपीय संघ के लिए रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि यह आर्थिक विकास और सुरक्षा में अहम भूमिका निभाता है।

- India plays a crucial role in Indo-Pacific security, and the EU seeks closer collaboration in this region.

भारत इंडो-पैसिफिक सुरक्षा में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है, और यूरोपीय संघ इस क्षेत्र में घनिष्ठ सहयोग चाहता है।

Army Surrounds South Sudan Vice-President's Residence as Allies Are Arrested

दक्षिण सूडान में उपराष्ट्रपति के आवास को सेना ने घेरा, सहयोगी गिरफ्तार

Army surrounds South Sudan V-P's residence as his allies are arrested

GS Paper II: Africa



REUTERS

South Sudanese soldiers surrounded Vice-President Riek Machar's home in capital Juba on Wednesday and several of his allies were arrested after an armed group allied to him overran an Army base in the country's north. Mr. Machar's political rivalry with President Salva Kiir has in the past exploded into civil war. AP

South Sudanese soldiers surrounded Vice-President Riek Machar's residence in capital Juba on Wednesday.

दक्षिण सूडान के सैनिकों ने बुधवार को राजधानी जुबा में उपराष्ट्रपति रिएक मचार के आवास को घेर लिया।

- Several of Mr. Machar's allies were arrested following the military action.

मिस्टर मचार के कई सहयोगियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया।

- The arrests came after an armed group allied to Mr. Machar overran an Army base in the country's north.

मचार के समर्थक एक सशस्त्र समूह

ने देश के उत्तर में स्थित एक सेना अड्डे पर कब्जा कर लिया, जिसके बाद यह कार्रवाई हुई।



- Mr. Machar's political rivalry with President Salva Kiir has previously led to civil war in South Sudan.
मिस्टर मचार की राजनीतिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता राष्ट्रपति सलवा कीइर के साथ पहले भी दक्षिण सूडान में गृह युद्ध का कारण बनी है।

Greenland is ours, says PM Egede, defying Trump threat "ग्रीनलैंड हमारा है," प्रधानमंत्री एगडे ने ट्रंप की धमकी को नकारते हुए कहा

Greenland is ours, says PM Egede, defying Trump threat

GS Paper II:
Greenland

As
NUUK

Greenland's Prime Minister declared on Wednesday that "Greenland is ours" and cannot be taken or bought. He made the statement in defiance of a message from U.S. President Donald Trump that the U.S. will acquire the territory "one way or another" though his administration supports the Arctic island's right of self-determination.

Prime Minister Múte Bourup Egede said the island's citizens are neither American nor Danish because they are Greenlandic. The United States needs to understand that, he wrote in a post in Greenlandic and Danish on Facebook on Wednesday, adding the future of Green-



Mute Egede

land will be decided by its people.

His post came hours after Mr. Trump made a direct appeal to Greenlanders in a speech to U.S. Congress on Tuesday, a week before islanders head to the polls for parliamentary elections.

"We strongly support your right to determine your own future, and if you

choose, we welcome you into the United States of America," Mr. Trump said. "We will keep you safe. We will make you rich. And together we will take Greenland to heights like you have never thought possible before."

Many in Greenland, a vast and mineral-rich island that is a semiautonomous territory of Denmark, are worried and offended by Mr. Trump's threats to seize control of homeland.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen echoed Mr. Egede in repeating that Greenland is not for sale. She said that Denmark would like to hold onto its commonwealth, but it's a commonwealth that must be improved through equality and respect.

Greenland's Prime Minister declared on Wednesday that "Greenland is ours" and cannot be taken or bought.

ग्रीनलैंड के प्रधानमंत्री ने बुधवार को घोषणा की कि "ग्रीनलैंड हमारा है" और इसे न तो लिया जा सकता है और न ही खरीदा जा सकता।

- He made the statement in defiance of a message from U.S. President Donald Trump that the U.S. will acquire the territory "one way or another" though his administration supports the Arctic island's right of self-determination.

उन्होंने यह बयान अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के संदेश की अवहेलना करते हुए दिया, जिसमें ट्रंप ने कहा था कि अमेरिका किसी न किसी तरीके से इस क्षेत्र का अधिग्रहण करेगा, हालांकि उनकी

सरकार आर्कटिक द्वीप के आत्मनिर्णय के अधिकार का समर्थन करती है।

- Prime Minister Múte Bourup Egede said the island's citizens are neither American nor Danish because they are Greenlandic.
प्रधानमंत्री मूटे बोरुप एगडे ने कहा कि द्वीप के नागरिक न तो अमेरिकी हैं और न ही डेनिश, क्योंकि वे ग्रीनलैंडिक हैं।
- The United States needs to understand that, he wrote in a Facebook post on Wednesday in Greenlandic and Danish, adding the future of Greenland will be



decided by its people.

उन्होंने बुधवार को फेसबुक पोस्ट में ग्रीनलैंडिक और डेनिश भाषा में लिखा कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को यह समझना चाहिए, और जोड़ा कि ग्रीनलैंड का भविष्य उसके लोग तय करेंगे।

- His post came hours after Mr. Trump made a direct appeal to Greenlanders in a speech to the U.S. Congress on Tuesday, a week before islanders head to the polls for parliamentary elections.

उनका पोस्ट ट्रंप के ग्रीनलैंड के लोगों से सीधा अपील करने के कुछ घंटों बाद आया, जो उन्होंने मंगलवार को अमेरिकी कांग्रेस को संबोधित करते हुए दिया था, जबकि संसदीय चुनावों से एक सप्ताह पहले द्वीपवासी मतदान की तैयारी कर रहे हैं।

- Trump said, "We strongly support your right to determine your own future, and if you choose, we welcome you into the United States of America."

ट्रंप ने कहा, "हम आपके अपने भविष्य को तय करने के अधिकार का पूरी तरह समर्थन करते हैं, और यदि आप चाहें, तो हम आपका अमेरिका में स्वागत करते हैं।"

- He added, "We will keep you safe. We will make you rich. And together we will take Greenland to heights like you have never thought possible before."

उन्होंने आगे कहा, "हम आपको सुरक्षित रखेंगे। हम आपको समृद्ध बनाएंगे। और साथ मिलकर हम ग्रीनलैंड को ऐसी ऊंचाइयों तक ले जाएंगे, जिसकी आपने पहले कभी कल्पना भी नहीं की होगी।"

- Many in Greenland, a vast and mineral-rich island that is a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, are worried and offended by Trump's threats to seize control of homeland.

ग्रीनलैंड के कई लोग, जो एक विशाल और खनिज संपन्न द्वीप है और डेनमार्क का एक स्वायत्त क्षेत्र है, ट्रंप की अपने देश पर कब्जा करने की धमकी से चिंतित और आहत हैं।

- Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen echoed Mr. Egede in repeating that Greenland is not for sale.

डेनमार्क की प्रधानमंत्री मेटे फ्रेडरिकसन ने एगडे की बात दोहराते हुए कहा कि ग्रीनलैंड बिक्री के लिए नहीं है।

- She said that Denmark would like to hold onto its commonwealth, but it's a commonwealth that must be improved through equality and respect.

उन्होंने कहा कि डेनमार्क अपने राष्ट्रमंडल को बनाए रखना चाहता है, लेकिन यह समानता और सम्मान के माध्यम से बेहतर बनाया जाना चाहिए।

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

1. DeepSeek's market disruption must awaken India

DeepSeek के बाजार में बदलाव को भारत के लिए चेतावनी समझना चाहिए

2. CAG, Finance Commission hold consultation on public finances, fiscal challenges



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



कैग और वित्त आयोग ने सार्वजनिक वित्त और राजकोषीय चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की

3.SC seeks Uttarakhand response on 'misuse' of afforestation funds

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उत्तराखंड से वनीकरण फंड के 'दुरुपयोग' पर जवाब मांगा

4.When debris from space crashes to the earth, who is responsible?

जब अंतरिक्ष का मलबा पृथ्वी पर गिरता है, तो कौन जिम्मेदार होता है?

5 Budget will pave way for stronger workforce: Modi

बजट मजबूत कार्यबल का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगा: मोदी

6. Ropeway projects in Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib get Centre nod

केदारनाथ, हेमकुंड साहिब में रोपवे परियोजनाओं को केंद्र की मंजूरी

7. Reserve Bank to buy ₹1 lakh crore G-Secs

रिजर्व बैंक ₹1 लाख करोड़ के सरकारी बॉन्ड खरीदेगा

8.Scientists engineer mice with hair like the mammoth

वैज्ञानिकों ने हाथी के समान बालों वाले चूहे तैयार किए



DeepSeek's market disruption must awaken India

GS Paper III: S&T

DeepSeek, a Chinese company, has shaken up the global tech industry and stock markets with its low-cost artificial intelligence (AI) model. This breakthrough has forced critics to reconsider China's position vis-à-vis the United States in the race to advancement and dominance in AI and computational capabilities. DeepSeek's innovation has caught the attention of not just policymakers but also business leaders such as Mark Zuckerberg, who opened war rooms for engineers after DeepSeek's success and who are now eager to understand its formula for disruption. So what DeepSeek, which is originally not a core AI firm but a financial trading company, has essentially done is to create generative AI models that perform on a par with the current leader, OpenAI's ChatGPT, while requiring significantly lower costs for development and operations.

Placing China at an advantage

How does DeepSeek's Innovation affect India's dominance in IT? The core of DeepSeek's success lies in its ability to overcome the limitations of expensive computational power, giving it a significant cost advantage over competitors worldwide.

This disruption is reminiscent of India's long-standing dominance in the global information technology (IT) sector, which has been built on its competitive edge through an abundant supply of skilled, English-speaking, and cost-effective labour. However, with generative AI eliminating both skill and language barriers, DeepSeek's innovation has accelerated the rise of cheaper, more efficient alternatives that can replace low-cost IT service providers at an accelerated pace, posing a serious threat to India's IT dominance.

DeepSeek's breakthrough not only strengthens China's position in AI but also opens the door for broader advancements in IT services through



Gopal Krishna Roy

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The biggest lesson it offers to Indian IT giants is the power of research and development

AI-driven automation. The Indian IT sector, which has long thrived on cost-effective labour-led service models, now faces a reality where AI can easily replace repetitive, low-value tasks that were once its competitive advantage. DeepSeek's success signals that Indian IT giants have fallen behind their Chinese counterparts in this new era of technological competition and innovation.

What can organisations learn from DeepSeek? The biggest lesson DeepSeek offers to Indian IT giants is the power of research and development (R&D). DeepSeek treated AI product development as a "sidekick" rather than a core activity, yet this investment in innovation has paid off tremendously. This highlights the importance of utilising surplus capital as well as idle resources, both capital and human, towards R&D rather than merely optimising workforce efficiency.

Companies should foster an environment that encourages research, experimentation, and a tolerance for failure. Instead of focusing solely on delivering immediate business objectives, organisations must cultivate a culture that goes beyond routine deliverables. DeepSeek's approach of treating AI development as a secondary initiative reflects its willingness to take risks without expecting guaranteed returns. By normalising failure as part of the innovation process, it has created a foundation for groundbreaking advancements.

For Indian IT firms, the takeaway is clear: investing in R&D, even as a secondary pursuit, can lead to game-changing breakthroughs. The key is to build an ecosystem that values long-term innovation over short-term optimisation.

Future priorities for India

India lags behind in R&D investment, a critical factor for sustaining long-term economic competitiveness. India's gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) remains below 1% of

GDP, far lower than that of other major economies, including China.

According to UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) data, China invested around 2.43% of its GDP in R&D as of 2021, underscoring India's need for urgent policy intervention in boosting domestic R&D in cutting-edge technologies such as AI. A key issue is the lack of investment in advanced research, particularly in hiring top talent, including PhDs, who are essential for driving innovation.

One major policy misstep has been the persistent debate over whether to prioritise manufacturing or services. This false dichotomy overlooks the strong linkages between the two sectors. Manufacturing and services complement each other and thrive together. Instead of choosing one over the other, India must adopt a balanced approach that fosters growth in both areas.

India's dominance in IT is now under threat. The focus should shift toward building a workforce that enhances productivity through AI rather than being replaced by it. Traditional comparative advantages such as cheap labour and English proficiency are no longer sufficient in the global AI-driven economy. Instead, India must recognise and retain its high-skilled domestic talent to ensure innovation happens within the country rather than abroad.

Focus on quantum technology

As a top priority for the future, India must ensure it does not fall behind in the next major technological frontier, which is the quantum computing race. Advancements in quantum technology will be crucial for maintaining technological leadership in the coming decades. To stay competitive, the government and private sector must significantly increase investments in R&D, particularly in quantum computing alongside AI, and actively recruit top researchers to drive breakthroughs in this field.

DeepSeek's market disruption must awaken India

DeepSeek के बाजार में बदलाव को भारत के लिए चेतावनी समझना चाहिए

DeepSeek, a Chinese company, has shaken up the global tech industry and stock markets with its low-cost artificial intelligence (AI) model.

DeepSeek, एक चीनी कंपनी, ने अपने कम लागत वाले आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) मॉडल के जरिए वैश्विक तकनीकी उद्योग और शेयर बाजारों में हलचल मचा दी है।

- This breakthrough has forced critics to reconsider China's position vis-à-vis the United States in the AI race.

इस सफलता ने आलोचकों को चीन की स्थिति पर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया है, विशेष रूप से संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के मुकाबले AI दौड़ में।

- DeepSeek's innovation has caught the attention of policymakers and business leaders like Mark Zuckerberg, who opened war rooms for engineers after DeepSeek's success.

DeepSeek के नवाचार ने नीतिनिर्माताओं और व्यापार जगत के नेताओं का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है,



जैसे कि मार्क जुकरबर्ग, जिन्होंने DeepSeek की सफलता के बाद इंजीनियरों के लिए विशेष वार रूम बनाए।

- DeepSeek is originally a financial trading company, but it has created generative AI models that match OpenAI's ChatGPT while reducing development and operational costs.

DeepSeek मूल रूप से एक वित्तीय ट्रेडिंग कंपनी है, लेकिन इसने ऐसे जनरेटिव AI मॉडल बनाए हैं जो OpenAI के ChatGPT के समान प्रदर्शन करते हैं, और इसके विकास व संचालन की लागत को भी कम किया है।

Placing China at an advantage

चीन को बढ़त दिलाना

- DeepSeek's success has overcome the limitations of expensive computational power, giving it a significant cost advantage over global competitors. DeepSeek की सफलता ने महंगे कम्प्यूटेशनल पावर की सीमाओं को पार कर लिया है, जिससे इसे वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धियों पर महत्वपूर्ण लागत लाभ मिला है।

- This disruption is similar to India's long-standing dominance in the global IT sector, which was built on skilled, English-speaking, and cost-effective labour.

यह बदलाव भारत के वैश्विक आईटी क्षेत्र में लंबे समय से चले आ रहे प्रभुत्व जैसा है, जो कुशल, अंग्रेजी बोलने वाले और कम लागत वाले श्रम पर आधारित था।

- With generative AI eliminating skill and language barriers, DeepSeek has accelerated the rise of cheaper AI-driven alternatives that can replace low-cost IT service providers, posing a serious threat to India's IT dominance.

जनरेटिव AI द्वारा कौशल और भाषा की बाधाओं को समाप्त करने के साथ, DeepSeek ने सस्ते, AI-आधारित विकल्पों के उदय को तेज कर दिया है, जो कम लागत वाली IT सेवाओं को प्रतिस्थापित कर सकते हैं, जिससे भारत के आईटी प्रभुत्व को गंभीर खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया है।

- DeepSeek's breakthrough strengthens China's position in AI and opens doors for broader advancements in IT services through AI-driven automation.

DeepSeek की सफलता ने चीन की AI में स्थिति को मजबूत किया है और AI-आधारित स्वचालन के माध्यम से IT सेवाओं में व्यापक प्रगति के द्वार खोल दिए हैं।

- India's IT sector, which thrived on cost-effective labour, now faces a reality where AI can replace repetitive, low-value tasks, which were once India's competitive advantage.

भारत का IT क्षेत्र, जो कम लागत वाले श्रम पर निर्भर था, अब ऐसी स्थिति में है जहां AI बार-बार होने वाले, कम मूल्य वाले कार्यों को बदल सकता है, जो कभी भारत की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक बढ़त थी।

- DeepSeek's success signals that Indian IT giants have fallen behind Chinese counterparts in this new era of AI-driven technological innovation.

DeepSeek की सफलता इस बात का संकेत देती है कि भारतीय IT कंपनियां इस AI-आधारित तकनीकी नवाचार के युग में चीनी प्रतिस्पर्धियों से पिछड़ गई हैं।



What can organisations learn from DeepSeek?

संगठनों को DeepSeek से क्या सीखना चाहिए?

- The biggest lesson from DeepSeek is the **power of research and development (R&D)**. DeepSeek से सबसे बड़ी सीख अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) की शक्ति है।
- DeepSeek treated AI development as a "sidekick", yet its investment in innovation has paid off tremendously. DeepSeek ने AI विकास को "सहायक कार्य" के रूप में लिया, फिर भी इसका नवाचार में किया गया निवेश जबरदस्त रूप से सफल रहा।
- This highlights the **importance of utilizing surplus capital and idle resources** (both capital and human) towards R&D instead of merely optimizing workforce efficiency. यह अतिरिक्त पूंजी और निष्क्रिय संसाधनों (चाहे वह पूंजी हो या मानव संसाधन) को केवल कार्यबल दक्षता बढ़ाने के बजाय अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) में लगाने के महत्व को दर्शाता है।

Companies should foster an environment for research and experimentation

कंपनियों को अनुसंधान और प्रयोगों के लिए अनुकूल माहौल बनाना चाहिए

- Companies should **encourage research, experimentation, and a tolerance for failure**. कंपनियों को अनुसंधान, प्रयोग और विफलता के प्रति सहनशीलता को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए।
- Instead of **focusing solely on immediate business objectives**, organisations must **cultivate a culture that goes beyond routine deliverables**. केवल तत्काल व्यावसायिक लक्ष्यों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के बजाय, संगठनों को ऐसी संस्कृति विकसित करनी चाहिए जो नियमित कार्यों से आगे बढ़े।
- DeepSeek's approach of treating AI development as a **secondary initiative** shows its **willingness to take risks without expecting guaranteed returns**. DeepSeek का दृष्टिकोण, जिसने AI विकास को द्वितीयक पहल के रूप में लिया, यह दर्शाता है कि वह बिना गारंटीकृत लाभ की अपेक्षा किए जोखिम लेने को तैयार है।
- By **normalising failure** as part of the innovation process, it has **created a foundation for groundbreaking advancements**. विफलता को नवाचार प्रक्रिया का सामान्य हिस्सा बनाकर, इसने क्रांतिकारी प्रगति के लिए एक ठोस आधार तैयार किया है।
- For Indian IT firms, the takeaway is clear: **investing in R&D, even as a secondary pursuit, can lead to game-changing breakthroughs**. भारतीय आईटी कंपनियों के लिए स्पष्ट संदेश यह है कि R&D में निवेश, चाहे वह द्वितीयक प्रयास ही क्यों न हो, बड़े बदलाव ला सकता है।



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- The key is to **build an ecosystem that values long-term innovation over short-term optimisation.**

मुख्य बात यह है कि ऐसा पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनाया जाए जो अल्पकालिक अनुकूलन के बजाय दीर्घकालिक नवाचार को महत्व दे।

Future priorities for India

भारत के लिए भविष्य की प्राथमिकताएँ

- **India lags behind in R&D investment, a critical factor for sustaining long-term economic competitiveness.**
भारत अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) में निवेश के मामले में पीछे है, जो दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बनाए रखने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- **India's gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) remains below 1% of GDP, much lower than other major economies, including China.**
भारत का कुल घरेलू अनुसंधान और विकास व्यय (GERD) GDP का 1% से भी कम है, जो चीन सहित अन्य प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की तुलना में बहुत कम है।
- According to **UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) data, China invested around 2.43% of its GDP in R&D as of 2021, highlighting India's need for urgent policy intervention.**
यूनेस्को इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर स्टैटिस्टिक्स (UIS) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, चीन ने 2021 तक अपने GDP का लगभग 2.43% R&D में निवेश किया, जो भारत के लिए तत्काल नीति सुधार की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।
- A key issue is the **lack of investment in advanced research, particularly in hiring top talent, including PhDs, essential for driving innovation.**
एक प्रमुख समस्या उन्नत अनुसंधान में निवेश की कमी है, खासकर शीर्ष प्रतिभाओं की भर्ती में, जिनमें पीएचडी धारक भी शामिल हैं, जो नवाचार को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- One **major policy misstep** has been the **persistent debate over prioritising manufacturing or services, overlooking their strong linkages.**
एक बड़ी नीति चूक यह रही है कि विनिर्माण या सेवाओं को प्राथमिकता देने पर लगातार बहस होती रही है, जबकि दोनों के बीच मजबूत संबंध हैं।
- Instead of **choosing one over the other**, India must **adopt a balanced approach that fosters growth in both areas.**
किसी एक को चुनने के बजाय, भारत को दोनों क्षेत्रों में विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए संतुलित दृष्टिकोण अपनाना चाहिए।
- **India's dominance in IT is under threat.** The focus should shift to **building a workforce that enhances productivity through AI rather than being replaced by it.**
भारत का आईटी क्षेत्र खतरे में है। ध्यान इस ओर होना चाहिए कि ऐसी कार्यशक्ति विकसित की जाए जो AI की मदद से उत्पादकता बढ़ाए, न कि AI द्वारा प्रतिस्थापित हो।



- **Traditional advantages like cheap labour and English proficiency are no longer sufficient in the global AI-driven economy.**
पारंपरिक लाभ, जैसे सस्ता श्रम और अंग्रेजी दक्षता, अब वैश्विक AI-आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में पर्याप्त नहीं हैं।
- **India must recognise and retain its high-skilled domestic talent to ensure innovation happens within the country rather than abroad.**
भारत को अपनी उच्च-कुशल घरेलू प्रतिभाओं को पहचानना और बनाए रखना होगा, ताकि नवाचार देश में ही हो, न कि विदेश में।

Focus on quantum technology

क्वांटम टेक्नोलॉजी पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना

- **As a top priority, India must ensure it does not fall behind in the next major technological frontier: quantum computing.**
एक शीर्ष प्राथमिकता के रूप में, भारत को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि वह अगले बड़े तकनीकी क्षेत्र – क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग में पीछे न रहे।
- **Advancements in quantum technology will be crucial for maintaining technological leadership in the coming decades.**
क्वांटम टेक्नोलॉजी में प्रगति आने वाले दशकों में तकनीकी नेतृत्व बनाए रखने के लिए आवश्यक होगी।
- **To stay competitive, the government and private sector must significantly increase R&D investments, particularly in quantum computing alongside AI.**
प्रतिस्पर्धी बने रहने के लिए, सरकार और निजी क्षेत्र को अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) में महत्वपूर्ण रूप से निवेश बढ़ाना चाहिए, विशेष रूप से क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग और AI में।
- **India must actively recruit top researchers to drive breakthroughs in quantum computing and AI.**
भारत को शीर्ष शोधकर्ताओं की सक्रिय रूप से भर्ती करनी चाहिए ताकि क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग और AI में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति हो सके।



CAG, Finance Commission hold consultation on public finances, fiscal challenges

कैग और वित्त आयोग ने सार्वजनिक वित्त और राजकोषीय चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की

CAG, Finance Commission hold consultation on public finances, fiscal challenges

GS Paper III: Fiscal Challenges
NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor General K. Sanjay Murthy on Wednesday held a meeting with the 16th Finance Commission, which was led by its Chairperson, Arvind Panagariya, in Bhopal.

"The high-level consultation formed a critical part of the Commission's ongoing assessment of the financial landscape of the Centre and States. The deliberations mainly focused on three key areas: Union and State finances, local bodies, and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), among others," said the supreme auditing body.

The CAG shared various audit findings for the Union and States in different sectors, fiscal challenges and stress points, including the gap between expenditure and non-debt receipts for the Union and States combined, and key areas of concern including a decline in the State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) buoyancy of States and varying levels of SOTR and Non-Tax Revenue of States.



K. Sanjay Murthy

He drew attention to the need for regular reporting of off-budget borrowings, meeting the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act targets and the taking into account post audit liabilities computed by CAG in its reports.

Technology adoption "...areas such as stamp duty, registration fees, and State excise collections have been identified as having substantial potential for enhanced fiscal performance. Recommendations in this regard include regular updates to market value guidelines, improved classification of property types, and the adoption of modern technology – such

as sensor-based systems and QR codes – to minimise revenue leakages and improve data accuracy," it said.

In the realm of Goods and Services Tax (GST) administration, the CAG has proposed several reforms aimed at widening the tax base and enhancing transparency, involving the integration of unregistered goods and service providers into the framework via automated data collection and real-time information systems, along with improvised taxpayer verification processes.

Apart from suggesting standardisation of accounting practices at all tiers of the government, it also highlighted that, as an immediate measure, harmonisation of local bodies' accounts with Central and State accounts could be attempted in top 100 cities.

Among the recommendations made were local body use of Integrated Financial Management System (IFSM) for onboarding the fund transfer made by States to the urban/rural local bodies and streamlining accounting practices.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) K. Sanjay Murthy held a meeting with the 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya, in Bhopal on Wednesday.

नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) के संजय मूर्ति ने 16वें वित्त आयोग के साथ बैठक की, जिसकी अध्यक्षता अरविंद पनगढ़िया ने बुधवार को भोपाल में की।

• The high-level consultation was part of the Commission's assessment of the financial landscape of the Centre and States.

यह उच्च-स्तरीय चर्चा केंद्र और राज्यों के वित्तीय परिदृश्य के आकलन का एक हिस्सा थी।

• Discussions focused on three key areas: Union and State finances, local bodies, and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs).

चर्चा का मुख्य ध्यान तीन प्रमुख क्षेत्रों पर था: केंद्र और राज्य की वित्तीय स्थिति, स्थानीय निकाय, और सार्वजनिक

क्षेत्र के उद्यम (PSEs)।

Key Audit Findings and Fiscal Challenges

प्रमुख ऑडिट निष्कर्ष और राजकोषीय चुनौतियाँ

- The CAG presented audit findings for the Union and States across various sectors. CAG ने केंद्र और राज्यों के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में किए गए ऑडिट निष्कर्षों को प्रस्तुत किया।
- Fiscal challenges include the gap between expenditure and non-debt receipts for both Union and State governments.



राजकोषीय चुनौतियों में व्यय और गैर-ऋण प्राप्तियों के बीच का अंतर शामिल है, जो केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों के लिए चिंता का विषय है।

- **State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) buoyancy is declining, with varying levels of SOTR and Non-Tax Revenue across States.**

राज्यों के अपने कर राजस्व (SOTR) की वृद्धि दर घट रही है, और SOTR और गैर-कर राजस्व राज्यों में अलग-अलग स्तरों पर हैं।

- **The CAG emphasized the need for regular reporting of off-budget borrowings. CAG ने बजट से बाहर किए गए उधारों (Off-Budget Borrowings) की नियमित रिपोर्टिंग की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।**
- **He also highlighted the importance of meeting Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act targets. उन्होंने राजकोषीय उत्तरदायित्व और बजट प्रबंधन (FRBM) अधिनियम के लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के महत्व को भी रेखांकित किया।**
- **The CAG suggested considering post-audit liabilities computed in its reports. CAG ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में पोस्ट-ऑडिट देनदारियों को शामिल करने की भी सिफारिश की।**

Technology Adoption for Revenue Improvement

राजस्व सुधार के लिए तकनीक का उपयोग

- **Stamp duty, registration fees, and state excise collections have high potential for fiscal improvement.**
स्टांप शुल्क, पंजीकरण शुल्क और राज्य आबकारी संग्रहण में राजकोषीय सुधार की उच्च संभावनाएँ हैं।
- **Recommendations include:**
सुझावों में शामिल हैं:
 - **Regular updates to market value guidelines.**
बाजार मूल्य दिशानिर्देशों का नियमित अद्यतन।
 - **Better classification of property types.**
संपत्ति के प्रकारों का बेहतर वर्गीकरण।
 - **Use of modern technology like sensor-based systems and QR codes to reduce revenue leakage and improve data accuracy.**
सेंसर-आधारित प्रणाली और क्यूआर कोड जैसी आधुनिक तकनीकों का उपयोग, जिससे राजस्व रिसाव कम हो और डेटा की सटीकता में सुधार हो।

GST Reforms for Transparency

जीएसटी सुधार और पारदर्शिता

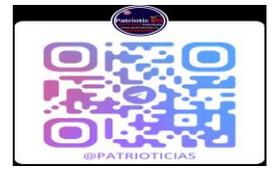
- **The CAG proposed several reforms to widen the tax base and enhance transparency in Goods and Services Tax (GST) administration.**



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CAG ने जीएसटी प्रशासन में कर आधार को बढ़ाने और पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के लिए कई सुधारों का प्रस्ताव दिया।

- Key recommendations include:

प्रमुख सिफारिशें:

- Integrating unregistered goods and service providers into the GST framework using automated data collection and real-time systems.
स्वचालित डेटा संग्रहण और रीयल-टाइम सिस्टम के माध्यम से अपंजीकृत वस्तु और सेवा प्रदाताओं को जीएसटी ढांचे में शामिल करना।
- Improving taxpayer verification processes.
करदाताओं की सत्यापन प्रक्रिया में सुधार करना।

Standardisation of Government Accounting

सरकारी लेखांकन का मानकीकरण

- The CAG recommended standardising accounting practices across all levels of government.
CAG ने सभी सरकारी स्तरों पर लेखांकन प्रक्रियाओं के मानकीकरण की सिफारिश की।
- As an immediate step, the harmonisation of local bodies' accounts with Central and State accounts should be initiated in the top 100 cities.
एक त्वरित कदम के रूप में, स्थानीय निकायों के खातों का केंद्र और राज्य के खातों के साथ समन्वय शीर्ष 100 शहरों में लागू किया जाना चाहिए।
- Local bodies should use the Integrated Financial Management System (IFSM) for tracking fund transfers from States to urban and rural local bodies.
स्थानीय निकायों को एकीकृत वित्तीय प्रबंधन प्रणाली (IFSM) का उपयोग करना चाहिए ताकि राज्यों से शहरी और ग्रामीण स्थानीय निकायों को किए गए फंड ट्रांसफर की निगरानी हो सके।
- This will help in streamlining accounting practices and improving financial transparency.
इससे लेखांकन प्रक्रियाओं को व्यवस्थित करने और वित्तीय पारदर्शिता में सुधार करने में मदद मिलेगी।



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

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

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SC seeks Uttarakhand response on 'misuse' of afforestation funds

GS Paper III:
Environment

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary to allegations based on a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report in the public domain about the misuse of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds by the State Forest Department to buy gadgets, including iPhones and laptops.

The CAG document and media reports on it were brought to the notice of a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih by *amicus curiae*, senior advocate K. Parameshwar.

'Serious concern'

"The CAMPA fund is to be utilised for increasing the green cover. Utilisation of the same for non-admissible activities and not depositing the interest as per the Act with the SCAF (State Compensatory Afforestation Funds) is a matter of serious concern. We, therefore, direct the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand

A CAG report had claimed misuse of funds by State Forest department to buy gadgets, including iPhones and laptops

to file an affidavit on these aspects," the court directed the State.

The CAG report referred to the State's CAMPA expenditure for 2019-2022 and reportedly uncovered multiple financial irregularities. Aside from making purported unauthorised purchases of iPhones, laptops, fridges, coolers, and office renovations, funds were also reportedly used for fighting court cases and personal expenses. It also referred to non-payment of interest amounting to ₹275.34 crore between 2019-20 and 2021-22, despite repeated requests from CAMPA authorities.

The report said the State government had acknowledged the issue and claimed that ₹150 crore of the interest liability was deposited in July 2023. However, it was alleged that a substantial amount was still unaccounted for.

SC seeks Uttarakhand response on 'misuse' of afforestation funds

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उत्तराखंड से वनीकरण फंड के 'दुरुपयोग' पर जवाब मांगा

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary regarding allegations based on a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को उत्तराखंड के मुख्य सचिव से प्रतिक्रिया मांगी, जो नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की रिपोर्ट पर आधारित आरोपों से संबंधित है।

- The report alleges misuse of **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds** by the **State Forest Department** for buying **gadgets like iPhones and laptops**.

रिपोर्ट में राज्य वन विभाग द्वारा प्रतिपूरक वनीकरण निधि प्रबंधन और योजना प्राधिकरण (CAMPA) के फंड के दुरुपयोग का आरोप लगाया गया है, जिसमें आईफोन और लैपटॉप जैसी गैजेट्स की खरीद शामिल है।

- The **CAG document and media reports** were brought to the notice of a **Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih** by *amicus curiae*, senior advocate **K. Parameshwar**.



CAG दस्तावेज़ और मीडिया रिपोर्टों को न्यायमूर्ति बी.आर. गवई और ए.जी. मसीह की पीठ के समक्ष एमिकस क्यूरी (न्याय मित्र) वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता के. परमेश्वर द्वारा प्रस्तुत किया गया।

‘Serious Concern’ Raised by SC

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने ‘गंभीर चिंता’ जताई

- The **CAMPA fund is meant for increasing green cover, but it was allegedly used for non-admissible activities.**
CAMPA फंड का उद्देश्य हरित आवरण (Green Cover) बढ़ाना है, लेकिन इसे कथित रूप से अनुचित गतिविधियों के लिए उपयोग किया गया।
- The court directed the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand to file an affidavit addressing these concerns.
कोर्ट ने उत्तराखंड के मुख्य सचिव को इन मुद्दों पर हलफनामा दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया।
- The CAG report examined CAMPA expenditure for 2019-2022 and found multiple financial irregularities.
CAG रिपोर्ट ने 2019-2022 की CAMPA व्यय की जांच की और कई वित्तीय अनियमितताओं का खुलासा किया।
- Funds were reportedly used for unauthorised purchases of iPhones, laptops, fridges, coolers, office renovations, court cases, and personal expenses.
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, फंड का उपयोग आईफोन, लैपटॉप, फ्रिज, कूलर, कार्यालय नवीनीकरण, अदालती मामलों और व्यक्तिगत खर्चों के लिए किया गया।
- The report also mentioned non-payment of interest worth ₹275.34 crore (2019-2022) despite repeated requests from CAMPA authorities.
रिपोर्ट में यह भी उल्लेख किया गया कि CAMPA अधिकारियों के बार-बार अनुरोध करने के बावजूद ₹275.34 करोड़ (2019-2022) का ब्याज नहीं चुकाया गया।
- The State government acknowledged the issue and stated that ₹150 crore of the interest liability was deposited in July 2023.
राज्य सरकार ने इस मुद्दे को स्वीकार किया और कहा कि ₹150 करोड़ का ब्याज जुलाई 2023 में जमा किया गया।
- However, it was alleged that a substantial amount is still unaccounted for.
हालांकि, यह आरोप लगाया गया कि एक बड़ा हिस्सा अभी भी अज्ञात है।



When debris from space crashes to the earth, who is responsible?

Despite being a critical issue in space governance, space debris lacks a universally accepted legal definition; thus, legal disputes often hinge on whether a piece of debris qualifies as a 'space object' under the Convention for International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects of 1972

Shrawani Shagun

GS Paper III: Space

Imagine going about your day when a heavy metal object suddenly crashes in front of your house. You and your neighbours are shocked. You rush out to check what has happened and struggle to make sense of the sight: a misshapen piece of hot metal, blackened by fire and soot, with a cloud of dust swirling around it.

This isn't a scene from a sci-fi film. On December 30, 2024, a metal object weighing 500 kg fell in Makueni county in Kenya. Experts from the Kenya Space Agency characterised it as a separation ring from a space-bound rocket. While Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer known for cataloguing space launches and objects in orbit, and some others have expressed scepticism that the object was a part of a rocket, similar incidents in the U.S. and Australia before have served repeated reminders of the urgent problem of space debris.

Space activity is becoming more brisk as countries are launching more rockets, satellites, and spacecraft. Falling debris also challenges the laws that protect humans. The question of accountability looms largest: when debris crashes to the earth, who is responsible and how can they be held accountable?

Space debris in law

Despite being a critical issue in space governance, space debris lacks a universally accepted legal definition in international treaties. Commonly accepted working definitions come from the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The latter refers to space debris thus: "space debris is all man-made objects, including fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit or re-entering the atmosphere, that are non-functional."

Given the lack of definition, legal disputes often hinge on whether a piece of debris qualifies as a "space object" under the Convention for International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects of 1972. This distinction is critical because liability attaches to space objects under the Convention, but if debris is no longer under a state's jurisdiction, responsibility becomes more challenging to enforce.

Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty 1967 forms the cornerstone of international space law. It says states bear responsibility for all national space activities, whether conducted by governmental or private entities. The 1972 Convention also introduced "absolute liability" for damage caused by space objects on the earth. Unlike fault-based liability, absolute liability requires no proof of negligence: launching states are automatically responsible for harm caused by their debris.

Not just a technicality

But enforcement remains a crucial challenge. The resolution of disputes banks on diplomatic negotiations, often resulting in prolonged settlements that fall short of actual costs. After the Soviet satellite Cosmos 954, carrying a nuclear reactor, crashed in Canada in 1978, Canada spent years negotiating with the



In July 2023, officials said an object found on a beach in Western Australia was part of an ISRO rocket. The image shows ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft being launched onboard PSLV-C57 on September 2, 2023. PTI

USSR and ultimately secured only \$3 million of the estimated \$6 million clean-up cost. The case underscored the gap between legal liability and practical enforcement, leaving affected parties vulnerable to inadequate resolutions.

If a fragment from a defunct satellite causes damage decades later, can the original launching state still be held liable? Such legal uncertainties also weaken the effectiveness of existing liability frameworks and complicate enforcement.

Attributing debris to its source adds another layer of complexity. While advanced tracking systems and forensic analysis can often trace debris, such as identifying Soviet-era components or SpaceX fragments, older, undocumented objects or highly fragmented debris may defy identification.

Gap in governance

The surge in global space activity and the repeated use of rockets and rocket parts have made uncontrolled reentries risky. Earlier this month, pieces from a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket landed in Poland. But the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said its oversight ended when SpaceX lost control of the rocket. The response exemplified a growing concern: once a space object is no longer actively controlled, no clear authority is responsible for its reentry or any damage it may cause.

In July 2024, China's Long March 5B rocket core stage, a 23-tonne metal behemoth, plunged uncontrolled into the southern Pacific Ocean, narrowly avoiding populated areas. This was the rocket's fourth such reentry event since 2020 alone, and reignited global alarm over space debris.

Unlike more modern rockets, which have parts that are designed and machined to burn up completely during reentry or have the ability to be steered over remote areas, the Long March 5B core stage lacks disposal

A surge in space activity has made uncontrolled reentries risky. Earlier this month, pieces from a SpaceX rocket landed in Poland. But the FAA said its oversight ended when SpaceX lost control of the rocket

mechanisms, making its descent a game of orbital roulette. While China has improved reentry predictions, warnings often come too late for other states to put meaningful safeguards in place.

These incidents have exposed another glaring gap in space governance: there are no binding rules to penalise uncontrolled reentries until damage occurs. Space agencies have condemned such risks as "reckless" but these warnings carry no legal weight without international regulations that commit countries to proactive measures.

The rapid growth of satellite mega-constellations, such as SpaceX Starlink, Amazon Kuiper, and Eutelsat's OneWeb, will add more than 100,000 satellites by 2030, increasing the risk of uncontrolled reentries. Many older satellites also lack deorbiting plans, worsening debris accumulation in orbit. While small satellites usually burn up, larger objects like rocket boosters and fuel tanks often survive reentry, posing threats. In 2022, a fragment of SpaceX's crew capsule Dragon crashed in Australia.

Guidelines such as the UN's rule to have satellites deorbit within 25 years are still voluntary, with only around 30% compliance, leaving thousands of decaying satellites in unpredictable orbits.

What needs to change?

The world urgently needs regulatory clarity to rescue it from the overarching problem: no mandatory oversight exists

for reentries unless direct harm occurs. Without urgent reforms, uncontrolled reentries will become more frequent and the affected communities will continue to bear the costs without recourse.

The world needs stronger regulations. For one, COPUOS must push for binding global regulations that require controlled reentries and penalties for non-compliant actors.

In parallel, national governments should strengthen domestic policies, requiring companies to adopt debris mitigation strategies as a condition for getting launch licenses.

Disposal rules should be mandatory as well as require spaceflight entities to have controlled reentries or the ability to move to graveyard orbits (where defunct satellites are moved to avoid colliding with other satellites). And these needs should be enforced through sanctions or launch bans.

Second, improved tracking systems, such as expanding the U.S. Space Fence, can improve monitoring and reentry predictions.

Sustainable space practices, including debris-neutral technologies and reusable rockets, should also be incentivised to reduce clutter in orbit and enhance long-term safety.

Finally, the 1972 Liability Convention must be modernised to include an independent international tribunal with binding enforcement powers.

Space is not a lawless frontier but it risks becoming one without decisive action. The time for voluntary guidelines is over: global cooperation, enforceable rules, and accountability mechanisms must take precedence before the sky truly starts falling.

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When debris from space crashes to the earth, who is



responsible?

जब अंतरिक्ष का मलबा पृथ्वी पर गिरता है, तो कौन जिम्मेदार होता है?

Space debris lacks a universally accepted legal definition, making legal disputes complex.

अंतरिक्ष मलबे की कोई सार्वभौमिक रूप से स्वीकृत कानूनी परिभाषा नहीं है, जिससे कानूनी विवाद जटिल हो जाते हैं।

- The Convention for International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (1972) determines whether debris qualifies as a "space object".
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दायित्व सम्मेलन (1972) के तहत यह तय किया जाता है कि कोई मलबा "अंतरिक्ष वस्तु" के रूप में योग्य है या नहीं।

Real-life incidents of space debris crashes

अंतरिक्ष मलबे के पृथ्वी पर गिरने की वास्तविक घटनाएँ

- On December 30, 2024, a 500 kg metal object fell in Makueni County, Kenya.
30 दिसंबर 2024 को, 500 किलोग्राम का धातु का टुकड़ा मकुएनी काउंटी, केन्या में गिरा।
- Experts from the Kenya Space Agency identified it as a separation ring from a space-bound rocket.
केन्या अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी के विशेषज्ञों ने इसे अंतरिक्ष में भेजे गए रॉकेट का विभाजन रिंग बताया।
- Astronomer Jonathan McDowell expressed skepticism but acknowledged similar incidents in the U.S. and Australia.
खगोलशास्त्री जोनाथन मैकडॉवेल ने संदेह जताया, लेकिन अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रेलिया में हुई इसी तरह की घटनाओं को स्वीकार किया।
- The increase in space activity raises concerns about human safety and legal accountability.
अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों में वृद्धि से मानव सुरक्षा और कानूनी जवाबदेही पर चिंता बढ़ गई है।

Space debris in law

अंतरिक्ष मलबे से जुड़े कानूनी पहलू

- There is no universally accepted definition of space debris in international treaties.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संधियों में अंतरिक्ष मलबे की कोई सार्वभौमिक स्वीकृत परिभाषा नहीं है।
- The Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) provide working definitions.
इंटर-एजेंसी स्पेस डेब्रिस कोऑर्डिनेशन कमेटी और संयुक्त राष्ट्र बाहरी अंतरिक्ष के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोग समिति (COPUOS) कुछ कार्यशील परिभाषाएँ प्रदान करती हैं।



- COPUOS defines space debris as "all man-made objects, including fragments, in Earth orbit or re-entering the atmosphere, that are non-functional."
COPUOS के अनुसार, अंतरिक्ष मलबा सभी मानव-निर्मित वस्तुएँ हैं, जिनमें टुकड़े भी शामिल हैं, जो पृथ्वी की कक्षा में हैं या वायुमंडल में फिर से प्रवेश कर रहे हैं और अब कार्यशील नहीं हैं।
- Legal disputes depend on whether debris qualifies as a "space object" under the 1972 Liability Convention.
कानूनी विवाद इस पर निर्भर करते हैं कि मलबा 1972 दायित्व सम्मेलन के तहत "अंतरिक्ष वस्तु" के रूप में योग्य है या नहीं।
- If debris is no longer under a state's jurisdiction, enforcing responsibility becomes difficult.
यदि मलबा किसी राज्य के अधिकार क्षेत्र में नहीं है, तो जिम्मेदारी लागू करना कठिन हो जाता है।

International treaties and liability

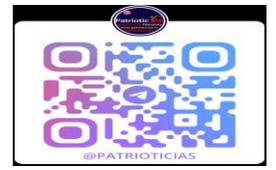
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संधियाँ और जवाबदेही

- Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty (1967) states that countries are responsible for all national space activities, whether by government or private entities.
आउटर स्पेस ट्रीटी (1967) का अनुच्छेद VI कहता है कि देश अपनी सभी राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं, चाहे वे सरकारी हों या निजी संस्थाओं द्वारा।
- The 1972 Liability Convention introduced absolute liability for damage caused by space objects on Earth.
1972 दायित्व सम्मेलन ने अंतरिक्ष वस्तुओं द्वारा पृथ्वी पर किए गए नुकसान के लिए पूर्ण दायित्व (absolute liability) लागू किया।
- Absolute liability means that no proof of negligence is required—launching states are automatically responsible for the damage caused.
पूर्ण दायित्व का अर्थ है कि लापरवाही साबित करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है—लॉन्च करने वाले देश स्वचालित रूप से नुकसान के लिए जिम्मेदार माने जाते हैं।

Challenges in enforcing liability

उत्तरदायित्व लागू करने की चुनौतियाँ

- Enforcement remains a major issue, as diplomatic negotiations take years and often do not cover actual costs.
उत्तरदायित्व लागू करना एक बड़ी चुनौती है, क्योंकि राजनयिक वार्ताएँ वर्षों तक चलती हैं और अक्सर वास्तविक लागत को कवर नहीं कर पाती हैं।
- Example: In 1978, the Soviet satellite Cosmos 954, carrying a nuclear reactor, crashed in Canada.
उदाहरण: 1978 में, सोवियत उपग्रह कोस्मोस 954, जिसमें न्यूक्लियर रिएक्टर था, कनाडा में गिरा।
- Canada negotiated for years and received only \$3 million of the estimated \$6 million cleanup cost from the USSR.



कनाडा ने वर्षों तक बातचीत की और यूएसएसआर से केवल \$3 मिलियन प्राप्त किए, जबकि कुल सफाई लागत \$6 मिलियन थी।

- This case highlighted the **gap between legal liability and actual enforcement**, leaving affected parties **with inadequate compensation**.

इस मामले ने कानूनी दायित्व और वास्तविक कार्यान्वयन के बीच की खाई को उजागर किया, जिससे प्रभावित पक्षों को अपर्याप्त मुआवजा मिला।

- If a **satellite fragment causes damage decades later**, can the **original launching state still be held accountable**?

यदि एक पुराने उपग्रह का टुकड़ा दशकों बाद नुकसान पहुँचाता है, तो क्या मूल लॉन्च करने वाले देश को जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा सकता है?

- Such **legal uncertainties** weaken existing frameworks and **complicate enforcement**.
ऐसी कानूनी अनिश्चितताएँ मौजूदा ढांचे को कमजोर करती हैं और प्रवर्तन को जटिल बनाती हैं।

Tracking space debris

अंतरिक्ष मलबे का पता लगाना

- **Attributing debris to its source** is a major challenge.

मलबे के स्रोत की पहचान करना एक बड़ी चुनौती है।

- **Advanced tracking systems and forensic analysis** can sometimes identify debris origins, such as **Soviet-era components or SpaceX fragments**.

उन्नत ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम और फॉरेंसिक विश्लेषण कभी-कभी मलबे के स्रोतों की पहचान कर सकते हैं, जैसे सोवियत युग के हिस्से या स्पेसएक्स के टुकड़े।

- However, **older undocumented objects** or **highly fragmented debris** may be impossible to trace.

लेकिन पुराने, बिना दस्तावेज़ वाले टुकड़े या अत्यधिक बिखरा हुआ मलबा पहचानना असंभव हो सकता है।

Gap in governance

शासन में खामियां

- The **increase in global space activity** and **frequent rocket launches** have made **uncontrolled reentries dangerous**.

वैश्विक अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों में वृद्धि और बार-बार रॉकेट लॉन्च होने से बेकाबू पुनःप्रवेश

(uncontrolled reentry) खतरनाक हो गए हैं।

- In **July 2024**, China's **Long March 5B rocket core stage (23-tonne metal piece)** crashed into the **Pacific Ocean**, narrowly missing populated areas.

जुलाई 2024 में, चीन के लॉन्ग मार्च 5बी रॉकेट का 23-टन धातु का टुकड़ा प्रशांत महासागर में गिरा, जिससे आबादी वाले क्षेत्र बाल-बाल बच गए।



- In early 2024, SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket debris fell in Poland, but the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it had no responsibility after SpaceX lost control.
2024 की शुरुआत में, स्पेसएक्स फाल्कन 9 रॉकेट का मलबा पोलैंड में गिरा, लेकिन अमेरिकी संघीय विमानन प्रशासन (FAA) ने कहा कि स्पेसएक्स द्वारा नियंत्रण खोने के बाद उनकी कोई ज़िम्मेदारी नहीं है।
- Unlike modern rockets, China's Long March 5B does not have disposal mechanisms, making its descent unpredictable.
आधुनिक रॉकेटों के विपरीत, चीन का लॉन्ग मार्च 5बी में निपटान तंत्र (disposal mechanism) नहीं है, जिससे इसका पुनःप्रवेश अनिश्चित हो जाता है।
- These incidents show a major flaw in space governance—there are no binding penalties for uncontrolled reentries unless damage occurs.
ये घटनाएं अंतरिक्ष शासन में बड़ी खामियां दर्शाती हैं—बेकाबू पुनःप्रवेश के लिए कोई बाध्यकारी दंड नहीं हैं, जब तक कि कोई नुकसान न हो।

Rising risks due to increasing satellites

उपग्रहों की बढ़ती संख्या से बढ़ते खतरे

- By 2030, over 100,000 satellites from mega-constellations like SpaceX Starlink, Amazon Kuiper, and Eutelsat OneWeb will increase uncontrolled reentry risks.
2030 तक, स्पेसएक्स स्टारलिनक, अमेज़न कूपर, और यूटेलसैट वनवेब जैसी मेगा-नक्षत्र (mega-constellations) से 100,000 से अधिक उपग्रह कक्षा में होंगे, जिससे बेकाबू पुनःप्रवेश का खतरा बढ़ जाएगा।
- Many older satellites lack deorbiting plans, worsening space debris accumulation.
कई पुराने उपग्रहों में डी-ऑर्बिटिंग योजनाओं की कमी है, जिससे अंतरिक्ष मलबे की समस्या बढ़ रही है।
- In 2022, a fragment from SpaceX's Dragon Crew Capsule crashed in Australia, proving that larger debris survives reentry.
2022 में, स्पेसएक्स के ड्रैगन क्रू कैप्सूल का टुकड़ा ऑस्ट्रेलिया में गिरा, जिससे साबित हुआ कि बड़े मलबे पुनःप्रवेश के दौरान नष्ट नहीं होते।
- The UN's voluntary rule to deorbit satellites within 25 years has only 30% compliance, leaving thousands of decaying satellites in orbit.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) का स्वैच्छिक नियम, जो 25 वर्षों में उपग्रहों को डी-ऑर्बिट करने को कहता है, उसकी केवल 30% अनुपालन दर है, जिससे हजारों निष्क्रिय उपग्रह कक्षा में घूम रहे हैं।

What needs to change?

क्या बदलाव आवश्यक हैं?

- Stronger international regulations are needed to prevent uncontrolled reentries.
बेकाबू पुनःप्रवेश को रोकने के लिए मजबूत अंतरराष्ट्रीय नियमों की जरूरत है।



- **COPUOS (UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space)** must push for binding regulations that enforce controlled reentries and penalize non-compliant actors.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र बाहरी अंतरिक्ष के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोग की समिति (COPUOS) को नियंत्रित पुनःप्रवेश (controlled reentries) को अनिवार्य करने और नियम न मानने वालों को दंडित करने के लिए बाध्यकारी नियमों पर जोर देना चाहिए।
- **National governments should enforce stricter policies**, requiring companies to adopt debris mitigation strategies before granting launch licenses.
राष्ट्रीय सरकारों को कड़े नियम लागू करने चाहिए, जिससे कंपनियों को प्रक्षेपण लाइसेंस (launch license) मिलने से पहले मलबा प्रबंधन रणनीतियाँ (debris mitigation strategies) अपनानी होंगी।
- **Disposal rules must be mandatory**—requiring spacecraft to either have controlled reentries or be moved to "graveyard orbits" to avoid collisions.
निपटान नियमों (disposal rules) को अनिवार्य बनाया जाना चाहिए—जिसमें अंतरिक्ष यान को या तो नियंत्रित पुनःप्रवेश (controlled reentry) करना होगा या "ग्रेवयार्ड ऑर्बिट" (graveyard orbit) में ले जाना होगा ताकि टकराव से बचा जा सके।
- **Penalties, sanctions, or launch bans** should be imposed on entities failing to comply.
नियमों का पालन न करने वालों पर दंड, प्रतिबंध या प्रक्षेपण रोक (launch bans) लगाई जानी चाहिए।

Technological advancements for better tracking

बेहतर ट्रैकिंग के लिए तकनीकी उन्नति

- **Expanding U.S. Space Fence and other tracking systems** will improve debris monitoring and reentry predictions.
अमेरिकी स्पेस फेंस (Space Fence) और अन्य ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम का विस्तार मलबे की निगरानी (debris monitoring) और पुनःप्रवेश की भविष्यवाणी (reentry prediction) को बेहतर बनाएगा।
- **Sustainable space practices** should be incentivized, including debris-neutral technologies and reusable rockets.
टिकाऊ अंतरिक्ष प्रथाओं (sustainable space practices) को प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए, जैसे मलबा-न्यूट्रल तकनीक (debris-neutral technology) और पुनः प्रयोज्य रॉकेट (reusable rockets)।

Modernizing the 1972 Liability Convention

1972 दायित्व सम्मेलन का आधुनिकीकरण

- **The 1972 Liability Convention must be updated** to include an independent international tribunal with binding enforcement powers.
1972 दायित्व सम्मेलन को अद्यतन (update) किया जाना चाहिए, जिसमें एक स्वतंत्र अंतरराष्ट्रीय



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

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

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न्यायाधिकरण (independent international tribunal) हो, जो बाध्यकारी प्रवर्तन शक्तियों (binding enforcement powers) से लैस हो।

- **Stronger accountability mechanisms** should be **enforced globally** to ensure that communities do not bear the cost of space negligence.

मजबूत जवाबदेही तंत्र (accountability mechanisms) को वैश्विक स्तर पर लागू किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि समुदायों को अंतरिक्ष उपेक्षा (space negligence) की कीमत न चुकानी पड़े।

- **Space is not a lawless frontier**, but it risks becoming one if **immediate reforms** are not implemented.

अंतरिक्ष कोई कानूनविहीन क्षेत्र नहीं है, लेकिन यदि तत्काल सुधार नहीं किए गए, तो यह ऐसा बन सकता है।

- **The time for voluntary guidelines is over**—**global cooperation, enforceable rules, and accountability mechanisms** must be prioritized.

स्वैच्छिक दिशानिर्देशों (voluntary guidelines) का समय समाप्त हो चुका है—वैश्विक सहयोग (global cooperation), लागू किए जाने योग्य नियम (enforceable rules), और जवाबदेही तंत्र (accountability mechanisms) को प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए।

PATRIOTIC IAS



A genetically edited mouse with long, thick, woolly hair at a lab in Dallas, Texas. AP

Scientists engineer mice with hair like the mammoth

GS Paper III: Environment

Extinction is still forever, but scientists at the biotech company Colossal Biosciences are trying what they say is the next best thing to restoring ancient beasts: genetically engineering living animals with qualities to resemble extinct species like the woolly mammoth.

Woolly mammoths roamed the frozen tundras of Europe, Asia, and North America until they went extinct around 4,000 years ago.

Colossal made a splash in 2021 when it unveiled an ambitious plan to revive the woolly mammoth and later the dodo. Since then, the company has focused on identifying key traits of extinct animals by studying ancient DNA, with a goal to genetically “engineer them into living animals,” said CEO Ben Lamm.

Outside scientists have mixed views about whether this strategy will be helpful for conservation.

“You’re not actually resurrecting anything – you’re not bringing back the ancient past,” said Christopher Preston, a wildlife and environment expert at the University of Montana, who wasn’t involved in the research.

On Tuesday, Colossal announced that its scientists have simultaneously edited seven genes in mice embryos to create mice with long, thick, woolly hair. They nicknamed the extra-furry rodents the

Colossal said it focused on mice first to confirm if the process works before potentially moving on to edit the embryos of Asian elephants, the closest living relatives to woolly mammoths

“Colossal woolly mouse.”

Results were posted online, but they have not yet been published in a journal or vetted by independent scientists.

The feat “is technologically pretty cool,” said Vincent Lynch, a biologist at the University of Buffalo, who wasn’t involved in the research.

Scientists have been genetically engineering mice since the 1970s, but new technologies like CRISPR “make it a lot more efficient and easier,” said Lynch.

The Colossal scientists reviewed DNA databases of mouse genes to identify genes related to hair texture and fat metabolism. Each of these genetic variations are “present already in some living mice,” said Colossal’s chief scientist Beth Shapiro, but “we put them all together in a single mouse.”

They picked the two traits because these mutations are likely related to cold tolerance, a quality that woolly mammoths must have had to survive on the prehistoric Arctic steppe.

Colossal said it focused on mice first to confirm if the process works before potentially moving on to edit the embryos of Asian elephants, the closest living relatives to woolly mammoths.

But because Asian elephants are an endangered species, there will be “a lot of processes and red tape” before any plan can move forward, said Colossal’s Lamm, whose company has raised over \$400 million in funding.

Independent experts are skeptical. “You might be able to alter the hair pattern of an Asian elephant or adapt it to the cold, but it’s not bringing back a woolly mammoth. It’s changing an Asian elephant,” Preston said.

Still, the refinement of precision gene-editing in animals could have other uses for conservation, said Bhanu Telugu, who studies animal biotechnology at the University of Missouri.

Telugu said he was impressed by Colossal’s technology advances that enabled scientists to pinpoint which genes to target. The same approach might one day help fight diseases in people, said Lamm. So far, the company has spun off two health care companies.

Scientists engineer mice with hair like the mammoth

वैज्ञानिकों ने हाथी के समान बालों वाले चूहे तैयार किए

Extinction is irreversible, but scientists at Colossal Biosciences are attempting to genetically modify living animals to resemble extinct species like the woolly mammoth.

विलुप्त अपरिवर्तनीय है, लेकिन

कोलोसल बायोसाइंसेज के

वैज्ञानिक जीवित जानवरों को

आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित करने

का प्रयास कर रहे हैं ताकि वे

विलुप्त प्रजातियों, जैसे वूली

मैमथ, के समान दिखें।

- **Woolly mammoths once roamed Europe, Asia, and North America, but they went extinct around 4,000 years ago.**

वूली मैमथ कभी यूरोप, एशिया और उत्तरी अमेरिका में पाए जाते थे, लेकिन वे लगभग 4,000 वर्ष पहले विलुप्त हो गए।

**Colossal’s Plan for Genetic Engineering
कोलोसल का आनुवंशिक संशोधन योजना**



- **Colossal Biosciences announced in 2021** that it would work to **revive the woolly mammoth** and later the **dodo**.
कोलोसल बायोसाइंसेज ने 2021 में घोषणा की कि वह वूली मैमथ को पुनर्जीवित करने और बाद में डोडो पर काम करेगा।
- The company is **identifying key genetic traits of extinct animals by studying ancient DNA**.
यह कंपनी प्राचीन डीएनए का अध्ययन करके विलुप्त प्रजातियों के महत्वपूर्ण आनुवंशिक गुणों की पहचान कर रही है।
- **CEO Ben Lamm stated that the goal is to engineer these traits into living animals**.
सीईओ बेन लाम ने कहा कि इन विशेषताओं को जीवित जानवरों में डालना मुख्य लक्ष्य है।

Creating the "Colossal Woolly Mouse"

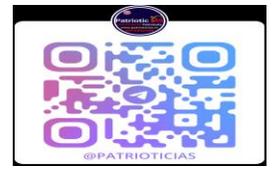
"कोलोसल वूली माउस" का निर्माण

- On **Tuesday**, Colossal announced that **scientists had edited seven genes in mice embryos** to create **mice with long, thick, woolly hair**.
मंगलवार को, कोलोसल ने घोषणा की कि वैज्ञानिकों ने चूहे के भ्रूण में सात जीन संपादित किए ताकि लंबे, घने और ऊनी बालों वाले चूहे तैयार किए जा सकें।
- The **genetically modified mice** were nicknamed the "**Colossal Woolly Mouse**".
आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित चूहों को "कोलोसल वूली माउस" नाम दिया गया।
- Results were **posted online** but have **not yet been published in a scientific journal** or **reviewed by independent scientists**.
परिणाम ऑनलाइन साझा किए गए, लेकिन अभी तक किसी वैज्ञानिक पत्रिका में प्रकाशित नहीं हुए और स्वतंत्र वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा समीक्षा नहीं की गई।

Scientific Views on the Research

वैज्ञानिकों की प्रतिक्रिया

- **Vincent Lynch, a biologist at the University of Buffalo**, called the experiment **technologically impressive**.
यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ बफेलो के जीवविज्ञानी विंसेंट लिंच ने इस प्रयोग को तकनीकी रूप से प्रभावशाली बताया।
- Genetic modification of mice has been done **since the 1970s**, but **CRISPR technology** has made it **faster and more efficient**.
1970 के दशक से चूहों का आनुवंशिक संशोधन किया जा रहा है, लेकिन CRISPR तकनीक ने इसे तेज और अधिक प्रभावी बना दिया है।
- **Colossal's scientists studied DNA databases of mice** to identify **genes linked to hair texture and fat metabolism**.



कोलोसल के वैज्ञानिकों ने चूहों के डीएनए डेटाबेस का अध्ययन किया ताकि बालों की बनावट और वसा चयापचय (fat metabolism) से जुड़े जीन पहचाने जा सकें।

- These genetic variations already exist in some mice, but scientists combined them into a single mouse.

ये आनुवंशिक बदलाव पहले से ही कुछ चूहों में मौजूद थे, लेकिन वैज्ञानिकों ने इन्हें एक ही चूहे में जोड़ा।

Future Plans: Editing Asian Elephant DNA

भविष्य की योजना: एशियाई हाथियों का डीएनए संपादन

- Scientists believe that these modifications help animals survive in cold climates, similar to the prehistoric Arctic steppe.

वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि ये संशोधन जानवरों को ठंडे वातावरण में जीवित रहने में मदद कर सकते हैं, जैसे कि प्राचीन आर्कटिक स्टेप्पे।

- Colossal plans to apply these genetic modifications to Asian elephants, the closest living relatives of woolly mammoths.

कोलोसल की योजना है कि वह इन आनुवंशिक बदलावों को एशियाई हाथियों पर लागू करे, जो वूली मैमथ के सबसे निकटतम जीवित रिश्तेदार हैं।

- However, Asian elephants are an endangered species, and strict regulations will make this process difficult.

लेकिन एशियाई हाथी विलुप्तप्राय प्रजाति हैं, और कड़े नियम इस प्रक्रिया को कठिन बना सकते हैं।

Ethical Concerns and Skepticism

नैतिक चिंताएँ और संदेह

- Christopher Preston, a wildlife expert at the University of Montana, criticized the project, saying, "This is not bringing back the woolly mammoth; it's just modifying an Asian elephant."

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मॉन्टाना के वन्यजीव विशेषज्ञ क्रिस्टोफर प्रेस्टन ने इस परियोजना की आलोचना करते हुए कहा, "यह वूली मैमथ को वापस नहीं ला रहा है; यह सिर्फ एशियाई हाथी को बदल रहा है।"

- Beth Shapiro, Colossal's chief scientist, acknowledged that many regulatory steps are needed before the project moves forward.

कोलोसल की मुख्य वैज्ञानिक बेथ शापिरो ने स्वीकार किया कि इस परियोजना को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए कई नियामक कदम आवश्यक होंगे।

Potential Applications of Genetic Engineering

आनुवंशिक इंजीनियरिंग के संभावित उपयोग

- Despite skepticism, some experts believe precision gene-editing can benefit conservation.



संदेह के बावजूद, कुछ विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि सटीक जीन-संपादन संरक्षण के लिए फायदेमंद हो सकता है।

- **Bhanu Telugu, an animal biotechnology expert at the University of Missouri, was impressed by Colossal's ability to identify and modify specific genes.**

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मिसौरी के पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विशेषज्ञ भानु तेलुगु को कोलोसल की विशिष्ट जीनों की पहचान और उन्हें संशोधित करने की क्षमता से प्रभावित हुए।

- **Colossal believes that the same technology could help in treating human diseases in the future.**

कोलोसल का मानना है कि यही तकनीक भविष्य में मानव बीमारियों के इलाज में मदद कर सकती है।

The company has raised over \$400 million in funding and has already spun off two healthcare companies.

कंपनी ने ₹400 मिलियन से अधिक की फंडिंग जुटाई है और पहले ही दो स्वास्थ्य देखभाल कंपनियों को स्थापित कर चुकी है।

Budget will pave way for stronger workforce: Modi

बजट मजबूत कार्यबल का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगा: मोदी

Budget will pave way for stronger workforce: Modi

He says current education system can meet needs of the 21st century world owing to steps such as NEP, expansion of IITs and tapping of AI; govt. looks to add 75,000 medical seats in five years

GS Paper II: GS
Paper III
NEW DELHI

This year's Union Budget will pave the way for a stronger workforce and a growing economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Wednesday, while addressing a post-Budget webinar on boosting job creation.

Mr. Modi said the vision of investment in people stood on three pillars – education, skill and health-care. The education system was going through a huge transformation after several decades. "Big steps like the National Education Policy (NEP), expansion of IITs, integration of technology in the education system, use of the full potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI), digitisation of textbooks, work of providing learning materials in 22 In-



Preparing for future: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a post-Budget webinar on boosting job creation. PTI

dian languages, and many such efforts are going on in mission mode. Due to these, today India's education system is matching the needs and parameters of the 21st century world," he said.

Industry-ready youth
He said the Centre had provided skill training to more than three crore youth since 2014. "We have an-

nounced plans to upgrade 1,000 industrial training institutes (ITIs) and create five centres of excellence. Our aim is that the training should be such that they can meet the needs of our industry," he said.

On announcing 10,000 additional medical seats in the Budget, he said the Centre had plans to add 75,000 medical seats in the next five years.

On tourism, Mr. Modi said that apart from the hotel industry and transport sector, there were new opportunities for other sectors as well.

"Our health sector stakeholders should invest in promoting health tourism, grab this opportunity. We should also use the full potential of yoga and wellness tourism. We also have a lot of scope in education tourism," he said.

On AI, he said the sector could aid in the economy's growth by several lakh crores of rupees. "Therefore, we have to move fast in this direction," the Prime Minister said.

The government had taken several steps in this budget to promote startups, Mr. Modi said adding that a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore had been announced to promote research and innovation.

This year's Union Budget will help create a stronger workforce and a growing economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday during a post-Budget webinar on job creation.

इस वर्ष का केंद्रीय बजट मजबूत कार्यबल और बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगा, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने बुधवार को बजट के बाद रोजगार सृजन पर वेबिनार में कहा।

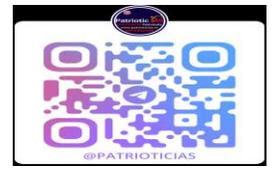
- Mr. Modi stated that investment in people is based on three pillars:



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education, skill, and healthcare.

श्री मोदी ने कहा कि लोगों में निवेश तीन स्तंभों पर आधारित है: शिक्षा, कौशल और स्वास्थ्य सेवा।

Transforming the education system

शिक्षा प्रणाली में परिवर्तन

- The **education system** is undergoing a **massive transformation** after **several decades**.

शिक्षा प्रणाली कई दशकों बाद बड़े बदलावों से गुजर रही है।

- Key initiatives include:

मुख्य पहलें शामिल हैं:

- **National Education Policy (NEP).**
राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP)।
- **Expansion of IITs and integration of technology in education.**
आईआईटी का विस्तार और शिक्षा में तकनीक का समावेश।
- **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digitization of textbooks.**
आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) का उपयोग और पाठ्यपुस्तकों का डिजिटलकरण।
- **Providing learning materials in 22 Indian languages.**
22 भारतीय भाषाओं में अध्ययन सामग्री उपलब्ध कराना।

- Due to these efforts, **India's education system now meets 21st-century global standards.**

इन प्रयासों के कारण, भारत की शिक्षा प्रणाली अब 21वीं सदी के वैश्विक मानकों के अनुरूप हो रही है।

Industry-ready youth

उद्योग के लिए तैयार युवा

- Since **2014**, the Centre has **provided skill training to more than three crore youth.**

2014 से अब तक, केंद्र सरकार ने तीन करोड़ से अधिक युवाओं को कौशल प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया है।

- **1,000 industrial training institutes (ITIs) will be upgraded, and five centres of excellence will be created.**

1,000 औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों (ITIs) को अपग्रेड किया जाएगा, और पांच उत्कृष्टता केंद्र (Centres of Excellence) स्थापित किए जाएंगे।

- The aim is to **equip youth with skills that match industry needs.**

उद्देश्य यह है कि युवाओं को ऐसे कौशल दिए जाएं जो उद्योग की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करें।

Expansion of medical education

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- The Budget announced 10,000 additional medical seats.
बजट में 10,000 अतिरिक्त मेडिकल सीटों की घोषणा की गई।
- The government aims to add 75,000 medical seats in the next five years.
सरकार अगले पांच वर्षों में 75,000 मेडिकल सीटें जोड़ने की योजना बना रही है।

Boosting tourism and health tourism

पर्यटन और स्वास्थ्य पर्यटन को बढ़ावा

- The tourism sector presents new opportunities beyond the hotel and transport industries.
पर्यटन क्षेत्र होटल और परिवहन उद्योग से परे नए अवसर प्रदान करता है।
- Health sector stakeholders should invest in promoting health tourism.
स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र से जुड़े हितधारकों को स्वास्थ्य पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने में निवेश करना चाहिए।
- Yoga and wellness tourism should also be fully utilized.
योग और वेलनेस टूरिज्म को भी पूरी तरह से उपयोग में लाया जाना चाहिए।
- Education tourism has great potential for growth.
शैक्षिक पर्यटन में अपार संभावनाएं हैं।

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and economic growth

आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) और आर्थिक वृद्धि

- AI has the potential to contribute several lakh crores to the economy.
AI अर्थव्यवस्था में कई लाख करोड़ रुपये का योगदान दे सकता है।
- The country must move quickly in this direction to leverage AI's benefits.
देश को इस दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ना होगा, ताकि AI के लाभों का पूरा उपयोग किया जा सके।

Encouraging startups and innovation

स्टार्टअप्स और नवाचार को बढ़ावा

- The government has announced several initiatives in the Budget to promote startups.
सरकार ने बजट में स्टार्टअप्स को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कई पहल की हैं।
- A ₹1 lakh crore corpus has been announced to promote research and innovation.
अनुसंधान और नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ₹1 लाख करोड़ का कोष घोषित किया गया है।



Ropeway projects in Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib get Centre nod

केदारनाथ, हेमकुंड साहिब में रोपवे परियोजनाओं को केंद्र की मंजूरी

Ropeway projects in Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib get Centre nod

GS Paper III:
Infrastructure,
Environment

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved two ropeway projects in Uttarakhand, one connecting Sonprayag and Kedarnath and the other Govindghat and Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara.

Expected to be built at a cost of ₹7,000 crore under the National Ropeways Development Programme, Parvatmala Pariyojana, the ropeways will cut travel time to the pilgrimage sites situated over 3,500 metres above sea level.

The 12.4-km Govindghat-Hemkund Sahib ropeway will be developed in a design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) mode at a total capital cost of ₹2,730.13 crore. "Currently, the journey to Hemkund Sahib is a challenging 21-km uphill trek from Govindghat and covered on foot or on ponies or in palanquins," said a government communique.

The proposed ropeway will provide convenience to pilgrims visiting the gurdwara which remains open for about five months a year between May and September, with 1.5 to 2 lakh pilgrims visiting annually. The ropeway will help tourists visiting the Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO World Heritage Site lo-

They will be built at a cost of ₹7,000 crore under the National Ropeways Development Programme

cated in the Garhwal Himalayas.

Passenger capacity

"The ropeway is planned to be developed in public-private partnership and will be based on Monocable Detachable Gondola [system] from Govindghat to Ghangaria (10.55 km), seamlessly integrated with the most advanced Tricable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology from Ghangaria to Hemkund Sahib Ji (1.85 km) with a design capacity of 1,100 passengers per hour per direction carrying 11,000 passengers per day," it added.

The 12.9-km ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath will be constructed at a cost of ₹4,081.28 crore. To be built with a similar technology, the Kedarnath ropeway will be able to carry 18,000 passengers a day. This ropeway will reduce the current travel time of eight to nine hours to around 36 minutes.

Pilgrims on the route either take helicopters or ponies from Gaurikund to Kedarnath or walk along a 16-km uphill path to the temple.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved two ropeway projects in Uttarakhand on Wednesday.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति (CCEA) ने बुधवार को उत्तराखंड में दो रोपवे परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी।

• One ropeway will connect Sonprayag to Kedarnath, while the other will connect Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara.

एक रोपवे सोनप्रयाग को केदारनाथ से जोड़ेगा, जबकि दूसरा गोविंदघाट को हेमकुंड साहिब गुरुद्वारा से जोड़ेगा।

Project cost and benefits परियोजना की लागत और लाभ

• The ropeways will be built under the National Ropeways Development Programme, Parvatmala Pariyojana, with an estimated cost of ₹7,000 crore.

राष्ट्रीय रोपवे विकास कार्यक्रम, पर्वतमाला परियोजना के तहत इन रोपवे का निर्माण किया जाएगा, जिसकी अनुमानित लागत ₹7,000 करोड़ होगी।

• These ropeways will significantly reduce travel time for pilgrims visiting high-altitude religious sites at over 3,500 metres above sea level.

ये रोपवे 3,500 मीटर से अधिक ऊँचाई पर स्थित धार्मिक स्थलों की यात्रा के समय को काफी कम कर देंगे।

Govindghat-Hemkund Sahib Ropeway गोविंदघाट-हेमकुंड साहिब रोपवे

- 12.4-km ropeway to be developed in Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) mode at a capital cost of ₹2,730.13 crore.



12.4 किमी लंबा रोपवे डिजाइन, निर्माण, वित्तपोषण, संचालन और हस्तांतरण (DBFOT) मॉडल में ₹2,730.13 करोड़ की लागत से विकसित किया जाएगा।

- Currently, the journey to Hemkund Sahib is a **challenging 21-km uphill trek** from Govindghat, covered on foot, ponies, or palanquins.
वर्तमान में, हेमकुंड साहिब की यात्रा गोविंदघाट से 21 किमी की कठिन चढ़ाई है, जिसे पैदल, खच्चरों या पालकियों से तय किया जाता है।
- The ropeway will **benefit 1.5 to 2 lakh pilgrims annually**, as Hemkund Sahib remains open only for five months (May to September).
यह रोपवे हर साल 1.5 से 2 लाख तीर्थयात्रियों को लाभ पहुंचाएगा, क्योंकि हेमकुंड साहिब केवल पांच महीने (मई से सितंबर) के लिए खुलता है।
- It will also help tourists visiting the Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Garhwal Himalayas.
यह गढ़वाल हिमालय में स्थित यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल "वैली ऑफ फ्लावर्स" के पर्यटकों के लिए भी लाभकारी होगा।

Passenger Capacity and Technology

यात्री क्षमता और तकनीक

- The ropeway will be developed as a **public-private partnership (PPP)** project.
इस रोपवे का विकास सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (PPP) मॉडल में किया जाएगा।
- It will use **Monocable Detachable Gondola (10.55 km from Govindghat to Ghangaria)** and **Tricable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology (1.85 km from Ghangaria to Hemkund Sahib)**.
इसमें मोनोकैबल डिटेचेबल गॉडोला (10.55 किमी गोविंदघाट से घांघरिया तक) और ट्राइकेबल डिटेचेबल गॉडोला (3S) तकनीक (1.85 किमी घांघरिया से हेमकुंड साहिब तक) का उपयोग किया जाएगा।
- **Design capacity: 1,100 passengers per hour per direction, accommodating 11,000 passengers daily.**
डिजाइन क्षमता: प्रति घंटे प्रति दिशा 1,100 यात्री, यानी रोजाना 11,000 यात्री यात्रा कर सकेंगे।

Sonprayag-Kedarnath Ropeway

सोनप्रयाग-केदारनाथ रोपवे

- The 12.9-km ropeway will be constructed at a **cost of ₹4,081.28 crore.**
12.9 किमी लंबा रोपवे ₹4,081.28 करोड़ की लागत से बनाया जाएगा।
- **Passenger capacity: 18,000 passengers per day.**
यात्री क्षमता: प्रति दिन 18,000 यात्री यात्रा कर सकेंगे।
- The ropeway will **reduce the current travel time from 8-9 hours to just 36 minutes.**
यह रोपवे वर्तमान 8-9 घंटे की यात्रा को केवल 36 मिनट तक सीमित कर देगा।



- Currently, pilgrims travel to Kedarnath from Gaurikund via helicopters, ponies, or by walking a 16-km uphill trek.
वर्तमान में, तीर्थयात्री गौरीकुंड से केदारनाथ तक यात्रा हेलीकॉप्टर, खच्चर या 16 किमी की चढ़ाई पैदल तय करके करते हैं।

Reserve Bank to buy ₹1 lakh crore G-Secs

GS Paper III: Money Supply

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday announced open market purchases of government securities (G-Secs) of ₹1 lakh crore.

The move followed a review of current and evolving liquidity conditions, the banking regulator said.

Two tranches

The liquidity injection will happen in two tranches: ₹50,000 crore on March 12 and the rest on March 18, the RBI said.

In addition, the RBI also announced it would undertake rupee/U.S. Dollar



swaps worth \$10 billion for a 36-month tenor on March 24.

“The Reserve Bank of India will continue to monitor evolving liquidity and market conditions and take measures as appropriate to ensure orderly liquidity conditions,” said the RBI in the statement

बैंकिंग नियामक ने कहा।

Liquidity Injection in Two Tranches दो चरणों में तरलता प्रवाह

- The liquidity injection will take place in two tranches: तरलता प्रवाह (liquidity injection) दो चरणों में किया जाएगा:

Reserve Bank to buy ₹1 lakh crore G-Secs

रिजर्व बैंक ₹1 लाख करोड़ के सरकारी बॉन्ड खरीदेगा

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Wednesday that it will conduct open market purchases of government securities (G-Secs) worth ₹1 lakh crore.

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने बुधवार को घोषणा की कि वह ₹1 लाख करोड़ के सरकारी बॉन्ड (G-Secs) की खुले बाजार में खरीद करेगा।

- The decision follows a review of current and evolving liquidity conditions, according to the banking regulator.

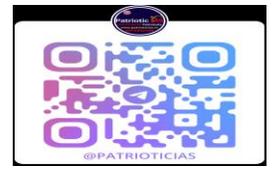
यह निर्णय वर्तमान और विकसित हो रही तरलता (liquidity) की स्थिति की समीक्षा के बाद लिया गया,



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- ₹50,000 crore on March 12.
₹50,000 करोड़ 12 मार्च को।
- Remaining ₹50,000 crore on March 18.
शेष ₹50,000 करोड़ 18 मार्च को।

Rupee/U.S. Dollar Swap

रुपया/अमेरिकी डॉलर स्वैप

- The RBI also announced a rupee/U.S. Dollar swap worth \$10 billion for a 36-month tenor on March 24.
RBI ने ₹10 अरब डॉलर मूल्य का रुपया/अमेरिकी डॉलर स्वैप 36 महीने की अवधि के लिए 24 मार्च को करने की घोषणा की।

RBI's Monitoring and Future Measures

RBI की निगरानी और भविष्य की योजनाएँ

- The RBI will continue to monitor liquidity and market conditions and will take appropriate measures to ensure stable liquidity.
RBI तरलता और बाजार की स्थितियों पर नजर रखेगा और सुनिश्चित करेगा कि आवश्यक कदम उठाए जाएं ताकि तरलता संतुलित बनी रहे।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. 2.52 cr. women to get pending monthly aid on March 8: Tatkare

52 करोड़ महिलाओं को 8 मार्च को लंबित मासिक सहायता मिलेगी: तटकरे

2.RBI names Joshi as executive director

आरबीआई ने जोशी को कार्यकारी निदेशक नियुक्त किया

3.Sharath Kamal, table tennis legend, calls it a day

टेबल टेनिस के दिग्गज शरथ कमल ने संन्यास की घोषणा की



2.52 cr. women to get pending monthly aid on March 8: Tatkare

2.52 करोड़ महिलाओं को 8 मार्च को लंबित मासिक सहायता मिलेगी: तटकरे

2.52 cr. women to get pending monthly aid on March 8: Tatkare

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A total of 2.52 crore eligible beneficiaries under the **Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana** will get the pending instalments for the months of January and February by March 8, Maharashtra Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare said on Wednesday. She added that no change had been made to the eligibility criteria of the Mahayuti government's flagship scheme for women.

The Minister shared the information while answering a **Calling Attention Motion** in the State Legislative Council. When asked about the Mahayuti leaders' promise, ahead of the November 2024 Assembly election, **to increase the monthly aid from ₹1,500 to ₹2,100**, Ms. Tatkare said the amount would be increased after a call on the issue is taken by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CMs Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde.

She added that 2.63 crore women had applied



Maharashtra Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare. EMMANUAL YOGINI

for benefits under the scheme, out of which 2.52 crore were found eligible.

In response to Congress leader Satej Bunty Patil's question about the promise of increasing the monthly aid, Ms. Tatkare said the government had not promised to disburse the increased amount in the first budget.

On the question about the eligibility criteria, she said, "The **scheme is applicable to women in the 21 to 65 age group**. So every month, those who are 65 years old are declared ineligible. Due to this, the number of beneficiaries changes regularly."

A total of 2.52 crore eligible beneficiaries under the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana will receive their pending instalments for January and February by March 8, announced Maharashtra Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare on Wednesday.

माझी लाडकी बहिन योजना के तहत 2.52 करोड़ पात्र लाभार्थियों को जनवरी और फरवरी की लंबित किस्तें 8 मार्च तक मिलेंगी, यह घोषणा महाराष्ट्र की महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री अदिति तटकरे ने बुधवार को की।

- She clarified that **no changes have been made to the eligibility criteria** of the Mahayuti government's flagship scheme for women.

उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि महायुति सरकार की प्रमुख योजना के पात्रता मानदंडों में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है।

Discussion in the State Legislative Council

राज्य विधान परिषद में चर्चा

- The Minister shared this information while responding to a **Calling Attention Motion** in the **State Legislative Council**.

मंत्री ने यह जानकारी राज्य विधान परिषद में एक ध्यान आकर्षण प्रस्ताव (Calling Attention Motion) का जवाब देते हुए दी।

- When questioned about the **Mahayuti leaders' promise**

before the **November 2024 Assembly elections** to increase the monthly aid from **₹1,500 to ₹2,100**, Ms. Tatkare said the decision would be taken by **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CMs Ajit Pawar, and Eknath Shinde**.

जब महायुति नेताओं द्वारा नवंबर 2024 विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले ₹1,500 से ₹2,100 मासिक



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सहायता बढ़ाने के वादे के बारे में पूछा गया, तो अदिति तटकरे ने कहा कि इस पर निर्णय मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस, उपमुख्यमंत्री अजीत पवार और एकनाथ शिंदे द्वारा लिया जाएगा।

Number of Applicants and Eligibility

आवेदकों की संख्या और पात्रता

- A total of 2.63 crore women applied for benefits under the scheme, out of which 2.52 crore were found eligible.

इस योजना के तहत 2.63 करोड़ महिलाओं ने आवेदन किया, जिनमें से 2.52 करोड़ पात्र पाई गईं।

- Responding to Congress leader Satej Bunty Patil's question on the promise to increase the aid amount, she clarified that the government had not committed to increasing the amount in the first budget.

कांग्रेस नेता सतेज बंटी पाटिल के मासिक सहायता राशि बढ़ाने के वादे पर सवाल के जवाब में उन्होंने

स्पष्ट किया कि सरकार ने पहले बजट में राशि बढ़ाने का वादा नहीं किया था।

- On eligibility criteria, she stated that the scheme applies to women aged 21 to 65 years.

पात्रता मानदंडों पर बोलते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि यह योजना 21 से 65 वर्ष की महिलाओं पर लागू होती है।

- Every month, women turning 65 years old become ineligible, causing the number of beneficiaries to change regularly.

हर महीने, जो महिलाएं 65 वर्ष की हो जाती हैं, वे अयोग्य हो जाती हैं, जिससे लाभार्थियों की संख्या नियमित रूप से बदलती रहती है।

RBI names Joshi as executive director

PCS

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank said it has appointed Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director (ED) who will look after the Department of Statistics and Information Management and Financial Stability Department.

Prior to this, he was the Principal Adviser in the Department of Statistics and Information Management.

He has an over three-decade experience in the areas of statistics, information technology and cyber risk management.

RBI names Joshi as executive director

आरबीआई ने जोशी को कार्यकारी निदेशक नियुक्त किया

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director (ED).

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने अजीत रत्नाकर जोशी को कार्यकारी निदेशक (ED) नियुक्त किया।

- He will oversee the Department of Statistics and Information Management and the Financial Stability Department.

वे सांख्यिकी और सूचना प्रबंधन विभाग तथा वित्तीय स्थिरता विभाग की देखरेख करेंगे।

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- Prior to this, he served as the Principal Adviser in the Department of Statistics and Information Management.
इससे पहले, वे सांख्यिकी और सूचना प्रबंधन विभाग में प्रधान सलाहकार के रूप में कार्यरत थे।
- He has over three decades of experience in statistics, information technology, and cyber risk management.
उन्हें सांख्यिकी, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी और साइबर जोखिम प्रबंधन में 30 से अधिक वर्षों का अनुभव है।

Sharath Kamal, table tennis legend, calls it a day

WTT Star Contender in Chennai to be the last outing for the five-time Olympian

PCS

K. Keerthivasan

CHENNAI

Celebrated Indian paddler Sharath Kamal announced on Wednesday that the WTT Star Contender to be held at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here from March 25 to 30 will be his last outing.

The 10-time National champion couldn't have timed his retirement better.

Aged 42, the five-time Olympian is the highest-ranked Indian in the world at 42, a good 18 places above Manav Thakkar at 60.

And with his last International tournament in



Sharath has timed his retirement to perfection.

R. RAVINDRAN

three weeks' time at home with fans, family and friends watching him play, Sharath must feel largely content. All those who have known Sharath for a

long time will know that he has been an epitome of grace, and few would have anything negative to say about him.

Unsurpassed

His record at the Commonwealth Games is unsurpassed; a whopping 13 medals from five editions.

From winning the men's singles and men's team gold at the 2006 Games in Melbourne on his debut, to winning four medals (gold in men's singles, men's team and mixed doubles and silver in men's team events) in the 2022 Birmingham Games, Sharath, a double medallist at the Asian Games, has time and

again proved that age is just a number.

Setbacks in a long career are par for the course, and the champion has handled them with transparency and grace. More than that, Sharath has coped criticism in a manner that would be a lesson for any high-profile sportsperson.

The hip injury that he suffered in the 2015 World Championships in Suzhou, China, was one of his worst. And there were times when players and fans kept asking when he was going to retire. He braved them all and is now hanging up his boots on his own terms.

Sharath Kamal, table tennis legend, calls it a day
टेबल टेनिस के दिग्गज शरथ कमल ने संन्यास की घोषणा की



Indian table tennis star Sharath Kamal announced on Wednesday that the WTT Star Contender tournament in Chennai (March 25-30) will be his last international outing.

भारतीय टेबल टेनिस स्टार शरथ कमल ने बुधवार को घोषणा की कि चेन्नई में 25-30 मार्च को होने वाला WTT स्टार कंटेंडर टूर्नामेंट उनका आखिरी अंतरराष्ट्रीय टूर्नामेंट होगा।

- The 42-year-old player is a five-time Olympian and is currently ranked 42nd in the world, the highest-ranked Indian player.
42 वर्षीय खिलाड़ी पाँच बार ओलंपिक में भाग ले चुके हैं और वर्तमान में दुनिया में 42वें स्थान पर हैं, जो भारत के सर्वोच्च रैंकिंग वाले खिलाड़ी हैं।
- His last tournament will be played at home, in front of fans, family, and friends, making it a memorable farewell.
उनका अंतिम टूर्नामेंट अपने देश में होगा, जहाँ प्रशंसक, परिवार और मित्र मौजूद रहेंगे, जिससे यह एक यादगार विदाई बनेगी।

Unmatched Commonwealth Games Record

असाधारण कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स रिकॉर्ड

- Sharath Kamal holds a record 13 medals in five Commonwealth Games editions.
शरथ कमल ने पाँच कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स में कुल 13 पदक जीते हैं, जो एक असाधारण उपलब्धि है।
- He won gold medals in men's singles and men's team events at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, marking a historic debut.
उन्होंने 2006 मेलबर्न कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स में पुरुष सिंगल्स और पुरुष टीम इवेंट में स्वर्ण पदक जीते, जो एक ऐतिहासिक शुरुआत थी।
- In the 2022 Birmingham Games, he won four medals:
2022 बर्मिंघम गेम्स में उन्होंने चार पदक जीते:
 - Gold in men's singles
पुरुष सिंगल्स में स्वर्ण पदक
 - Gold in men's team event
पुरुष टीम इवेंट में स्वर्ण पदक
 - Gold in mixed doubles
मिक्स्ट डबल्स में स्वर्ण पदक
 - Silver in men's doubles
पुरुष डबल्स में रजत पदक
- He is also a two-time Asian Games medalist, proving that age is just a number in sports.



वह दो बार एशियाई खेलों के पदक विजेता भी रह चुके हैं, जिससे यह साबित होता है कि खेल में उम्र सिर्फ एक संख्या है।

Overcoming Setbacks with Grace

संकटों को धैर्य से पार किया

- Throughout his long career, **Sharath Kamal** faced multiple setbacks but handled them with grace.
अपने लंबे करियर में, शरथ कमल ने कई कठिनाइयों का सामना किया लेकिन उन्हें धैर्यपूर्वक पार किया।
- He suffered a **serious hip injury** at the 2015 World Championships in Suzhou, China, one of the **biggest challenges** of his career.
उन्होंने 2015 में सूझौ, चीन में हुई विश्व चैंपियनशिप में गंभीर कूल्हे की चोट झेली, जो उनके करियर की सबसे कठिन चुनौतियों में से एक थी।
- Over the years, **many people questioned his retirement**, but he proved his critics wrong by **continuing to play** at the highest level.
वर्षों तक, कई लोगों ने उनके संन्यास को लेकर सवाल उठाए, लेकिन उन्होंने उच्चतम स्तर पर खेलते हुए अपने आलोचकों को गलत साबित किया।

Now, he is retiring on his own terms, after achieving **great success** for Indian table tennis.

अब, वह अपनी शर्तों पर संन्यास ले रहे हैं, और भारतीय टेबल टेनिस में महान सफलता प्राप्त करने के बाद खेल को अलविदा कह रहे हैं।