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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
(07 MARCH 2025)

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07_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. J&K govt. to promote Bangus Valley near LoC for ecotourism

जम्मू और कश्मीर सरकार एलओसी के पास बंगस वैली को ईकोटूरिज्म के लिए बढ़ावा देगी

2. Women in Corporate Leadership, the Lived Reality

कॉर्पोरेट नेतृत्व में महिलाएँ: वास्तविकता

3. How 'Chhaava' Erases History and Leaves No Room for Complexity

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कैसे 'छावा' इतिहास को मिटाता है और जटिलता के लिए कोई जगह नहीं छोड़ता

J&K govt. to promote Bangus Valley near LoC for ecotourism

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

GS Paper I:
Geography

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday announced a new set of rules for Bangus, a far-off tourist spot near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir, in a bid to promote it as an ecotourism destination.

The decision comes in the wake of unplanned and uncontrolled growth in the traditional tourist hotspots of Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg.

CM's announcement

"To maintain ecological balance, the department concerned has focused on avoiding construction of massive buildings and hotels. The aim would be to develop the area as an ecotourism destination," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in the Assembly.



New destination: Tourists waiting for a hot air balloon ride at the Bangus Valley. FILE PHOTO

He said the government will focus on creating basic recreation facilities, rain shelters, public conveniences, signages, lighting, and waste disposal facilities for visitors.

Bangus lies close to the

LoC in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. After Gurez, Machil and Keran, Bangus is one more addition to the list of tourist spots near the LoC.

Once a militant infiltration route, Bangus is

around 100 km away from Srinagar, with two bowl-shaped valleys perched at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

Work on the basic facilities, according to Mr. Abdullah, would be undertaken after the Deputy

Commissioner, Kupwara, identifies land parcels in consultation with the Forest department. "Once the land parcels are identified, the necessary permissions and no-objection certificates shall be sought on the Parivesh Portal for forest clearance," Mr. Abdullah said.

Guest houses

To safeguard the livelihood of local shepherds, nomads, and other inhabitants of the Valley, Mr. Abdullah said, the J&K Tourism Department had initiated the process of registering paying guest houses in the area. "This will help preserve and promote local culture, traditions, and cuisine, and will be an immersive travel experience for tourists," he added.

At present, 19 paying guest houses in the prox-

imity of the Bangus Valley are registered with the Department of Tourism, Kashmir.

Fresh measures

The fresh measures towards ecotourism are being taken as record number of tourists are visiting the Valley, leading to uncontrolled constructions in the favourite tourist places of Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg, posing a threat to the environment.

Officials told the J&K Assembly that notices were issued against 269 unauthorised constructions in Pahalgam over the past two years.

"The Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) has been conducting demolition drives whenever necessary to curb illegal construction activities in the area," the government told the House.

J&K govt. to promote Bangus Valley near LoC for ecotourism

जम्मू और कश्मीर सरकार एलओसी के पास बंगस वैली को ईकोटूरिज्म के लिए बढ़ावा देगी

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday announced a new set of rules for Bangus, a far-off tourist spot near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir, to promote it as an ecotourism destination.

जम्मू और कश्मीर सरकार ने गुरुवार को बंगस के लिए नए नियमों की घोषणा की, जो



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उत्तर कश्मीर में नियंत्रण रेखा (LoC) के पास स्थित एक दूरस्थ पर्यटन स्थल है, जिससे इसे ईकोटूरिज्म गंतव्य के रूप में विकसित किया जा सके।

- This decision follows **unplanned and uncontrolled growth** in traditional tourist hotspots like **Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg**.
यह निर्णय पहलगाम, गुलमर्ग और सोनमर्ग जैसे पारंपरिक पर्यटन स्थलों में अनियोजित और अनियंत्रित विकास को ध्यान में रखते हुए लिया गया है।

CM's Announcement

मुख्यमंत्री की घोषणा

- "To maintain ecological balance, the concerned department will **avoid massive building and hotel construction**. The goal is to develop the area as an **ecotourism destination**," said **Chief Minister Omar Abdullah** in the **Assembly**.
"पारिस्थितिक संतुलन बनाए रखने के लिए संबंधित विभाग बड़े भवनों और होटलों के निर्माण से बचने पर ध्यान देगा। लक्ष्य इस क्षेत्र को ईकोटूरिज्म गंतव्य के रूप में विकसित करना है," मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला ने विधानसभा में कहा।
- The government will focus on creating **basic recreation facilities, rain shelters, public conveniences, signages, lighting, and waste disposal facilities** for visitors.
सरकार मूलभूत मनोरंजन सुविधाएं, वर्षा शरण स्थल, सार्वजनिक सुविधाएं, संकेतक, प्रकाश व्यवस्था और कचरा निपटान सुविधाएं विकसित करने पर ध्यान देगी।
- **Bangus** lies close to the **LoC** in north Kashmir's **Kupwara district**.
बंगस उत्तर कश्मीर के कुपवाड़ा जिले में नियंत्रण रेखा (LoC) के पास स्थित है।
- After **Gurez, Machil, and Keran**, **Bangus** is another addition to the list of **tourist spots near the LoC**.
गुरेज, माछिल और केरन के बाद, बंगस नियंत्रण रेखा के पास पर्यटन स्थलों की सूची में एक और नाम जुड़ गया है।



- Once a **militant infiltration route**, Bangus is located about **100 km from Srinagar**, featuring **two bowl-shaped valleys** at an altitude of **10,000 feet**.
कभी आतंकियों की घुसपैठ का मार्ग रहा बंगस, श्रीनगर से लगभग 100 किमी दूर स्थित है, जिसमें 10,000 फीट की ऊँचाई पर दो कटोरीनुमा घाटियां हैं।
- Work on **basic facilities** will begin after the **Deputy Commissioner of Kupwara** identifies **land parcels in consultation with the Forest Department**.
मूलभूत सुविधाओं पर काम तब शुरू होगा जब कुपवाड़ा के उपायुक्त वन विभाग के परामर्श से भूमि क्षेत्रों की पहचान करेंगे।
- Once land parcels are identified, necessary permissions and no-objection certificates (NOCs) shall be sought on the **Parivesh Portal for forest clearance**," said **Mr. Abdullah**.
"भूमि क्षेत्रों की पहचान के बाद, पर्यावरण मंजूरी के लिए आवश्यक अनुमति और अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र (NOC) परिवेश पोर्टल पर मांगे जाएंगे," श्री अब्दुल्ला ने कहा।

Guest Houses

गेस्ट हाउस

- To **safeguard the livelihood of local shepherds, nomads, and other inhabitants** of the Valley, **Mr. Abdullah** said that the **J&K Tourism Department** had initiated the process of **registering paying guest houses** in the area.
स्थानीय चरवाहों, घुमंतू लोगों और अन्य निवासियों की आजीविका की सुरक्षा के लिए, श्री अब्दुल्ला ने कहा कि जम्मू और कश्मीर पर्यटन विभाग ने इस क्षेत्र में पेड गेस्ट हाउस पंजीकरण की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है।
- "This will help **preserve and promote local culture, traditions, and cuisine** and will be an **immersive travel experience** for tourists," he added.
"यह स्थानीय संस्कृति, परंपराओं और भोजन को संरक्षित और बढ़ावा देने में मदद करेगा और पर्यटकों के लिए एक गहरे अनुभव वाला यात्रा अवसर बनेगा," उन्होंने कहा।
- At present, **19 paying guest houses** in the proximity of **Bangus Valley** are **registered** with the **Department of Tourism, Kashmir**.
वर्तमान में, बंगस वैली के आसपास 19 पेड गेस्ट हाउस कश्मीर पर्यटन विभाग में पंजीकृत हैं।



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Fresh Measures

नए कदम

- The **fresh measures** towards **ecotourism** are being taken as a **record number of tourists** are visiting the Valley, leading to **uncontrolled constructions** in **Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg**, which pose a **threat to the environment**.
ईकोटूरिज्म की दिशा में नए कदम इसलिए उठाए जा रहे हैं क्योंकि घाटी में रिकॉर्ड संख्या में पर्यटक आ रहे हैं, जिससे पहलगाम, गुलमर्ग और सोनमर्ग में अनियंत्रित निर्माण हो रहा है, जो पर्यावरण के लिए खतरा है।
- **Officials** told the **J&K Assembly** that **notices were issued against 269 unauthorised constructions** in **Pahalgam** over the past **two years**.
अधिकारियों ने जम्मू और कश्मीर विधानसभा को बताया कि पिछले दो वर्षों में पहलगाम में 269 अवैध निर्माणों के खिलाफ नोटिस जारी किए गए।
- “The **Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA)** has been conducting **demolition drives** whenever necessary to **curb illegal construction activities** in the area,” the government told the House.
सरकार ने सदन को बताया कि पहलगाम विकास प्राधिकरण (PDA) ने इस क्षेत्र में अवैध निर्माण गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिए जरूरत पड़ने पर विध्वंस अभियान चलाए हैं।

Pahalgam (पहलगाम)

- **Location:** Anantnag district, Jammu & Kashmir (अनंतनाग जिला, जम्मू और कश्मीर)
- **Elevation:** 2,740 meters above sea level (2,740 मीटर समुद्र तल से ऊपर)
- **Coordinates:** 34.01°N 75.19°E
- **Distance from Srinagar:** 95 km (95 किमी श्रीनगर से दूरी)
- **Climate:** Cold in winters, pleasant in summers (सर्दियों में ठंडा, गर्मियों में सुहावना)

Importance and Features | महत्व और विशेषताएँ

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- **Base camp for Amarnath Yatra (अमरनाथ यात्रा का आधार शिविर)** – Pahalgam serves as one of the starting points for the **Amarnath Yatra (अमरनाथ यात्रा)**, a significant Hindu pilgrimage.
- **Lidder River (लिद्दर नदी)** – A major attraction, providing opportunities for **fishing and rafting (मछली पकड़ने और राफ्टिंग के अवसर)**.
- **Betaab Valley (बेताब घाटी)** – Named after the Bollywood film "Betaab" (1983), known for its picturesque views.
- **Aru Valley (अरू घाटी)** – Famous for trekking and adventure activities.
- **Shepherds Village (गडसर झील और चरवाहों का गाँव)** – Known for the nomadic **Bakarwal and Gujjar tribes (बकरवाल और गूजर जनजाति)**.



2. Gulmarg (गुलमर्ग)

Basic Information | बुनियादी जानकारी

- **Location:** Baramulla district, Jammu & Kashmir (बारामूला जिला, जम्मू और कश्मीर)
- **Elevation:** 2,650 meters above sea level (2,650 मीटर समुद्र तल से ऊपर)
- **Coordinates:** 34.05°N 74.38°E
- **Distance from Srinagar:** 50 km (50 किमी श्रीनगर से दूरी)
- **Climate:** Snowfall in winters, pleasant summers (सर्दियों में बर्फबारी, गर्मियों में सुहावना मौसम)

Importance and Features | महत्व और विशेषताएँ

- **Skiing and Snowboarding (स्कीइंग और स्नोबोर्डिंग)** – Gulmarg is one of India's best **skiing destinations (स्कीइंग स्थलों में से एक)**.



- **Gulmarg Gondola (गुलमर्ग गोंडोला)** – One of the highest cable cars in the world (दुनिया की सबसे ऊँची केबल कारों में से एक), reaching up to 4,000 meters (4,000 मीटर तक ऊँचाई पर).
- **Alpather Lake (अल्पाथर झील)** – A high-altitude lake that remains frozen for most of the year.
- **Maharaja Palace (महाराजा पैलेस)** – Built by the Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir (जम्मू और कश्मीर के महाराजा द्वारा निर्मित).

3. Sonamarg (सोनमर्ग)

- **Location:** Ganderbal district, Jammu & Kashmir (गांदरबल जिला, जम्मू और कश्मीर)
- **Elevation:** 2,730 meters above sea level (2,730 मीटर समुद्र तल से ऊपर)
- **Coordinates:** 34.30°N 75.30°E
- **Distance from Srinagar:** 80 km (80 किमी श्रीनगर से दूरी)
- **Climate:** Cold in winters, cool in summers (सर्दियों में ठंडा, गर्मियों में ठंडा मौसम)

Importance and Features | महत्व और विशेषताएँ

- **Gateway to Ladakh (लद्दाख का प्रवेश द्वार)** – Sonamarg is a crucial stop for travelers heading towards Leh and Ladakh (लेह और लद्दाख के लिए महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव).
- **Thajiwass Glacier (थाजिवास ग्लेशियर)** – A major attraction offering trekking and sledging opportunities (ट्रेकिंग और स्लेजिंग के अवसर).
- **Baltal (बालटाल)** – Another route for the Amarnath Yatra (अमरनाथ यात्रा के लिए दूसरा मार्ग).
- **Krishansar and Vishansar Lakes (कृष्णसर और विष्णसर झीलें)** – Known for their serene beauty and trout fishing (सुंदरता और ट्राउट मछली पकड़ने के लिए प्रसिद्ध).



In the run-up to International Women's Day, commentaries on some of the key issues in the gender space, in the print and online editions

Women in corporate leadership, the lived reality

GS Paper I: Society

Once again, the world will celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2025 and companies will attempt to showcase steps taken toward the inclusion and the increase of women in the workforce. Yet, the lived reality of women in or trying to enter the corporate workforce is starkly different.

The recent instance of rolling back diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programmes in the United States federal government, which also encourages the private sector to end DEI preference hirings, highlights the challenges and the barriers to increasing women's participation in the workforce. Women, who comprise 48% of corporate America's workforce, are reeling from the aftershock of this order and are now facing the threat of identity erasure.

A ripple effect

It may be easy to brush aside this order as an issue that plagues only the United States. However, the effects of a dip in DEI hirings and women's exclusion can have severe repercussions in all parts of today's globally connected world. Regardless of where one is situated globally, conversations relating to the participation of women in the corporate workforce are significant.

While DEI may simply be a corporate mechanism to make small inroads into women participation in the workforce, especially at an entry level, at present, even such an entry mechanism has not really increased women's participation in leadership roles. For instance, in India, women have been historically marginalised from the workforce and comprise about 35.9% of the worker population ratio; the number is starker at the senior and middle management levels where women account for only 12.7% leadership roles as of 2024.

It is easy to brush aside DEI as being a fabricated gesture of tokenism, where women placed in companies are viewed as suzerainty or an obligation rather than finding a way at the table on their own merit. Of course, while DEI may help women make an in-road into leadership roles in companies and have a semblance of a level playing field, their performance and ability to consolidate their position will depend on their



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Policy changes in the United States highlight the challenges and the barriers to increasing women's participation in the corporate workforce; these have global relevance

own performance and further normalise the presence of women at all levels of the workforce.

The effect of legal mandates

Over the past decade, Indian legal mandates can be credited to help increase the presence of women in the corporate workforce especially at the senior level. In 2014, the Companies Act, 2013 mandated that at-least one-woman director should be placed on the board of certain class of public limited companies, and in 2015, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandated that at least one independent woman director be appointed to the board of India's top 1000 listed companies. Thus, it is largely due to a legal mandate that companies are attempting to uphold best practices of gender diversity. The inclusion of women directors on the board of NSE 500 listed companies has increased more than threefold, from 5% in 2011 to 18% in 2023.

Research across the world finds that organisations also greatly benefit from women in leadership roles. At a fundamental level, the presence of women increases the depth of the talent pool available in the workforce. Women provide informational diversity gained from different educational and career trajectories and distinct social and professional network associations and offer a participative, democratic leadership style that stimulates robust discussion, drives a richer challenge and delivers greater value. Additionally, women tend to focus on relationship building, foster greater stakeholder commitment and assist in formulating strategies that address stakeholder concerns while also overseeing better monitoring, broader human capital management, and communication channels which increase corporate accountability and reduce corporate risks.

When companies have more women in senior management and leadership roles, they begin to appear on lists of the most admired and ethical companies, best companies to work for, and best corporate citizens, thereby also serving the agenda of companies from an optics perspective and feeding into a virtuous cycle of benefits.

Key identified areas where women leaders bring greater dividends are corporate

governance, strategic proposition oversight, risk management, shareholder and stakeholder value, gender and society, and environmental responsibility, all of which are important facets of running an efficient and clean corporate ship which contributes to economic parity.

What real change is

While token participation of women in companies may be a way out for some companies to demonstrate commitment towards gender

diversity in the workplace, women are truly effective corporate leaders when they are given actual power and responsibility and not merely appointed to positions as a token for gender diversity or to serve the agenda of their male benefactors. It is only when a greater number of

C-Suite/KMPs (top-level executives in an organisation and Key Managerial Personnel, or KMPs) are women, and, in addition, more independent directors and chairpersons of committees of the board and board committees are women, that they are truly effective corporate leaders. Importantly, the remuneration of women that is at parity with their male counterparts is a key indicator that women's presence in the corporate workforce is real and robust.

While we do have a lot to celebrate on the occasion of Women's Day this year, it is important to keep in mind that there are still significant steps that companies and regulators must take in order to ensure that women's participation in the corporate workforce, especially in senior leadership roles, is strong, contributes meaningfully toward corporate governance and is not just a token concept that is aimed at gaining brownie points from stakeholders. Women's participation in the workforce must be promoted for its many benefits and must not fall victim to the dominant political narrative.

End note: The issue of women in the corporate workforce, especially on company boards, is of great significance and merits deep research into various facets. Thought Arbitrage is undertaking such a study which maps the patterns of women on corporate boards by using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies over a 10-year period, involving about 1,000 companies.



Women in Corporate Leadership, the Lived Reality

कॉर्पोरेट नेतृत्व में महिलाएँ: वास्तविकता

Once again, the world will celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2025, and companies will attempt to showcase steps taken toward the inclusion and increase of women in the workforce.

एक बार फिर, दुनिया 8 मार्च 2025 को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस मनाएगी, और कंपनियाँ महिलाओं की भागीदारी और संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों को प्रदर्शित करने का प्रयास करेंगी।



- Yet, the **lived reality** of women in or trying to enter the **corporate workforce** is starkly different.
फिर भी, कॉर्पोरेट कार्यबल में कार्यरत या उसमें प्रवेश करने की कोशिश कर रही महिलाओं की वास्तविकता बिल्कुल अलग है।
- The recent rollback of **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programmes** in the **United States federal government**, which also encourages the private sector to end **DEI preference hirings**, highlights the **challenges and barriers** to increasing women's participation.
हाल ही में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की संघीय सरकार द्वारा विविधता, समानता और समावेशन (DEI) कार्यक्रमों को वापस लेने और निजी क्षेत्र को DEI प्राथमिकता भर्ती समाप्त करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने से महिलाओं की भागीदारी बढ़ाने में चुनौतियाँ और बाधाएँ उजागर हुई हैं।
- **Women comprise 48% of corporate America's workforce** and are reeling from the aftershock of this order, now facing the threat of **identity erasure**.
महिलाएँ अमेरिका के कॉर्पोरेट कार्यबल का 48% हिस्सा हैं, लेकिन इस आदेश के प्रभाव से वे पहचान मिटने के खतरे का सामना कर रही हैं।

A Ripple Effect

एक व्यापक प्रभाव

- It may be easy to brush aside this order as an issue **only affecting the United States**.
इसे केवल संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका से संबंधित मुद्दा मानकर नज़रअंदाज करना आसान हो सकता है।
- However, a dip in **DEI hirings** and **women's exclusion** can have **severe repercussions** in today's **globally connected world**.
हालांकि, DEI भर्तियों में कमी और महिलाओं को बाहर करना आज की वैश्विक रूप से जुड़े विश्व में गंभीर प्रभाव डाल सकता है।
- Regardless of location, **conversations about women's participation in the corporate workforce** are significant.
स्थान की परवाह किए बिना, कॉर्पोरेट कार्यबल में महिलाओं की भागीदारी पर चर्चा महत्वपूर्ण है।
- While **DEI** may be a mechanism to create **small inroads** for women, it has **not significantly increased leadership roles** for women.



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हालाँकि DEI महिलाओं के लिए छोटे स्तर पर अवसर प्रदान करने का माध्यम हो सकता है, लेकिन इसने महिलाओं की नेतृत्व भूमिकाओं में वृद्धि नहीं की है।

- **In India, women have been historically marginalized in the workforce and comprise only 35.9% of the worker population ratio.**
भारत में, महिलाएँ कार्यबल में ऐतिहासिक रूप से हाशिए पर रही हैं, और वे कुल कार्यबल जनसंख्या का केवल 35.9% हिस्सा हैं।
- **At the senior and middle management levels, women account for only 12.7% of leadership roles as of 2024.**
वरिष्ठ और मध्यम प्रबंधन स्तरों पर, 2024 तक महिलाओं की नेतृत्व भूमिकाओं में भागीदारी केवल 12.7% है।
- **DEI is often dismissed as tokenism, where women in companies are seen as an obligation rather than on their own merit.**
DEI को अक्सर सांकेतिक प्रयास मानकर नज़रअंदाज कर दिया जाता है, जहाँ कंपनियों में महिलाओं को उनकी योग्यता के बजाय एक बाध्यता के रूप में देखा जाता है।
- **While DEI can help women enter leadership roles, their performance and ability will determine their consolidation and acceptance in the workforce.**
हालाँकि DEI महिलाओं को नेतृत्व भूमिकाओं में प्रवेश करने में मदद कर सकता है, लेकिन कार्यबल में उनकी स्थिरता और स्वीकार्यता उनके प्रदर्शन और क्षमता पर निर्भर करेगी।

The Effect of Legal Mandates

कानूनी नियमों का प्रभाव

- Over the past decade, **Indian legal mandates** have helped increase the presence of **women in the corporate workforce**, especially at the **senior level**.
पिछले दशक में, भारतीय कानूनी नियमों ने कॉर्पोरेट कार्यबल में महिलाओं की उपस्थिति बढ़ाने में मदद की है, विशेष रूप से वरिष्ठ स्तर पर।
- **In 2014, the Companies Act, 2013** mandated that at least **one woman director** should be placed on the **board of certain public limited companies**.
2014 में, कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 के तहत यह अनिवार्य किया गया कि कुछ सार्वजनिक लिमिटेड कंपनियों के बोर्ड में कम से कम एक महिला निदेशक होनी चाहिए।



- In 2015, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** mandated that at least **one independent woman director** be appointed to the **board of India's top 1000 listed companies**.
2015 में, भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड (SEBI) ने यह अनिवार्य किया कि भारत की शीर्ष 1000 सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों के बोर्ड में कम से कम एक स्वतंत्र महिला निदेशक हो।
- Due to these **legal mandates**, companies are attempting to uphold **best practices of gender diversity**.
इन कानूनी नियमों के कारण, कंपनियाँ लिंग विविधता की सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं को अपनाने का प्रयास कर रही हैं।
- The inclusion of **women directors** on the **board of NSE 500 listed companies** has increased more than **threefold**, from **5% in 2011 to 18% in 2023**.
NSE 500 सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों के बोर्ड में महिला निदेशकों की भागीदारी 2011 में 5% से बढ़कर 2023 में 18% हो गई है।

Benefits of Women in Leadership

नेतृत्व में महिलाओं के लाभ

- **Research** shows that organizations greatly **benefit** from women in **leadership roles**.
अनुसंधान दर्शाता है कि संगठनों को नेतृत्व भूमिकाओं में महिलाओं से काफी लाभ होता है।
- The presence of **women** increases the **depth of the talent pool** available in the **workforce**.
महिलाओं की उपस्थिति कार्यबल में उपलब्ध प्रतिभा के दायरे को बढ़ाती है।
- Women bring **informational diversity** from **different educational and career backgrounds**.
महिलाएँ विभिन्न शैक्षिक और व्यावसायिक पृष्ठभूमियों से सूचनात्मक विविधता लाती हैं।
- They offer a **participative and democratic leadership style**, which promotes **robust discussions** and leads to **greater value** for organizations.
वे सहभागी और लोकतांत्रिक नेतृत्व शैली प्रदान करती हैं, जो गहन चर्चाओं को प्रोत्साहित करता है और



संगठनों के लिए अधिक मूल्य उत्पन्न करता है।

- Women focus on **relationship building**, foster **greater stakeholder commitment**, and help in **strategy formulation** while improving **corporate accountability** and **risk management**.
महिलाएँ संबंध निर्माण पर ध्यान देती हैं, हितधारकों की प्रतिबद्धता बढ़ाती हैं और रणनीति निर्माण में मदद करती हैं, जिससे कॉर्पोरेट जवाबदेही और जोखिम प्रबंधन में सुधार होता है।
- Companies with **more women in senior management** are often listed among the **most admired, ethical companies, and best workplaces**.
जिन कंपनियों में वरिष्ठ प्रबंधन में अधिक महिलाएँ होती हैं, वे अक्सर सबसे प्रशंसित, नैतिक कंपनियों और सर्वश्रेष्ठ कार्यस्थलों की सूची में आती हैं।
- **Key areas where women leaders bring benefits** include **corporate governance, risk management, shareholder value, gender equity, and environmental responsibility**.
महिला नेताओं के प्रमुख लाभकारी क्षेत्र हैं कॉर्पोरेट प्रशासन, जोखिम प्रबंधन, शेयरधारक मूल्य, लैंगिक समानता और पर्यावरणीय उत्तरदायित्व।

What Real Change Is वास्तविक परिवर्तन क्या है

- **Token participation** of women in companies may be a way for companies to **showcase gender diversity**, but real leadership comes from **actual power and responsibility**.
कंपनियों में महिलाओं की सांकेतिक भागीदारी लैंगिक विविधता प्रदर्शित करने का एक तरीका हो सकता है, लेकिन वास्तविक नेतृत्व वास्तविक शक्ति और जिम्मेदारी से आता है।
- Women are **truly effective corporate leaders** when they are not just **appointed for diversity**, but are given **decision-making power**.
महिलाएँ वास्तव में प्रभावी कॉर्पोरेट नेता तब बनती हैं जब उन्हें केवल विविधता के लिए नियुक्त नहीं किया जाता, बल्कि निर्णय लेने की शक्ति दी जाती है।
- A greater number of **C-Suite/KMPs (top executives and key managerial personnel)** need to be **women** for real change to happen.
C-Suite/KMPs (शीर्ष अधिकारी और प्रमुख प्रबंधकीय कर्मचारी) में महिलाओं की संख्या अधिक होनी



चाहिए ताकि वास्तविक परिवर्तन हो सके।

- More **women independent directors and chairpersons** on boards will ensure their **impactful presence** in corporate leadership.
अधिक महिला स्वतंत्र निदेशक और अध्यक्ष बोर्ड में होने से कॉर्पोरेट नेतृत्व में उनका प्रभाव सुनिश्चित होगा।
- **Equal remuneration** for women compared to their **male counterparts** is a **key indicator** of real and robust participation.
महिलाओं के लिए पुरुष समकक्षों के समान वेतन वास्तविक और मजबूत भागीदारी का एक प्रमुख संकेतक है।
- While there is **much to celebrate** on **Women's Day**, companies and regulators must take **significant steps** to ensure that **women in senior leadership roles** contribute **meaningfully** rather than being a **token presence**.
महिला दिवस पर बहुत कुछ जश्न मनाने के लिए है, लेकिन कंपनियों और नियामकों को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाने होंगे कि वरिष्ठ नेतृत्व भूमिकाओं में महिलाएँ केवल सांकेतिक उपस्थिति न बनें, बल्कि अर्थपूर्ण योगदान दें।
- Women's **workforce participation** must be **promoted for its benefits** rather than being influenced by **political narratives**.
महिलाओं की कार्यबल में भागीदारी को इसके लाभों के लिए बढ़ावा दिया जाना चाहिए, न कि राजनीतिक कथाओं के प्रभाव में।

End Note

अंतिम टिप्पणी

- The issue of **women in the corporate workforce**, especially on **company boards**, is of **great significance** and requires **deep research**.
कॉर्पोरेट कार्यबल में महिलाओं की भागीदारी, विशेष रूप से कंपनी बोर्ड में, बेहद महत्वपूर्ण विषय है और इसके लिए गहन शोध आवश्यक है।
- **Thought Arbitrage** is conducting a **10-year study** involving **1,000 companies**, mapping patterns of **women on corporate boards** using **qualitative and quantitative research**.



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शॉट आर्बिट्राज एक 10-वर्षीय अध्ययन कर रहा है, जिसमें 1,000 कंपनियाँ शामिल हैं, जो कॉर्पोरेट बोर्ड में महिलाओं के पैटर्न को गुणात्मक और मात्रात्मक शोध के माध्यम से मैप कर रहा है।

How 'Chhaava' erases history and leaves no room for complexity

When history in cinema becomes merely a tool to evoke anger, disgust and hatred, it robs us from understanding history in all its complexity. Chhaava's world of Hindus versus Muslims/Indians versus foreigners is far from the real 17th century

GS Paper I: History

Nissim Mannathukkaren

After watching the latest Bollywood blockbuster *Chhaava*, a viewer in Gujarat tore the cinema screen angered by the torture inflicted by Aurangzeb on Sambhaji. Multiple videos of viewers, including children, crying and shouting slogans, after watching the film, have been circulating on social media. Any film that devotes the final 40 of a total 136 minutes, to a brutal depiction of torture is already suspect with its sense of aesthetics.

Chhaava does have the laudable goal of setting the historical record straight about Sambhaji as a great warrior and administrator against biased accounts. But it becomes harmful national-level propaganda when it is fixated on the good Hindu versus the bad Muslim binary, skips some incontrovertible facts, and is in complete sync with the ruling party's ideology. Thus, it joins the cohort of over 20 blatant propaganda films made recently such as *The Kashmir Files*, *The Kerala Story*, *The Vaccine War*, *Article 370*, *Bastar - The Naxal Story*, *Swatantrya Veer Savarkar*, *JNU: Jahangir National University*, *The Sabarmati Report* and *Samrat Prithviraj*. And *Chhaava*, like some others, was endorsed by the Prime Minister and other Ministers, and made tax-free in certain BJP-ruled States.

Hindu vs Muslim binary

Chhaava's world is one in which the relentless quest to expose the evilness of the Muslim Aurangzeb makes it omit that he came to power on the basis of support from the Rajputs; that his administration had the highest percentage of Hindu Mansabdars in Mughal history (33%); that it also had Hindus in the posts of the Dewan and as heads of two important

provinces; and that the emperor who imposed the Jizya (but exempted it for Brahmins, Rajputs, women, the elderly, etc.) protected some temples just as he demolished others, according to some historians.

This, of course, does not make Aurangzeb tolerant, only that his orthodoxy had to accommodate political pragmatism. While secularist historians emphasise this political pragmatism, Samira Sheikh shows how Aurangzeb's Sunni bigotry arguably persecuted Shia and other Islamic millenarian groups such as the Mahdavis, Dawoodi Bohras and Sufis more than the Hindus. This persecution had an economic side too – the rising prosperity of these "heretic" groups drew the ire of Aurangzeb's Sunni clerics who had business motives as well.

Of course, these complexities/debates cannot be a part of *Chhaava*'s world in which the quest for Maratha "Swaraj" under Sambhaji is suffused with Hindu imagery and is presented as liberating India from "foreign rule." Actually, the Mughals had already lived in India for over 150 years then. Historian Stewart Gordon argues that Chhatrapati Shivaji, who championed tolerance and syncretism, and who had beseeched Aurangzeb to follow Akbar's tolerance, was not advocating nationalism or the cause of a "universal Hindu rule." Shivaji, too, had a substantial number of Muslims in his administration, including top military commanders.

No room for nuance

Chhaava's world of Hindus versus Muslims/Indians versus foreigners is far from the real 17th century in which there were multiple states and emerging European powers, with various cross-cutting alliances and rivalries between them. A strong coastal power

was the Sidis of Janjira, who were African Muslims, while the Peshwa of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate for 26 years was the legendary military general Malik Ambar, an Ethiopian slave. Shivaji (and his father) were a part of the Adil Shahi rule of Bijapur. Even when he rebelled and carved out his own kingdom, he allied with them, the Qutb Shahis of Golconda and even the Mughals, and sometimes against Hindu kingdoms like the Nayaks of the Karnatic. Similarly, Sambhaji, too, allied with Muslim Sultanates against Hindu kings like Chikka Devaraja of Mysore.

Chhaava's central narrative of Aurangzeb's evilness would be diluted of its shock value if the film showed that Sambhaji himself had rebelled against his father Shivaji and had briefly joined the same evil Aurangzeb! While *Chhaava*, unlike other propaganda films, does show aberrations in the 'good Hindu' narrative by showing some Hindu traitors, including in his own family, all the Kohl-lined Muslims are universally bad.

In positing Aurangzeb's torture as exceptional, what *Chhaava*'s world elides is the brutal nature of the medieval world with daily wars. States, including the Marathas, were built through consolidation, as well as through the violent subjugation of Hindu (and Muslim) landed nobles (deshmukhs, jagirdars, etc.) who were constantly shifting allegiances between states for better material/symbolic benefits. Internecine conflict between family members, just like among the Mughals, was rife: Shivaji battled his half-brother Ekoji, and so did Sambhaji's son with other contenders. When the film shows the failed plot to poison Sambhaji on behalf of his half-brother Rajaram, where 20 key Maratha ministers and elites are executed, it only hints at the violence by the

trampling of elephants. When Sambhaji's Marathas attack Goa, a Portuguese account (cited by historian Jadunath Sarkar) says, "up to now nowhere else in India has such barbarity been seen..." While such narratives have to be treated carefully, what it shows was that violence was pervasive, even if degrees varied.

Ignoring caste

Critically, *Chhaava*'s Hindu-Muslim binary glosses over caste. It was the lowest castes and the poor who faced the worst forms of oppression across Hindu and Muslim states. In the 1818 Battle of Koregaon, the East India Company forces, with the Dalit Mahars in it, defeated the Peshwa-led Maratha confederacy. It became a symbol of caste resistance for Ambedkar and the Dalits. The film is also ironical considering that the Maharashtra non-Brahman movement had contended for long that the demonisation of Sambhaji as weak, incompetent and morally deficient was perpetuated by Brahmin narratives. This was also repeated by Hindutva ideologues like Savarkar and Golwalkar. The film has led to new Maratha versus Brahmin sentiments.

The world of *Chhaava*, like many other propaganda history films, is governed by present-day predilections in which a majoritarian nationalism is rampant, with the national audience further reinforcing it. When history in cinema becomes merely a tool to evoke anger, disgust and hatred, it robs us from understanding history in all its complexity. When history textbooks are being rewritten, and when people read history mostly through WhatsApp forwards, films like *Chhaava* with their erasures portend a dangerous tendency.

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How 'Chhaava' Erases History and Leaves No Room for Complexity

कैसे 'छावा' इतिहास को मिटाता है और जटिलता के लिए कोई जगह नहीं छोड़ता

When history in cinema is used merely to evoke anger, disgust, and hatred, it prevents us from understanding historical complexities.

जब सिनेमा में इतिहास केवल गुस्सा, घृणा और आक्रोश भड़काने के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है, तो यह हमें इतिहास की जटिलताओं को समझने से वंचित कर देता है।

- Chhaava's depiction of Hindus vs. Muslims or Indians vs. Foreigners does not align with the real 17th century historical context.
छावा में हिंदू बनाम मुस्लिम या भारतीय बनाम विदेशी का जो चित्रण किया गया है, वह वास्तविक 17वीं सदी के इतिहास से मेल नहीं खाता।

Public Reactions and Cinematic Aesthetics

जन प्रतिक्रिया और सिनेमा की सौंदर्य दृष्टि

- After watching Chhaava, a viewer in Gujarat tore the cinema screen in anger due to the depiction of Aurangzeb's torture of Sambhaji.
गुजरात में छावा देखने के बाद, एक दर्शक ने सिनेमा स्क्रीन फाड़ दी, क्योंकि फिल्म में औरंगजेब द्वारा संभाजी पर किए गए अत्याचार को दिखाया गया था।
- Videos of emotional viewers, including children crying and shouting slogans, have gone viral on social media.
दर्शकों के भावनात्मक वीडियो, जिनमें बच्चों का रोना और नारे लगाना शामिल है, सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल हो गए हैं।
- The film devotes 40 out of 136 minutes to a brutal depiction of torture, raising concerns about its cinematic aesthetics.
फिल्म के 136 मिनटों में से 40 मिनट अत्याचार के क्रूर चित्रण पर केंद्रित हैं, जिससे इसकी सौंदर्य दृष्टि पर सवाल उठते हैं।



Chhaava's Narrative and Political Influence

छावा की कथा और राजनीतिक प्रभाव

- Chhaava aims to correct biased accounts about **Sambhaji's legacy** as a warrior and administrator.

छावा का उद्देश्य संभाजी की विरासत को योद्धा और प्रशासक के रूप में सही ढंग से प्रस्तुत करना है।

- However, it becomes **national-level propaganda** by fixating on the **good Hindu vs. bad Muslim** binary and aligning with the **ruling party's ideology**.

हालांकि, यह राष्ट्रीय स्तर का प्रचार बन जाता है क्योंकि यह अच्छे हिंदू बनाम बुरे मुस्लिम की विचारधारा पर केंद्रित है और सत्तारूढ़ दल की विचारधारा से मेल खाता है।

- The film joins a list of **over 20 recent propaganda films**, including **The Kashmir Files, The Kerala Story, Article 370, and Swatantrya Veer Savarkar**.

यह फिल्म हाल ही में बनी 20 से अधिक प्रचार फिल्मों की सूची में शामिल हो जाती है, जिनमें द कश्मीर फाइल्स, द केरल स्टोरी, आर्टिकल 370 और स्वतंत्र्य वीर सावरकर शामिल हैं।

- Chhaava, like other films, was endorsed by the Prime Minister and made tax-free in some BJP-ruled states.

छावा को अन्य फिल्मों की तरह प्रधानमंत्री का समर्थन मिला और इसे कुछ भाजपा-शासित राज्यों में कर-मुक्त किया गया।

Hindu vs. Muslim Binary in Chhaava

छावा में हिंदू बनाम मुस्लिम का भेदभावपूर्ण चित्रण

- The film **ignores historical facts** like **Aurangzeb's rise to power** with the **support of Rajputs** and his administration having **33% Hindu Mansabdars**.

फिल्म ऐतिहासिक तथ्यों को नजरअंदाज करती है, जैसे कि औरंगजेब का राजपूतों के समर्थन से सत्ता में आना और उसके प्रशासन में 33% हिंदू मनसबदारों का होना।

- **Aurangzeb appointed Hindus** in key positions, including **Dewans and governors of important provinces**.

औरंगजेब ने हिंदुओं को प्रमुख पदों पर नियुक्त किया, जिनमें दीवान और महत्वपूर्ण प्रांतों के राज्यपाल



शामिल थे।

- While Aurangzeb imposed Jizya tax, he exempted Brahmins, Rajputs, women, and the elderly and also protected some temples while demolishing others.
औरंगज़ेब ने जज़िया कर लगाया, लेकिन उसने ब्राह्मणों, राजपूतों, महिलाओं और बुजुर्गों को इससे छूट दी और कुछ मंदिरों की रक्षा भी की, जबकि कुछ को गिराया भी।
- Secular historians argue that Aurangzeb's Sunni bigotry targeted Shia, Mahdavis, Dawoodi Bohras, and Sufis more than Hindus.
धर्मनिरपेक्ष इतिहासकारों का तर्क है कि औरंगज़ेब की सुन्नी कट्टरता ने हिंदुओं की तुलना में शिया, महदवी, दाऊदी बोहरा और सूफियों को अधिक निशाना बनाया।
- The film erases historical complexities, portraying Sambhaji's fight for Maratha Swaraj as a Hindu liberation struggle against foreign rule.
फिल्म ऐतिहासिक जटिलताओं को मिटाकर, संभाजी के मराठा स्वराज संघर्ष को विदेशी शासन के खिलाफ हिंदू स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के रूप में प्रस्तुत करती है।

Historical Reality vs. Chhaava's Narrative

ऐतिहासिक वास्तविकता बनाम छावा की कथा

- The Mughals had already lived in India for over 150 years, making the "foreign rule" narrative misleading.
मुगल भारत में पहले ही 150 वर्षों से रह रहे थे, जिससे "विदेशी शासन" की कहानी भ्रामक हो जाती है।
- Historian Stewart Gordon argues that Shivaji did not advocate for Hindu nationalism but rather for regional sovereignty.
इतिहासकार स्टीवर्ट गॉर्डन का तर्क है कि शिवाजी ने हिंदू राष्ट्रवाद का नहीं, बल्कि क्षेत्रीय संप्रभुता का समर्थन किया था।
- Shivaji had Muslim commanders and urged Aurangzeb to follow Akbar's policies of tolerance.
शिवाजी के पास मुस्लिम कमांडर थे और उन्होंने औरंगज़ेब से अकबर की सहिष्णुता नीति अपनाने का आग्रह किया था।



No Room for Nuance

जटिलताओं के लिए कोई स्थान नहीं

- Chhaava's portrayal of Hindus vs. Muslims or Indians vs. Foreigners ignores the real 17th-century complexities, which included multiple states, emerging European powers, and shifting alliances.

छावा का चित्रण हिंदू बनाम मुस्लिम या भारतीय बनाम विदेशी के रूप में 17वीं सदी की वास्तविक जटिलताओं को अनदेखा करता है, जिसमें कई राज्य, उभरती यूरोपीय शक्तियाँ और बदलते गठबंधन शामिल थे।

- The Sidis of Janjira, a strong coastal power, were African Muslims, while Malik Ambar, an Ethiopian slave, served as Peshwa of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate for 26 years.

जंजीरा के सिद्दी, एक सशक्त समुद्री शक्ति, अफ्रीकी मुस्लिम थे, जबकि मलिक अंबर, एक इथियोपियाई गुलाम, 26 वर्षों तक अहमदनगर सल्तनत के पेशवा रहे।

- Shivaji and his father were part of the Adil Shahi rule of Bijapur. Even after rebelling, he allied with the Qutb Shahis of Golconda, Mughals, and even fought against Hindu kingdoms like the Nayaks of Karnatic.

शिवाजी और उनके पिता बीजापुर के आदिलशाही शासन का हिस्सा थे। विद्रोह करने के बाद भी, उन्होंने गोलकोंडा के कुतुबशाही, मुगलों के साथ गठबंधन किया और यहां तक कि कर्नाटक के नायक जैसे हिंदू राज्यों के खिलाफ भी लड़े।

- Sambhaji also allied with Muslim Sultanates against Hindu kings like Chikka Devaraja of Mysore.

संभाजी ने भी मुस्लिम सल्तनतों के साथ गठबंधन किया, जबकि उन्होंने मैसूर के हिंदू राजा चिक्का देवराजा के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ी।

Distorted Narrative of Aurangzeb's Evilness

औरंगज़ेब की बुराई का विकृत चित्रण

- Chhaava omits that Sambhaji himself rebelled against his father Shivaji and briefly joined Aurangzeb, contradicting the film's portrayal of Aurangzeb as purely evil.

छावा इस तथ्य को छुपाता है कि संभाजी ने स्वयं अपने पिता शिवाजी के खिलाफ विद्रोह किया और कुछ समय के लिए औरंगज़ेब से मिल गए, जिससे फिल्म में औरंगज़ेब की पूर्णतः नकारात्मक छवि गलत



सिद्ध होती है।

- While the film shows Hindu traitors, it depicts all Muslims with Kohl-lined eyes as universally bad, reinforcing religious stereotypes.
फिल्म में कुछ हिंदू गद्दारों को दिखाया गया है, लेकिन सभी मुस्लिम पात्रों को बुरी छवि के साथ प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जिससे धार्मिक पूर्वाग्रह को बढ़ावा मिलता है।
- Chhaava portrays Aurangzeb's torture as exceptional, ignoring the brutal nature of medieval warfare, which included constant power struggles and shifting alliances.
छावा औरंगज़ेब की यातना को असाधारण रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है, जबकि मध्यकालीन युद्धों की क्रूरता और लगातार बदलते राजनीतिक गठबंधनों को नजरअंदाज करता है।
- Marathas, like other states, consolidated power through violent subjugation of both Hindu and Muslim nobles (Deshmukhs, Jagirdars, etc.) who frequently switched allegiances.
मराठों ने भी अन्य राज्यों की तरह, हिंदू और मुस्लिम जमींदारों (देशमुख, जागीरदार आदि) को हिंसक तरीके से पराजित कर सत्ता मजबूत की, क्योंकि ये अक्सर अपनी निष्ठा बदलते रहते थे।

Overlooking Caste Realities

जाति की वास्तविकता को अनदेखा करना

- Chhaava's Hindu-Muslim binary ignores caste oppression, which was widespread across both Hindu and Muslim states.
छावा की हिंदू-मुस्लिम धुवीकरण कथा जातिगत शोषण को नजरअंदाज करती है, जो हिंदू और मुस्लिम दोनों राज्यों में व्यापक रूप से मौजूद था।
- In the 1818 Battle of Koregaon, Dalit Mahars in the East India Company forces defeated the Peshwa-led Maratha confederacy, making it a symbol of caste resistance for Ambedkar and Dalits.
1818 की कोरेगांव की लड़ाई में, ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी की सेना में शामिल दलित महारों ने पेशवा के नेतृत्व वाले मराठा संघ को हराया, जिससे यह अंबेडकर और दलितों के लिए जाति प्रतिरोध का प्रतीक बन गया।
- Ironically, Hindutva ideologues like Savarkar and Golwalkar also propagated the idea that Sambhaji was weak and morally deficient, a narrative now opposed by the film.
विडंबना यह है कि हिंदुत्व विचारकों जैसे सावरकर और गोलवलकर ने भी यह तर्क दिया था कि संभाजी



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कमजोर और नैतिक रूप से अस्थिर थे, लेकिन अब फिल्म इस विचार का विरोध करती है।

- The film has reignited **Maratha vs. Brahmin sentiments**, reflecting long-standing **caste conflicts within Maharashtra**.
इस फिल्म ने मराठा बनाम ब्राह्मण विवाद को फिर से भड़का दिया है, जो महाराष्ट्र में लंबे समय से चले आ रहे जातिगत संघर्षों को दर्शाता है।

Propaganda Disguised as History

इतिहास के नाम पर प्रचार

- **Chhaava**, like many other propaganda films, is influenced by **present-day majoritarian nationalism**, reinforcing political narratives rather than historical accuracy.
छावा, अन्य प्रचार फिल्मों की तरह, वर्तमान समय के बहुसंख्यक राष्ट्रवाद से प्रभावित है, जो ऐतिहासिक तथ्यों के बजाय राजनीतिक कथाओं को मजबूत करता है।
- When **history in cinema is reduced to evoking anger and hatred**, it prevents a **nuanced understanding of history's complexities**.
जब सिनेमा में इतिहास केवल गुस्सा और नफरत भड़काने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाता है, तो यह इतिहास की जटिलताओं को समझने से हमें वंचित कर देता है।
- At a time when **history textbooks are being rewritten**, and **WhatsApp forwards shape public understanding**, films like **Chhaava contribute to historical distortions**.
जब इतिहास की पाठ्यपुस्तकों को दोबारा लिखा जा रहा है, और व्हाट्सएप संदेशों से लोगों की सोच बन रही है, तब छावा जैसी फिल्में ऐतिहासिक विकृति को और बढ़ावा देती हैं।

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

1.Many of Trump's Priorities Work for India: Jaishankar

ट्रंप की कई प्राथमिकताएँ भारत के लिए अनुकूल: जयशंकर

2.Unblock Vikatan Site Once It Temporarily Removes Cartoon: HC

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Website : patrioticias.in



विकटन साइट को अस्थायी रूप से कार्टून हटाने के बाद अनब्लॉक करें: हाई कोर्ट

3. Days After SDPI Chief's Arrest, ED Conducts Searches in 10 States

SDPI प्रमुख की गिरफ्तारी के कुछ दिन बाद, ED ने 10 राज्यों में छापेमारी की

4. Setback for Congress in Telangana MLC Polls

तेलंगाना एमएलसी चुनाव में कांग्रेस को झटका

5. Federal Principles vs. Democratic Impulses in Delimitation

सीमांकन में संघीय सिद्धांत बनाम लोकतांत्रिक प्रवृत्तियाँ

6. Unsettling Plans

अस्थिर करने वाली योजनाएँ

7. The Academic Link Between Nepal and India

नेपाल और भारत के बीच शैक्षणिक संबंध

8. First CDS visit to Australia boosts cooperation on 'shared priorities'

ऑस्ट्रेलिया की पहली सीडीएस यात्रा 'साझा प्राथमिकताओं' पर सहयोग को बढ़ावा देती है

9. Sudan files case against UAE at the ICJ over 'complicity in genocide'

सूडान ने यूएई के खिलाफ आईसीजे में 'नरसंहार में मिलीभगत' का मामला दर्ज किया



10. Zelenskyy thanks Europe for supporting Kyiv after U.S. rift
ज़ेलेन्स्की ने अमेरिका के टकराव के बाद कीव का समर्थन करने के लिए यूरोप को धन्यवाद दिया

Many of Trump's priorities work for India: Jaishankar

The U.S. administration's interest in multi-polarity, technology, and connectivity is promising, says External Affairs Minister; he also welcomes initiatives that will keep energy prices affordable

GS Paper II: India-US

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Citing the shifting geopolitical order, energy, technology and connectivity initiatives, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that several priorities of U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration were promising for India.

"I think we see a President and an administration which, in our parlance, is moving towards multi-polarity. And that is something which suits India," he said, clarifying that by practising multi-polarity, the Trump administration was in fact promoting it.

Mr. Jaishankar was speaking at Chatham House, a London-based think tank on Wednesday,



Union Minister S. Jaishankar speaking with Chatham House Director and CEO Bronwen Maddox in London on Wednesday. ANI

during an official visit to the U.K.

The U.S. had been thought of as a bloc with the West since 1945, rather than as a nation, but now the U.S.'s own self-perception is more as a nation, the Minister said.

"I think, from President Trump's perspective, the

one big shared enterprise that we have is the Quad [Quadrilateral Security Dialogue]," Mr. Jaishankar said, referring to the grouping of India, the U.S., Australia and Japan.

Each Quad member was paying its "fair share", he said, and so there were no spats about burden-shar-

ing. Financial burden-sharing has become a central issue between the U.S. and several European countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military alliance.

Mr. Trump "appears open to connectivity initiatives of a certain collaborative nature" Mr. Jaishankar said. "We have a deep interest in that," he added.

The Minister was presumably referring to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), which finds mention in the India-U.S. joint statement that emerged from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent discussions with Mr. Trump at the White House.

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'BREACH AT EVENT'

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Many of Trump's Priorities Work for India: Jaishankar
ट्रंप की कई प्राथमिकताएँ भारत के लिए अनुकूल: जयशंकर



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The U.S. administration's focus on **multi-polarity, technology, and connectivity** is promising for India, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

अमेरिकी प्रशासन का बहुधुवीयता, प्रौद्योगिकी और कनेक्टिविटी पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना भारत के लिए लाभकारी है, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने कहा।

- He also welcomed initiatives that aim to keep **energy prices affordable**.
उन्होंने ऐसे उपायों का स्वागत किया जो ऊर्जा की कीमतों को किफायती बनाए रखने का प्रयास करते हैं।

India's Alignment with U.S. Multi-Polarity Approach

भारत की बहुधुवीयता की अमेरिकी नीति से समानता

- **Mr. Jaishankar** noted that **President Trump's administration is moving towards multi-polarity**, which is beneficial for India.
श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप का प्रशासन बहुधुवीयता की ओर बढ़ रहा है, जो भारत के लिए अनुकूल है।
- He explained that by **practicing multi-polarity**, the **Trump administration** is actively promoting it.
उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि बहुधुवीयता को अपनाकर, ट्रंप प्रशासन इसे सक्रिय रूप से बढ़ावा दे रहा है।
- The U.S. was traditionally seen as a **bloc with the West since 1945**, but now it perceives itself as a **nation first**.
अमेरिका को आमतौर पर 1945 से पश्चिमी देशों के गुट के रूप में देखा जाता था, लेकिन अब यह खुद को पहले एक राष्ट्र के रूप में देख रहा है।

Quad and Burden-Sharing

क्वाड और वित्तीय साझेदारी

- **Mr. Jaishankar** emphasized that the **Quad (India, U.S., Australia, Japan)** is a **shared enterprise** under Trump's leadership.
श्री जयशंकर ने जोर दिया कि क्वाड (भारत, अमेरिका, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जापान) ट्रंप के नेतृत्व में एक साझा



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पहल है।

- Each Quad member is contributing its fair share, eliminating conflicts over financial burden-sharing, unlike in NATO.
प्रत्येक क्वाड सदस्य अपनी उचित हिस्सेदारी निभा रहा है, जिससे नाटो की तरह वित्तीय साझेदारी को लेकर विवाद नहीं हो रहा।

Trump's Openness to Connectivity Initiatives

ट्रंप का कनेक्टिविटी पहलों के प्रति रुख

- Mr. Jaishankar noted that Trump appears open to connectivity initiatives with a collaborative nature.
श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि ट्रंप सहयोगी कनेक्टिविटी पहलों के प्रति खुले नजर आते हैं।
- He highlighted India's deep interest in such projects.
उन्होंने कहा कि भारत की ऐसे परियोजनाओं में गहरी रुचि है।
- He was likely referring to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), which was discussed in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Trump at the White House.
वे संभवतः भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप कॉरिडोर (IMEC) का जिक्र कर रहे थे, जो प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और ट्रंप की व्हाइट हाउस बैठक में चर्चा का विषय था।



Unblock Vikatan Site Once It Temporarily Removes Cartoon: HC

विकटन साइट को अस्थायी रूप से कार्टून हटाने के बाद अनब्लॉक करें: हाई कोर्ट

Unblock *Vikatan* site once it temporarily removes cartoon: HC

GS Paper II: FRs

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Thursday passed an interim order directing the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to permit public access to the *Ananda Vikatan* website on the condition that the latter temporarily removes the offending cartoon featuring a shackled Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy passed the order pursuant to a writ petition filed jointly by Ananda Vikatan Productions Private Limited and Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited, challenging the Ministry's February 25 proceedings and seeking a consequential direction to immediately restore public access to the website, www.vikatan.com.

Senior counsel Vijay Na-

The story so far

The website of *Vikatan* magazine was blocked by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting



■ The block came after a complaint was filed over a cartoon featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump

■ The magazine and several others have condemned the move as an 'attack on freedom of expression'

■ *Vikatan* moved the Madras High Court against the order

rayan, assisted by Rahul Unnikrishnan, representing the petitioners, argued that the cartoon published by *Ananda Vikatan* did not fall under any of the reasons cited under relevant laws for blocking public access to information.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

The Madras High Court issued an interim order directing the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to restore public access to the *Ananda Vikatan* website on the condition that the website temporarily removes the controversial cartoon.

मद्रास हाई कोर्ट ने एक अंतरिम आदेश जारी किया, जिसमें केंद्रीय सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय को निर्देश दिया कि वह आनंद विकटन वेबसाइट की सार्वजनिक पहुंच बहाल करे, बशर्ते कि वेबसाइट विवादित कार्टून को अस्थायी रूप से हटा दे।

• The cartoon in question depicted **Prime Minister Narendra Modi shackled** during a meeting with **U.S. President Donald Trump**.

विवादित कार्टून में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को जंजीरों में दिखाया गया था, जब वे अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप से मुलाकात कर रहे थे।

Court's Order and Petitioners' Argument

अदालत का आदेश और याचिकाकर्ताओं की दलील

- **Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy** passed the order in response to a writ petition filed jointly by **Ananda Vikatan Productions Private Limited** and **Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited**.

न्यायमूर्ति डी. भरत चक्रवर्ती ने यह आदेश आनंद विकटन प्रोडक्शंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और आनंद

विकटन पब्लिशर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से दायर रिट याचिका के जवाब में पारित किया।



- The petition challenged the **Ministry's February 25 proceedings**, seeking a direction to **immediately restore public access** to www.vikatan.com.
याचिका में मंत्रालय की 25 फरवरी की कार्यवाही को चुनौती दी गई और www.vikatan.com की सार्वजनिक पहुंच तत्काल बहाल करने का निर्देश मांगा गया।
- **Senior counsel Vijay Narayan**, assisted by **Rahul Unnikrishnan**, argued that the cartoon did not violate any legal provisions that justify blocking public access.
वरिष्ठ वकील विजय नारायण, सहायक राहुल उन्नीकृष्णन के साथ, ने दलील दी कि कार्टून किसी भी कानूनी प्रावधान का उल्लंघन नहीं करता, जो सार्वजनिक पहुंच को प्रतिबंधित करने का आधार बन सके।

Days after SDPI chief's arrest, ED conducts searches in 10 States

GS Paper II: Social Democracy

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches on Thursday in connection with a case against the banned outfit, **Popular Front of India (PFI)**. The move comes days after the arrest of **Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) national president M.K. Faizy on charges of money laundering**. He is now in ED custody. The Central agency has accused the SDPI of being a "political front" of the PFI.

The searches are being carried out at 12 locations across 10 States. These include two areas in Delhi, including the SDPI headquarters, along with locations in Thiruvananthapuram, Malappuram, Bengaluru, Nandyal, Thane, Chennai, Pakur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Jaipur. The ED teams faced



M.K. Faizy

protests by SDPI supporters at some places.

Mr. Faizy was arrested from the Indira Gandhi International Airport on Monday. Earlier, after recording his statements in January 2024, the agency summoned him multiple times until February 2025. However, he failed to appear before the team.

'Dependent on PFI'

The ED has alleged that the SDPI and the PFI had common members and leaders, and that the SDPI was "dependent" on the PFI for

its day-to-day functions. It is alleged that the PFI office-bearers and cadre collected funds from India and abroad (Gulf nations) through banking or "hawala" channels as part of a conspiracy to commit or finance terror activities across the country.

The ED probe against PFI and others is based on two cases registered by the National Investigation Agency, apart from FIRs registered by the other law enforcement agencies.

"As national president, M.K. Faizy exercised authority over the activities of SDPI, which is a recipient, beneficiary, and user of proceeds of crime, i.e. funds raised by PFI, knowing fully well that PFI is engaged in fundraising as part of a deep-rooted criminal conspiracy to raise and use such funds in unlawful activities in India," the agency said.

Days After SDPI Chief's Arrest, ED Conducts Searches in 10 States

SDPI प्रमुख की गिरफ्तारी के

कुछ दिन बाद, ED ने 10 राज्यों में छापेमारी की

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches on Thursday in connection with a case against the banned outfit **Popular Front of India (PFI)**.

प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ED) ने गुरुवार को छापेमारी की, जो प्रतिबंधित संगठन **पॉपुलर फ्रंट ऑफ इंडिया (PFI)** के खिलाफ एक मामले से जुड़ी थी।



- The move comes days after the arrest of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) national president M.K. Faizy on money laundering charges.
यह कार्रवाई सोशल डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया (SDPI) के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष एम.के. फैज़ी की मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग के आरोप में गिरफ्तारी के कुछ दिनों बाद की गई।
- Faizy is now in ED custody, and the agency has accused the SDPI of being a political front of PFI.
फैज़ी फिलहाल ED की हिरासत में हैं, और एजेंसी ने SDPI को PFI का राजनीतिक मोर्चा होने का आरोप लगाया है।

Searches Across 10 States

10 राज्यों में छापेमारी

- The ED is conducting searches at 12 locations across 10 States, including Delhi (SDPI headquarters), Thiruvananthapuram, Malappuram, Bengaluru, Nandyal, Thane, Chennai, Pakur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Jaipur.
ED ने 10 राज्यों में 12 स्थानों पर छापेमारी की, जिनमें दिल्ली (SDPI मुख्यालय), तिरुवनंतपुरम, मल्लपुरम, बेंगलुरु, नंद्याल, ठाणे, चेन्नई, पाकुड़, कोलकाता, लखनऊ और जयपुर शामिल हैं।
- The ED teams faced protests from SDPI supporters at some locations.
कुछ स्थानों पर ED टीमों को SDPI समर्थकों के विरोध का सामना करना पड़ा।

Faizy's Arrest and ED's Allegations

फैज़ी की गिरफ्तारी और ED के आरोप

- M.K. Faizy was arrested on Monday from the Indira Gandhi International Airport.
एम.के. फैज़ी को सोमवार को इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से गिरफ्तार किया गया।
- The ED had recorded his statements in January 2024 and summoned him multiple times until February 2025, but he failed to appear.
ED ने जनवरी 2024 में फैज़ी के बयान दर्ज किए थे और फरवरी 2025 तक उन्हें कई बार समन भेजा,



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लेकिन वह पेश नहीं हुए।

'Dependent on PFI' – ED's Accusations

'PFI पर निर्भर' – ED के आरोप

- The ED alleged that SDPI and PFI had common members and leaders, and that SDPI depended on PFI for daily operations.
ED ने आरोप लगाया कि SDPI और PFI के सदस्य और नेता समान थे, और SDPI अपने दैनिक संचालन के लिए PFI पर निर्भर थी।
- PFI collected funds from India and abroad (Gulf nations) through banking and hawala channels for financing terror activities.
PFI ने भारत और विदेश (खाड़ी देशों) से बैंकिंग और हवाला चैनलों के माध्यम से धन जुटाया और इसे आतंकी गतिविधियों के लिए इस्तेमाल किया।
- The ED's probe is based on two cases registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), apart from FIRs filed by other law enforcement agencies.
ED की जांच राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी (NIA) द्वारा दर्ज दो मामलों और अन्य कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों द्वारा दायर FIRs पर आधारित है।
- As SDPI's national president, Faizy had control over the party's activities, knowing that PFI was raising funds as part of a criminal conspiracy for unlawful activities in India.
SDPI के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष के रूप में, फैज़ी पार्टी की गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित कर रहे थे, जबकि उन्हें पता था कि PFI अवैध गतिविधियों के लिए धन जुटाने की गहरी साजिश में शामिल है।

Social Democracy

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was not just a thinker but a man of action who dedicated his life to fighting for **human dignity, self-respect, and the rights of marginalized communities**. His idea of democracy went beyond mere political structures and encompassed **social democracy**, which he saw as essential for true justice and equality in society.

Social Democracy: A Way of Life

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- For Dr. Ambedkar, **social democracy** was not just a political system but a **way of life based on the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity**. He emphasized that these three principles form a **union of trinity**—they must coexist and cannot be separated from each other.
 - **Liberty**: The freedom to express, live, and think without fear.
 - **Equality**: Equal rights and opportunities for all, regardless of caste, gender, or class.
 - **Fraternity**: A sense of brotherhood and social harmony among people.
- He argued that **political democracy alone was not enough** if social inequalities persisted. True democracy could only be achieved when **social democracy became a reality**—a society where all individuals lived as equals.

Roots of Democracy in Social Relationships

- Ambedkar believed that democracy is not merely a form of government but a **form of "associated living"**, where people live together in mutual respect and harmony. It is not about **who governs**, but rather **how people interact** with each other in society.
- He warned that **if a small section of society dominates social and cultural symbols, democracy becomes meaningless**. Hence, he advocated for **social relationships based on equality and respect**, rather than discrimination and hierarchy.

State Socialism Under Parliamentary Democracy

- Dr. Ambedkar supported **state socialism**, but within the framework of **parliamentary democracy**.
- He believed that the **state should play a role in ensuring economic and social justice**, preventing the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few.
- This would **protect democracy from dictatorship and exploitation**.

Challenges to Social Democracy in India

Ambedkar saw **caste-based divisions as a major hurdle** in achieving social democracy. He criticized how **political democracy existed in India without social democracy**, making true equality impossible. His vision was to create a **just society where caste hierarchies and discrimination were abolished**.

Setback for Congress in Telangana MLC Polls



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Setback for Cong. in Telangana MLC polls

GS Paper II: MLC

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

The ruling Congress has suffered a setback in the just concluded Telangana MLC polls to two Teachers' constituencies and a Graduates' constituency. The Opposition BJP backed candidates bagged two seats while a Teachers' union candidate won the other seat.

The results should be a wake up call for the Congress because a battery of Ministers and CM A. Revanth Reddy himself had campaigned for the party backed candidate, Narender Reddy.

तेलंगाना एमएलसी चुनाव में कांग्रेस को झटका

The ruling Congress faced a setback in the recently concluded Telangana MLC polls for two Teachers' constituencies and one Graduates' constituency.

सत्तारूढ़ कांग्रेस को हाल ही में संपन्न तेलंगाना एमएलसी चुनाव में दो शिक्षक निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों और एक स्नातक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में झटका लगा।

- Opposition BJP-backed candidates won two seats, while a Teachers' union candidate secured the other seat. विपक्षी भाजपा समर्थित उम्मीदवारों ने दो सीटें जीतीं, जबकि एक सीट शिक्षक संघ के उम्मीदवार के खाते में गई।

Wake-up Call for Congress

कांग्रेस के लिए चेतावनी संकेत

- The results serve as a wake-up call for Congress, especially since several Ministers and CM A. Revanth Reddy himself campaigned for the party-backed candidate, Narender Reddy. यह परिणाम कांग्रेस के लिए चेतावनी संकेत हैं, क्योंकि कई मंत्रियों और मुख्यमंत्री ए. रेवंत रेड्डी स्वयं ने पार्टी समर्थित उम्मीदवार नरेंद्र रेड्डी के लिए प्रचार किया था।

Teachers' Constituencies | शिक्षक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र

These constituencies are meant for teachers who have been in the profession for a specific number of years. Only eligible teachers can vote in these elections.

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ये निर्वाचन क्षेत्र विशेष रूप से शिक्षकों के लिए होते हैं, जो एक निश्चित समय तक शिक्षण कार्य कर चुके होते हैं। केवल पात्र शिक्षक ही इन चुनावों में मतदान कर सकते हैं।

◊ Who can vote? (कौन मतदान कर सकता है?)

- Only teachers who have at least **three years of experience in a recognized school, college, or university.**
- इन चुनावों में केवल वही शिक्षक वोट डाल सकते हैं, जो किसी मान्यता प्राप्त स्कूल, कॉलेज या विश्वविद्यालय में कम से कम तीन वर्षों तक पढ़ा चुके हों।

Graduates' Constituencies | स्नातक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र

These constituencies are meant for **graduates** (degree holders) who have completed their education from a recognized university. Only graduates **can vote** in these elections.

ये निर्वाचन क्षेत्र स्नातकों (डिग्री धारकों) के लिए होते हैं, जिन्होंने किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से अपनी शिक्षा पूरी की हो। केवल स्नातक ही इन चुनावों में मतदान कर सकते हैं।

◊ Who can vote? (कौन मतदान कर सकता है?)

- Any **graduate from a recognized university** who has registered as a voter in the graduates' electoral roll.
- कोई भी व्यक्ति, जिसके पास मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से डिग्री हो और जिसने स्नातक मतदाता सूची में अपना नाम दर्ज कराया हो, मतदान कर सकता है।



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Federal Principles vs. Democratic Impulses in Delimitation

सीमांकन में संघीय सिद्धांत बनाम लोकतांत्रिक प्रवृत्तियाँ

GS Paper II: Delimitation

Tyranny of numbers

Federal principles, democratic impulses are in conflict over delimitation

The call at an all-party meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, in Chennai on Wednesday, to freeze the strength of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for 30 years beyond 2026 might seem like pushing away a pressing problem into the distant future. The challenges in 2056, when delimitation is eventually taken up, could be far more complex than those of the last exercise, conducted after the Delimitation Commission was set up in 2002. Even if the northern States bring down the fertility rate to replacement level by that time, the grouse of the southern States, that seat share as a proportion of the total strength of the Lok Sabha will come down, will still not find redress. Moreover, the imbalance in the number of electors across constituencies varies in each State. Between 2004 (the last general election before the 2008 delimitation) and 2024, the country's electorate has grown by approximately 45%. In just over 15 years, there has been significant malapportionment in many constituencies. In Karnataka, Bangalore North has 3.2 million voters, while Udupi Chikmagalur, with an electorate of just under 1.6 million, has less than half that number. One solution, doubtless a partial one, could be to allow delimitation within each State, but not across the country. This would be in keeping with federal principles but might be unfair to large States that have seen a huge, disproportionate population jump over the last 50 years.

The concerns of the southern States regarding a potential unfair outcome are valid. There is a risk of losing significant representation in the Lok Sabha if population strictly governs seat allocation. However, the Constitution recognises that apportionment should be done "so far as practicable", allowing room for considerations beyond mere numbers. Mr. Stalin has expressed apprehension that if the 2026 Census data is used as the basis for delimitation, and Tamil Nadu's seat share is reduced, it would lead to "indelible injustice". The all-party meeting rightly pointed out that Tamil Nadu is not opposed to delimitation per se, but that the process should not penalise progressive States (the entire southern region). Since delimitation has remained a contentious issue, the Union government should build a consensus on the terms of reference for the next Delimitation Commission. A transparent and inclusive approach can help restore the missing trust between the ruling party at the Centre and the non-BJP Opposition. Moreover, those advocating for an early delimitation should respect the Constitution's federal character and demonstrate flexibility in addressing regional concerns.

32 लाख मतदाता हैं, जबकि उडुपी चिकमंगलूर में केवल 16 लाख मतदाता हैं।

At an all-party meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai on Wednesday, a call was made to freeze the strength of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for 30 years beyond 2026.

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन की अध्यक्षता में बुधवार को चेन्नई में हुई सर्वदलीय बैठक में 2026 के बाद 30 वर्षों तक लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं की सीट संख्या को स्थिर रखने की मांग की गई।

• While this might seem like postponing a pressing issue, the challenges in 2056 could be far more complex than those faced during the last delimitation in 2002.

यह निर्णय तत्काल समस्या को टालने जैसा लग सकता है, लेकिन 2056 में उत्पन्न चुनौतियाँ 2002 में हुई अंतिम परिसीमन प्रक्रिया से कहीं अधिक जटिल हो सकती हैं।

• Even if northern states reduce their fertility rate, the southern states' concern that their seat share in the Lok Sabha will decrease remains unresolved.

भले ही उत्तरी राज्य अपनी प्रजनन दर घटा लें, लेकिन दक्षिणी राज्यों की यह चिंता बनी रहेगी कि उनकी लोकसभा में सीटों की हिस्सेदारी कम हो जाएगी।

• Elector distribution across constituencies is uneven. In Karnataka, for example, Bangalore North has 3.2 million voters, while Udupi Chikmagalur has just under 1.6 million.

मतदाताओं का वितरण असमान है। उदाहरण के लिए, कर्नाटक में बंगलुरु नॉर्थ में



Possible Solutions

संभावित समाधान

- One **partial solution** could be to **allow delimitation within each state** rather than a nationwide process.
एक संभावित समाधान यह हो सकता है कि सीमांकन केवल राज्यों के भीतर किया जाए, न कि पूरे देश में एक साथ।
- This approach **aligns with federal principles** but may seem **unfair to large states** that have experienced **significant population growth in the last 50 years**.
यह तरीका संघीय सिद्धांतों के अनुरूप होगा, लेकिन उन बड़े राज्यों के लिए अनुचित लग सकता है, जिनकी पिछले 50 वर्षों में जनसंख्या तेजी से बढ़ी है।

Concerns of Southern States

दक्षिणी राज्यों की चिंताएँ

- The **concerns of southern states are valid**, as they risk **losing significant representation in the Lok Sabha** if **population strictly determines seat allocation**.
दक्षिणी राज्यों की चिंताएँ जायज़ हैं, क्योंकि यदि सीटों का आवंटन पूरी तरह से जनसंख्या के आधार पर होता है, तो उनकी लोकसभा में प्रतिनिधित्व घट सकता है।
- The **Constitution allows for flexibility** in apportionment beyond just numbers, stating that it should be done "**so far as practicable**."
संविधान केवल जनसंख्या के आधार पर सीट आवंटन का समर्थन नहीं करता, बल्कि यह कहता है कि "जहाँ तक संभव हो" अन्य कारकों को भी ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिए।
- **M.K. Stalin expressed concern** that if the **2026 Census is used for delimitation**, Tamil Nadu's **seat share could be reduced**, leading to "**indelible injustice**."
एम.के. स्टालिन ने चिंता व्यक्त की कि यदि 2026 की जनगणना के आधार पर परिसीमन किया गया, तो तमिलनाडु की सीटें कम हो सकती हैं, जिससे "अस्थायी अन्याय" होगा।
- The **all-party meeting clarified** that Tamil Nadu is **not against delimitation** but opposes a process that **penalizes progressive states**.
सर्वदलीय बैठक में स्पष्ट किया गया कि तमिलनाडु परिसीमन के खिलाफ नहीं है, लेकिन ऐसी प्रक्रिया का विरोध करता है जो प्रगतिशील राज्यों को नुकसान पहुँचाए।



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Need for Consensus and Federalism

सहमति और संघवाद की आवश्यकता

- Since delimitation remains a contentious issue, the Union government should build a consensus on the terms of reference for the next Delimitation Commission.
चूंकि परिसीमन एक विवादास्पद मुद्दा बना हुआ है, इसलिए केंद्र सरकार को अगले परिसीमन आयोग के लिए संदर्भ शर्तों पर सहमति बनानी चाहिए।
- A transparent and inclusive approach can restore trust between the ruling party at the Centre and the non-BJP Opposition.
पारदर्शी और समावेशी दृष्टिकोण केंद्र सरकार और गैर-भाजपा विपक्ष के बीच विश्वास बहाल करने में मदद कर सकता है।
- Those advocating early delimitation should respect the Constitution's federal character and address regional concerns with flexibility.
जो लोग जल्दी परिसीमन की मांग कर रहे हैं, उन्हें संविधान के संघीय चरित्र का सम्मान करना चाहिए और क्षेत्रीय चिंताओं को लचीलेपन के साथ हल करना चाहिए।



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Unsettling Plans

अस्थिर करने वाली योजनाएँ

Trump Seems Oblivious to the Long-Term Consequences of His Policies

GS Paper II: US Polity

Unsettling plans

Trump seems oblivious to the long-term consequences of his policies

President Donald Trump used the bully pulpit of his first joint address to Congress to emphasise, among other priorities, his administration's intent to up the ante on the trade war that began with the U.S. slamming India, China, Canada and Mexico with tariffs of 25% or higher. Amidst walkouts by numerous Democratic lawmakers, he flagged his administration's 100 executive orders and 400 executive actions to date as proof of his "swift and unrelenting action", including on issues critical to American voters, such as reducing the cost of energy and "working tirelessly to end the savage conflict in Ukraine". Early on in the speech, Mr. Trump underscored the U.S.'s withdrawal from the Paris climate accords, WHO and the U.N. Human Rights Council, even as he reiterated his administration's commitment to the mantra of fossil fuel exploitation – "drill, baby, drill" – as the key approach to bringing down energy prices. He also railed against woke culture, specifically focusing on "getting men out of women's sports," as he had promised in his election campaign. In a hat tip to Elon Musk, the boss of the newly founded Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), he claimed that the initiative had already "found hundreds of billions of dollars of fraud". This was notwithstanding shockwaves reverberating across the world from funding cuts and firings at organisations such as USAID, involved in critical projects in numerous countries; and lawsuits aimed at blocking DOGE's access to confidential government data.

On the one hand, it is hardly surprising that Mr. Trump is pushing a conservative agenda, for example through his administration's aggressive drive towards smaller government. On the other, there is a serious question of whether some of his second-term policies risk self-goals. Tariffs are a case in point, as independent economists have argued that higher import costs resulting from increased tariffs could lead importers to pass the economic burden onto consumers through higher prices, driving inflation, contrary to his economic promises. However, this warning has largely fallen on deaf ears among MAGA supporters. Similarly, there is a distinct possibility of the U.S. saving resources and materials of war if it "pauses" military support to Ukraine, yet this strategy does not apparently concern itself with the longer-term, possibly trans-Atlantic, consequences of signalling weakness of defence against Russian territorial ambitions looming over Europe. While the 2024 election revealed the depth of the partisan chasm between sections of American voters over crucial, emotive issues such as immigration, reproductive rights, and the economy, the tone and tenor of the second Trump administration does not instil confidence that this gap might be bridged in four years.

ट्रंप अपनी नीतियों के दीर्घकालिक प्रभावों से अनजान प्रतीत होते हैं

- President Donald Trump, in his first joint address to Congress, emphasized his administration's intent to escalate the trade war against India, China, Canada, and Mexico, imposing tariffs of 25% or higher.

राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कांग्रेस के पहले संयुक्त संबोधन में भारत, चीन, कनाडा और मैक्सिको के खिलाफ व्यापार युद्ध को तेज करने के इरादे पर जोर दिया और 25% या उससे अधिक के टैरिफ लगाए।

- His speech took place amidst walkouts by several Democratic lawmakers, as he highlighted his administration's 100 executive orders and 400 executive actions as proof of "swift and unrelenting action".

उनका भाषण कई डेमोक्रेटिक सांसदों के बहिर्गमन के बीच हुआ, जहाँ उन्होंने 100 कार्यकारी आदेशों और 400 कार्यकारी निर्णयों को "तेजी और दृढ़ संकल्प" का प्रमाण बताया।

- He reiterated his commitment to lowering energy costs and ending the Ukraine conflict, while also reaffirming the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord, WHO, and the U.N. Human Rights Council.

उन्होंने ऊर्जा लागत घटाने और यूक्रेन संघर्ष समाप्त करने की प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई, साथ ही पेरिस जलवायु समझौते, WHO और संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार परिषद से अमेरिका की वापसी को फिर से पुष्टि की।

- His speech promoted fossil fuel exploitation under the slogan "drill, baby, drill", while also attacking woke culture, particularly targeting transgender participation in women's sports.

उन्होंने अपने भाषण में जीवाश्म ईंधन के दोहन को बढ़ावा देते हुए "ड्रिल, बेबी, ड्रिल" नारे पर जोर दिया और वोक संस्कृति पर हमला करते हुए महिला खेलों में ट्रांसजेंडर भागीदारी का विरोध किया।

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Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and Funding Cuts सरकारी दक्षता विभाग (DOGE) और वित्तीय कटौती

- Trump praised **Elon Musk**, the head of the newly established **Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)**, claiming the initiative had **uncovered hundreds of billions of dollars in fraud**.
ट्रंप ने नए सरकारी दक्षता विभाग (DOGE) के प्रमुख एलन मस्क की प्रशंसा की और दावा किया कि इस पहल ने सैकड़ों अरब डॉलर की धोखाधड़ी उजागर की है।
- However, **funding cuts and layoffs** at organizations like **USAID** have caused **global concern**, as these agencies support **critical projects worldwide**.
हालांकि, **USAID** जैसी एजेंसियों में वित्तीय कटौती और छंटनी ने वैश्विक चिंता पैदा की है, क्योंकि ये संगठन महत्वपूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय परियोजनाओं में सहयोग करते हैं।
- Lawsuits have been filed to **block DOGE's access to confidential government data**, sparking **legal battles**.
DOGE की गोपनीय सरकारी डेटा तक पहुंच रोकने के लिए मुकदमे दायर किए गए हैं, जिससे कानूनी संघर्ष शुरू हो गया है।

Economic Risks of Tariffs and Trade Wars

टैरिफ और व्यापार युद्ध से आर्थिक खतरे

- **Trump's protectionist tariff policies** may **backfire**, as **independent economists** warn that higher tariffs could **increase import costs**, leading to **higher consumer prices and inflation**.
ट्रंप की संरक्षणवादी टैरिफ नीतियाँ उलटी पड़ सकती हैं, क्योंकि स्वतंत्र अर्थशास्त्रियों की चेतावनी के अनुसार, उच्च टैरिफ से आयात लागत बढ़ेगी, जिससे मुद्रास्फीति और उपभोक्ता कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं।
- Despite these warnings, **his supporters remain indifferent**, believing in **MAGA-driven economic nationalism**.
इन चेतावनियों के बावजूद, उनके समर्थक उदासीन बने हुए हैं, जो **MAGA** आधारित आर्थिक राष्ट्रवाद में विश्वास रखते हैं।

Impact of Reducing Military Support to Ukraine



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यूक्रेन को सैन्य सहायता कम करने का प्रभाव

- Trump's proposal to "pause" military aid to Ukraine may save U.S. resources, but it raises concerns over Russia's territorial ambitions in Europe.
ट्रंप का यूक्रेन को सैन्य सहायता "रोकने" का प्रस्ताव अमेरिकी संसाधनों की बचत कर सकता है, लेकिन इससे यूरोप में रूस की विस्तारवादी नीतियों को लेकर चिंता बढ़ सकती है।
- Critics argue that this move signals a weakening U.S. commitment to global security, potentially impacting transatlantic alliances.
आलोचकों का मानना है कि यह कदम वैश्विक सुरक्षा के प्रति अमेरिका की प्रतिबद्धता को कमजोर करने का संकेत देता है, जिससे ट्रांसअटलांटिक गठबंधनों पर असर पड़ सकता है।

Deepening Political Divide in the U.S.

अमेरिका में गहराता राजनीतिक विभाजन

- The 2024 U.S. election exposed a deep partisan divide over immigration, reproductive rights, and economic policies.
2024 के अमेरिकी चुनावों ने आप्रवासन, प्रजनन अधिकार और आर्थिक नीतियों को लेकर गहरे राजनीतिक विभाजन को उजागर किया।
- Trump's second-term agenda does not indicate any effort to bridge this divide, raising concerns about further polarization.
ट्रंप के दूसरे कार्यकाल की नीतियाँ इस विभाजन को कम करने का कोई संकेत नहीं देती, जिससे और अधिक धुवीकरण की संभावना बढ़ जाती है।



The academic link between Nepal and India

When it comes to the history of 'modern' formal education in Nepal, a cursory glance will reveal that not only is it not very old, it also displays intricate connections with India. Higher educational training embeds avenues that register learning experiences as impactful memories which shape future lives and proclivities

GS Paper II: India-Nepal

FULL CONTEXT

Swatalsiddha Sarkar

In February 16, a third-year woman student from Nepal was found dead by suicide in the Bhubaneswar-based Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT). Initial investigation by the police revealed that harassment from a fellow male student had led the student to take her own life. Other students from Nepal carried out a protest stating that the university had ignored the consistent complaints made by the female student about the harassment. This led to KIIT halting academic activities and ordering students from Nepal to vacate the campus. This move caused widespread outrage, with the Nepali government also getting involved. KIIT eventually withdrew the order and resumed the academic session.

This piece intends to shed light on some necessary but seldom discussed issues affecting students from Nepal in India.

Foreign student enrolment in India
The latest available All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) data reveals that during 2021-22, 46,878 foreign students from 170 nations were enrolled in various institutes of higher learning in India, and that the highest share of foreign students came from Nepal (28%). The percentage share of foreign students from Nepal had been the highest (21% when the figure for total foreign student enrolment was 34,774) even in 2012-13, as per AISHE data. It is thus evidenced that while the number of foreign students enrolling in India has been on the rise over the years, majority of them came from Nepal. Table 1 gives us a brief overview of the enrolment of students from Nepal studying different courses offered by almost 180 Indian universities and institutes.

These students are spread across the nation – from Kashmir University in the north to Kerala University in the south, from North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) in the east to Gujarat Ayurveda University in the west. While the enrolment is highest in the undergraduate category, enrolment in higher categories like PhD displays a steady increase, although it is far from being impressive. Students from Nepal display an increasing attraction to Indian institutes offering training and degrees in engineering and technology. As a matter of fact, their presence in IITs (Delhi, Kanpur, Roorkee, Guwahati among others), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore), and other private institutes like KIIT, has been substantial.

An academic relationship

Nepal's academic relationship with India and Indian academic institutions in particular illustrate a rich history. Paying a cursory look at that historical tapestry, as shown by scholars like Pradyumn Onta or Rhoderick Chalmers, would help us recognise the contribution of Banaras and Darjeeling in shaping Nepali public sphere from both within and outside Nepal. However, unlike the colonial legacy associated to the 'Gorkhas', the cultural linkage between Nepal and India, which epitomised India as an educational hub for the Nepalis, is as old as the gurukul system. Since the days of the Rana regime when education in Nepal remained exclusively an elitist affair, places in India like Banaras, Patna, Dehradun, Gorakhpur and Darjeeling

Destination India, for higher education

The latest available All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) data reveals that during 2021-22, 46,878 foreign students from 170 nations were enrolled in various institutes of higher learning in India



In rage: An agitator holds a poster during a protest over the death of a Nepali student on the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) campus, in Bhubaneswar, on February 19, 2021.

Table 1: Students from Nepal studying at different levels in Indian universities and institutes of higher learning

Enrolment of foreign students from Nepal	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
PHD	28	51	33	43	42	50	48	86	104	114
MPhil	0	3	2	1	10	0	2	0	1	1
PG	1,015	1,085	1,195	1,272	1,285	1,357	1,608	1,587	1,587	1,534
UG	5,839	6,859	7,044	7,544	8,796	9,191	9,644	10,804	10,836	10,708
PG Diploma	7	17	2	19	18	15	7	12	14	8
Diploma	251	265	360	617	1,010	799	1,562	1,252	977	666
Certificate	5	3	1	1	64	7	23	3	3	10
Integrated	22	77	57	77	85	102	104	115	52	85
Total students enrolled from Nepal	7,167	8,360	8,694	9,574	11,250	11,521	12,747	13,880	13,574	13,126
Total foreign students enrolled	34,774	39,517	42,297	45,421	47,575	46,144	47,427	49,348	48,035	46,878
% of students enrolled from Nepal	21%	21%	21%	21%	23.60%	24.90%	26.88%	28.10%	28.26%	28%

Source: Compiled from AISHE Reports of respective years

opened up opportunities to those who could afford to send their wards to India for education.

Further, when it comes to the history of the 'modern' formal education system in Nepal, a cursory glance will reveal that not only is it not very old, but it also displays intricate connections with India. It is said that the western-style of education began in Nepal with the establishment of the Durbar High School in 1854, although accessible only to the children of the royal family and courtiers. In 1901, some steps were taken for the benefit of the public, as schools, such as the Bhasa Pathshala (Language Schools), were opened up with Nepali (then known as Gorkhali/Khas) as the medium of instruction. The Tri-Chandra College was established in Kathmandu in 1918 and was initially affiliated to Calcutta University, which later shifted to Patna University, India. As per this affiliation, the responsibility of the college lied only with the teaching part while the overall academic programme, including courses, textbooks, pedagogy, examinations, award of degree, were run by the affiliating Indian institute.

Letting go of colonial influence

Thus, without even being colonised, the colonial legacy of Nepal's education system was established through two routes: first, by affiliating the first college in Nepal to universities of colonial India, thereby, diminishing any opportunity to premise pedagogy around Nepali roots and branches (except language); and the second was through college instructors, all of whom had received their master's degrees from Indian universities, and

therefore felt secure in following the same content. Before the establishment of the Tribhuvan University in 1959, there was no provision for postgraduate instruction in the country, and higher education was limited to the undergraduate level. Social science teaching, followed by science, was introduced in Nepal only in the 1940s, starting with economics and geography, while sociology and anthropology came a little while later in the 1950s.

In summary, until the 1950s, the colonial legacy of British India strongly influenced Nepal's education, even when attempts were undertaken to 'Nepalise' the education system. Towards this end, the Gandhian model of education was valorised as a reference point albeit with certain tweaks. Finally, in 1954, the government constituted the National Educational Planning Commission (NEPC) to give recommendations across all aspects of education, having declared that the goal is to make education relevant to 'national need'. Later, with the introduction of the New Education System Plan (NESP) in 1971, the entire machinery was revamped. Nepal began her independent journey in the sphere of higher education, even though students from Nepal continued to enrol themselves in Indian higher education institutions. Major players within the intellectual field post-1950s Nepal, were trained in India, and with the passage of time the numbers kept on rising, even amidst ups and downs in diplomatic relations between these two nations.

Cultural capital

Higher educational training, even though

available as a commodity, still embeds avenues that register learning experiences as impactful memories which shape future lives and proclivities. These memories, among other things, are potential sources of South Asian cultural capital that grows spontaneously when nurtured with care. And when this process involves the category of 'foreign students', it becomes the responsibility of the host institution to prevent the process from turning into a pedagogy of the oppressed.

Students are students, no matter where they are from. Creating categories within studenthood and offering differential treatment is an act of institutionally sponsored ragging that devalues the institution, renders the educational ambience volatile, and most importantly, propagates a culture of misanthropy, thereby nullifying the core of education in itself, no matter where the institution appears on the charts of national or international grading systems.

Moreover, the KIIT instance, when viewed in the light of the Indo-Nepal Peace Treaty of 1950, appears to be a case that is in direct conflict with Article 6 (confirms national treatment to be offered to the nationals of either country) and Article 7 (confirms reciprocal privileges of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce, movement to the nationals of one country in the territories of the other) of the said Treaty, and thereby has the potency to affect bilateral ties between India and Nepal.

Swatalsiddha Sarkar teaches at the Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal.

THE GIST

On February 16, a third-year Nepali woman student was found dead by suicide in the Bhubaneswar-based Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT).

Nepal's academic relationship with India and Indian academic institutions in particular illustrate a rich history.

Without even being colonised, the colonial legacy of Nepal's education system was established through two routes: first, by affiliating the first college in Nepal to universities of colonial India, thereby, diminishing any opportunity to premise pedagogy around Nepali roots and branches (except language); and the second was through college instructors.

The Academic Link Between Nepal and India



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नेपाल और भारत के बीच शैक्षणिक संबंध

Incident at KIIT and Its Impact

केआईआईटी में घटना और इसका प्रभाव

- On February 16, a third-year woman student from Nepal was found dead by suicide at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar.
16 फरवरी को भुवनेश्वर स्थित कलिंगा इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ इंडस्ट्रियल टेक्नोलॉजी (KIIT) में नेपाल की तीसरे वर्ष की एक छात्रा को आत्महत्या करते पाया गया।
- Initial police investigations revealed that she had been **harassed by a fellow male student**, which led her to take her own life.
प्रारंभिक पुलिस जांच में पता चला कि एक सहपाठी छात्र द्वारा लगातार प्रताड़ित किए जाने के कारण उसने आत्महत्या कर ली।
- **Nepali students protested**, stating that the university ignored her repeated **complaints** about harassment.
नेपाली छात्रों ने विरोध प्रदर्शन किया, यह कहते हुए कि विश्वविद्यालय ने उनकी बार-बार की गई शिकायतों को नजरअंदाज किया।
- KIIT temporarily halted academic activities and ordered Nepali students to vacate the campus, causing widespread outrage.
KIIT ने अस्थायी रूप से शैक्षणिक गतिविधियों को रोक दिया और नेपाली छात्रों को परिसर खाली करने का आदेश दिया, जिससे व्यापक आक्रोश फैल गया।
- **Following intervention from the Nepali government**, KIIT withdrew the order and resumed academic sessions.
नेपाली सरकार के हस्तक्षेप के बाद, KIIT ने आदेश वापस ले लिया और शैक्षणिक सत्र फिर से शुरू किया।

Foreign Student Enrolment in India

भारत में विदेशी छात्रों का नामांकन

- According to the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22**, **46,878 foreign students from 170 nations** were enrolled in Indian universities.

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ऑल इंडिया सर्वे ऑन हायर एजुकेशन (AISHE) 2021-22 के अनुसार, 170 देशों के 46,878 विदेशी छात्र भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों में नामांकित थे।

- **Nepal had the highest share (28%) of foreign students, maintaining its leading position since 2012-13 (21%).**
नेपाल का विदेशी छात्रों में सबसे अधिक (28%) हिस्सा था, जो 2012-13 (21%) से लगातार बना हुआ है।
- Nepali students are **spread across India**, studying in universities from **Kashmir in the north to Kerala in the south, and from NEHU in the east to Gujarat Ayurveda University in the west.**
नेपाली छात्र भारत भर में फैले हुए हैं, जो उत्तर में कश्मीर से लेकर दक्षिण में केरल, पूर्व में NEHU से लेकर पश्चिम में गुजरात आयुर्वेद विश्वविद्यालय तक विभिन्न संस्थानों में पढ़ रहे हैं।
- Most enrolments are in **undergraduate courses**, but **PhD enrolment has been increasing steadily.**
अधिकांश नामांकन स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों में होते हैं, लेकिन पीएचडी नामांकन धीरे-धीरे बढ़ रहा है।
- Nepali students prefer **engineering and technology courses** in institutions like **IITs (Delhi, Kanpur, Roorkee, Guwahati), IISc Bangalore, and private institutes like KIIT.**
नेपाली छात्र इंजीनियरिंग और प्रौद्योगिकी पाठ्यक्रमों को पसंद करते हैं, विशेष रूप से आईआईटी (दिल्ली, कानपुर, रुड़की, गुवाहाटी), आईआईएससी बेंगलोर और निजी संस्थान जैसे KIIT में।

Historical Academic Relationship Between Nepal and India

नेपाल और भारत के बीच ऐतिहासिक शैक्षणिक संबंध

- **Nepal's academic relationship with India has a long and rich history**, deeply embedded in cultural and educational exchanges.
नेपाल का भारत के साथ शैक्षणिक संबंध बहुत पुराना और समृद्ध है, जो सांस्कृतिक और शैक्षणिक आदान-प्रदान से गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- Scholars like **Pratyush Onta and Rhoderick Chalmers** highlight the role of **Banaras and Darjeeling** in shaping the Nepali public sphere.
विद्वान प्रत्युष ऑंटा और रोडरिक चाल्मर्स ने बनारस और दार्जिलिंग की भूमिका को नेपाली सार्वजनिक



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क्षेत्र के निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण बताया है।

- Unlike the colonial "Gorkha" legacy, India's role as an education hub for Nepal dates back to the Gurukul system.
औपनिवेशिक "गोरखा" विरासत से अलग, भारत का नेपाल के लिए एक शैक्षणिक केंद्र के रूप में योगदान गुरुकुल प्रणाली के समय से चला आ रहा है।

Nepali Students in India During the Rana Regime

राणा शासन के दौरान भारतीय शिक्षा में नेपाली छात्र

- During the Rana regime, education in Nepal was limited to the elite class, forcing many Nepali families to send their children to Banaras, Patna, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, and Darjeeling for education.
राणा शासन के दौरान, नेपाल में शिक्षा केवल अभिजात्य वर्ग तक सीमित थी, जिससे कई नेपाली परिवारों को बनारस, पटना, देहरादून, गोरखपुर और दार्जिलिंग में अपने बच्चों को पढ़ने भेजना पड़ा।
- The modern formal education system in Nepal is not very old and has deep academic connections with India.
नेपाल की आधुनिक औपचारिक शिक्षा प्रणाली बहुत पुरानी नहीं है और इसका भारत से गहरा शैक्षणिक संबंध है।

Development of Modern Education in Nepal

नेपाल में आधुनिक शिक्षा का विकास

- Western-style education in Nepal began with the establishment of Durbar High School in 1854, initially accessible only to royal family members and courtiers.
नेपाल में पश्चिमी शैली की शिक्षा की शुरुआत 1854 में दरबार हाई स्कूल की स्थापना से हुई, जो प्रारंभ में केवल राजपरिवार और दरबारियों के लिए उपलब्ध थी।
- In 1901, public schools like Bhasa Pathshala (Language Schools) were opened, using Nepali (then known as Gorkhali/Khas) as the medium of instruction.
1901 में, भाषा पाठशाला (भाषा स्कूल) जैसे सार्वजनिक विद्यालय खोले गए, जहाँ नेपाली (तब गोरखाली/खस के रूप में जाना जाता था) को शिक्षण की भाषा के रूप में अपनाया गया।

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- **Tri-Chandra College was established in Kathmandu in 1918, initially affiliated with Calcutta University, later shifting to Patna University.**
त्रि-चंद्र कॉलेज की स्थापना 1918 में काठमांडू में हुई, जो प्रारंभ में कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय से संबद्ध था, बाद में पटना विश्वविद्यालय से जुड़ा।
- Under this affiliation, **Indian universities controlled Nepal's higher education system, managing courses, textbooks, pedagogy, examinations, and degrees.**
इस संबद्धता के तहत, भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों ने नेपाल की उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को नियंत्रित किया, जिसमें पाठ्यक्रम, पुस्तकें, शिक्षण पद्धति, परीक्षाएँ और डिग्री शामिल थी।

Letting Go of Colonial Influence

औपनिवेशिक प्रभाव से मुक्ति

- Although **Nepal was never colonized, its education system was influenced by British India** in two key ways:
 - **Affiliating Nepal's first college with colonial Indian universities, limiting the scope for Nepali-rooted pedagogy.**
 - **Nepali college instructors obtained master's degrees from Indian universities, leading them to adopt Indian educational content.**
 - हालांकि नेपाल कभी उपनिवेश नहीं बना, लेकिन उसका शिक्षा तंत्र ब्रिटिश भारत से दो प्रमुख तरीकों से प्रभावित हुआ:
 - नेपाल के पहले कॉलेज को ब्रिटिश भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों से संबद्ध करना, जिससे नेपाल-केंद्रित शिक्षा पद्धति की संभावना कम हो गई।
 - नेपाली कॉलेज शिक्षकों ने भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों से मास्टर डिग्री प्राप्त की, जिससे उन्होंने भारतीय पाठ्यक्रम को ही अपनाया।
- Until the establishment of **Tribhuvan University in 1959, Nepal had no provision for postgraduate education.**
 - Higher education was **limited to the undergraduate level.**
 - **Social sciences (economics and geography)** were introduced only in the **1940s**, followed by **sociology and anthropology** in the **1950s**.
 - 1959 में त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना से पहले, नेपाल में स्नातकोत्तर शिक्षा की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी।
 - उच्च शिक्षा केवल स्नातक स्तर तक सीमित थी।



- सामाजिक विज्ञान (अर्थशास्त्र और भूगोल) 1940 के दशक में और समाजशास्त्र व मानवविज्ञान 1950 के दशक में शुरू किए गए।
- Despite efforts to "Nepalize" education, British India's colonial legacy continued to dominate until the 1950s.
 - The Gandhian model of education was referenced but with modifications.
 - In 1954, Nepal's National Educational Planning Commission (NEPC) was established to make education relevant to national needs.
 - नेपाल में शिक्षा को "नेपाल केंद्रित" बनाने के प्रयासों के बावजूद, 1950 के दशक तक ब्रिटिश भारत का औपनिवेशिक प्रभाव बना रहा।
 - गांधीवादी शिक्षा मॉडल को अपनाया गया, लेकिन कुछ बदलावों के साथ।
 - 1954 में, नेपाल ने राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा योजना आयोग (NEPC) की स्थापना की, ताकि शिक्षा राष्ट्रीय आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप हो।
- In 1971, the New Education System Plan (NESP) was introduced, revamping Nepal's education system and making it independent.
 - However, Nepali students continued to enroll in Indian universities, even during fluctuations in Indo-Nepal diplomatic relations.
 - 1971 में, नए शिक्षा प्रणाली योजना (NESP) की शुरुआत हुई, जिससे नेपाल का शिक्षा तंत्र स्वतंत्र हुआ।
 - हालांकि, नेपाल के छात्र भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों में प्रवेश लेते रहे, भले ही भारत-नेपाल के राजनयिक संबंधों में उतार-चढ़ाव आया।

Cultural Capital and Higher Education

सांस्कृतिक पूंजी और उच्च शिक्षा

- Higher education leaves lasting memories and influences future life choices, shaping South Asian cultural capital.
 - This process requires nurturing and care, especially for foreign students.
 - उच्च शिक्षा गहरी यादें छोड़ती है और भविष्य के जीवन के विकल्पों को प्रभावित करती है, जिससे दक्षिण एशियाई सांस्कृतिक पूंजी बनती है।
 - यह प्रक्रिया देखभाल और मार्गदर्शन की मांग करती है, विशेष रूप से विदेशी छात्रों के लिए।
- Discrimination against foreign students creates a toxic educational environment, devaluing the institution's reputation.



- Unequal treatment amounts to institutionalized ragging and promotes misanthropy.
- विदेशी छात्रों के प्रति भेदभाव शैक्षणिक वातावरण को विषाक्त बनाता है और संस्थान की प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान पहुंचाता है।
 - यह असमान व्यवहार संस्थागत रैगिंग के समान है और मानवता के प्रति नकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण को बढ़ावा देता है।

KIIT Incident and Indo-Nepal Relations

KIIT की घटना और भारत-नेपाल संबंध

- The KIIT incident, in which Nepali students were ordered to vacate the campus, violates the **Indo-Nepal Peace Treaty of 1950**.
 - **Article 6 grants equal national treatment to the citizens of both countries.**
 - **Article 7 provides reciprocal privileges for residence, property ownership, trade, commerce, and movement between India and Nepal.**
 - KIIT की घटना, जिसमें नेपाली छात्रों को कैम्पस खाली करने का आदेश दिया गया था, 1950 की भारत-नेपाल शांति संधि का उल्लंघन करती है।
 - अनुच्छेद 6 दोनों देशों के नागरिकों को समान राष्ट्रीय अधिकार प्रदान करता है।
 - अनुच्छेद 7 निवास, संपत्ति स्वामित्व, व्यापार, वाणिज्य और आवाजाही के लिए आपसी विशेषाधिकारों की पुष्टि करता है।
- The incident could **strain bilateral relations between India and Nepal**.
 - KIIT's actions contradict the principles of the treaty, raising concerns about fair treatment of Nepali students in India.
 - यह घटना भारत-नेपाल के द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को प्रभावित कर सकती है।
 - KIIT का यह कदम संधि के सिद्धांतों के खिलाफ है, जिससे भारत में नेपाली छात्रों के प्रति उचित व्यवहार को लेकर चिंता बढ़ सकती है।



First CDS visit to Australia boosts cooperation on 'shared priorities'

**GS Paper II:
India-Australia**

The
NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan's visit to Australia has advanced cooperation on "shared priorities and interoperability, including in maritime domain awareness, reciprocal information sharing, and deployments from each other's territories," the Australian Defence Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

This is the first visit to Australia by an Indian Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Gen. Chauhan was hosted in Canberra by Admiral David Johnston, the Chief of the Defence Force of Australia.

"Discussions focused on



Defence heads: Gen. Anil Chauhan with Adm. James Lybrand during his visit to the Australian Defence College on Wednesday. PTI

practical ideas to realise both nations' long-term vision of a defence and security collaboration that enhances collective strength and contributes to both countries' security," the Australian state-

ment said.

India is a top-tier security partner for Australia, with both countries committed to working together to promote a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, the state-

ment said. The two countries have established a strong tempo of exercises and activities across maritime, land and air domains, working through the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership and as trilateral and quadrilateral partners, it added.

The visit underlines the value of Australia's defence partnership with India, Adm. Johnston said in the statement. "We are committed to working closely with our Indian partners to enhance our interoperability, strengthen people-to-people links, and further cooperation with key partners to promote regional stability and security," he said.

First CDS visit to Australia boosts cooperation on 'shared priorities'

ऑस्ट्रेलिया की पहली सीडीएस यात्रा 'साझा प्राथमिकताओं' पर सहयोग को बढ़ावा देती है

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan's visit to Australia has advanced cooperation on shared priorities and interoperability, including in maritime domain awareness, reciprocal information sharing, and deployments from each other's territories, the Australian Defence Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

प्रमुख रक्षा अध्यक्ष (CDS) जनरल अनिल चौहान की ऑस्ट्रेलिया यात्रा ने साझा



प्राथमिकताओं और इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी पर सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाया है, जिसमें समुद्री डोमेन जागरूकता, पारस्परिक सूचना साझा करना, और एक-दूसरे के क्षेत्रों से तैनाती शामिल है, ऑस्ट्रेलियाई रक्षा मंत्रालय ने गुरुवार को एक बयान में कहा।

- This is the **first visit to Australia** by an Indian CDS, and **Gen. Chauhan** was hosted in **Canberra** by **Admiral David Johnston**, the **Chief of the Defence Force of Australia**. यह भारतीय CDS की पहली यात्रा है ऑस्ट्रेलिया में, और जनरल चौहान का स्वागत कैनबरा में ऑस्ट्रेलियाई रक्षा बलों के प्रमुख एडमिरल डेविड जॉनस्टन द्वारा किया गया।
- “Discussions focused on practical ideas to realize both nations’ **long-term vision of a defence and security collaboration** that enhances **collective strength** and contributes to both countries’ **security**,” the **Australian statement** said. चर्चा का मुख्य केंद्र रक्षा और सुरक्षा सहयोग की दीर्घकालिक दृष्टि को साकार करने के लिए व्यावहारिक विचारों पर था, जिससे सामूहिक शक्ति को बढ़ावा मिले और दोनों देशों की सुरक्षा में योगदान हो,” ऑस्ट्रेलियाई बयान में कहा गया।
- **India is a top-tier security partner for Australia**, with both countries committed to working together to promote a **peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region**, the statement said. भारत ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लिए एक शीर्ष-स्तरीय सुरक्षा भागीदार है, और दोनों देश शांतिपूर्ण, स्थिर और समृद्ध इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक साथ काम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं, बयान में कहा गया।
- The two countries have established a **strong tempo of exercises and activities** across **maritime, land, and air domains**, working through the **bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership** and as **trilateral and quadrilateral partners**, it added. दोनों देशों ने समुद्री, भूमि और वायु क्षेत्रों में अभ्यासों और गतिविधियों की मजबूत गति स्थापित की है, और वे द्विपक्षीय व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी और त्रिपक्षीय व चतुर्भुज साझेदारों के रूप में मिलकर कार्य कर रहे हैं, बयान में जोड़ा गया।
- The visit underlines the value of **Australia’s defence partnership with India**, **Adm. Johnston** said in the statement. यह यात्रा ऑस्ट्रेलिया की भारत के साथ रक्षा साझेदारी के महत्व को दर्शाती है, एडमिरल जॉनस्टन ने बयान में कहा।
- “We are committed to working closely with our **Indian partners** to enhance our **interoperability, strengthen people-to-people links**, and further **cooperation with key partners** to promote **regional stability and security**,” he said. “हम अपने भारतीय साझेदारों के साथ निकटता से काम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं ताकि हम अपनी इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी बढ़ा सकें, लोगों के बीच संबंध मजबूत कर सकें, और प्रमुख भागीदारों के साथ सहयोग को आगे बढ़ा सकें ताकि क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता और सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा मिल सके,” उन्होंने कहा।



Sudan files case against UAE at the ICJ over 'complicity in genocide'

सूडान ने यूएई के खिलाफ आईसीजे में 'नरसंहार में मिलीभगत' का मामला दर्ज किया

• Sudan has filed a case against the UAE arguing that the Gulf state is complicit in genocide over its alleged support for Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

• सूडान ने यूएई के खिलाफ मामला दायर किया है, यह तर्क देते हुए कि खाड़ी देश नरसंहार में मिलीभगत कर रहा है क्योंकि वह सूडान की अर्धसैनिक रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्स का समर्थन कर रहा है।

THE HAGUE

Sudan files case against UAE at the ICJ over 'complicity in genocide'

GS Paper II: IR



AFP

Sudan has filed a case against the UAE arguing that the Gulf state is complicit in genocide over its alleged support for Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, the International Court of Justice announced on Thursday. Khartoum contends that the UAE is complicit in the genocide of the Masalit community in Sudan. AFP

• The International Court of Justice (ICJ) announced this case on Thursday.

• अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय (ICJ) ने इस मामले की घोषणा गुरुवार को की।

• Khartoum contends that the UAE is complicit in the genocide of the Masalit community in Sudan.

• खार्तूम का तर्क है कि यूएई सूडान में मसालित समुदाय के नरसंहार में शामिल है।



Zelenskyy thanks Europe for supporting Kyiv after U.S. rift

'We are not alone,' says the Ukrainian President; France promises to share military intelligence with Ukraine after U.S. withdraws services; EU chief calls it a watershed moment for the continent

GS Paper II: EU

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked EU leaders on Thursday for standing by Ukraine's side, as the bloc held crisis talks on confronting U.S. President Donald Trump's pivot away from Kyiv and its transatlantic partners.

Thursday's European summit comes a week after a White House blow-up between Mr. Trump and Mr. Zelenskyy led Washington to cut the military aid and intelligence sharing that has helped Kyiv fight off Russia's invasion. Separately French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu



New friends: (from left) European Council President Antonio Costa, Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels. AFP

vowed to provide military intelligence to Ukraine.

"We are very thankful that we are not alone. And these are not just words," the Ukrainian President said as the Brussels meet-

ing kicked off, standing alongside EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa.

Ms. Von der Leyen, who has laid out a plan aimed at mobilising €800 billion to

"re-arm Europe" faced with the threat from Russia, called it "a watershed moment" for the continent.

"Europe faces a clear and present danger, and therefore Europe has to be able to protect itself," the European Commission chief told reporters.

"It's also a watershed moment for Ukraine," she said. "We have to put Ukraine in a position to protect itself and to push for a lasting and just peace."

The EU's 27 nations are expected to give a green light on Thursday to the commission's defence plans, based largely on freeing states to spend much more.

Zelenskyy thanks Europe for supporting Kyiv after U.S. rift

ज़ेलेंस्की ने अमेरिका के टकराव के बाद कीव का समर्थन करने के लिए यूरोप को धन्यवाद दिया

• Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked EU leaders on Thursday for standing by Ukraine, as the bloc held crisis talks on confronting U.S. President Donald Trump's pivot away from Kyiv.

• वोलोडिमिर ज़ेलेंस्की ने गुरुवार को ईयू नेताओं को यूक्रेन के साथ खड़े रहने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया, क्योंकि यूरोपीय संघ ने अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के कीव से दूरी बनाने के मुद्दे पर आपातकालीन वार्ता की।



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• The European summit took place a week after a White House blow-up between Mr. Trump and Mr. Zelenskyy, which led Washington to cut military aid and intelligence sharing with Kyiv.

• यूरोपीय शिखर सम्मेलन एक सप्ताह बाद हुआ, जब व्हाइट हाउस में ट्रंप और ज़ेलेन्स्की के बीच विवाद हुआ, जिसके कारण वाशिंगटन ने कीव के साथ सैन्य सहायता और खुफिया जानकारी साझा करना बंद कर दिया।

• French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu vowed to provide military intelligence to Ukraine.

• फ्रांस के रक्षा मंत्री सेबेस्टियन लेकोर्नु ने यूक्रेन को सैन्य खुफिया जानकारी देने का वादा किया।

• "We are very thankful that we are not alone," Zelenskyy said at the Brussels meeting, standing alongside EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa.

• "हम बहुत आभारी हैं कि हम अकेले नहीं हैं," ज़ेलेन्स्की ने ब्रसेल्स बैठक में कहा, जहां वे ईयू प्रमुख उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन और एंटोनियो कोस्टा के साथ खड़े थे।

• Ursula von der Leyen has proposed a plan to mobilize €800 billion to "re-arm Europe" against the Russian threat.

• उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन ने रूसी खतरे के खिलाफ "यूरोप को पुनः सशस्त्र" करने के लिए €800 अरब जुटाने की योजना प्रस्तुत की।

• She called it "a watershed moment" for the continent.

• उन्होंने इसे महाद्वीप के लिए "एक निर्णायक क्षण" कहा।

• "Europe faces a clear and present danger, and therefore must protect itself," said von der Leyen.

• "यूरोप एक स्पष्ट और तात्कालिक खतरे का सामना कर रहा है, इसलिए इसे खुद की रक्षा करनी होगी," वॉन डेर लेयेन ने कहा।

• She also said, "It's a watershed moment for Ukraine. We have to put Ukraine in a position to protect itself and push for a lasting and just peace."

• उन्होंने यह भी कहा, "यह यूक्रेन के लिए एक निर्णायक क्षण है। हमें यूक्रेन को अपनी रक्षा करने और स्थायी व न्यायसंगत शांति स्थापित करने की स्थिति में रखना होगा।"

• The EU's 27 nations are expected to approve the European Commission's defence plans, which focus on freeing states to spend more.

• ईयू के 27 देश यूरोपीय आयोग की रक्षा योजनाओं को मंजूरी देने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं, जो राष्ट्रों को अधिक खर्च करने की स्वतंत्रता देने पर केंद्रित हैं।

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

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- 2. CISF to recruit up to 20,000 personnel annually: D-G**
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(Clockwise from left) A worker makes Solapur chaddars at a factory in the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, a jacket woven in the same jacquard pattern of the chaddar; a worker dries Solapur towels in a factory, Pentappa Gaddam, president of SOZIVA, EMMAJALU, TOGA

Lost between the warp and weft of business and life

GS Paper III: Industries

For up to four decades, Maharashtra's Solapur *chaddar* saw high demand at home and overseas. Now, just 10% of the producers remain. The rest have shifted to towel production, mostly with a cotton-synthetic mix of fibres. Snehal Mutha delves into the complexities in the sector and factors contributing to the *chaddar*'s decline

GS Paper III: Industries

In a name, Akkalkot Road falls in an industrial area. But the 4 to 5 km potholed road, in Solapur district's Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, is deserted. The factory units, spread across 26 hectares of the industrial area, resemble homes with white rangolis outside each gate. In the quiet afternoon, the only sound is the *thak-thak* of power looms, bearing testimony to the still-running textile industry in the area.

Here, according to the Textile Development Foundation (TDF), an association of manufacturers established in 1995 in Solapur, 600-700 units operate with about 10 employees each, weaving textile for Solapur *chaddars*. Many now also produce towels. *Chaddars* are used in daily life for everything from a floor spread for people to sit on to a blanket or bedcover.

In his Solapur home, Govind Zanwar, 54, who produces bamboo towels now after switching over from *chaddars*, says there are many reasons for its decline. Besides a change in customer tastes, cheaper synthetic textiles flooding the market, and the increased cost of production, he ascribes the downfall to the lack of innovation in design. "Aesthetics matter and the *chaddar* features loud colours. There is scope for a revival, but it will be difficult," he says. Zanwar, who lives in a joint family, initially traded in cloth and entered the production of *chaddar* about 15 years ago. His daughter and son, both looking at careers as professionals in corporate jobs, are considering entering the business after Zanwar's pivot to bamboo towels.

In 2005, the jacquard *chaddar* made from cotton yarn secured the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, an Indian government certification that a particular craft originated in an area. That year, the *Geographical Indications Journal*, a government document issued for GI tags, had listed at least 15,000 handlooms and power looms operating in Solapur, employing over two lakh people, all producing the Solapur *chaddar*. In 2004, the journal reported that exports amounted to ₹500-600 crore. The government does not have current figures.

Shrinivas Bura, 50, a textile engineer, who worked in a corporate office in Mumbai and returned to Solapur to start Bravo Kids School to train a generation to think independently and build a spirit of entrepreneurship, is also the founder of TDF. He points out that *chaddar* production started declining from 2000.

He blames both the government and manufacturers for the downfall. "The government ignored the industry, while producers failed to innovate. We realised only when external players from Haryana's Panipat captured our *chaddar* market. Now 'Made in China' trends are posing a



danger to our towels," Shrinivas says, going through old records covered in dust. He and many manufacturers say Haryana producers label their *chaddars* 'Solapur'.

Pentappa Gaddam, 65, a manufacturer and president of the Solapur Zilla Yantramang Dharak Sangh (SOZIVA), an association that represents the community's needs to the government, says, "We complained to the government about the duplication, but no one listened to us." The association last complained eight years ago via letters, and has since stopped as the number of producers has come down.

Legacy looms

In a grey building in Siddheshwar Nagar, Solapur city, Suraj (name changed to protect privacy), 53, sits in his cramped office surrounded by piles of brightly coloured towels. He is a third-generation producer, who owns 12 power looms operating in two shifts. "We are just about surviving, forget bringing the next generation into the business. I am working at a 5% margin in towels; earlier it was 20%." He has had to shift from the Solapur jacquard *chaddar* to towels because "there is barely any demand for the *chaddar* anymore". Suraj's voice is drowned in the noise of the *thana-thana* (warp-weft) clattering together to form cloth. It is Tuesday, the day he pays weekly wages before the day off on Wednesday.

Suraj belongs to the Padmashah community of weavers. Many repeat a legend about people from the community making a piece of cloth from *padma tantu* (lotus fabric) for Lord Vishnu, who then christened them after it. In 1877, when Solapur's first mill - Solapur Spinning & Weaving Company Limited - was established, the community migrated here from Karimnagar, Warangal, and Siddipet - now in Telangana. It wasn't just about job opportunities, but also to escape the drought in those areas, he says.

"We are able to sustain ourselves today only because our past generations built the foundation. We own the land, so we don't take its value into account while pricing products. If we do, we will run into losses

because our past generations built the foundation. We own the land, so we don't take its value into account while pricing products. If we do, we will run into losses,

says Siddheshwar Gaddam, 61, the owner of a *chaddar* and towel factory. His grandparents worked in mills like Jam Mill and Laxmishnu Mill that collapsed in the 1950s. They purchased looms at a low price and started small units, becoming self-employed and giving employment to others. "From grey cloth, they shifted to *chaddar*. Fifteen years ago, we started making towels as it had an international market. Clients from abroad often asked for pure cotton towels, he says.

Many have quit manufacturing the Solapur *chaddar*. "When Prime Minister Narendra Modi is saying 'go local', why is the government not banning Chinese products?" Suraj says.

is saying 'go local', why is the government not banning Chinese products?" Suraj says.

On the factory floor
Gurubai is lost between the warp and the weft of the loom as she carefully winds thread on a bobbin. "I don't know how old I am, maybe 50. I came to Solapur when I got married and started making *chaddars*. I was 15 then," she says.

She wears a shirt over her sari, so that the cotton dust doesn't stick to her body and clothes. "It gets itchy," she says. She earns ₹800 to ₹1,000 every week for a 12-hour shift, and fears losing her job because she knows no other work. Some months, her salary just about pays her medical bills. Her work involves concentration and physical exertion. When her back aches, she takes an injection to deal with the pain.

Shridhar Gudhale, 48, a member of the labour union associated with the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, points out that workers don't have uniforms or safety gear, characteristic of informal work in India. He started as a worker, but now fights for the rights of workers. "The wages were last increased in 2022. Business owners will tell you the market is tight, just to avoid a wage increase," he says.

On their lunch break, a group of power loom workers, all in their 30s and 40s, sit under a tree and open their tiffin boxes. They are covered in cotton dust. Nagash Usapoyal, 43, a third-generation *chaddar* maker, says, "I rode a cycle yesterday. I am still riding a cycle today."

He dusts off cotton threads from his torn brown vest and folded pants. Usapoyal says he earns ₹8,000 a month.

Laxman Kuma, 35, is at a managerial position as he is a college graduate, but earns the same amount as a weaver. His work is to manage the

take care of Solapur's needs.

In his home-balcony office, Ashok Indupure, a trader who commissions goods and sells them on Amazon.in, says, "Solapur Government Polytechnic College discontinued textile-related courses as there were few takers, given the outdated syllabus." He feels if the Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education sets up diploma courses it may help.

A few mill owners blame politicians for ignoring Solapur, a city of migrants with people who speak Marathi, Telugu, and Kannada. There is also a mix of Hindus and Muslims, preventing politicians from creating religion- and caste-based vote banks. One producer says, "Karamati (former Union Agriculture Minister) Sharad Pawar, who made sure the region developed. We had (former Maharashtra Chief Minister) Sudhakar Shinde, but he did not have the political will to do anything."

Solapur holds a geographically strategic position as it is situated in the south-eastern part of Maharashtra, bordering Karnataka, and a six-hour road ride from Telangana.

The textile industry flourished in this area because of train connectivity. "But we needed an upgrade with airline connectivity," says Shrinivas, adding that there has been an airport here for 30 years, but it has been non-operational. The closest international airports are Pune and Hyderabad, both a five-hour drive away.

"Buyers from other countries avoid travelling here as they have to take various modes of transport to reach here," he says.

Innovation and diversification

Charvak Bungal, whose 2,200-square-foot unit was started in 1987 by his father, says for any textile-based industry to survive generations, there must be at least a 10% year-on-year growth, so there is a cushion for the bad years.

His margins have dropped from 25% about 20 years ago to 10% now. To cut the cost of production, manufacturers shifted from power looms to shuttleless looms in 2010 or so. They give four times the output of the power loom and need less manpower, he says.

Bungal runs a full-fledged *chaddar* production unit with 10 power looms and 20 rapiers. "This is our legacy, we have to keep it alive somehow," he says, while walking through rows of power looms that can produce 10 *chaddars* a day, unlike the rapiers that can churn out double that number.

He claims Solapur is the only place in India where everything from the doubling of yarn (twisting two yarns) and dyeing to winding (yarn bobbles or hanks transferred to bobbins) and warping (yarn transferred to beam) is done under one roof. For the towel, the process is the same, with the dyeing done after weaving. The entire process takes 15 days. The most common sizes are 48x90 inches, 54x90 inches, and 60x90 inches. Bungal has tried to innovate by creating wall hangings, portraits, and bags, but he is unsure of where to find a market.

Youth and women in factory leadership are uncommon. Amit Bura, 25, is one of the few who has taken up his father's trade, but he does not see the Solapur *chaddar* as a profitable business. "We are experimenting with other products. We tried bottle-making but did not succeed. We are exploring other ideas," he says.



SIDDHESHWAR GADDAM
Owner of a *chaddar* and towel factory in Solapur





Lost between the warp and weft of business and life व्यवसाय और जीवन के ताने-बाने में खोए हुए

For up to four decades, Maharashtra's Solapuri chaddar saw high demand at home and overseas. Now, just 10% of the producers remain. The rest have shifted to towel production, mostly with a cotton-synthetic mix of fibers.

पिछले चार दशकों तक, महाराष्ट्र की सोलापुरी चादर की घरेलू और विदेशी बाजारों में भारी मांग थी। अब केवल 10% उत्पादक बचे हैं। बाकी ने तौलिया उत्पादन की ओर रुख कर लिया है, जो मुख्य रूप से कपास-सिंथेटिक मिश्रण से बनते हैं।

- **Akkalkot Road** in Solapur's Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) is an industrial area but appears **deserted**. The 216-hectare area has factory units resembling **homes with rangolis** outside the gates.
सोलापुर के महाराष्ट्र औद्योगिक विकास निगम (MIDC) में स्थित अक्कलकोट रोड औद्योगिक क्षेत्र होने के बावजूद **सूना** दिखाई देता है। 216 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में फैक्ट्रियाँ घरों जैसी दिखती हैं, जिनके बाहर रंगोली बनी होती है।
- According to the **Textile Development Foundation (TDF)**, an association of manufacturers established in 1995, **600-700** units operate in Solapur, employing about **10 workers each**. Many now also produce **towels**.
टेक्सटाइल डेवलपमेंट फाउंडेशन (TDF) के अनुसार, जो 1995 में स्थापित हुआ था, सोलापुर में **600-700** इकाइयाँ काम कर रही हैं, जिनमें प्रत्येक में लगभग **10** कर्मचारी हैं। इनमें से कई अब तौलिये भी बनाती हैं।
- **Solapuri chaddars** are used for multiple purposes—**floor spreads, blankets, and bedcovers**.
सोलापुरी चादरें कई उद्देश्यों के लिए उपयोग की जाती हैं—**फर्श बिछाने, कंबल और बेडकवर** के रूप में।
- **Govind Zanwar (54)**, a producer, shifted to **bamboo towels** due to **declining demand**. He attributes the downfall to **changing customer preferences, cheap synthetic textiles, high production costs, and lack of design innovation**.
गोविंद ज़नवर (54), एक उत्पादक, ने बांस के तौलियों का उत्पादन शुरू किया क्योंकि मांग घट रही थी। वे इस गिरावट का कारण ग्राहकों की बदलती पसंद, सस्ते सिंथेटिक वस्त्र, उच्च उत्पादन लागत और डिज़ाइन नवाचार की कमी को मानते हैं।
- **His children**, aiming for corporate jobs, are now considering joining the family business after the shift to **bamboo towels**.
उनके बच्चे, जो कॉर्पोरेट नौकरियों में करियर बनाने की योजना बना रहे थे, अब बांस के तौलियों के कारोबार में शामिल होने पर विचार कर रहे हैं।



- In **2005**, the **jacquard chaddar** made from **cotton yarn** received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, certifying it as a **unique craft from Solapur**.
2005 में, कपास के धागे से बनी जैक्वार्ड चादर को भौगोलिक संकेत (GI) टैग मिला, जिससे इसे सोलापुर की विशिष्ट कारीगरी के रूप में मान्यता मिली।
- In **2004**, **15,000 handlooms and power looms** in Solapur employed **over two lakh people**, producing **Solapuri chaddars**. Exports were valued at **₹500-₹600 crore**.
2004 में, सोलापुर में 15,000 हैंडलूम और पावरलूम कार्यरत थे, जिसमें दो लाख से अधिक लोग कार्यरत थे और सोलापुरी चादरें बना रहे थे। निर्यात का मूल्य ₹500-₹600 करोड़ था।
- **Shrinivas Bura (59)**, a **textile engineer**, left his corporate job in Mumbai and started **Bravo Kids School** in Solapur to promote **entrepreneurial thinking**. He also founded **TDF**.
श्रिनिवास बुरा (59), एक टेक्सटाइल इंजीनियर, ने मुंबई की अपनी कॉर्पोरेट नौकरी छोड़कर सोलापुर में ब्रावो किड्स स्कूल की स्थापना की, जिससे उद्यमशीलता की सोच को बढ़ावा मिला। वे TDF के संस्थापक भी हैं।
- He says **chaddar production started declining in 2000**, blaming both the **government and manufacturers for the downfall**.
वे कहते हैं कि 2000 से चादर उत्पादन गिरने लगा, और इसके लिए सरकार और निर्माताओं दोनों को जिम्मेदार मानते हैं।
- **Haryana's Panipat manufacturers captured the chaddar market, while Chinese towels are now a new threat**.
हरियाणा के पानीपत के निर्माताओं ने चादर बाजार पर कब्जा कर लिया, जबकि अब चीनी तौलिये एक नई चुनौती बन गए हैं।
- **Pentappa Gaddam (65)**, a **manufacturer and president of Solapur Zilla Yantramag Dharak Sangh (SOZIYA)**, states that **fake Solapur chaddars from Haryana are being sold under the Solapur name**.
पेंटप्पा गड्डम (65), एक निर्माता और सोलापुर जिला यंत्रमाग धारक संघ (SOZIYA) के अध्यक्ष, कहते हैं कि हरियाणा से नकली सोलापुर चादरें सोलापुर नाम से बेची जा रही हैं।
- **SOZIYA complained to the government about duplication eight years ago but received no response**.
SOZIYA ने आठ साल पहले सरकार से डुप्लिकेशन की शिकायत की थी, लेकिन कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं मिली।
- **As producers declined, complaints stopped**.
जैसे-जैसे उत्पादकों की संख्या घटी, शिकायतें बंद हो गईं।

Legacy looms

पुरानी विरासत का संघर्ष

- In a **grey building** in **Siddheshwar Nagar, Solapur city, Suraj (name changed), 53**, sits in his **cramped office** surrounded by piles of **brightly coloured towels**.



सिद्धेश्वर नगर, सोलापुर शहर की एक दूसर इमारत में, सूरज (बदला हुआ नाम), 53 वर्ष, अपने छोटे से दफ्तर में रंग-बिरंगे तौलियों के ढेर के बीच बैठे हैं।

- He is a **third-generation producer** who owns **12 power looms** operating in **two shifts**. वह तीसरी पीढ़ी के निर्माता हैं, जो 12 पावर लूम के मालिक हैं, जो दो शिफ्टों में चलते हैं।
- "We are just about surviving; forget bringing the next generation into the business. I am working at a **5% margin** in **towels**; earlier it was **20%**."

"हम बस किसी तरह जीवित हैं; अगली पीढ़ी को इस व्यवसाय में लाना भूल जाइए। मैं तौलियों में 5% मार्जिन पर काम कर रहा हूँ; पहले यह 20% था।"

- He has had to shift from **Solapuri jacquard chaddar** to **towels** because "**there is barely any demand for the chaddar anymore**".
उन्हें सोलापुरी जेक्वार्ड चादर से तौलियों में बदलना पड़ा क्योंकि "अब चादर की मांग लगभग समाप्त हो गई है"।
- Suraj's voice is drowned in the noise of the **thanabana (warp-weft) clattering** together to form cloth.

सूरज की आवाज थानाबाना (ताने-बाने) की खटखटाहट में दब जाती है, जो कपड़ा बुनता है।

- It is **Tuesday**, the day he pays **weekly wages** before the **day off on Wednesday**. यह मंगलवार है, जब वह साप्ताहिक मजदूरी का भुगतान करते हैं, क्योंकि बुधवार को अवकाश होता है।
- Suraj belongs to the **Padmashali community** of weavers.
सूरज पद्मशाली समुदाय से आते हैं, जो बुनकरों का समुदाय है।
- Many repeat a legend about people from the community making a **piece of cloth from padma tantu (lotus fabric)** for **Lord Vishnu**, who then **christened them** after it.
कई लोग एक कथा दोहराते हैं कि इस समुदाय के लोगों ने पद्म तंतु (कमल के रेशे) से एक वस्त्र भगवान विष्णु के लिए बनाया था, और उन्होंने इसी के आधार पर समुदाय को नाम दिया।
- In **1877**, when **Solapur's first mill — Sholapur Spinning & Weaving Company Limited** — was established, the community migrated here from **Karimnagar, Warangal, and Siddipet (now in Telangana)**.

1877 में, जब सोलापुर की पहली मिल — शोलापुर स्पिनिंग एंड वीविंग कंपनी लिमिटेड स्थापित हुई, तो यह समुदाय करीमनगर, वारंगल और सिद्दीपेट (अब तेलंगाना में) से यहाँ आया।

- "We are able to sustain ourselves today only because **our past generations built the foundation**. We own the land, so **we don't take its value into account while pricing products**. If we do, **we will run into losses**," says **Siddheshwar Gaddam, 61**, the owner of a **chaddar and towel factory**.

"हम आज केवल इसलिए टिके हैं क्योंकि हमारी पिछली पीढ़ियों ने नींव रखी। हम ज़मीन के मालिक हैं, इसलिए हम इसकी कीमत को उत्पादों की लागत में नहीं जोड़ते। अगर ऐसा करें, तो हम घाटे में चले जाएंगे," कहते हैं सिद्धेश्वर गड्डम, 61, जो चादर और तौलिया फैक्ट्री के मालिक हैं।

- His grandparents worked in **mills like Jam Mill and Laxmivishnu Mill** that **collapsed in the 1950s**.

उनके दादा-दादी जैम मिल और लक्ष्मीविष्णु मिल में काम करते थे, जो 1950 के दशक में बंद हो गईं।

- They purchased looms at a **low price** and started **small units**, becoming **self-employed** and giving **employment to others**.



उन्होंने कम कीमत पर लूम खरीदे और छोटे यूनिट शुरू किए, जिससे वे स्वरोजगार में आ गए और दूसरों को रोजगार देने लगे।

- "From **grey cloth**, they shifted to **chaddar**. **Fifteen years ago**, we started making **towels** as it had an **international market**."
"सादा कपड़े से, उन्होंने चादर में बदलाव किया। पंद्रह साल पहले, हमने तौलियों का उत्पादन शुरू किया क्योंकि इसका अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार था।"
- Clients from abroad often asked for **pure cotton towels**.
विदेशी ग्राहक अक्सर शुद्ध सूती तौलियों की मांग करते थे।
- Many have **quit manufacturing the Solapur chaddar**.
कई लोगों ने सोलापुर चादर का उत्पादन बंद कर दिया है।
- "When **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is saying 'go local', why is the **government not banning Chinese products**?" Suraj says.
"जब प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी कह रहे हैं 'स्थानीय अपनाओ', तो सरकार चीनी उत्पादों पर प्रतिबंध क्यों नहीं लगा रही?" सूरज पूछते हैं।

On the Factory Floor

कारखाने के फर्श पर

- **Gurubai** is lost between the **warp and the weft** of the loom as she carefully winds thread on a bobbin.
गुरुबाई करघे के ताने-बाने में खोई हुई हैं क्योंकि वह ध्यानपूर्वक बॉबिन पर धागा लपेटती हैं।
- "I don't know how **old** I am; maybe **50**. I came to **Solapur** when I got married and started making **chaddars**. I was **15** then," she says.
वह कहती हैं, "मुझे नहीं पता कि मेरी उम्र कितनी है; शायद **50**। मैं शादी के बाद **सोलापुर** आई और **चदरें** बनानी शुरू की। तब मेरी उम्र **15** थी।"
- She wears a **shirt over her sari** so that the **cotton dust** doesn't stick to her body and clothes. "It gets **itchy**," she says.
वह अपनी साड़ी के ऊपर **शर्ट** पहनती हैं ताकि **सूती धूल** उनके शरीर और कपड़ों पर न चिपके। वह कहती हैं, "इससे **खुजली** होती है।"
- She earns **₹800 to ₹1,000 every week** for a **12-hour shift**, and fears losing her job because she knows no other work.
वह **₹800 से ₹1,000 प्रति सप्ताह** कमाती हैं **12 घंटे की शिफ्ट** में, और अपनी नौकरी खोने से डरती हैं क्योंकि उन्हें कोई और काम नहीं आता।
- Some months, her salary just about pays her **medical bills**.
कुछ महीनों में, उनकी तनखाह केवल उनके **चिकित्सा खर्चों** को पूरा कर पाती है।
- When her **back aches**, she takes an **injection** to deal with the pain.
जब उनकी **पीठ दर्द** करती है, तो वह **इंजेक्शन** लेकर दर्द सहती हैं।



Labour Conditions and Challenges

मजदूरी की स्थिति और चुनौतियाँ

- **Shridhar Gudheli, 48**, a member of the **labour union** associated with the **Maharashtra Navnirman Sena**, points out that workers don't have **uniforms or safety gear**.
श्रिधर गुडहेली, 48, जो महाराष्ट्र नवनिर्माण सेना से जुड़े श्रमिक संघ के सदस्य हैं, बताते हैं कि मजदूरों के पास यूनिफॉर्म या सुरक्षा उपकरण नहीं हैं।
- "The wages were last increased in **2022**. **Business owners** will tell you the market is **tight** just to avoid a **wage increase**," he says.
वह कहते हैं, "मजदूरी में आखिरी बार **2022** में बढ़ोतरी हुई थी। व्यवसायी केवल वेतन वृद्धि से बचने के लिए कहते हैं कि बाजार कठिन है।"
- **On their lunch break**, power loom workers sit **under a tree**, covered in **cotton dust**, and open their **tiffin boxes**.
दोपहर के खाने के समय, पावर लूम के मजदूर एक पेड़ के नीचे बैठते हैं, सूती धूल से ढके होते हैं, और अपने टिफिन बॉक्स खोलते हैं।
- **Nagesh Usapoyal, 43**, a **third-generation chaddar maker**, says, "I rode a **cycle** yesterday; I am still riding a **cycle** today."
नागेश उसपॉयल, 43, जो तीसरी पीढ़ी के चद्दर निर्माता हैं, कहते हैं, "मैंने कल साइकिल चलाई थी; आज भी साइकिल चला रहा हूँ।"
- He earns **₹8,000 a month**.
वह ₹8,000 प्रति माह कमाते हैं।
- **Laxman Kusma, 35**, despite being in a **managerial position** and a **college graduate**, earns the **same amount as a weaver**.
लक्ष्मण कुसमा, 35, जो प्रबंधन पद पर हैं और कॉलेज स्नातक हैं, फिर भी बुनकर के समान वेतन पाते हैं।
- He delivers **milk in the morning** for **₹250 a day** before starting his **8 AM to 7 PM factory shift**.
वह सुबह दूध वितरित करते हैं ₹250 प्रति दिन के लिए, फिर सुबह 8 बजे से शाम 7 बजे तक कारखाने में काम करते हैं।

Work and Wealth

काम और संपत्ति

- The decline of the **Solapur chaddar** is linked to **economic growth** and the rise in the **status of customers**.
सोलापुर चद्दर की गिरावट आर्थिक वृद्धि और ग्राहकों की स्थिति में वृद्धि से जुड़ी हुई है।
- As incomes increase, people shift from **chaddars to branded bedsheets**.
जैसे-जैसे आय बढ़ती है, लोग चद्दरों से ब्रांडेड बेडशीट पर चले जाते हैं।



- Manufacturers say **Solapur receives central water supply once in five days**, making it hard for a **water-intensive industry**.
निर्माताओं का कहना है कि सोलापुर में हर पांच दिन में एक बार केंद्रीय जल आपूर्ति मिलती है, जिससे जल-गहन उद्योग चलाना मुश्किल हो जाता है।
- **1 kg of yarn requires 60 litres of water.**
1 किलो सूत के लिए 60 लीटर पानी की आवश्यकता होती है।
- **SOZIYA** has been demanding **civic facilities** like **water, smooth roads, drainage, fire unit, and low-interest loans.**
SOZIYA पानी, अच्छी सड़कें, जल निकासी, अग्निशमन इकाई, और कम-ब्याज वाले ऋण जैसी नागरिक सुविधाओं की मांग कर रही है।

Innovation and Diversification

नवाचार और विविधीकरण

- **Charwak Burgul** says a textile business needs at least **10% year-on-year growth** to survive across generations.
चारवाक बुर्गुल कहते हैं कि एक कपड़ा उद्योग को पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी बनाए रखने के लिए कम से कम 10% वार्षिक वृद्धि की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Margins have dropped from **25% (20 years ago) to 10% now.**
लाभ 25% (20 साल पहले) से घटकर अब 10% हो गया है।
- Manufacturers have **shifted from power looms to shuttleless looms**, which need **less manpower** and give **four times the output.**
निर्माताओं ने पावर लूम से शटललेस लूम में शिफ्ट किया है, जो कम श्रमिक में चार गुना उत्पादन देते हैं।
- **Amit Bura, 25**, has joined his father's trade but does not see **chaddar-making** as **profitable.**
अमित बुरा, 25, ने अपने पिता के व्यवसाय को अपनाया है लेकिन चद्दर निर्माण को लाभदायक नहीं मानते।
- "We tried **bottle-making** but did not succeed. We are exploring other ideas," he says.
वह कहते हैं, "हमने बोटल बनाने की कोशिश की लेकिन सफल नहीं हुए। हम अन्य विचारों की तलाश कर रहे हैं।"



PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Birds of a feather



Pelicans and painted storks at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam. The birds' enclosure was completely damaged during Cyclone Hudhud in 2014. Since then, they have been freely moving around the zoo. K.R. DEEPAK

[GS Paper III: Environment](#)

PATRIOTIC



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CISF to recruit up to 20,000 personnel annually: D-G

GS Paper III: Security forces

CHENNAI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is set to recruit between 15,000 and 20,000 personnel annually over the next few years, to increase its capacity to cover more facilities, Director-General Rajwinder Singh Bhatti said in Chennai on Thursday.

He further said CISF cover for airports in Navi Mumbai, Lengpui in Mizoram, Jewar in Noida, Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, among others, were "under consideration".

Addressing the annual press conference ahead of the CISF's Raising Day celebrations, Mr. Bhatti said the force was expanding by about 10% annually. While the recruitment of around 14,000 personnel was completed recently, recruitment for 17,000 more was under way.

Language issue

Meanwhile, senior officers of the force said as per the posting policy, 60% of the personnel posted in airports were drawn from the Sector or State where the facility was located, amid concerns over language issues faced by the public. The officials also assured that language balance in this regard would be improved.

The CISF's Southern Sector covers five States – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, besides the Union territory of Puducherry. At airports in the sector, about 60% of personnel would be from the same State, they said.

CISF to recruit up to 20,000 personnel annually: D-G

CISF सालाना 20,000 कर्मियों की भर्ती करेगा: महानिदेशक

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will recruit 15,000 to 20,000 personnel annually over the next few years to expand its coverage.

केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (CISF) अगले कुछ वर्षों में 15,000 से 20,000 कर्मियों की सालाना भर्ती करेगा ताकि अपने दायरे का विस्तार किया जा सके।

• CISF Director-General Rajwinder Singh Bhatti announced this in Chennai on Thursday.

CISF के महानिदेशक रजविंदर सिंह भट्टी ने यह घोषणा गुरुवार को चेन्नई में की।

• New CISF airport coverage is under consideration for Navi Mumbai, Lengpui (Mizoram), Jewar (Noida), Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu), and Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).

नए हवाई अड्डों की CISF सुरक्षा के लिए नवी मुंबई, लेंगपुई (मिजोरम), जेवर (नोएडा), तूतीकोरिन (तमिलनाडु) और विजयवाड़ा (आंध्र प्रदेश) पर विचार किया जा रहा है।

Recruitment Expansion

भर्ती का विस्तार

• The force is growing by 10% annually.

बल की वार्षिक वृद्धि दर 10% है।

• Recently, 14,000 personnel were recruited, and recruitment for 17,000 more is in progress.

हाल ही में 14,000 कर्मियों की भर्ती पूरी हुई, और 17,000 और कर्मियों की भर्ती प्रक्रिया जारी है।

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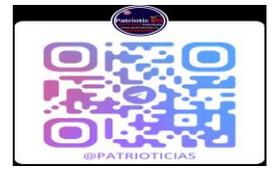
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Language Issue

भाषा संबंधी मुद्दा

- **60% of CISF personnel** at airports are from the **same state** where the facility is located, addressing language concerns.
हवाई अड्डों पर **60% CISF कर्मी** उसी राज्य से होते हैं जहां हवाई अड्डा स्थित है, जिससे **भाषा संबंधी समस्याओं** को हल किया जा सके।
- CISF officials assured that **language balance** will be improved.
CISF अधिकारियों ने आश्वासन दिया कि **भाषा संतुलन** में सुधार किया जाएगा।

CISF Southern Sector Coverage

CISF का दक्षिणी क्षेत्र कवरेज

- The **Southern Sector** includes **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Puducherry (Union Territory)**.
दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में आंध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, केरल, तमिलनाडु, तेलंगाना और पुडुचेरी (केंद्रशासित प्रदेश) शामिल हैं।
- **60% of CISF personnel** at airports in the **Southern Sector** will be from the **same state**.
दक्षिणी क्षेत्र के हवाई अड्डों में **60% CISF कर्मी** उसी राज्य से होंगे।



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SC order on Forest Act 'strong rebuke' to Modi govt.: Congress

वन अधिनियम पर SC का आदेश मोदी सरकार के लिए 'कड़ी फटकार':

कांग्रेस

SC order on Forest Act 'strong rebuke' to Modi govt.: Congress

GS Paper III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Hailing the Supreme Court order on pleas against the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, the Congress on Thursday said it was a "stinging rebuke" to the Modi government's systematic efforts to dilute the institutions as well as regulatory systems for ecological conservation in the country.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, was among the most draconian laws introduced by the Union government. Ever

since it was introduced and bulldozed through Parliament, the Congress and I have taken a consistent stand against this law. The Supreme Court on March 4 upheld the landmark Supreme Court judgment in *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India* in December 1996 which ruled that the definition of forests would be understood by its "broad and all-encompassing" dictionary meaning". It overturns one of Modi's government's "most deleterious provisions" that restricts definition of forest to notified or 'recorded' forests, he added.

Supreme Court's order on pleas against the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 was termed a "stinging rebuke" by the Congress against the Modi government's policies on ecological conservation.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश को वन (संरक्षण)

संशोधन अधिनियम, 2023 के खिलाफ

दायर याचिकाओं पर "कड़ी फटकार" बताते

हुए कांग्रेस ने इसे मोदी सरकार की

पारिस्थितिक संरक्षण नीतियों के खिलाफ

करार दिया।

• Congress leader Jairam Ramesh called the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 one of the most draconian laws introduced by the Union government.

कांग्रेस नेता जयराम रमेश ने वन (संरक्षण) संशोधन अधिनियम, 2023 को केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लाया गया सबसे कठोर कानूनों में से एक बताया।

- He stated that since its introduction, Congress has consistently opposed the Act, calling it bulldozed through Parliament.

उन्होंने कहा कि इसकी पार्लियामेंट में जल्दबाजी से मंजूरी के बाद से ही कांग्रेस लगातार इस कानून का विरोध कर रही है।

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Supreme Court's Landmark Judgment

सुप्रीम कोर्ट का ऐतिहासिक निर्णय

- On **March 4, 2024**, the **Supreme Court** upheld its **December 1996** judgment in **T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India**.
4 मार्च 2024 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दिसंबर 1996 में दिए गए टी.एन. गोडावरमन थिरुमुलपद बनाम भारत सरकार केस के फैसले को बरकरार रखा।
- The ruling emphasized that the **definition of forests** must follow a **broad and all-encompassing** dictionary meaning.
इस फैसले में कहा गया कि वनों की परिभाषा को एक व्यापक और समावेशी शब्दकोशीय अर्थ के आधार पर समझा जाना चाहिए।
- The order **overturned a key provision** in the **Modi government's law**, which restricted the definition of **forests** to **only notified or recorded** areas.
इस आदेश ने मोदी सरकार के कानून की एक महत्वपूर्ण धारा को खारिज कर दिया, जिसने वनों की परिभाषा को सिर्फ अधिसूचित या दर्ज क्षेत्रों तक सीमित कर दिया था।



Govt. launches AI Kosha, repository of data to build models and tools

14,000 GPUs have been commissioned for shared access and more of it will be added on a quarterly basis, says Ashwini Vaishnav; he also provided an update on the government-supported effort to create a homegrown foundational AI model

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday launched AI Kosha, a platform with datasets that is being touted as a home for non-personal data that will assist with developing artificial intelligence models and tools. At launch, the platform contains 316 datasets, the bulk of these being programmes to help in creating or validating language translation tools for Indian languages.

The IndiaAI Datasets Platform is one of the seven pillars of the IndiaAI Mission, the Union government's main state-backed AI effort. The Mission has an outlay of ₹10,370 crore, and last month the Centre announced that under its Compute Capacity pillar, start-ups and academia would be able to use pooled access to graphics processing units (GPUs), which are needed to train and run AI models. Other than translation, the limited datasets include submissions from Telangana's own open data initiative, such as health data; 2011



New realms: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav along with others during announcement of various projects under IndiaAI Mission, in New Delhi. PTI

Census data; satellite imagery captured by Indian satellites; meteorological and pollution data; and so on.

More GPUs

Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said while announcing the AI Kosha platform that 14,000 GPUs had been commissioned for shared access, as against nearly 10,000 when announced earlier this year. More GPUs will be added on a

quarterly basis, Mr. Vaishnav said.

The Minister provided an update on the government-supported effort to create a homegrown foundational AI model, an aim that has gained urgency following the success of DeepSeek, the Chinese firm that was able to train and launch such a model at a fraction of the cost that American firms such as OpenAI and Google had to spend. "Now, the team is

actually inundated with how to evaluate these applications," Mr. Vaishnav said, indicating a high level of interest from start-ups to build such a foundational model for India.

Government datasets

This is not the first time the Union government has sought to aggregate public data to nudge other entities to leverage it. The government's Open Government Data platform

(data.gov.in) currently hosts over 12,000 datasets provided by different government agencies across India. The government has designated "Chief Data Officers" across Ministries and departments, encouraging them to provide datasets that can be used by researchers, companies, and other parts of the government.

In 2018, the government constituted a committee to explore the possibility of compelling firms to provide start-ups and government access to non-personal data, such as traffic data from ride-sharing apps, to help new entrants and assist government policy. The committee, led by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, submitted its report in 2020. However, the proposals faced pushback from the tech industry, as private players were reluctant to share their data with other parties. The conversation within the government around non-personal data from private firms took place largely before the advent of large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT.

Govt. launches AI Kosha, repository of data to build models and tools

सरकार ने एआई कोशा लॉन्च किया, जो मॉडलों और टूल्स के लिए डेटा का भंडार होगा



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Union government launched AI Kosha on Thursday, a platform with datasets designed to assist in developing artificial intelligence (AI) models and tools.

केंद्र सरकार ने गुरुवार को एआई कोशा लॉन्च किया, जो कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (एआई) मॉडल और टूल्स विकसित करने में सहायता करने के लिए डेटा सेट का एक प्लेटफॉर्म है।

- At launch, **316 datasets** were included, primarily focused on **language translation tools** for Indian languages.
लॉन्च के समय, इसमें **316 डेटा सेट** शामिल थे, जो मुख्य रूप से **भारतीय भाषाओं के भाषा अनुवाद टूल्स** बनाने और मान्य करने से जुड़े हैं।

IndiaAI Mission and Compute Capacity इंडिया एआई मिशन और कम्प्यूट क्षमता

- **IndiaAI Datasets Platform** is one of the **seven pillars** of the **IndiaAI Mission**, with an outlay of **₹10,370 crore**.
इंडिया एआई डेटा सेट प्लेटफॉर्म इंडिया एआई मिशन के सात स्तंभों में से एक है, जिसकी **₹10,370 करोड़** की लागत है।
- Under the **Compute Capacity pillar**, **start-ups and academia** can access **shared GPUs** to train and run **AI models**.
कम्प्यूट क्षमता स्तंभ के तहत, **स्टार्टअप्स और शिक्षाविदों** को **एआई मॉडल** को प्रशिक्षित और संचालित करने के लिए **साझा जीपीयू (GPU)** का उपयोग करने की सुविधा मिलेगी।
- The **limited datasets** also include data from **Telangana's open data initiative, 2011 Census, Indian satellites' images, meteorological, and pollution data**.
सीमित डेटा सेटों में **तेलंगाना के ओपन डेटा इनिशिएटिव, 2011 जनगणना, भारतीय उपग्रहों द्वारा ली गई तस्वीरें, मौसम और प्रदूषण डेटा** शामिल हैं।

More GPUs for AI Development एआई विकास के लिए अधिक जीपीयू

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- **Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced that **14,000 GPUs** had been commissioned for **shared access**, up from **10,000 GPUs** announced earlier this year.

सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने घोषणा की कि साझा उपयोग के लिए 14,000 जीपीयू स्वीकृत किए गए हैं, जो इस साल की शुरुआत में घोषित 10,000 जीपीयू से अधिक हैं।

- More **GPUs** will be added on a **quarterly basis** to enhance AI capabilities.
एआई क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने के लिए हर तिमाही में अधिक जीपीयू जोड़े जाएंगे।

Homegrown Foundational AI Model

स्वदेशी मूलभूत एआई मॉडल

- The government is **supporting efforts** to build a **homegrown foundational AI model** after the success of **China's DeepSeek**, which trained a model at a **lower cost** than **OpenAI and Google**.

सरकार स्वदेशी मूलभूत एआई मॉडल विकसित करने के प्रयासों का समर्थन कर रही है, खासकर चीन के डीपसीक (DeepSeek) की सफलता के बाद, जिसने OpenAI और Google की तुलना में कम लागत में मॉडल प्रशिक्षित किया।

- **Vaishnaw** noted that the **team is overwhelmed with applications** from start-ups interested in contributing to India's **foundational AI model**.

वैष्णव ने बताया कि टीम स्टार्टअप्स से मिली आवेदनों की भारी संख्या से व्यस्त है, जो भारत के मूलभूत एआई मॉडल में योगदान देना चाहते हैं।

Government Datasets

सरकारी डेटा सेट

- This is **not the first time** the **Union government** has attempted to **aggregate public data** for other entities to leverage.

यह पहली बार नहीं है जब केंद्र सरकार ने सार्वजनिक डेटा को एकत्रित करने का प्रयास किया है ताकि अन्य संस्थाएं इसका उपयोग कर सकें।

- The government's **Open Governance Data platform (data.gov.in)** currently hosts **over 12,000 datasets** from various government agencies across India.

सरकार के ओपन गवर्नेंस डेटा प्लेटफॉर्म (data.gov.in) पर वर्तमान में 12,000 से अधिक डेटा सेट

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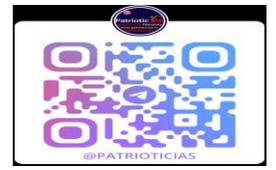
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उपलब्ध हैं, जो विभिन्न सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा प्रदान किए गए हैं।

- **Chief Data Officers** have been designated across **ministries and departments** to encourage data sharing for use by **researchers, companies, and government agencies**.

मंत्रालयों और विभागों में मुख्य डेटा अधिकारी नियुक्त किए गए हैं ताकि शोधकर्ताओं, कंपनियों और सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा डेटा का उपयोग किया जा सके।

Committee on Non-Personal Data Sharing

गैर-व्यक्तिगत डेटा साझा करने पर समिति

- In **2018**, the government formed a **committee** to explore the **possibility of compelling firms** to share **non-personal data** with **start-ups and the government**.

2018 में, सरकार ने एक समिति गठित की ताकि कंपनियों को गैर-व्यक्तिगत डेटा स्टार्टअप्स और सरकार के साथ साझा करने के लिए बाध्य करने की संभावना** की जांच की जा सके।

- The committee was led by **Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan** and submitted its report in **2020**.

इस समिति का नेतृत्व इन्फोसिस के सह-संस्थापक क्रिस गोपालकृष्णन ने किया और इसने 2020 में अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की।

- The **tech industry pushed back** against the proposals as **private players** were **reluctant to share their data** with others.

तकनीकी उद्योग ने इन प्रस्तावों का विरोध किया, क्योंकि निजी कंपनियां अपना डेटा साझा करने के लिए अनिच्छुक थीं।

- Discussions on **non-personal data sharing** with private firms **predated the rise of large language models (LLMs)** like ChatGPT.

निजी कंपनियों के साथ गैर-व्यक्तिगत डेटा साझा करने पर चर्चा बड़े भाषा मॉडल (LLM) जैसे ChatGPT के आने से पहले हुई थी।

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₹1 lakh crore fund to stimulate private sector research and development close to approval

GS Paper III: Investment in R&T

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The government is close to finalising an ambitious ₹1 lakh crore fund to stimulate private sector investment in core research and development.

While there have been schemes before to galvanise research and development, the unique attribute of this scheme is that funds – primarily in the form of low-interest, long-term loans – will be available to private companies to develop novel products and new intellectual property.

These funds cannot be used by universities or academic institutes but they may be co-opted by a private company towards developing technology, Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India, told *The Hindu* in an exclusive interaction. “You could understand it as a



Ajay Sood says that a Cabinet note detailing the contours of the scheme will be available very soon. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

sort of huge PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme for research and development.”

Major weakness

A major weakness of India's investment in research and development, experts have pointed out since long, is that the share of investment in R&D as a percentage of GDP is less

than 1% (0.65) whereas scientifically advanced countries spend between 1.5%-3%. In this, the private sector investment in overall R&D spend has remained 30%-36% in India whereas countries such as the U.S. and China see private sector contribute 75% and 77%, respectively.

First announced by Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman in the interim Budget in February 2024, the government apportioned a part of it – ₹20,000 crore – to the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Dr. Sood said that a Cabinet note detailing the contours of the scheme and focus areas of technology was being prepared and “will be available very soon.”

He said that while the money was for now with the DST, it was the newly created Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) that would likely be involved in administering the fund.

“The loans will almost be zero per cent interest, essentially a huge PLI scheme. This intent (to bolster private sector R&D) was never there earlier,” Dr. Sood underlined.

He emphasised that the loan could be used only if

the private sector company (or a consortia) made a compelling case that the research would result in a commercial product.

“Otherwise why would industry do it? They are taking a loan, not a grant,” he averred. “This will not be for blue-sky research.” Tenures for the loan could range from five to seven years and proposals would be evaluated by a professional body and not the DST.

“Be it space, pharmaceuticals, auto, energy. We are sector agnostic. There are some broad areas but they cover nearly every area. However if it is a service industry (like information technology) they won't make the cut,” Dr. Sood opined.

The ANRF aims to establish a ₹50,000-crore corpus with ₹36,000 crore of it coming in from non-government sources.

₹1 lakh crore fund to stimulate private sector research and development close to approval

₹1 लाख करोड़ का फंड निजी क्षेत्र के अनुसंधान और विकास को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए मंजूरी के करीब

The government is finalizing a ₹1 lakh crore fund to encourage private sector investment in core research and development (R&D).

सरकार ₹1 लाख करोड़ के फंड को अंतिम रूप दे रही है ताकि निजी क्षेत्र के अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) में निवेश को प्रोत्साहित किया जा सके।

- Unlike previous schemes, this initiative offers low-interest, long-term loans to private companies to develop novel products and intellectual property.

पिछली योजनाओं के विपरीत, इस पहल के तहत कम ब्याज दर और दीर्घकालिक ऋण प्रदान किए जाएंगे ताकि नवीन उत्पादों और बौद्धिक संपदा का विकास किया जा सके।



- **Universities or academic institutes** cannot use these funds directly, but they can collaborate with **private companies** to develop technology.

विश्वविद्यालय या शैक्षणिक संस्थान इस फंड का सीधा उपयोग नहीं कर सकते, लेकिन वे निजी कंपनियों के साथ मिलकर तकनीक विकसित कर सकते हैं।

India's Weak R&D Investment

भारत में अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) में निवेश की कमजोरी

- India's R&D investment as a percentage of GDP is only **0.65%**, whereas **scientifically advanced countries** spend between **1.5%-3%**.
भारत में R&D निवेश जीडीपी का मात्र **0.65%** है, जबकि वैज्ञानिक रूप से उन्नत देश इस पर **1.5%-3%** खर्च करते हैं।
- **Private sector investment** in R&D in India is only **30%-36%**, whereas in countries like the **U.S. and China**, it is **75% and 77%**, respectively.
भारत में निजी क्षेत्र का R&D में योगदान केवल **30%-36%** है, जबकि अमेरिका और चीन में यह **75%** और **77%** है।

Budget Allocation and Implementation

बजट आवंटन और कार्यान्वयन

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** first announced the scheme in the **February 2024 interim Budget**, with **₹20,000 crore** allocated to the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने फरवरी 2024 के अंतरिम बजट में इस योजना की घोषणा की, जिसमें **₹20,000 करोड़** विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (DST) को आवंटित किए गए।
- A **Cabinet note** is being prepared to outline the **scheme's details and focus areas of technology**, which will be **available soon**.
कैबिनेट नोट तैयार किया जा रहा है जिसमें योजना के विवरण और तकनीकी क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाएगा, और यह जल्द ही उपलब्ध होगा।



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- The fund will be administered by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, which aims to establish a **₹50,000 crore corpus**, with **₹36,000 crore from non-government sources**.

इस फंड का संचालन अनुसंधान राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान फाउंडेशन (ANRF) द्वारा किया जाएगा, जिसका उद्देश्य ₹50,000 करोड़ का कोष बनाना है, जिसमें से ₹36,000 करोड़ गैर-सरकारी स्रोतों से आएंगे।

Loan Terms and Sector Focus

ऋण की शर्तें और प्रमुख क्षेत्र

- **Loans will have nearly zero interest rates**, similar to a **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**, but exclusively for **R&D**.

ऋण लगभग शून्य ब्याज दर पर उपलब्ध होंगे, जो उत्पादन आधारित प्रोत्साहन (PLI) योजना की तरह होगा, लेकिन यह विशेष रूप से R&D के लिए होगा।

- **Private sector companies (or consortia) must demonstrate** that their research will result in a **commercial product** to be eligible for the loan.

निजी क्षेत्र की कंपनियों (या समूहों) को यह साबित करना होगा कि उनका अनुसंधान व्यावसायिक उत्पाद में परिवर्तित होगा, तभी वे इस ऋण के लिए पात्र होंगे।

- **The loan tenure will range from 5 to 7 years**, and proposals will be **evaluated by a professional body, not DST**.

ऋण की अवधि 5 से 7 वर्ष होगी, और प्रस्तावों का मूल्यांकन DST नहीं बल्कि एक पेशेवर निकाय द्वारा किया जाएगा।

- The scheme is **sector-agnostic**, covering areas like **space, pharmaceuticals, automotive, and energy**, but **IT services will not be eligible**.

यह योजना किसी विशेष क्षेत्र तक सीमित नहीं होगी और इसमें अंतरिक्ष, फार्मास्यूटिकल्स, ऑटोमोबाइल और ऊर्जा शामिल होंगे, लेकिन आईटी सेवाओं को इसमें शामिल नहीं किया जाएगा।



Medical wearables tech: an early warning system for your health

Whether a fitness enthusiast uses a smartwatch to track her daily activity or a diabetic patient utilises a continuous glucose monitor to check blood glucose levels, these devices promise real-time data and valuable insights to help both patients and healthcare providers make informed decisions

GS Paper III: S&T

Somita Pal

Over the past decade, patient care has seen a paradigm shift, with advancements in medical wearables turning out to be a powerful catalyst in the management of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

These gadgets are no longer merely lifestyle accessories but are increasingly becoming essential tools that empower individuals to monitor their health in real-time and take a more proactive approach to their healthcare management.

Healthcare professionals say this tech has helped elevate people's awareness about risk factors of lifestyle diseases like heart disease and diabetes and has changed their focus from reactive healthcare approaches to more proactive and preventive care.

"I had a patient in her early 40s sometime ago, who started using an Apple Watch and noticed an unusual heart rate," says Nagesh Waghmare, a cardiologist from Mumbai, adding that though the patient was asymptomatic, blood tests revealed that she was pre-diabetic and had high lipid levels. "She improved her diet and focused on other lifestyle changes, including exercise. Now, all her parameters are normal. There are many examples like hers where we have managed prevention of the disease," Dr. Waghmare says.

A seismic shift post pandemic

Medical wearables such as smartwatches, fitness trackers, and biosensors are electronic devices designed to be worn on the body to monitor and manage various health parameters: blood sugar levels, heart rate, physical activity, sleep patterns, and even blood oxygen levels.

Whether a fitness enthusiast uses a smartwatch to track her daily activity or a diabetic patient utilises a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) to check blood glucose levels, these devices promise real-time data and valuable insights to help both patients and healthcare providers make informed decisions.

While CGMs are predominantly used for diabetes management, other medical wearables are making waves in cardiac and respiratory health. Rahul Baxi, a diabetologist in Mumbai, notes that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted approval to the Apple Watch to detect atrial fibrillation, a serious heart condition. "There have been numerous instances where the Apple Watch has alerted individuals about irregular heart rates, allowing for early intervention and the prevention of life-threatening complications," he says.

Wearables have also played a vital role in monitoring respiratory health, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Devices that track respiratory rates, oxygen saturation, and pulse rates have become essential tools for patients with chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

The COVID-19 pandemic was a turning point for the adoption of wearable medical devices. "There is a clear distinction pre- and post-COVID-19. After



Wearable tech has helped elevate people's awareness about the risk factors of lifestyle diseases. Photograph used for representational purposes only. GETTY IMAGES

the pandemic, the wearable medical market has exploded. People are now more aware of the importance of monitoring their vitals," Dr. Waghmare explains.

During the pandemic, devices such as pulse oximeters became household essentials and the trend has only accelerated since then. "Today, people in their 40s and 50s are increasingly using Fitbits, Apple Watches, and other devices to monitor their heart rate and blood pressure, helping them stay more informed about their health," he adds.

Empowering patients

The visual feedback that devices offer often serves as a wake up call, encouraging healthier lifestyle choices, say healthcare experts.

"CGMs have helped patients see how their sugar spikes after eating certain foods, and it motivates them to make changes," says Dr. Baxi. For instance, a patient might notice that their sugar levels rise more after eating idli compared to sprouts, prompting them to choose healthier alternatives. "This real-time data makes a far greater impact than just telling someone to avoid certain foods," he adds. "It empowers them to take control of their health. We are seeing patients who are tracking their sleep quality, physical activity, and stress levels and are taking proactive steps towards maintaining long-term health."

This constant data flow is crucial for the early detection of health issues. For instance, patients with cardiovascular conditions can receive immediate alerts if irregular heart rhythms are detected, allowing for timely interventions before complications arise.

"Wearables have shifted the focus from reactive treatment to proactive prevention, enabling individuals to monitor their health continuously and



With CGMs, I can monitor my patient's condition from anywhere in the world and make real-time adjustments to their insulin dosage.

seek medical attention before major issues arise," says Rushikesh Patil, a cardiologist in Mumbai.

Better patient-doctor interaction

Medical wearables are also enhancing the interaction between patients and doctors, particularly in the realm of tele-health. By integrating data from wearables, tele-health platforms provide healthcare providers with a comprehensive view of a patient's health before consultations. This allows for more accurate diagnoses and the development of personalised treatment plans.

Remote patient monitoring has been significantly improved by wearable devices such as CGMs, which allow healthcare providers to monitor patients from afar and make real-time adjustments to treatment plans.

Dr. Baxi, for instance, has used CGMs to track his patients' blood sugar levels remotely. "With CGMs, I can monitor my patient's condition from anywhere in the world and make real-time adjustments to their insulin dosage," he says. This level of monitoring was not possible before the advent of wearables, making healthcare more accessible and convenient for the patient.

Dr. Waghmare says wearables have improved the compliance rate to treatment as, traditionally, patients would return for a check-up every few months, leaving long gaps between consultations.

"Previously, we relied on infrequent visits to adjust medication dosages based on blood pressure and heart rate. But now, with wearables, we can monitor these vitals continuously and adjust treatment plans much more effectively," he says.

This real-time data helps doctors optimise medication dosages, ensuring patients receive the best care for their recovery and for the improvement of their long-term survival. "We can confidently adjust the dose of medicines based on real-time heart rate or blood pressure data, which was not possible before these devices," he notes.

Future of health monitoring

The future of medical wearable technology looks even more promising, with researchers developing innovative health-monitoring tools that will seamlessly integrate into daily life. Smart textiles, for example, are being developed to embed sensors directly into clothing. These smart fabrics could track heart rates, respiratory rates, and even glucose levels, offering non-invasive health monitoring in real time.

Non-invasive glucose monitoring is another exciting area of research. Scientists are exploring methods to measure glucose levels through biofluids such as sweat, saliva, or tears, potentially eliminating the need for devices that puncture the skin. As these technologies continue to evolve, wearable devices will become even more integrated into everyday life, offering seamless and non-invasive health monitoring for all users.

Affordability, a concern

Despite the numerous benefits of medical wearables, affordability remains a significant barrier, especially in countries like India. Devices like CGMs can be expensive, with the cost of sensors adding up over time. Gaurish Kenkre, general manager and physiotherapist, Atharv Ability, Mumbai, acknowledges that only a small percentage of his patients can afford CGMs and other medical wearables, primarily due to their high costs.

"In India, a CGM sensor costs around ₹5,000 for two weeks, which means patients spend roughly ₹10,000 a month. That is not affordable for everyone," Dr. Baxi acknowledges.

However, he emphasises that even short-term use of these medical wearables can provide valuable insights. "For example, even using a CGM for a few weeks can help patients understand how their diet, exercise, and medications affect their blood sugar levels," he says. This information can then be used to make long-term lifestyle changes, improving overall health outcomes.

Dr. Patil says there is also another issue to consider: there are many false positives and false negatives. "Individuals should not panic due to the results: they must consult their doctor," he says.

As technology continues to evolve, medical wearables are set to play an increasingly vital role in healthcare, not just for diabetes management but across various medical fields.

(Somita Pal is a journalist with nearly two decades of experience covering healthcare in Mumbai. She covers a range of topics, focusing on health, social issues, and civic news. somitapal@gmail.com)

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health

मेडिकल वियरेबल टेक: आपके स्वास्थ्य के लिए एक प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणाली

Whether a fitness enthusiast uses a smartwatch to track daily activity or a diabetic patient uses a continuous glucose monitor (CGM), these devices provide real-time data for better healthcare decisions.

चाहे कोई फिटनेस प्रेमी अपनी स्मार्टवॉच से दैनिक गतिविधि को ट्रैक करे या कोई मधुमेह रोगी निरंतर ग्लूकोज मॉनिटर (CGM) का उपयोग करे, ये उपकरण रियल-टाइम डेटा प्रदान करते हैं जिससे बेहतर स्वास्थ्य निर्णय लिए जा सकते हैं।

Medical Wearables in Chronic Disease Management

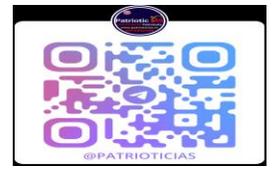
क्रॉनिक बीमारियों के प्रबंधन में मेडिकल वियरेबल्स

- Over the past decade, **medical wearables** have significantly transformed **patient care**, especially for **diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases**.
पिछले दस वर्षों में, मेडिकल वियरेबल्स ने रोगी देखभाल में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव किए हैं, खासकर मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप और हृदय रोगों के लिए।
- These devices are no longer just **lifestyle accessories** but have become **essential health monitoring tools** for individuals.
ये उपकरण अब केवल जीवनशैली से जुड़ी वस्तुएं नहीं हैं, बल्कि स्वास्थ्य निगरानी के लिए आवश्यक उपकरण बन चुके हैं।
- **Healthcare professionals** believe that these devices have shifted the focus from **reactive healthcare to preventive and proactive care**.
स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि इन उपकरणों ने प्रतिक्रियात्मक देखभाल से निवारक और सक्रिय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की ओर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है।

Real-life Case Study

वास्तविक जीवन का उदाहरण

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- Dr. Nagesh Waghmare, a cardiologist from Mumbai, shared a case of a woman in her early 40s who used an Apple Watch and detected an unusual heart rate.
मुंबई के हृदय रोग विशेषज्ञ डॉ. नागेश वाघमारे ने एक 40 वर्षीय महिला का मामला साझा किया, जिसने एप्पल वॉच का उपयोग किया और असामान्य हृदय गति पाई।
- Despite being asymptomatic, her blood tests revealed pre-diabetes and high lipid levels.
कोई लक्षण न होने के बावजूद, उनके रक्त परीक्षणों में प्री-डायबिटीज और उच्च लिपिड स्तर पाए गए।
- By making diet and lifestyle changes, she returned to normal health parameters.
आहार और जीवनशैली में सुधार करने के बाद, उनकी स्वास्थ्य स्थिति सामान्य हो गई।

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

कोविड-19 महामारी का प्रभाव

- The pandemic accelerated the adoption of medical wearables like smartwatches, fitness trackers, and biosensors.
महामारी ने मेडिकल वियरेबल्स जैसे स्मार्टवॉच, फिटनेस ट्रैकर और बायोसेंसर के उपयोग को तेजी से बढ़ाया।
- These devices monitor blood sugar levels, heart rate, sleep patterns, and oxygen levels.
ये उपकरण रक्त शर्करा स्तर, हृदय गति, नींद की गुणवत्ता और ऑक्सीजन स्तर को मॉनिटर करते हैं।
- Dr. Rahul Baxi, a diabetologist from Mumbai, highlighted that the Apple Watch received FDA approval to detect atrial fibrillation, a serious heart condition.
मुंबई के मधुमेह विशेषज्ञ डॉ. राहुल बक्सी ने बताया कि एप्पल वॉच को अमेरिकी FDA की मंजूरी मिली है ताकि वह एट्रियल फाइब्रिलेशन (गंभीर हृदय समस्या) का पता लगा सके।
- Many users have received early warnings about irregular heart rates, preventing life-threatening complications.
कई उपयोगकर्ताओं को अनियमित हृदय गति की प्रारंभिक चेतावनी मिली, जिससे जानलेवा समस्याओं को रोका जा सका।



Wearables for Respiratory Health

श्वसन स्वास्थ्य के लिए वियरेबल्स

- **Wearables** played a **crucial role** in monitoring **respiratory health** during **COVID-19**, tracking **oxygen saturation, pulse rate, and respiratory rate**.
कोविड-19 के दौरान वियरेबल्स ने श्वसन स्वास्थ्य की निगरानी में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जिससे ऑक्सीजन संतृप्ति, नाड़ी दर और श्वसन दर को ट्रैक किया गया।
- **Pulse oximeters** became **household essentials** during the pandemic and their usage continues to grow.
पल्स ऑक्सीमीटर महामारी के दौरान हर घर में आवश्यक उपकरण बन गए और इनका उपयोग अब भी जारी है।
- People in their **40s and 50s** are increasingly using **Fitbits, Apple Watches, and other devices** to track **heart rate and blood pressure**.
40 और 50 की उम्र के लोग अब फिटबिट, एप्पल वॉच और अन्य उपकरणों का उपयोग कर हृदय गति और रक्तचाप की निगरानी कर रहे हैं।

Empowering Patients

रोगियों को सशक्त बनाना

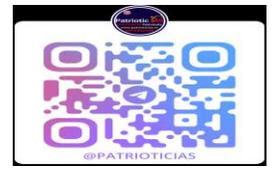
- **Wearable devices** provide **visual feedback**, acting as a **wake-up call** for users to adopt a **healthier lifestyle**.
वियरेबल डिवाइस उपयोगकर्ताओं को दृश्य प्रतिक्रिया प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे वे स्वस्थ जीवनशैली अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित होते हैं।
- **Dr. Rahul Baxi** explains that **Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs)** help patients see how their **blood sugar spikes** after eating certain foods, motivating them to **change their diet**.
डॉ. राहुल बक्सी बताते हैं कि निरंतर ग्लूकोज मॉनिटर (CGM) रोगियों को यह देखने में मदद करता है कि कुछ खाद्य पदार्थों के बाद रक्त शर्करा कैसे बढ़ता है, जिससे वे आहार बदलने के लिए प्रेरित होते हैं।



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- **Real-time data** helps individuals take **control of their health**, improving their **sleep, physical activity, and stress levels**.
रियल-टाइम डेटा व्यक्तियों को अपने स्वास्थ्य पर नियंत्रण रखने में मदद करता है, जिससे उनकी नींद, शारीरिक गतिविधि और तनाव स्तर में सुधार होता है।

Early Detection of Health Issues

स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं का प्रारंभिक पता लगाना

- **Wearables detect irregular heart rhythms**, allowing **cardiovascular patients** to receive **early alerts** and **timely interventions**.
वियरेबल्स अनियमित हृदय गति का पता लगाते हैं, जिससे हृदय रोगियों को प्रारंभिक चेतावनी मिलती है और वे समय पर उपचार कर सकते हैं।
- **Dr. Rushikesh Patil**, a cardiologist from Mumbai, says wearables **shift the focus** from **reactive treatment** to **proactive prevention**.
मुंबई के हृदय रोग विशेषज्ञ डॉ. रुशिकेश पाटिल कहते हैं कि वियरेबल्स ने चिकित्सा का ध्यान प्रतिक्रियात्मक उपचार से सक्रिय रोकथाम की ओर मोड़ा है।

Better Patient-Doctor Interaction

बेहतर रोगी-चिकित्सक संबंध

- **Wearables enhance tele-health**, allowing **doctors to monitor patients remotely** and provide **personalized treatment plans**.
वियरेबल्स टेली-हेल्थ में सुधार करते हैं, जिससे डॉक्टर दूर से ही रोगियों की निगरानी कर सकते हैं और व्यक्तिगत उपचार योजनाएँ प्रदान कर सकते हैं।
- **CGMs enable doctors to remotely track blood sugar levels** and **adjust insulin doses in real time**.
CGM डॉक्टरों को रक्त शर्करा स्तर को दूरस्थ रूप से ट्रैक करने और इंसुलिन खुराक को वास्तविक समय में समायोजित करने की सुविधा देता है।

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डॉ. नागेश वाघमारे बताते हैं कि वियरेबल्स उपचार अनुपालन में सुधार करते हैं, क्योंकि मरीजों को चेकअप के लिए महीनों इंतजार करने की जरूरत नहीं होती।
- **Real-time data** allows doctors to **adjust medication doses** based on **heart rate and blood pressure**, ensuring **better treatment outcomes**.
रियल-टाइम डेटा डॉक्टरों को हृदय गति और रक्तचाप के आधार पर दवा की खुराक को समायोजित करने की सुविधा देता है, जिससे बेहतर उपचार परिणाम मिलते हैं।

Future of Health Monitoring

स्वास्थ्य निगरानी का भविष्य

- **Researchers** are developing **smart textiles** with **embedded sensors** to track **heart rate, respiratory rate, and glucose levels**.
शोधकर्ता स्मार्ट वस्त्र विकसित कर रहे हैं जिनमें सेंसर लगे होंगे जो हृदय गति, श्वसन दर और ग्लूकोज स्तर को ट्रैक कर सकेंगे।
- **Non-invasive glucose monitoring** is a growing field, aiming to **measure blood sugar levels** through **sweat, saliva, or tears**, eliminating the need for **skin puncture**.
गैर-आक्रामक ग्लूकोज निगरानी एक उभरता हुआ क्षेत्र है, जिसका लक्ष्य पसीने, लार या आँसुओं के माध्यम से रक्त शर्करा स्तर मापना है, जिससे त्वचा को भेदने की आवश्यकता समाप्त हो जाएगी।

Affordability Concerns

सस्ती उपलब्धता की चुनौती

- Despite the benefits, **medical wearables remain expensive**, making them **unaffordable for many patients** in India.
लाभों के बावजूद, मेडिकल वियरेबल्स महंगे हैं, जिससे भारत में कई रोगियों के लिए यह किफायती नहीं है।



- A CGM sensor costs ₹5,000 for two weeks, meaning patients spend ₹10,000 per month, which is not affordable for everyone.
CGM सेंसर की कीमत दो सप्ताह के लिए ₹5,000 है, जिससे रोगियों को महीने में ₹10,000 खर्च करने पड़ते हैं, जो हर किसी के लिए संभव नहीं है।
- Dr. Baxi suggests that even short-term use of CGMs can provide valuable insights, helping patients make lasting lifestyle changes.
डॉ. बक्सी का मानना है कि अल्पकालिक उपयोग भी महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी प्रदान कर सकता है, जिससे मरीज लंबे समय तक जीवनशैली में सुधार कर सकते हैं।
- False positives and negatives can occur, so patients should consult their doctors before making health decisions.
गलत सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक परिणाम हो सकते हैं, इसलिए रोगियों को स्वास्थ्य निर्णय लेने से पहले अपने डॉक्टर से परामर्श करना चाहिए।
- As technology evolves, medical wearables will expand beyond diabetes management, benefiting various medical fields.
जैसे-जैसे तकनीक विकसित होगी, मेडिकल वियरेबल्स मधुमेह प्रबंधन से आगे बढ़कर विभिन्न चिकित्सा क्षेत्रों में उपयोगी होंगे।

Empowering Patients

रोगियों को सशक्त बनाना

- Wearable devices provide visual feedback, acting as a wake-up call for users to adopt a healthier lifestyle.
वियरेबल डिवाइस उपयोगकर्ताओं को दृश्य प्रतिक्रिया प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे वे स्वस्थ जीवनशैली अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित होते हैं।
- Dr. Rahul Baxi explains that Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) help patients see how their blood sugar spikes after eating certain foods, motivating them to change their diet.
डॉ. राहुल बक्सी बताते हैं कि निरंतर ग्लूकोज मॉनिटर (CGM) रोगियों को यह देखने में मदद करता है कि कुछ खाद्य पदार्थों के बाद रक्त शर्करा कैसे बढ़ता है, जिससे वे आहार बदलने के लिए प्रेरित होते हैं।



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- **Real-time data** helps individuals take **control of their health**, improving their **sleep, physical activity, and stress levels**.

रियल-टाइम डेटा व्यक्तियों को अपने स्वास्थ्य पर नियंत्रण रखने में मदद करता है, जिससे उनकी नींद, शारीरिक गतिविधि और तनाव स्तर में सुधार होता है।

Early Detection of Health Issues

स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं का प्रारंभिक पता लगाना

- **Wearables detect irregular heart rhythms**, allowing **cardiovascular patients** to receive **early alerts** and **timely interventions**.

वियरेबल्स अनियमित हृदय गति का पता लगाते हैं, जिससे हृदय रोगियों को प्रारंभिक चेतावनी मिलती है और वे समय पर उपचार कर सकते हैं।

- **Dr. Rushikesh Patil**, a cardiologist from Mumbai, says wearables **shift the focus** from **reactive treatment** to **proactive prevention**.

मुंबई के हृदय रोग विशेषज्ञ डॉ. रुशिकेश पाटिल कहते हैं कि वियरेबल्स ने चिकित्सा का ध्यान प्रतिक्रियात्मक उपचार से सक्रिय रोकथाम की ओर मोड़ा है।

Better Patient-Doctor Interaction

बेहतर रोगी-चिकित्सक संबंध

- **Wearables enhance tele-health**, allowing **doctors to monitor patients remotely** and provide **personalized treatment plans**.

वियरेबल्स टेली-हेल्थ में सुधार करते हैं, जिससे डॉक्टर दूर से ही रोगियों की निगरानी कर सकते हैं और व्यक्तिगत उपचार योजनाएँ प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

- **CGMs enable doctors to remotely track blood sugar levels** and **adjust insulin doses in real time**.

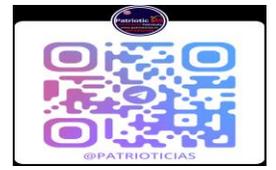
CGM डॉक्टरों को रक्त शर्करा स्तर को दूरस्थ रूप से ट्रैक करने और इंसुलिन खुराक को वास्तविक समय में समायोजित करने की सुविधा देता है।

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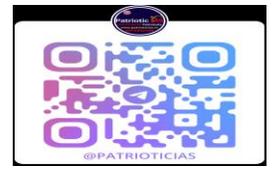
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जैसे-जैसे तकनीक विकसित होगी, मेडिकल वियरेबल्स मधुमेह प्रबंधन से आगे बढ़कर विभिन्न चिकित्सा क्षेत्रों में उपयोगी होंगे।



Students wearing Michael Jackson masks at an awareness rally on vitiligo in Chennai. FILE PHOTO

Harnessing gut microbiome to halt vitiligo

GS Paper III: S&T
Ramya Kannan

The current decade will probably be known as the decade of the gut, given the incredible number of significant biological connections we are making between the gut and human well being. However, this is not about the gut per se; this is about the role of gut-friendly bacteria in the process of re-pigmentation, particularly in persons with vitiligo.

Vitiligo is a chronic auto immune disorder where the body's defence system begins to attack the pigment-producing cells and causes de-pigmented white patches on the skin. While usually the condition can be only cosmetic, these patches on the skin can be stigmatising for the patient, particularly if they are present on the face or arms, and thus obvious to others. New research from Northwestern University from a pre-clinical trial in mice has shown that a natural compound derived from gut-friendly bacteria significantly slows down the progression of vitiligo and may restore pigmentation. The findings, if substantiated through rigorous double blind random control clinical trials, could offer hope to millions affected by the autoimmune disease.

It is estimated that vitiligo affects 0.5% to 2% of the global population and is linked to other health challenges, including for some persons, higher risks of cardiovascular disease, psychological distress, and endocrine disorders. The prevalence of vitiligo in India has been invariably reported between 0.25% and 4% of dermatology outpatients across studies from India, and up to 8.8% in Gujarat and Rajasthan, as per a paper in the *Indian Dermatology Online Journal*. Studies and observations have recorded an erosion of self confidence among those with vitiligo, resulting in an impact on the mental health of the individual.

Vitiligo affects 0.5% to 2% of the global population and is linked to other issues, including higher risks of cardiovascular disease, psychological distress, and endocrine disorders

“The results in our model were astonishing,” says I. Caroline Le Poole, professor of dermatology and microbiology-immunology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. “We found that administering a microbial compound weekly to vitiligo-prone mice significantly suppressed disease progression. It made a spectacular difference in an aggressive model of the disease.” The results of the study were recently published in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*.

“We are trying to understand the pigment cell and how it works. Vitiligo patches can be a big deal for patients, particularly during adolescence and youth,” Dr. Le Poole explains in a video call. While acknowledging the renewed global interest in what microbiomes can do for health, she adds that she was interested first in the effect of the gut microbiome on antibody-mediated auto immune disease, here in the development of vitiligo patches.

Dr. Le Poole and her colleagues administered a microbial product weekly to vitiligo-prone mice over an 18-week period. By the end, pigment loss on the mice's backs was reduced by 74%. The product reduced killer T cells that attack the skin's pigment and increased protective regulatory T cells, which are typically scarce in vitiligo patients. “This simple microbial compound could work as a standalone therapy or in synergy with existing treatments,” Dr. Le Poole says.

However, she adds that it is necessary to intervene as early as possible and that the effects might not be as dramatic or efficient in advanced disease. There are typically two peaks in persons with vitiligo – in adolescence, and then, again, during the 40s and 50s.

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)



Harnessing Gut Microbiome to Halt Vitiligo

गट माइक्रोबायोम का उपयोग करके विटिलिगो को रोकना

The current decade is being recognized as the “decade of the gut” due to growing research linking gut health to overall well-being.

वर्तमान दशक को "गट का दशक" कहा जा रहा है, क्योंकि आंत के स्वास्थ्य और संपूर्ण कल्याण के बीच गहरे संबंध पाए गए हैं।

- This research focuses on the **role of gut-friendly bacteria** in re-pigmentation for individuals with **vitiligo**.
यह शोध गट-फ्रेंडली बैक्टीरिया की री-पिगमेंटेशन में भूमिका पर केंद्रित है, खासकर विटिलिगो से ग्रसित व्यक्तियों के लिए।

Understanding Vitiligo

विटिलिगो को समझना

- **Vitiligo** is a **chronic autoimmune disorder** where the **body's defense system attacks pigment-producing cells**, causing **white patches on the skin**.
विटिलिगो एक दीर्घकालिक ऑटोइम्यून विकार है, जिसमें शरीर की प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली रंग बनाने वाली कोशिकाओं पर हमला करती है, जिससे त्वचा पर सफेद धब्बे बन जाते हैं।
- Though it is **mostly a cosmetic condition**, it can be **socially stigmatizing**, especially when patches appear on the **face and arms**.
हालांकि यह मुख्य रूप से एक सौंदर्य संबंधी समस्या है, लेकिन जब चेहरे और हाथों पर धब्बे बनते हैं तो यह सामाजिक रूप से कलंककारी हो सकता है।

New Research on Gut Bacteria and Vitiligo

गट बैक्टीरिया और विटिलिगो पर नया शोध

- A **preclinical trial** at Northwestern University found that a **natural compound from gut-friendly bacteria** can **slow down vitiligo progression** and **restore pigmentation**.
नॉर्थवेस्टर्न यूनिवर्सिटी में किए गए प्री-क्लिनिकल परीक्षण में पाया गया कि गट-फ्रेंडली बैक्टीरिया से



प्राप्त एक प्राकृतिक यौगिक विटिलिगो की प्रगति को धीमा कर सकता है और पिगमेंटेशन को बहाल कर सकता है।

- If validated through rigorous clinical trials, this discovery could offer hope to millions affected by vitiligo.
यदि यह क्लिनिकल परीक्षणों में सफल रहता है, तो यह खोज लाखों विटिलिगो प्रभावित लोगों के लिए आशा की किरण बन सकती है।

Prevalence of Vitiligo

विटिलिगो की व्यापकता

- Vitiligo affects 0.5% to 2% of the global population and is linked to cardiovascular disease, psychological distress, and endocrine disorders.
विटिलिगो विश्व की 0.5% से 2% आबादी को प्रभावित करता है और इसे हृदय रोग, मानसिक तनाव और एंडोक्राइन विकारों से जोड़ा गया है।
- In India, studies report its prevalence at 0.25% to 4% among dermatology outpatients and as high as 8.8% in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
भारत में, अध्ययनों के अनुसार त्वचा रोग से ग्रसित बाह्य रोगियों में 0.25% से 4% तक इसकी व्यापकता देखी गई है, जबकि गुजरात और राजस्थान में यह 8.8% तक पाई गई है।
- Many patients experience a loss of self-confidence, affecting their mental health.
विटिलिगो से पीड़ित कई मरीज आत्मविश्वास की कमी का अनुभव करते हैं, जिससे उनकी मानसिक सेहत प्रभावित होती है।

Findings from the Study

अध्ययन से प्राप्त निष्कर्ष

- Dr. I. Caroline Le Poole, a professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, found that administering a microbial compound weekly significantly slowed disease progression in vitiligo-prone mice.
डॉ. आई. कैरोलिन ले पूले, जो नॉर्थवेस्टर्न यूनिवर्सिटी फीनबर्ग स्कूल ऑफ मेडिसिन की प्रोफेसर हैं, ने पाया कि साप्ताहिक रूप से एक माइक्रोबियल यौगिक देने से विटिलिगो-प्रवृत्त चूहों में रोग की प्रगति को काफी धीमा किया गया।



- The study, published in the **Journal of Investigative Dermatology**, showed that **pigment loss in mice was reduced by 74%**.
यह अध्ययन, जो जर्नल ऑफ इन्वेस्टिगेटिव डर्मेटोलॉजी में प्रकाशित हुआ, दर्शाता है कि चूहों में 74% तक पिगमेंट की हानि कम हुई।
- The treatment **reduced killer T cells** (which attack skin pigment) and **increased protective regulatory T cells**, which are typically **low in vitiligo patients**.
उपचार ने त्वचा के पिगमेंट पर हमला करने वाली किलर टी कोशिकाओं को कम किया और रक्षा करने वाली रेगुलेटरी टी कोशिकाओं को बढ़ाया, जो आमतौर पर विटिलिगो रोगियों में कम पाई जाती हैं।

Future Implications

भविष्य की संभावनाएँ

- This **microbial compound could be used as a standalone therapy or combined with existing treatments**.
यह माइक्रोबियल यौगिक अकेले उपचार के रूप में या मौजूदा उपचारों के साथ संयोजन में उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- **Early intervention is key**, as effects may not be as effective in **advanced stages of vitiligo**.
जल्दी हस्तक्षेप महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि विटिलिगो के उन्नत चरणों में यह उतना प्रभावी नहीं हो सकता।
- There are **two peak phases for vitiligo onset** – one during **adolescence** and another in the **40s and 50s**.
विटिलिगो के दो प्रमुख चरण होते हैं – एक कि

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. Beyond 'Beijing': Unlocking a Feminist Future in India

‘बीजिंग’ से आगे: भारत में नारीवादी भविष्य की ओर

2. Is Artificial Intelligence Affecting Critical Thinking Skills?

क्या कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) आलोचनात्मक सोचने की क्षमता को प्रभावित कर रही है?



Beyond 'Beijing', unlocking a feminist future in India

Essay

The **Beijing Declaration** and Platform for Action is one of the most comprehensive global blueprints for advancing women's rights. India's progress on gender equality stands as a testament to sustained policy efforts, grassroots movements, and the resilience of women and girls.

The Beijing meeting, in 1995, brought together world leaders and 17,000 delegates from 189 countries to agree on a road map to accelerate women's equality through 12 critical "areas of concern". More than 200 Indian women were in attendance along with the Government of India. The areas of concern included poverty reduction, education and training, health, violence against women, women's economic empowerment and influence in decision making. The past three decades have witnessed remarkable strides in many of these dimensions.

Visible evidence of change

The expansion of maternal health care under initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana has increased institutional deliveries to 95%. Maternal mortality has dropped from 130 to 97 deaths per 1,00,000 births between 2014 and 2020 (Sample Registration System data). Today, over half of married women (56.5%) choose to use modern contraceptives, giving them greater control over their reproductive health.

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the world's largest government-funded health-care scheme, has provided millions of women with free access to critical medical treatment. Education, a core pillar of the Beijing Platform for Action, has seen notable progress. The 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) initiative has played a pivotal role in improving the child sex ratio and increasing school enrolments for girls.

The National Education Policy 2020 has paved the way for higher retention rates and opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Though safety concerns in higher secondary education remain in some places, the Ministry of Education has integrated education with skills development and life skills training, charting flexible and



Susan Ferguson

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Cynthia McCaffrey

is the Country Representative for UNICEF in India, and is a part of Team UN in India

As India continues its journey toward gender equality, the Beijing Platform for Action remains a guiding framework

inclusive pathways for adolescents. UNICEF has been able to provide support in increasing linkages with broader support systems – improved sanitation reducing menstruation related absences.

Women's economic empowerment has been central to India's gender-equality agenda. Through the National Rural and Urban Livelihood Missions, nearly 100 million women have been connected to financial networks via self-help groups, fostering entrepreneurship and financial independence. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionised financial transactions, with women increasingly using digital platforms for savings and investments.

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission has empowered over 100 million rural women through access to credit, livelihood opportunities, and financial literacy programmes. The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan has trained over 35 million rural women in digital literacy, ensuring that they are not left behind in the digital revolution. Bridging the digital gender divide has helped women participate in the digital economy.

India has increasingly financed women's empowerment through gender-responsive budgeting. The share of the Gender Budget in the total national Budget has increased from 6.8% in 2024-25 to 8.8% in 2025-26; \$55.2 billion is allocated toward gender-specific programmes. UN Women has been able to provide support for these government efforts.

The shadow of violence

Gender-based violence remains a challenge. The Beijing Declaration called for ending violence against women, yet many women still face violence, here and across the world. The establishment of 770 One Stop Centres has provided essential medical, legal, and psychological support to survivors of violence. The introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, which came into effect in July 2024, strengthens legal protections and improves women's safety and justice.

The country's efforts to eliminate harmful

practices and strengthen responses include many innovations – a blockchain-based system in Odisha ensures that survivors receive swift, confidential, and coordinated support. Partnerships such as the one between the United Nations Population Fund and the Rajasthan Police Academy, have enhanced gender-responsive policing, building survivor trust, and expanding access to justice.

A powerful force for change lies in the leadership of young women. From climate action to digital entrepreneurship, young leaders are redefining gender.

Initiatives such as the Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) project, which promotes women in STEM, and the G20 TechEquity platform, which has trained thousands of young women in emerging technologies, showcase their potential.

Women have played a pivotal role in India's transformation, driving change, from technology and entrepreneurship to governance and social development. The Women's Reservation Bill, which guarantees 33% legislative representation, builds on local governance successes that have empowered close to 1.5 million women leaders, the largest cohort of women political leaders in the world.

A guiding framework

The 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration reinforces that gender equality is not just a women's issue. It is a global imperative. India's progress has been propelled by strong government leadership and capable partners, both local and global. Strengthening collaborations, investing in young women's leadership, and addressing systemic barriers will be key to accelerating action and progress.

The Beijing Platform for Action remains a guiding framework as India continues its journey toward gender equality.

With an unwavering commitment to women-led development, financial inclusion, and social transformation, India is setting a global benchmark for inclusive and sustainable growth – one that is needed in the world today, now more than ever.



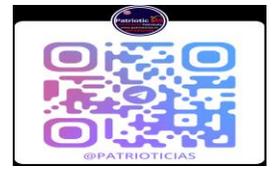
Beyond 'Beijing': Unlocking a Feminist Future in India

‘बीजिंग’ से आगे: भारत में नारीवादी भविष्य की ओर

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is one of the most comprehensive global blueprints for advancing women's rights.

बीजिंग घोषणा पत्र और कार्य योजना महिलाओं के अधिकारों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सबसे व्यापक वैश्विक खाका है।

- India's progress on gender equality is a result of sustained policy efforts, grassroots movements, and the resilience of women and girls.
भारत में लैंगिक समानता में प्रगति नीतिगत प्रयासों, जमीनी आंदोलनों और महिलाओं तथा लड़कियों के साहस का परिणाम है।



Beijing Meeting and Areas of Concern

बीजिंग सम्मेलन और प्रमुख चिंताएं

- In 1995, the **Beijing meeting** brought together **world leaders and 17,000 delegates** from **189 countries**, including **over 200 Indian women** and the **Government of India**.
1995 में, बीजिंग सम्मेलन में 189 देशों के 17,000 प्रतिनिधि और विश्व नेता शामिल हुए, जिसमें 200 से अधिक भारतीय महिलाएँ और भारत सरकार भी उपस्थित थीं।
- The **12 critical areas of concern** included **poverty reduction, education, health, violence against women, economic empowerment, and decision-making roles**.
12 प्रमुख चिंताओं में गरीबी उन्मूलन, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा, आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण और निर्णय लेने में भागीदारी शामिल थीं।

Visible Evidence of Change

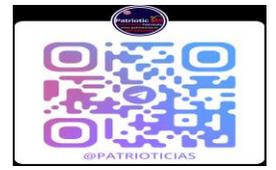
परिवर्तन के स्पष्ट प्रमाण

- **Maternal health care** expanded through **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan** and **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**, increasing **institutional deliveries to 95%**.
प्रधानमंत्री सुरक्षित मातृत्व अभियान और प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना के माध्यम से मातृ स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का विस्तार हुआ, जिससे संस्थागत प्रसव दर 95% हो गई।
- **Maternal mortality rate** dropped from **130 to 97 deaths per 1,00,000 births** between **2014 and 2020 (Sample Registration System data)**.
मातृ मृत्यु दर 2014 से 2020 के बीच 130 से घटकर 97 प्रति 1,00,000 जन्म हो गई (सैंपल रजिस्ट्रेशन सिस्टम डेटा)।
- **Over 56.5% of married women** now use **modern contraceptives**, giving them **greater control over reproductive health**.
56.5% विवाहित महिलाएँ अब आधुनिक गर्भनिरोधक का उपयोग कर रही हैं, जिससे उन्हें प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य पर अधिक नियंत्रण मिला है।

Healthcare and Education Initiatives

स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा संबंधी पहल

- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**, the **world's largest government-funded healthcare scheme**, has provided **millions of women with free critical medical treatment**.



आयुष्मान भारत प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना, जो विश्व की सबसे बड़ी सरकारी स्वास्थ्य योजना है, इसने लाखों महिलाओं को निःशुल्क महत्वपूर्ण चिकित्सा उपचार उपलब्ध कराया है।

- The 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) initiative improved the **child sex ratio** and increased **school enrollments for girls**.
'बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ' (BBBP) योजना ने बाल लिंगानुपात में सुधार किया और लड़कियों के स्कूल नामांकन में वृद्धि की।
- The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** increased **retention rates** and promoted **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education for girls**.
राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 ने छात्राओं के नामांकन दर को बढ़ाया और उन्हें STEM (विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, अभियांत्रिकी और गणित) शिक्षा में आगे बढ़ने के अवसर दिए।
- **UNICEF initiatives** improved **sanitation facilities**, reducing **menstruation-related school absences** for girls.
यूनिसेफ की पहलों ने स्वच्छता सुविधाओं में सुधार किया, जिससे मासिक धर्म के कारण स्कूल से अनुपस्थिति में कमी आई।

Women's Economic Empowerment

महिलाओं का आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण

- **National Rural and Urban Livelihood Missions** connected **nearly 100 million women** to **financial networks via self-help groups**, fostering **entrepreneurship and financial independence**.
राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण और शहरी आजीविका मिशन के तहत लगभग 10 करोड़ महिलाओं को स्वयं सहायता समूहों के माध्यम से वित्तीय नेटवर्क से जोड़ा गया, जिससे उद्यमिता और आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता को बढ़ावा मिला।
- The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** revolutionized **financial transactions**, allowing **women to use digital platforms for savings and investments**.
यूनिफाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (UPI) ने वित्तीय लेन-देन में क्रांति लाई, जिससे महिलाएं डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से बचत और निवेश कर सकें।
- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission** empowered **over 100 million rural women** through **credit access, livelihood opportunities, and financial literacy programs**.
दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना – राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन ने 10 करोड़ से अधिक ग्रामीण महिलाओं को ऋण, आजीविका के अवसर और वित्तीय साक्षरता कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से सशक्त किया।



- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan trained over 35 million rural women in digital literacy, bridging the digital gender divide.
प्रधानमंत्री ग्रामीण डिजिटल साक्षरता अभियान के तहत 3.5 करोड़ ग्रामीण महिलाओं को डिजिटल साक्षरता का प्रशिक्षण दिया गया, जिससे डिजिटल लैंगिक अंतर को कम किया जा सका।
- Bridging the digital gender divide has helped women participate in the digital economy.
डिजिटल लैंगिक अंतर को पाटने से महिलाओं को डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था में भाग लेने में मदद मिली।
Gender-Responsive Budgeting and Women's Empowerment

लैंगिक उत्तरदायी बजट और महिला सशक्तिकरण

- India has increased funding for women's empowerment through gender-responsive budgeting.
भारत ने महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण के लिए लैंगिक उत्तरदायी बजट के माध्यम से वित्तपोषण बढ़ाया है।
- The Gender Budget share in the total national budget has increased from 6.8% in 2024-25 to 8.8% in 2025-26.
कुल राष्ट्रीय बजट में लैंगिक बजट की हिस्सेदारी 2024-25 में 6.8% से बढ़कर 2025-26 में 8.8% हो गई है।
- \$55.2 billion has been allocated towards gender-specific programs.
\$55.2 बिलियन लैंगिक विशिष्ट कार्यक्रमों के लिए आवंटित किए गए हैं।
- UN Women has supported these government efforts.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र महिला (UN Women) ने इन सरकारी प्रयासों का समर्थन किया है।

The Shadow of Violence

हिंसा की छाया

- Gender-based violence remains a major challenge, despite the Beijing Declaration's call to end violence against women.
लैंगिक हिंसा अभी भी एक बड़ी चुनौती बनी हुई है, भले ही बीजिंग घोषणा पत्र ने महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा समाप्त करने की मांग की थी।



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- **770 One Stop Centres** have been established to provide **medical, legal, and psychological support** to **violence survivors**.
770 वन स्टॉप केंद्र स्थापित किए गए हैं, जो हिंसा पीड़ितों को चिकित्सा, कानूनी और मानसिक समर्थन प्रदान करते हैं।
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023**, which came into effect in **July 2024**, strengthens **legal protections for women**.
भारतीय न्याय संहिता 2023, जो जुलाई 2024 में लागू हुई, महिलाओं की कानूनी सुरक्षा को मजबूत करती है।
- **Odisha's blockchain-based system** ensures **swift, confidential, and coordinated support** for survivors.
ओडिशा की ब्लॉकचेन-आधारित प्रणाली पीड़ितों के लिए तेज, गोपनीय और संगठित सहायता सुनिश्चित करती है।
- **The Rajasthan Police Academy**, in partnership with **United Nations Population Fund**, has enhanced **gender-responsive policing** and improved **access to justice for survivors**.
राजस्थान पुलिस अकादमी और संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष की साझेदारी ने लैंगिक उत्तरदायी पुलिसिंग को बेहतर बनाया और पीड़ितों के लिए न्याय की पहुंच बढ़ाई।

Young Women Leading Change

परिवर्तन की अगुआ युवा महिलाएँ

- **Young women leaders** are making an impact in **climate action, digital entrepreneurship, and gender equality**.
युवा महिला नेता जलवायु कार्रवाई, डिजिटल उद्यमिता और लैंगिक समानता में प्रभावशाली भूमिका निभा रही हैं।
- The **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) project** promotes **women's participation in STEM fields**.
लैंगिक प्रगति के लिए संस्थानों का रूपांतरण (GATI) परियोजना STEM (विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, अभियांत्रिकी और गणित) क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देती है।
- The **G20 TechEquity platform** has trained **thousands of young women in emerging technologies**.
G20 टेकइक्विटी प्लेटफॉर्म ने हजारों युवा महिलाओं को नई तकनीकों में प्रशिक्षित किया है।

Women's Role in India's Transformation

भारत के परिवर्तन में महिलाओं की भूमिका

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- Women have played a **pivotal role in technology, entrepreneurship, governance, and social development.**
महिलाएँ प्रौद्योगिकी, उद्यमिता, शासन और सामाजिक विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही हैं।
- The **Women's Reservation Bill** guarantees **33% legislative representation.**
महिला आरक्षण विधेयक 33% विधायी प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करता है।
- **1.5 million women leaders** have been empowered in **local governance**, forming the largest cohort of women political leaders in the world.
स्थानीय शासन में 15 लाख महिला नेताओं को सशक्त किया गया है, जिससे वे विश्व की सबसे बड़ी महिला राजनीतिक नेतृत्व समूह बनी हैं।

A Guiding Framework for Gender Equality

लैंगिक समानता के लिए एक मार्गदर्शक रूपरेखा

- The **30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration** reinforces that **gender equality is not just a women's issue but a global imperative.**
बीजिंग घोषणा पत्र की 30वीं वर्षगांठ यह दोहराती है कि लैंगिक समानता केवल महिलाओं का मुद्दा नहीं, बल्कि एक वैश्विक अनिवार्यता है।
- **India's progress** has been driven by **strong government leadership and global partnerships.**
भारत की प्रगति मजबूत सरकारी नेतृत्व और वैश्विक साझेदारी से संभव हुई है।
- **Key actions for the future** include **strengthening collaborations, investing in young women's leadership, and addressing systemic barriers.**
भविष्य के लिए प्रमुख कार्यों में साझेदारियों को मजबूत करना, युवा महिलाओं के नेतृत्व में निवेश करना और प्रणालीगत बाधाओं को दूर करना शामिल हैं।
- The **Beijing Platform for Action** remains a **guiding framework** for India's journey towards gender equality.
बीजिंग कार्य योजना भारत की लैंगिक समानता की यात्रा के लिए एक मार्गदर्शक रूपरेखा बनी हुई है।
- With **commitment to women-led development, financial inclusion, and social transformation**, India is setting a **global benchmark for inclusive and sustainable growth.**
महिला नेतृत्व वाले विकास, वित्तीय समावेशन और सामाजिक परिवर्तन के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता के साथ,



भारत समावेशी और सतत विकास के लिए एक वैश्विक मानदंड स्थापित कर रहा है।

Is Artificial Intelligence affecting critical thinking skills?

GS Paper IV: Ethics

PARLEY



Arun Kumar Tangirala
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Science and AI,
IIT Madras

Arificial Intelligence (AI) tools are increasingly being used in classrooms around the world. Last month, British universities were warned to “stress-test” all assessments after new research revealed that “almost all” undergraduates are using generative AI (GenAI) in their studies. Last year, a study by TeamLease EdTech revealed that over 68% of educators in India are using AI tools. All this has given rise to fears that students will likely begin accepting information at face value rather than critically analysing it. Does the use of AI in education affect critical thinking skills? Arun Kumar Tangirala and Arul George Scaria discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Sai Charan**. Edited excerpts:



Arul George Scaria
Professor of Law, National
Law School of
India
University,
Bengaluru

Should AI be permitted in college classrooms? If yes, to what extent?

Arun Kumar Tangirala: Yes, AI should be permitted. As it has pervaded every aspect of our lives, it is not a good idea to prohibit it. Even if you were to prohibit it, students will use it because it has pervaded every home and device. The extent to which it should be used and who should be using it in the classroom is contextual. It would depend on whether I am teaching a coding course, a technical course, a science course, or a humanities course. For example, if my aim is to impart cognitive skills, I would use AI minimally. But if I am teaching coding, it would be different. There has been a shift in skill sets in the industry. The ability to code is not necessarily the primary skill; the ability to evaluate and validate a code is more or less the evolving skill. So I would use AI, because everybody uses AI to generate codes. But it is important to make sure that the students use AI in an ethical and responsible way.

There are no government regulations on usage yet. So institutes and instructors have to form their own rules, declare these clearly at the beginning of the course, and also explain why they are imposing these. As long as things are done in a systematic, informed, ethical, and responsible manner, AI should be allowed.

Arul George Scaria: It is nearly impossible and perhaps even futile to prohibit AI in classrooms. Whether we like it or not, that is the reality. We might have to change our teaching and learning approaches according to this changing scenario because AI is also getting more and more integrated into many of the applications we use daily. For example, Copilot is getting integrated into Microsoft Word. Even when you open Adobe Reader, it suggests providing an AI-generated summary.



India's first AI teacher 'Iris' interacts with students at a school at Attingal in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. PTI

When we talk about AI usage in classrooms, we have to also understand that it is not just students who are using AI; teachers are using it too. School administrators want to bring AI into the classroom and many policymakers believe that there should be greater use of AI in education. But in all these contexts, ethical and responsible AI usage policies are required. AI is helpful in many ways, but it is also a tool that needs to be used cautiously for a wide variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, issues such as potential biases in responses.

The decision on the extent of use should be clearly guided by the learning objectives of the courses. When I teach a comparative copyright law course in collaboration with Professor William Fisher at the Harvard Law School, one of the assignments I give to the students is to use different AI platforms to generate potentially copyright infringing materials. Through this hands-on experience, the students get a better picture of the diverse issues in this particular area. They even get a better sense of whether it is possible to prevent generation of potentially copyright infringing materials and what kind of steps have been put in place by firms in this regard. So we need to evolve general guidelines for all stakeholders in an educational institution, but let the specific approaches for each course be developed as per the learning objectives of those courses.

Courses are being developed with AI. In that case, do you think AI will slowly be seen as a critical part of infrastructure?

AKT: Yes. AI is going to be integral to every type of operation in an academic institution, company, or any other organisation. Therefore, preparations have to be underway in order to integrate AI in a seamless manner. A report published by the World Economic Forum not



We need to educate everyone on how to be responsible AI users, particularly by understanding the limitations of the technology

ARUL GEORGE SCARIA

only throws light on the future skills required, but also on how institutions should realign themselves. The Future of Jobs Report 2025, published in January, showed that the top skills that learners require are analytical and cognitive thinking, AI related skills, social connection, adaptability, etc. Programming skills are lower down the list. If you compare it with earlier reports, the big difference you see is the arrival of AI and related skills. If AI-related skills have to be acquired, not only by the users, but also by employees, it has to be integrated into the infrastructure. But there has to be a secure way of doing this. Unlike a calculator or a computer, AI tools such as Chat GPT, Perplexity, and other LLM models that you are using take your data and broadcast it back to the server, which means that your own personal and confidential information could be at stake if it is not integrated properly. Every user has to be trained and made aware of the benefits and side effects.

AGS: AI is becoming critical infrastructure in many different ways. The government and other stakeholders need to be mindful of this and take appropriate measures for regulation. For example, many State governments suggest adopting AI in schools. But has there been a safety audit of the AI tools that have been suggested for incorporation in these schools? Has there been an audit on the potential biases that might exist in the system? With respect to the training data, are we demanding disclosure? Are we mindful of the impacts?

With AI here to stay, do you think we should accept it in a regulated manner rather than being critical about it?

AKT: There is apprehension and fear about the usage of AI. But we should start using it. For a long time, I also desisted and my reason for using it was to really experience what the fears are about. There is no point in imagining what may happen. Start using AI in a limited way, and experience the benefits and the possible risks. Do it the way you would with an automobile.

The difference is that for automobiles, we have excellent regulations. For AI, it will take time. There are countries saying forget about regulations for now, because that is going to hamper the growth of this technology. I

disagree. While technology is evolving, discussions on regulation should also be happening. The European Union has been active in that respect. In India, there are more and more discussions happening now, but it will take some time for actual regulations to kick in.

AGS: It is clear that the state might take some time to frame regulations. To me, it is vital that every university initiates dialogues among faculty members and students on responsible AI usage. This will help in evolving appropriate and ethical usage guidelines as per the needs of the institution. We cannot have universal rules, but at least some general guidelines can be evolved at the institutional level. The most prominent global universities have a general AI policy and they have also left it to the faculty to frame specific policies with respect to their courses. That is the only way forward now.

There are concerns that students may become overly dependent on AI-generated responses. Are these valid?

AKT: It's true; many teachers fear this. I don't think it is a valid fear. It depends on what skills we want to impart. An academic institution has its own goals apart from preparing students for employment. Those goals may include training students to think deeply and in a scholarly manner. But at the same time, we need to be practical. We have to train our students so that they get jobs, not necessarily scholarly ones, but where they can implement what they have learned. So, in any course, we will probably have to ask to what extent we want to impart critical thinking skills vis-a-vis practical skills.

AGS: I have a slightly different perspective. At a broader level, I fear that we are currently seeing an over-dependence on AI-generated responses among students and sometimes even among many faculty members. So we need to educate everyone on how to be responsible AI users, particularly by understanding the limitations of the technology. This might even require re-imagining many components of our education. Maybe the kind of technology which we are talking about here can have more negative impacts if we indiscriminately adopt it. Over time, AI technologies may also be more mature. But as it stands now, my fear is that most of the time, people are overlooking the limitations of technology.



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

Is Artificial Intelligence Affecting Critical Thinking Skills?

क्या कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) आलोचनात्मक सोचने की क्षमता को प्रभावित कर रही है?

AI tools are being increasingly used in classrooms worldwide.

AI उपकरणों का उपयोग दुनिया भर के कक्षाओं में बढ़ रहा है।



- **British universities** were advised to "stress-test" all assessments after research showed that "almost all" undergraduates use generative AI (GenAI).
ब्रिटिश विश्वविद्यालयों को सलाह दी गई कि वे सभी आकलनों को जांचें, क्योंकि शोध में पाया गया कि लगभग सभी स्नातक छात्र जनरेटिव AI (GenAI) का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।
- A TeamLease EdTech study (2023) found that over 61% of educators in India use AI tools.
टीमलीज़ एडटेक अध्ययन (2023) में पाया गया कि भारत में 61% से अधिक शिक्षक AI उपकरणों का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।
- Concerns arise that students may start accepting AI-generated information at face value instead of critically analyzing it.
चिंता यह है कि छात्र बिना विश्लेषण किए AI द्वारा उत्पन्न जानकारी को सच मान सकते हैं।

Should AI Be Allowed in Classrooms?

क्या कक्षाओं में AI की अनुमति होनी चाहिए?

Arun Kumar Tangirala's Perspective

अरुण कुमार तंगिराला का दृष्टिकोण

- AI should be permitted, as it has become an integral part of daily life.
AI की अनुमति होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि यह दैनिक जीवन का एक अभिन्न हिस्सा बन गया है।
- Even if banned, students will still use AI since it is accessible in homes and devices.
भले ही इसे प्रतिबंधित किया जाए, छात्र फिर भी AI का उपयोग करेंगे, क्योंकि यह घरों और उपकरणों में आसानी से उपलब्ध है।
- The extent of AI usage depends on the subject being taught (e.g., minimal AI in cognitive skill courses, more AI in coding courses).
AI उपयोग की सीमा इस पर निर्भर करती है कि कौन सा विषय पढ़ाया जा रहा है (जैसे, संज्ञानात्मक कौशल पाठ्यक्रमों में न्यूनतम AI, कोडिंग पाठ्यक्रमों में अधिक AI)।
- The industry focus has shifted from just coding to evaluating and validating AI-generated code.
उद्योग का ध्यान अब केवल कोडिंग से हटकर AI-जनित कोड के मूल्यांकन और सत्यापन पर चला गया



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हैं।

- **AI usage should be ethical and responsible, and institutes must establish clear policies** at the start of courses.
AI का उपयोग नैतिक और जिम्मेदार तरीके से किया जाना चाहिए, और संस्थानों को पाठ्यक्रम की शुरुआत में स्पष्ट नीतियां बनानी चाहिए।

Arul George Scaria's Perspective

अरुल जॉर्ज स्कैरिया का दृष्टिकोण

- **Prohibiting AI in classrooms is impractical** since it is already **integrated into applications like Microsoft Word and Adobe Reader.**
AI को कक्षा में प्रतिबंधित करना व्यर्थ है, क्योंकि यह पहले से ही Microsoft Word और Adobe Reader जैसे अनुप्रयोगों में एकीकृत है।
- **Teachers and administrators also use AI, and policymakers support AI integration in education.**
शिक्षक और प्रशासक भी AI का उपयोग करते हैं, और नीतिनिर्माता शिक्षा में AI के अधिक उपयोग का समर्थन करते हैं।
- **Ethical AI usage policies are essential to prevent biases and misinformation.**
AI के नैतिक उपयोग की नीतियां आवश्यक हैं ताकि पक्षपात और गलत सूचना को रोका जा सके।
- **AI should be used based on course objectives.**
AI का उपयोग पाठ्यक्रम के उद्देश्यों के अनुसार किया जाना चाहिए।
- **Example: In a comparative copyright law course, students use AI to generate copyright-infringing materials, helping them understand legal complexities.**
उदाहरण: एक तुलनात्मक कॉपीराइट कानून पाठ्यक्रम में, छात्र AI के माध्यम से कॉपीराइट उल्लंघन करने वाली सामग्री उत्पन्न करते हैं, जिससे वे कानूनी जटिलताओं को समझ सकते हैं।
- **General guidelines for AI usage should be developed, but specific approaches should be based on course learning goals.**
AI उपयोग के लिए सामान्य दिशानिर्देश बनाए जाने चाहिए, लेकिन प्रत्येक पाठ्यक्रम की सीखने की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार विशेष रणनीतियाँ अपनाई जानी चाहिए।



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Is AI Becoming Critical Infrastructure?

क्या AI एक महत्वपूर्ण बुनियादी ढांचा बन रहा है?

Arun Kumar Tangirala's Perspective

अरुण कुमार तंगिराला का दृष्टिकोण

- **AI is becoming integral to operations in academic institutions, companies, and organizations.**
AI शैक्षणिक संस्थानों, कंपनियों और संगठनों के संचालन का एक अभिन्न हिस्सा बन रहा है।
- **The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 highlights that AI-related skills are among the top skills required.**
विश्व आर्थिक मंच की "फ्यूचर ऑफ जॉब्स रिपोर्ट 2025" में बताया गया है कि AI-संबंधित कौशल सबसे महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकताओं में शामिल हैं।
- **The focus has shifted from programming skills to analytical thinking, AI-related skills, adaptability, and social connection.**
ध्यान अब प्रोग्रामिंग कौशल से हटकर विश्लेषणात्मक सोच, AI कौशल, अनुकूलन क्षमता और सामाजिक जुड़ाव पर चला गया है।
- **AI integration must be secure, as tools like ChatGPT, Perplexity, and other LLM models collect user data, posing privacy risks.**
AI को सुरक्षित तरीके से एकीकृत करना आवश्यक है, क्योंकि ChatGPT, Perplexity और अन्य LLM मॉडल उपयोगकर्ता डेटा एकत्र करते हैं, जिससे गोपनीयता का जोखिम हो सकता है।
- **Users must be trained and made aware of AI's benefits and risks.**
उपयोगकर्ताओं को AI के लाभों और जोखिमों के बारे में प्रशिक्षित और जागरूक किया जाना चाहिए।

Arul George Scaria's Perspective

अरुल जॉर्ज स्कैरिया का दृष्टिकोण

- **AI is already a critical infrastructure, so governments and stakeholders must ensure proper regulations.**
AI पहले से ही एक महत्वपूर्ण बुनियादी ढांचा बन चुका है, इसलिए सरकारों और हितधारकों को उचित नियमन सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए।
- **State governments are pushing for AI adoption in schools, but safety audits of AI tools are often lacking.**
राज्य सरकारें स्कूलों में AI को अपनाने पर जोर दे रही हैं, लेकिन AI टूल्स की सुरक्षा ऑडिट की कमी बनी हुई है।

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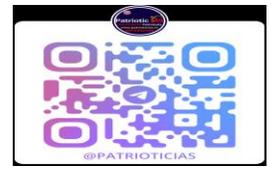
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- There is a need for transparency in AI training data to prevent bias and misinformation.

AI प्रशिक्षण डेटा में पारदर्शिता आवश्यक है ताकि पक्षपात और गलत जानकारी को रोका जा सके।

Should AI Be Accepted in a Regulated Manner?

क्या AI को विनियमित तरीके से स्वीकार करना चाहिए?

Arun Kumar Tangirala's Perspective

अरुण कुमार तंगिराला का दृष्टिकोण

- AI usage should begin gradually, so users understand both its benefits and risks.
AI का उपयोग धीरे-धीरे शुरू किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि उपयोगकर्ता इसके लाभों और जोखिमों को समझ सकें।
- Unlike automobiles, AI lacks strict regulations, which should evolve alongside technological advancements.
ऑटोमोबाइल्स की तरह AI के लिए अभी तक कड़े नियम नहीं हैं, लेकिन तकनीकी प्रगति के साथ इनका विकास होना चाहिए।
- Some countries oppose AI regulation, fearing it will hinder growth, but responsible discussions on regulation must continue.
कुछ देश AI नियमन का विरोध कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि इससे तकनीकी विकास बाधित हो सकता है, लेकिन जिम्मेदार चर्चा जारी रहनी चाहिए।
- The European Union has proactively worked on AI regulations, and India is also engaging in discussions.
यूरोपीय संघ ने AI नियमन पर सक्रिय रूप से कार्य किया है, और भारत में भी इस पर चर्चा हो रही है।

Arul George Scaria's Perspective

अरुल जॉर्ज स्कैरिया का दृष्टिकोण

- Regulations will take time, so universities should create guidelines for responsible AI usage.
AI नियमन में समय लगेगा, इसलिए विश्वविद्यालयों को जिम्मेदार AI उपयोग के लिए दिशानिर्देश बनाने चाहिए।



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- Global universities have general AI policies, but faculty should have the flexibility to set course-specific guidelines.

वैश्विक विश्वविद्यालयों में सामान्य AI नीतियां हैं, लेकिन संकाय को पाठ्यक्रम-विशिष्ट दिशानिर्देश निर्धारित करने की स्वतंत्रता होनी चाहिए।

Are Students Becoming Overdependent on AI?

क्या छात्र AI पर अधिक निर्भर हो रहे हैं?

Arun Kumar Tangirala's Perspective

अरुण कुमार तंगिराला का दृष्टिकोण

- Many teachers fear AI overdependence, but it depends on what skills institutions aim to impart.
कई शिक्षक AI पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता से डरते हैं, लेकिन यह इस पर निर्भर करता है कि संस्थान किस प्रकार के कौशल सिखाना चाहते हैं।
- Institutions should balance between critical thinking skills and practical skills for better career preparedness.
संस्थानों को आलोचनात्मक सोचने की क्षमता और व्यावहारिक कौशल के बीच संतुलन बनाना चाहिए, ताकि छात्रों को करियर के लिए बेहतर तरीके से तैयार किया जा सके।

Arul George Scaria's Perspective

अरुल जॉर्ज स्कैरिया का दृष्टिकोण

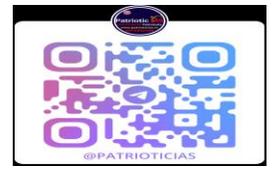
- Students and even some faculty members are over-relying on AI-generated responses, which is concerning.
छात्र और कुछ संकाय सदस्य भी AI-जनित उत्तरों पर अत्यधिक निर्भर हो रहे हैं, जो चिंता का विषय है।
- Users must be educated on AI limitations and responsible usage.
उपयोगकर्ताओं को AI की सीमाओं और इसके जिम्मेदार उपयोग के बारे में शिक्षित किया जाना चाहिए।
- AI adoption should be carefully structured to avoid negative impacts on education.
AI को सावधानीपूर्वक अपनाया जाना चाहिए, ताकि यह शिक्षा पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव न डाले।
- Over time, AI technology will mature, but for now, its limitations are often overlooked.
समय के साथ, AI तकनीक परिपक्व होगी, लेकिन अभी इसकी सीमाओं को अक्सर नजरअंदाज किया जाता है।

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TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. INSV Tarini with Two Women Navy Officers Leaves Port Stanley

INSV तारिणी दो महिला नौसेना अधिकारियों के साथ पोर्ट स्टेनली से रवाना

INSV Tarini with Two Women Navy Officers Leaves Port Stanley

INSV तारिणी दो महिला नौसेना अधिकारियों के साथ पोर्ट स्टेनली से रवाना

INSV Tarini with two women Navy officers leaves Port Stanley

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

INSV Tarini left Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands Tuesday at about 9.10 a.m. local time for its onward journey to Cape Town, the Navy said in a statement on Thursday.

The sailing vessel is on the fourth leg of an ongoing global circumnavigation by two women Indian Navy officers, Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant Commander Roopa, under the 'Navika Sagar Parikrama-II' expedition.

INSV Tarini arrived at Port Stanley on February



Smooth sailing: the vessel is on the fourth leg of an ongoing global circumnavigation. PTI

18. During the stay, the vessel's crew undertook repairs and maintenance of the boat to address defects that occurred during the most treacherous leg of their journey – passing through Drake's Passage.

INSV Tarini left Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands on Tuesday at 9:10 a.m. (local time) for its onward journey to Cape Town.

INSV तारिणी ने फॉकलैंड द्वीपसमूह के पोर्ट स्टेनली से मंगलवार को सुबह 9:10 बजे (स्थानीय समय) पर केप टाउन के लिए अपनी यात्रा शुरू की।

- The sailing vessel is on the fourth leg of an ongoing global circumnavigation by two women Indian Navy officers under the 'Navika Sagar Parikrama-II' expedition.

यह नौकायन पोत 'नविका सागर परिक्रमा-II' अभियान के तहत दो महिला भारतीय नौसेना अधिकारियों द्वारा किए जा रहे वैश्विक परिक्रमा अभियान के चौथे चरण पर है।

- Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant Commander Roopa are leading this mission.

इस मिशन का नेतृत्व लेफ्टिनेंट कमांडर दिलना के. और लेफ्टिनेंट कमांडर रूपा कर रही हैं।



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

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

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- **INSV Tarini arrived at Port Stanley on February 18.**
INSV तारिणी 18 फरवरी को पोर्ट स्टेनली पहुंची।

During their stay, the **crew conducted repairs and maintenance** to address **defects** that occurred while **passing through Drake's Passage**, one of the **most treacherous legs** of their journey.

प्रवास के दौरान, कू ने नौका की मरम्मत और रखरखाव किया ताकि ड्रेक पैसेज पार करने के दौरान आई तकनीकी समस्याओं को ठीक किया जा सके, जो उनकी यात्रा का सबसे खतरनाक हिस्सा था।

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