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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
12 MARCH 2025

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12_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

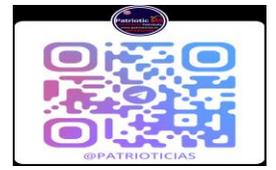TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)

1. **Islamist party attacks minority Ahmadis in Pakistan's Punjab**

   पाकिस्तान के पंजाब में इस्लामिक पार्टी ने अल्पसंख्यक अहमदियों पर हमला किया

2. **Ex-Philippine President held for 'crimes against humanity'**

   पूर्व फिलीपींस राष्ट्रपति 'मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध' के आरोप में गिरफ्तार

3. Russia makes big new advance in Kursk region

रूस ने कुर्स्क क्षेत्र में बड़ी बढ़त हासिल की

4. Greenland goes to the polls as Trump covets Danish region

ग्रीनलैंड में चुनाव शुरू, ट्रंप की क्षेत्र पर नजर

5. Cargo vessel slams into tanker carrying aviation fuel; 36 rescued, one missing

कार्गो जहाज विमानन ईंधन ले जा रहे टैंकर से टकराया; 36 बचाए गए, एक लापता

LAHORE

Islamist party attacks minority Ahmadis in Pakistan's Punjab

GS Paper I: A&C

AFP

Members of Tehreek-e-Labbaik, a radical Islamist party, attacked several houses of the minority Ahmadi community in Pakistan's Punjab province over the death of a man, members of the group said on Tuesday. The police said they also demolished a Ahmadi worship place in Bahawalnagar to control law and order. PTI

Islamist party attacks minority Ahmadis in Pakistan's Punjab

पाकिस्तान के पंजाब में इस्लामिक पार्टी ने अल्पसंख्यक अहमदियों पर हमला किया

Attack on Ahmadi community
अहमदी समुदाय पर हमला

• Members of Tehreek-e-Labbaik, a radical Islamist party, attacked several houses of the minority Ahmadi community in Punjab, Pakistan.
कट्टरपंथी इस्लामिक पार्टी तहरीक-ए-लब्बैक के सदस्यों ने पाकिस्तान के पंजाब प्रांत में अल्पसंख्यक अहमदी समुदाय के कई घरों पर हमला किया।

• The attack was allegedly carried out over the death of a man, according to members of the group.
समूह के सदस्यों के अनुसार, यह हमला एक व्यक्ति की मृत्यु को लेकर किया गया।

Demolition of Ahmadi worship place
अहमदी उपासना स्थल को ध्वस्त किया गया

- **Police demolished an Ahmadi worship place in Bahawalnagar, citing the need to maintain law and order.**

  पुलिस ने कानून और व्यवस्था बनाए रखने के नाम पर बहावलनगर में एक अहमदी उपासना स्थल को ध्वस्त कर दिया।

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
अहमदिया मुस्लिम समुदाय

- The **Ahmadiyya Muslim Community** is an Islamic religious movement founded in **1889** in Qadian, Punjab, India, by **Mirza Ghulam Ahmad** (c. 1839–1908).
- He claimed to be the **Mahdi** (a figure expected by some Muslims at the end of the world), the **Christian Messiah**, an incarnation of the **Hindu god Krishna**, and a reappearance (**burūz**) of **Prophet Muhammad**.
- **अहमदिया मुस्लिम समुदाय** एक इस्लामी धार्मिक आंदोलन है जिसकी स्थापना **1889** में क़ादियान, पंजाब, भारत में **मिर्ज़ा गुलाम अहमद** (c. 1839–1908) द्वारा की गई थी।
- उन्होंने स्वयं को **महदी** (कुछ मुसलमानों द्वारा अपेक्षित एक अंतिम समय की हस्ती), **ईसाई मसीहा**, **हिंदू देवता कृष्ण** का अवतार, और **पैगंबर मुहम्मद** का पुनःप्रकट (**बुरूज़**) होने का दावा किया था।

Key Beliefs and Doctrines
मुख्य विश्वास और सिद्धांत

- **Prophethood**: Ahmadis believe that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was a prophet, which contrasts with mainstream Islamic belief that **Prophet Muhammad** was the last prophet.

  नबूवत: अहमदिया मानते हैं कि मिर्ज़ा गुलाम अहमद एक नबी थे, जो मुख्यधारा के इस्लामी विश्वास से भिन्न है कि **पैगंबर मुहम्मद** अंतिम नबी थे।

- **Interpretation of Jihad**: They reinterpret **Jihad** ("holy war") as a peaceful struggle against unbelievers, emphasizing non-violent methods over military means.

  जिहाद की व्याख्या: वे **जिहाद** ("पवित्र युद्ध") की पुनर्व्याख्या एक शांतिपूर्ण संघर्ष के रूप में करते हैं, जो अविश्वासियों के खिलाफ अहिंसक तरीकों पर जोर देती है।

- **Jesus's Death**: Ahmadis believe that **Jesus** feigned death and resurrection but actually escaped to India, where he died at the age of 120.

   यीशु की मृत्यु: अहमदिया मानते हैं कि **यीशु** ने मृत्यु और पुनरुत्थान का दिखावा किया था लेकिन वास्तव में भारत भाग गए थे, जहां उनकी 120 वर्ष की आयु में मृत्यु हुई।

Historical Development and Schisms
ऐतिहासिक विकास और विभाजन

- **Post-Founder Era**: After Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's death in **1908**, the community elected **Mawlawi Nur al-Din** as the first **Khalifa** ("successor").

   संस्थापक के बाद का युग: मिर्ज़ा गुलाम अहमद की **1908** में मृत्यु के बाद, समुदाय ने **मौलवी नूर अल-दीन** को पहला **खलीफा** ("उत्तराधिकारी") चुना।

- **Split in 1914**: Upon Nur al-Din's death in **1914**, the Ahmadiyya community split into two groups:

   1914 में विभाजन: नूर अल-दीन की **1914** में मृत्यु के बाद, अहमदिया समुदाय दो समूहों में विभाजित हो गया:

   o **Qadiani Group**: Based in Qadian, they recognized Ghulam Ahmad as a prophet and his son, **Mirza Bashir al-Din Mahmud Ahmad** (born 1889), as the second caliph.

      क़ादियानी समूह: क़ादियान में आधारित, उन्होंने गुलाम अहमद को नबी और उनके पुत्र, **मिर्ज़ा बशीर अल-दीन महमूद अहमद** (जन्म 1889) को दूसरा खलीफा माना।

   o **Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement**: This faction accepted Ghulam Ahmad only as a reformer (**mujaddid**) and not as a prophet.

      लाहौर अहमदिया आंदोलन: इस गुट ने गुलाम अहमद को केवल एक सुधारक (**मुजद्दिद**) के रूप में स्वीकार किया और नबी के रूप में नहीं।

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Ex-Philippine President held for 'crimes against humanity'

Rodrigo Duterte was arrested in Manila by police acting on an ICC warrant; the detention is linked to his war on drugs which had killed tens of thousands, mostly poor men, often without evidence

GS Paper: IR

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

Former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested on Tuesday in Manila by police acting on an International Criminal Court warrant tied to his deadly war on drugs.

The 79-year-old faces a charge of "the crime against humanity of murder", according to the ICC, for a crackdown that rights groups estimate killed tens of thousands of mostly poor men, often without proof they were linked to drugs.

He was initially held at

Loyal fanbase: Supporters of Rodrigo Duterte gather outside Villamor Airbase, where he was held on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

the capital's Villamor Air Base,following which a flight carrying him took off for The Hague.

The former President had earlier gone on Instagram live to say he believed the Philippine Supreme Court would step in and prevent his transfer to the international tribunal. "The Supreme Court will not agree to that. We do not have an extradition treaty," he said after his lawyers filed a petition with the court.

Mr. Duterte's Tuesday morning arrest at Manila's international airport followed a brief trip to Hong Kong.

The Philippines quit the ICC in 2019 on Mr. Duterte's instructions, but the tribunal maintained it had jurisdiction over killings before the pullout, as well as killings in the southern city of Davao when Mr. Duterte was mayor, years before he became President.

Ex-Philippine President held for 'crimes against humanity'

पूर्व फिलीपींस राष्ट्रपति 'मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध' के आरोप में गिरफ्तार

Arrest of Rodrigo Duterte

रॉड्रिगो दुतेर्ते की गिरफ्तारी

- **Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested in Manila on Tuesday by police acting on an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant.**

  पूर्व फिलीपींस राष्ट्रपति रॉड्रिगो दुतेर्ते को मंगलवार को मनीला में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC) के वारंट पर पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार किया।

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- The arrest is linked to his controversial war on drugs, which led to the deaths of tens of thousands, mostly poor men, often without evidence of their involvement in drugs.

  यह गिरफ्तारी उनकी विवादास्पद ड्रग विरोधी नीति से जुड़ी है, जिसमें हजारों लोग मारे गए, जिनमें अधिकांश गरीब पुरुष थे, और अक्सर उनके खिलाफ किसी सबूत के बिना कार्रवाई की गई।

Charges and legal proceedings
आरोप और कानूनी कार्यवाही

- Duterte faces charges of "crimes against humanity of murder" as per the ICC.

  ICC के अनुसार, दुतेर्ते पर "मानवता के खिलाफ हत्या के अपराध" का आरोप है।

- Rights groups estimate that tens of thousands were killed during his tenure without proper legal processes.

  मानवाधिकार संगठनों का अनुमान है कि उनके शासनकाल में हजारों लोगों को बिना किसी उचित कानूनी प्रक्रिया के मारा गया।

Transfer to The Hague
द हेग स्थानांतरण

- After his arrest, Duterte was initially held at Villamor Air Base before being flown to The Hague.

  गिरफ्तारी के बाद, दुतेर्ते को पहले विल्लामोर एयर बेस पर रखा गया, फिर उन्हें द हेग भेज दिया गया।

- Before his transfer, he went live on Instagram, expressing hope that the Philippine Supreme Court would block his extradition.

  स्थानांतरण से पहले, उन्होंने इंस्टाग्राम लाइव पर कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि फिलीपींस का सर्वोच्च न्यायालय उनके प्रत्यर्पण को रोक देगा।

- His lawyers have filed a petition with the Supreme Court, arguing that the Philippines does not have an extradition treaty with the ICC.

  उनके वकीलों ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में याचिका दायर की, यह तर्क देते हुए कि फिलीपींस का ICC के साथ कोई प्रत्यर्पण संधि नहीं है।

Philippines' withdrawal from ICC
फिलीपींस का ICC से हटना

- The Philippines withdrew from the ICC in 2019 under Duterte's orders.

  फिलीपींस ने 2019 में दुतेर्ते के आदेश पर ICC से अपनी सदस्यता वापस ले ली थी।

- **Despite this, the ICC maintains jurisdiction over killings that occurred before the withdrawal, including those during Duterte's tenure as mayor of Davao.**

इसके बावजूद, ICC का कहना है कि वह फिलीपींस से हटने से पहले हुई हत्याओं पर अधिकार रखता है, जिनमें दुतेर्ते के दावाओ के मेयर रहने के दौरान हुई हत्याएँ भी शामिल हैं।

Russia makes big new advance in Kursk region

GS Paper: IR

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia said on Tuesday that its troops had retaken over 100 sq. km. of territory and 12 settlements in its Kursk region as part of an offensive to force the Ukrainian Army to flee.

"Units of the North group of forces liberated 12 settlements during the offensive... and more than 100 square kilometres of the territory of the Kursk region," Defence Ministry said. It listed the settlements as Agronom, Bogdanovka, Bondarevka, Dmitryukov, Zazulevka, Ivashkovsky, Kolmakov, Kubatkin, Martynovka, Mikhaylovka, Pravda, and Yuzhny.

Russia makes big new advance in Kursk region
रूस ने कुर्स्क क्षेत्र में बड़ी बढ़त हासिल की

Territorial gains in Kursk region
कुर्स्क क्षेत्र में क्षेत्रीय बढ़त

- **Russia announced on Tuesday that its troops had retaken over 100 sq. km. of territory in the Kursk region.**

रूस ने मंगलवार को घोषणा की कि उसकी सेना ने कुर्स्क क्षेत्र में 100 वर्ग किलोमीटर से अधिक क्षेत्र को फिर से अपने नियंत्रण में ले लिया है।

- **As part of an offensive operation, Russian forces aimed to force the Ukrainian Army to retreat.**

आक्रामक अभियान के तहत, रूसी सेना ने यूक्रेनी सेना को पीछे हटने के लिए मजबूर करने का लक्ष्य रखा।

Liberation of 12 settlements
12 बस्तियों को मुक्त कराया गया

- **The Russian Defence Ministry stated that its forces had liberated 12 settlements during the offensive.**

रूसी रक्षा मंत्रालय ने बताया कि उसकी सेना ने इस हमले के दौरान 12 बस्तियों को मुक्त कराया।

- **The liberated settlements include Agronom, Bogdanovka, Bondarevka, Dmitryukov, Zazulevka, Ivashkovsky, Kolmakov, Kubatkin, Martynovka, Mikhaylovka, Pravda, and Yuzhny.**

मुक्त कराई गई बस्तियों में एग्रोनोम, बोगदानोवका, बोंडारेवका, दिमित्र्युकोव,

ज़ज़ुलेवका, इवाशकोवस्की, कोलमाकोव, कुबातकिन, मार्त्यनोवका, मिखायलोवका, प्रावदा और युज़नी शामिल हैं।

Greenland goes to the polls as Trump covets Danish region

GS Paper I: Geography

Associated Press
NUUK

Polls opened in Greenland for early parliamentary elections Tuesday as U.S. President Donald Trump seeks control of the strategic Arctic island.

The self-governing region of Denmark is home to 56,000 people, most from Indigenous Inuit backgrounds, and occupies a strategic North Atlantic location. It also contains rare earth minerals key to driving the global economy.

Unofficial election results should be available

Voters to elect 31 lawmakers who will shape the island's debate on independence

soon after polls close at 0330 IST on Wednesday.

While the island has been on a path toward independence since at least 2009, a break from Denmark is not on the ballot. Voters on Tuesday will instead elect 31 lawmakers who will shape the island's debate on when and if to declare independence in the future.

Greenland goes to the polls as Trump covets Danish region
ग्रीनलैंड में चुनाव शुरू, ट्रंप की क्षेत्र पर नजर

Parliamentary elections in Greenland
ग्रीनलैंड में संसदीय चुनाव

• Greenland opened polls for early parliamentary elections on Tuesday.
ग्रीनलैंड में मंगलवार को प्रारंभिक संसदीय चुनावों के लिए मतदान शुरू हुआ।

• The region is a self-governing territory of Denmark with a population of 56,000, mostly from Indigenous Inuit backgrounds.
यह क्षेत्र डेनमार्क का स्वशासी क्षेत्र है, जिसकी जनसंख्या 56,000 है, जिनमें से अधिकांश स्वदेशी इनुइट समुदाय के हैं।

Greenland's strategic importance
ग्रीनलैंड का सामरिक महत्व

• The island holds a strategic position in the North Atlantic and contains rare earth minerals crucial to the global economy.
यह द्वीप उत्तर अटलांटिक में एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थिति रखता है और इसमें दुर्लभ खनिज हैं, जो वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए आवश्यक हैं।

• U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed interest in gaining control over Greenland.
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने ग्रीनलैंड पर नियंत्रण पाने में रुचि व्यक्त की है।

Election results and independence debate
चुनाव परिणाम और स्वतंत्रता पर बहस

- **Unofficial election results are expected soon after polls close at 03:30 IST on Wednesday.**
  मतदान समाप्त होने के बाद बुधवार सुबह 03:30 IST पर अनौपचारिक चुनाव परिणाम आने की उम्मीद है।

- **While Greenland has been moving toward independence since 2009, the election does not include a vote on breaking from Denmark.**
  ग्रीनलैंड 2009 से स्वतंत्रता की ओर बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन इस चुनाव में डेनमार्क से अलग होने पर कोई मतदान नहीं होगा।

- **Voters will elect 31 lawmakers who will influence the debate on whether and when to declare independence.**
  मतदाता 31 विधायकों का चुनाव करेंगे, जो यह तय करने में भूमिका निभाएंगे कि स्वतंत्रता की घोषणा कब और कैसे हो।

Greenland is **home to an indigenous population known as the Inuit**, along with a smaller Danish minority. The ethnic composition is as follows:

- **Inuit (Kalaallit)** – **~88%** of the population

  o The majority of Greenlanders are of Inuit descent, specifically the **Kalaallit** subgroup of the Inuit people.
  o They have historically relied on **hunting, fishing, and whaling** for survival.
  o Speak **Kalaallisut**, which is the official Greenlandic language.
  o Predominantly follow **Christianity (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark)**, though traditional animist beliefs also exist.
- **Danes and Other Europeans** – **~12%** of the population

  o Primarily of Danish origin, as Greenland is an **autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark**.
  o Danish is widely spoken, especially in government and education.
  o Many Danes live in urban centers like **Nuuk (the capital), Sisimiut, and Ilulissat**.

2. Demography

- **Population**: **Approximately 56,000** (as of 2024), making Greenland one of the least densely populated regions in the world.
- **Population Density**: ~**0.03 people per km²** (one of the lowest in the world).
- **Major Cities**:
    - **Nuuk (Capital)** – Largest city (~19,000 people).
    - **Sisimiut** – Second-largest (~5,500 people).
    - **Ilulissat** – (~4,500 people).
- **Urban vs. Rural**: ~**80%** live in towns and settlements along the coast; **20%** in remote villages.
- **Life Expectancy**: **~72 years** (lower than Denmark due to harsh climate and health issues).
- **Languages**:
    - **Kalaallisut (Greenlandic)** – Official language.
    - **Danish** – Used in administration, education, and business.
    - **English** – Increasingly spoken, especially among younger generations.

3. Historical Background and Influence of Denmark

- The **Inuit arrived in Greenland around 4,500 years ago**, migrating from the Arctic regions of North America.
- **Norse settlements** (Vikings) existed around **985 CE**, led by **Erik the Red**, but later disappeared.
- **Greenland became a Danish colony in 1721** and remains part of the Kingdom of Denmark, though it gained **home rule in 1979** and **self-government in 2009**.

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Cargo vessel slams into tanker carrying aviation fuel; 36 rescued, one missing

GS Paper I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
GRIMSBY

Two ships were still on fire in the North Sea on Tuesday after a cargo vessel slammed into a tanker carrying flammable jet fuel, with the U.K. government ruling out foul play.

Questions remained, however, about how the accident happened and there were fears that any spill could harm the marine environment and coastline, home to seals, porpoises and several species of protected waders and seabirds.

A member of the *Solong* cargo vessel crew was missing, or "likely deceased", a U.K. Government Minis-

The aftermath: Smoke rises from damaged containers on the deck of the *MV Solong* cargo ship in the North Sea on Tuesday. AFP

ter told the country's parliament.

The U.K. Coastguard halted search operations late on Monday after rescuing all other crew mem-

bers – 36 in total – from both ships.

An investigation has begun into the accident, which occurred at around 09:48 am (1518 IST) on

Monday when the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship ploughed into the U.S.-flagged tanker *Stena Immaculate*, anchored about 18 km off the northeastern port of Hull.

No sodium cyanide
The *Stena Immaculate* was carrying around 2,20,000 barrels of jet fuel.

The German owners of the *Solong* said on Tuesday that the container ship was not carrying sodium cyanide, as had been reported the previous day.

"We are able to confirm that there are no containers on board with sodium cyanide (inside)," German shipping company Ernst Russ said.

Cargo vessel slams into tanker carrying aviation fuel; 36 rescued, one missing
कार्गो जहाज विमानन ईंधन ले जा रहे टैंकर से टकराया; 36 बचाए गए, एक लापता

Two ships on fire in the North Sea
उत्तरी सागर में दो जहाजों में आग

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- Two ships remained on fire in the North Sea on Tuesday after a cargo vessel crashed into a tanker carrying flammable jet fuel.
  मंगलवार को उत्तरी सागर में दो जहाजों में आग लगी रही, जब एक कार्गो जहाज ज्वलनशील विमानन ईंधन ले जा रहे टैंकर से टकरा गया।

- The U.K. government ruled out foul play, but questions remain about how the accident happened.
  ब्रिटेन सरकार ने साजिश की संभावना से इनकार किया, लेकिन हादसा कैसे हुआ इस पर सवाल बने हुए हैं।

Environmental concerns and missing crew member
पर्यावरणीय चिंताएं और लापता चालक दल सदस्य

- Authorities fear that any fuel spill could harm the marine environment and coastline, which is home to seals, porpoises, and several protected bird species.
  अधिकारियों को आशंका है कि किसी भी ईंधन रिसाव से समुद्री पर्यावरण और तटरेखा को नुकसान हो सकता है, जहां सील, पोर्पोइज़ और कई संरक्षित पक्षी प्रजातियां रहती हैं।

- A crew member from the Solong cargo vessel was reported missing and is likely deceased, according to a U.K. Government Minister.
  यू.के. सरकार के मंत्री के अनुसार, सोलोंग कार्गो जहाज का एक चालक दल सदस्य लापता है और संभवतः मृत माना जा रहा है।

- The U.K. Coastguard rescued 36 crew members from both ships but halted search operations late on Monday.
  यू.के. कोस्टगार्ड ने दोनों जहाजों से 36 चालक दल के सदस्यों को बचा लिया, लेकिन सोमवार देर रात खोज अभियान रोक दिया।

Details of the accident and investigation
हादसे और जांच का विवरण

- The collision happened at around 09:48 am (1518 IST) on Monday when the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship crashed into the U.S.-flagged tanker Stena Immaculate.
  यह टक्कर सोमवार सुबह 09:48 बजे (1518 IST) हुई, जब पुर्तगाल ध्वज वाला कार्गो जहाज अमेरिकी ध्वज वाले टैंकर स्टेना इमैक्युलेट से टकरा गया।

- The tanker was anchored about 18 km off the northeastern port of Hull.
  टैंकर हुल के उत्तरपूर्वी बंदरगाह से लगभग 18 किमी दूर लंगर डाले हुए था।

Clarification on hazardous cargo
खतरनाक कार्गो पर स्पष्टीकरण

- The Stena Immaculate was carrying around 2,20,000 barrels of jet fuel.
  स्टेना इमैक्युलेट टैंकर में लगभग 2,20,000 बैरल विमानन ईंधन था।

- German owners of the Solong cargo ship denied reports that it was carrying sodium cyanide.
  सोलोंग कार्गो जहाज के जर्मन मालिकों ने इस बात से इनकार किया कि जहाज में सोडियम साइनाइड था।

Shipping company Ernst Russ confirmed that there were no containers with sodium cyanide   on   board.
शिपिंग कंपनी एन्स्ट रुस ने पुष्टि की कि जहाज पर सोडियम साइनाइड से भरे कोई कंटेनर नहीं थे।

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

1. **EC invites parties for talks to strengthen poll process**
   चुनाव प्रक्रिया को मजबूत करने के लिए चुनाव आयोग ने पार्टियों को बातचीत के लिए आमंत्रित किया

2. **Ukraine agrees to a 30-day ceasefire with Russia during talks with senior U.S. officials**
   यूक्रेन ने वरिष्ठ अमेरिकी अधिकारियों के साथ बातचीत के दौरान रूस के साथ 30-दिन के युद्धविराम पर सहमति जताई

3. **Building compassion into the health-care structure**
   स्वास्थ्य देखभाल संरचना में करुणा को शामिल करना

4. **More signs of overhauling the compliance framework**
   अनुपालन ढांचे में सुधार के और संकेत

5. **In 2023, U.S. spent 0.24% of its national income on foreign aid**

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2023 में, अमेरिका ने अपनी राष्ट्रीय आय का 0.24% विदेशी सहायता पर खर्च किया

6. **Modi calls on Mauritian President, discusses ties**
   मोदी ने मॉरीशस के राष्ट्रपति से मुलाकात की, संबंधों पर चर्चा की

7. **India tells UN it's monitoring situation in Afghanistan**
   भारत ने UN से कहा कि वह अफगानिस्तान की स्थिति पर नजर रख रहा है

EC invites parties for talks to strengthen poll process

The issue of duplicate EPIC numbers was first raised by Trinamool Congress, which had made public a list of people with the same numbers; Congress raised plaints during Maharashtra polls

GS Paper II: Elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid a raging controversy over duplicate voter ID card numbers, the Election Commission on Tuesday invited the heads and senior leaders of all political parties for an interaction to "further strengthen electoral processes".

The EC has also invited all national and State political parties to submit suggestions by April 30 regarding any unresolved issues at the local level.

The issue of duplicate elector photo identity card (EPIC) numbers was first raised by the Trinamool Congress, which had made public a list of people with the same numbers.

The Congress, which had already alleged large-scale voter list manipulation during the Maharashtra Assembly election, also began highlighting the issue.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi raised the matter in the Lok Sabha, saying that the entire Opposition has been demanding a discussion on voter lists.

Clearing the air

Following complaints of voter list manipulation, the Election Commission reaches out to political parties

1 It invites leaders of all political parties for an interaction to "further strengthen electoral processes"

2 Poll body seeks suggestions from all political parties by April 30 on any unresolved issue

In its individual letters to political parties on Tuesday, the poll body said that the Representation of the People Act of 1950 and 1951; Registration of Electors Rules, 1960; Conduct of Election Rules, 1961; orders of the Supreme Court; and instructions, manuals and handbooks issued by the EC from time to time have together established a decentralised, robust, and transparent legal framework for holding free and fair elections.

"The Commission also envisaged an interaction with the party presidents and senior members of the party, at a mutually convenient time, to further strengthen electoral processes in accordance with the established law," the EC said in a statement.

State-level engagement
Political parties are key among the 28 stakeholders identified by the Commission as per the Constitution and the statutory framework covering all aspects of electoral processes, the statement added.

EC invites parties for talks to strengthen poll process

चुनाव प्रक्रिया को मजबूत करने के लिए चुनाव आयोग ने पार्टियों को बातचीत के लिए आमंत्रित किया

Amid a raging controversy over duplicate voter ID card numbers, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday invited heads and senior leaders of all political parties for an interaction to "further strengthen electoral processes."

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डुप्लीकेट वोटर आईडी कार्ड नंबरों को लेकर बढ़ते विवाद के बीच, चुनाव आयोग (EC) ने मंगलवार को सभी राजनीतिक दलों के प्रमुखों और वरिष्ठ नेताओं को बातचीत के लिए आमंत्रित किया, ताकि चुनावी प्रक्रिया को और मजबूत किया जा सके।

- The **EC has also invited all national and State political parties** to submit **suggestions by April 30** regarding any **unresolved issues at the local level.**
  EC ने सभी राष्ट्रीय और राज्य स्तरीय राजनीतिक दलों को 30 अप्रैल तक सुझाव प्रस्तुत करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया ताकि स्थानीय स्तर पर कोई भी अनसुलझा मुद्दा सुलझाया जा सके।

- The issue of **duplicate elector photo identity card (EPIC) numbers** was **first raised by the Trinamool Congress,** which had **made public a list of people with the same numbers.**
  डुप्लीकेट मतदाता फोटो पहचान पत्र (EPIC) नंबरों का मुद्दा सबसे पहले तृणमूल कांग्रेस ने उठाया था, जिसने एक सूची जारी की थी जिसमें एक ही नंबर वाले लोगों का विवरण था।

- The **Congress, which had already alleged large-scale voter list manipulation during the Maharashtra Assembly election,** also began **highlighting the issue.**
  कांग्रेस, जिसने पहले ही महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा चुनाव के दौरान बड़े पैमाने पर मतदाता सूची में हेरफेर का आरोप लगाया था, इस मुद्दे को भी उठाने लगी।

- **Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, raised the matter in Parliament**, saying that the **entire Opposition has been demanding a discussion on voter lists.**
  लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता, राहुल गांधी ने संसद में इस मुद्दे को उठाया, यह कहते हुए कि पूरा विपक्ष मतदाता सूची पर चर्चा की मांग कर रहा है।

- In its **individual letters to political parties on Tuesday,** the **EC emphasized** that various laws, including the **Representation of the People Act (1950, 1951), Registration of Electors Rules (1960), and Conduct of Election Rules (1961),** have established a **robust and transparent legal framework for free and fair elections.**
  मंगलवार को विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों को लिखे अपने पत्रों में, चुनाव आयोग ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम (1950, 1951), मतदाता पंजीकरण नियम (1960), और चुनाव आचार संहिता नियम (1961) जैसे कई कानूनों ने स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनावों के लिए एक मजबूत और पारदर्शी कानूनी ढांचा तैयार किया है।

- "The Commission also **envisaged an interaction with the party presidents and senior members** at a mutually convenient time to **further strengthen electoral processes in accordance with the established law,"** the EC said in a statement.
  "आयोग ने यह भी सुझाव दिया कि पार्टी अध्यक्षों और वरिष्ठ सदस्यों के साथ किसी सुविधाजनक समय

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पर बातचीत हो," ताकि स्थापित कानूनों के अनुसार चुनावी प्रक्रिया को और अधिक मजबूत किया जा सके," चुनाव आयोग ने एक बयान में कहा।

- **Political parties are key stakeholders** among the **28 identified groups** under the **Constitution and statutory framework** covering **all aspects of electoral processes.** राजनीतिक दल 28 पहचाने गए हितधारकों में प्रमुख हैं, जो संविधान और विधायी ढांचे के तहत चुनावी प्रक्रिया के सभी पहलुओं को कवर करते हैं।

Ukraine agrees to a 30-day ceasefire with Russia during talks with senior U.S. officials

GS Paper II

Agence France-Presse
JEDDAH

Ukraine on Tuesday backed a U.S. proposal for a 30-day general ceasefire with Russia, with the United States in turn agreeing to lift restrictions on military aid and intelligence sharing, a joint statement said.

After talks in Saudi Arabia, the two sides also agreed to conclude "as soon as possible" a deal on Ukrainian minerals, the statement said.

"Ukraine expressed readiness to accept the U.S. proposal to enact an immediate, interim 30-day ceasefire, which can be extended by mutual agreement of the parties, and which is subject to acceptance and concurrent implementation by the Russian Federation," a joint statement said after the talks.

Sign of peace: The U.S. and Ukrainian delegations attend a meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia in Jeddah on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

"The United States will communicate to Russia that Russian reciprocity is the key to achieving peace," it added.

The U.S. administration imposed the measures a week ago to push Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to enter talks to end the war with invading Russian forces.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the U.S. would present the ceasefire offer to the Kremlin. President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, is expected to travel later this week to Moscow, where he could meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to a person familiar with the matter but not authorised to comment publicly.
(With AP inputs)

BIGGEST ATTACK
» PAGE 14

Ukraine agrees to a 30-day ceasefire with Russia during talks with senior U.S. officials

यूक्रेन ने वरिष्ठ अमेरिकी अधिकारियों के साथ बातचीत के दौरान रूस के साथ 30-दिन के युद्धविराम पर सहमति जताई

Ukraine on Tuesday backed a U.S. proposal for a 30-day general ceasefire with Russia, with the United States agreeing to lift restrictions on military aid and intelligence sharing.

मंगलवार को यूक्रेन ने

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अमेरिका के 30-दिन के सामान्य युद्धविराम प्रस्ताव का समर्थन किया, जिसमें संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने सैन्य सहायता और खुफिया साझा करने पर प्रतिबंध हटाने पर सहमति जताई।

- After **talks in Saudi Arabia**, the **two sides agreed to conclude "as soon as possible" a deal on Ukrainian minerals.**
  सऊदी अरब में हुई वार्ता के बाद, दोनों पक्षों ने **यूक्रेनी खनिजों पर जल्द से जल्द एक समझौता करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।**

- **Ukraine expressed readiness to accept the U.S. proposal** to enact an **immediate, interim 30-day ceasefire, which can be extended by mutual agreement** and is **subject to Russian acceptance and concurrent implementation.**
  यूक्रेन ने अमेरिकी प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करने की तत्परता व्यक्त की कि तत्काल, अंतरिम 30-दिन का युद्धविराम लागू किया जाए, जिसे आपसी सहमति से बढ़ाया जा सकता है और यह रूस की स्वीकृति और समवर्ती क्रियान्वयन पर निर्भर करेगा।

- **"The United States will communicate to Russia that Russian reciprocity is the key to achieving peace,"** the statement added.
  "संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका रूस को सूचित करेगा कि शांति प्राप्त करने के लिए रूस की पारस्परिकता महत्वपूर्ण है," बयान में कहा गया।

- The **U.S. administration imposed measures a week ago** to **push Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to enter talks** to end the war with invading Russian forces.
  अमेरिकी प्रशासन ने एक हफ्ते पहले उपाय लागू किए ताकि **यूक्रेनी राष्ट्रपति वोलोडिमिर ज़ेलेंस्की को रूसी आक्रमणकारी बलों के साथ बातचीत करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जा सके।**

- **Secretary of State Marco Rubio** said the **U.S. would present the ceasefire offer to the Kremlin.**
  अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो ने कहा कि **अमेरिका इस युद्धविराम प्रस्ताव को क्रेमलिन में पेश करेगा।**

- **President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff,** is expected to **travel later this week to Moscow, where he could meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.**
  राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के विशेष दूत, स्टीव विटकॉफ़, इस सप्ताह **मास्को जाने वाले हैं, जहां वे रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन से मिल सकते हैं।**

- According to a **source familiar with the matter**, but **not authorized to comment publicly,** the meeting is being planned.

  इस मामले से परिचित एक सूत्र के अनुसार, जो सार्वजनिक रूप से टिप्पणी करने के लिए अधिकृत नहीं है, यह बैठक योजना बनाई जा रही है।

More signs of overhauling the compliance framework

GS Paper II: Governance

Despite concerted efforts to combat corruption, red-tapism and bribery remain formidable barriers to business growth in India. A recent "India Business Corruption Survey 2024" presents a troubling picture: 66% of business entities admit to paying bribes, with 54% stating they were coerced to expedite government processes, obtain permits, ensure compliance, or acquire duplicate licences. The problem is most acute in sectors governed by overreaching officials in labour, Goods and Services Tax (GST), income tax, pollution, provident funds, property registration, drug, and health departments.

The economic impact is undeniable. A survey by EY-FICCI shows that four out of five respondents believe corruption is a significant deterrent to foreign direct investment (FDI). This underscores the urgent need to overhaul India's compliance framework to foster a transparent, fair, and predictable regulatory environment.

While the government initiated compliance reforms two years ago, progress has been sluggish. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 was a step forward, decriminalising 180 provisions related to imprisonment clauses that burden businesses and entrepreneurs. However, Budget 2025 that was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a 'Jan Vishwas 2.0' which aims to further decriminalise around 100 provisions. While this is a welcome step, it barely scratches the surface – over 20,000 provisions with imprisonment clauses remain untouched.

The constant flux of compliance rules
For Indian businesses, compliance is already a complex challenge, but its intersection with corruption makes it nearly insurmountable. Regulatory officials often wield compliance provisions as tools to extract bribes. Many businesses report that unofficial payments are still required to secure regulatory approvals, even when all the necessary compliances are met. A significant flaw in the system is the enormous subjectivity granted to inspectors, who can threaten imprisonment or factory shutdowns without accountability.

Another pressing issue is the overwhelming frequency of compliance updates, which fosters

A.S. Mittal

is Vice-Chairman, Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board

The use of compliance provisions to extract bribes and the frequency of compliance updates are challenges that Indian businesses face

inefficiency and corruption. Over the past year alone, there have been 9,420 compliance updates – an average of 36 daily changes. This staggering rate of change indicates either regulatory incompetence or a deliberate design to create systemic corruption pipelines. A bureaucracy that needs to update rules at such an erratic pace is either incapable of foresight or complicit in fostering an environment where bribes become inevitable.

A recent directive by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a promising initiative to curb this chaos. Effective this January, changes to food label regulations will be announced only once a year, offering a model for predictable regulatory changes. Similar measures should be extended across all regulatory bodies.

A significant portion of compliance-related imprisonment clauses stem from labour laws, which fall under the Concurrent List of the Constitution. While India has replaced 29 colonial-era labour laws with four modern labour codes, they remain in limbo, awaiting implementation. Without this critical step, the long-touted "biggest labour reforms in independent India" remain mere rhetoric. State governments must act swiftly to operationalise these reforms.

Have a digital-first approach
Establishing a factory in India requires submitting hundreds of self-attested and notarised documents across more than 40 government departments. This archaic system breeds corruption and inefficiency. A digital-first approach could transform the process. Imagine a scenario where entrepreneurs can apply for factory permissions using a single business identifier, granting regulators access to verified documents using an entity called a 'digi locker'. Such a tamper-proof, authenticated repository could cut approval times from months to days, mirroring the success of India's Digi Yatra in streamlining airport security.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has revolutionised governance, but business compliance remains fragmented. Entrepreneurs must navigate at least 23 identity numbers issued by various Union and State authorities – from Permanent Account Number (PAN), Goods and Services Tax Identification Number (GSTIN) and Corporate Identification Number (CIN) to professional tax numbers and factory licences. Each identifier has its lifecycle, requiring periodic renewals and payments, leading to inefficiencies and corruption.

A unified 'One Nation, One Business' Identity system could dramatically simplify compliance, reducing bureaucratic friction and the opportunities for corrupt practices. A small budgetary allocation toward this initiative could streamline regulatory interactions, enhancing India's appeal as a business destination.

A global perspective
The global competition for investment and talent is intensifying. The United States is advancing governance reforms, including its Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), to make business operations seamless. If the world's largest economy (GDP $27 trillion) becomes even more business-friendly, why would investors choose India's $4 trillion economy, where red tape and corruption persist? The answer is simple: they will not . As American efficiency attracts global capital, India risks losing out on both investment and entrepreneurial talent – a fundamental driver of its knowledge economy.

The time for complacency is over. What was an opportunity yesterday is an urgent necessity now . To sustain its economic momentum, India must dismantle bureaucratic hurdles, create a predictable compliance environment, and eradicate corruption.

A clear, well-structured compliance framework – ushered in through the Jan Vishwas 2.0 – is not just about ease of doing business. It is about safeguarding India's economic future. The government must act decisively to attract global companies and empower Indian entrepreneurs to innovate, expand, and create jobs without fear of unnecessary regulatory friction. India stands at a crossroads. Whether the High-Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms embraces a bold compliance overhaul or hesitates, the stakes are high. The choice is clear: modernise or risk being left behind in the global economic race.

The views expressed are personal

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More signs of overhauling the compliance framework
अनुपालन ढांचे में सुधार के और संकेत

Despite concerted efforts to combat corruption, red-tapism, and bribery, these remain formidable barriers to business growth in India.
भ्रष्टाचार, लालफीताशाही और रिश्वतखोरी से निपटने के लिए निरंतर प्रयासों के बावजूद, ये भारत में व्यापार वृद्धि के लिए गंभीर बाधाएँ बनी हुई हैं।

- A recent **"India Business Corruption Survey 2024"** presents a troubling picture: **66% of business entities admit to paying bribes, with 54% stating they were coerced** to expedite **government processes, obtain permits, ensure compliance, or acquire duplicate licenses.**
  हाल ही में हुए "इंडिया बिजनेस करप्शन सर्वे 2024" में चिंताजनक तथ्य सामने आए: **66% व्यापारिक संस्थाओं ने रिश्वत देने की बात स्वीकार की, जबकि 54% ने कहा कि उन्हें मजबूर किया गया** ताकि वे सरकारी प्रक्रियाओं को तेज कर सकें, परमिट प्राप्त कर सकें, अनुपालन सुनिश्चित कर सकें, या डुप्लीकेट लाइसेंस हासिल कर सकें।

- The problem is most acute in sectors governed by **officials in labour, Goods and Services Tax (GST), income tax, pollution, provident funds, property registration, drug, and health departments.**
  यह समस्या सबसे अधिक उन क्षेत्रों में गंभीर है जो श्रम, वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST), आयकर, प्रदूषण, भविष्य निधि, संपत्ति पंजीकरण, दवा और स्वास्थ्य विभागों से संबंधित हैं।

- The economic impact is undeniable. A **survey by EY-FICCI** shows that **four out of five respondents believe corruption is a significant deterrent to foreign direct investment (FDI).**
  इसका आर्थिक प्रभाव अटल है। EY-FICCI के एक सर्वेक्षण में पाया गया कि **पाँच में से चार उत्तरदाता मानते हैं कि भ्रष्टाचार प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) के लिए एक प्रमुख बाधा है।

- While the **government initiated compliance reforms two years ago, progress has been sluggish.**
  सरकार ने दो साल पहले अनुपालन सुधार शुरू किए थे, लेकिन प्रगति धीमी रही है।

- The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023** was a step forward, **decriminalising 180 provisions** related to imprisonment clauses that burden businesses.
  जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों का संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2023 एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम था, जिसने **180 धाराओं को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर किया**, जिससे व्यवसायों पर लगने वाला बोझ कम हुआ।**

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- **Budget 2025, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, announced 'Jan Vishwas 2.0'**, which aims to **further decriminalise around 100 provisions.**
  वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण द्वारा प्रस्तुत बजट 2025 में **'जन विश्वास 2.0'** की घोषणा की गई, जिसका उद्देश्य **लगभग 100 और प्रावधानों को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर करना है।**

- However, over **20,000 provisions with imprisonment clauses remain untouched.**
  हालांकि, अब भी 20,000 से अधिक प्रावधानों में कारावास की शर्तें बनी हुई हैं।

The constant flux of compliance rules
अनुपालन नियमों में निरंतर बदलाव

- **For Indian businesses, compliance is already a complex challenge, but its intersection with corruption makes it nearly insurmountable.**
  भारतीय व्यवसायों के लिए अनुपालन पहले से ही एक जटिल चुनौती है, लेकिन जब यह भ्रष्टाचार से जुड़ जाता है, तो यह लगभग अजेय हो जाता है।

- **Regulatory officials often wield compliance provisions as tools to extract bribes.**
  नियामक अधिकारी अक्सर अनुपालन प्रावधानों का उपयोग रिश्वत लेने के साधन के रूप में करते हैं।

- Many businesses report that **unofficial payments are still required to secure regulatory approvals, even when all necessary compliances are met.**
  कई व्यवसायों का कहना है कि सभी आवश्यक अनुपालनों को पूरा करने के बावजूद नियामक अनुमोदन प्राप्त करने के लिए अभी भी अनौपचारिक भुगतान करना पड़ता है।

- A major flaw in the system is the **enormous subjectivity granted to inspectors,** who can **threaten imprisonment or factory shutdowns without accountability.**
  प्रणाली में एक बड़ी खामी यह है कि निरीक्षकों को अत्यधिक विवेकाधिकार दिया गया है, जिससे वे बिना किसी जवाबदेही के कारावास की धमकी दे सकते हैं या फैक्टरी बंद करा सकते हैं।

- **Over the past year alone, there have been 9,420 compliance updates — an average of 36 daily changes.**
  पिछले एक साल में ही 9,420 अनुपालन अपडेट हुए हैं — यानी प्रति दिन औसतन 36 बदलाव।

- A bureaucracy that needs to update rules at such an **erratic pace** is either **incapable of foresight or complicit in fostering systemic corruption.**
  जो नौकरशाही इतनी **अनियमित गति से नियम अपडेट करने की जरूरत महसूस करती है, वह या तो भविष्यवाणी करने में अक्षम है या प्रणालीगत भ्रष्टाचार को बढ़ावा देने में शामिल है।

- A recent directive by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** is a **promising initiative to curb this chaos.**

  भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण (FSSAI) का हालिया निर्देश **इस अव्यवस्था को रोकने के लिए एक आशाजनक पहल है।**

- **Effective from January, changes to** food label regulations will be announced only once a year, offering a model for **predictable regulatory changes.**

  जनवरी से प्रभावी, खाद्य लेबल नियमों में बदलाव केवल साल में एक बार घोषित किए जाएंगे, जो नियमित और अनुमानित नियामक परिवर्तनों के लिए एक मॉडल प्रस्तुत करता है।

- **Similar measures should be extended across all regulatory bodies.**

  ऐसी ही पहल सभी नियामक संस्थानों में लागू की जानी चाहिए।

- A significant portion of **compliance-related imprisonment clauses stem from labour laws, which fall under the Concurrent List of the Constitution.**

  अनुपालन से संबंधित कारावास की बड़ी संख्या श्रम कानूनों से संबंधित है, जो संविधान की समवर्ती सूची में आते हैं।

- **India has replaced 29 colonial-era labour laws with** four modern labour codes, but they remain **in limbo, awaiting implementation.**

  भारत ने 29 औपनिवेशिक युग के श्रम कानूनों को चार आधुनिक श्रम संहिताओं से बदल दिया है, लेकिन वे अभी भी लंबित हैं और लागू होने का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

- Without this critical step, **the long-touted "biggest labour reforms in independent India" remain mere rhetoric.**

  इस महत्वपूर्ण कदम के बिना, "स्वतंत्र भारत में सबसे बड़े श्रम सुधार" का दावा केवल एक बयान बनकर रह जाएगा।

- **State governments must act swiftly to operationalise these reforms.**

  राज्य सरकारों को इन सुधारों को शीघ्र लागू करने के लिए कदम उठाने चाहिए।

Have a digital-first approach
डिजिटल-प्रथम दृष्टिकोण अपनाएं

- **Establishing a factory in India requires submitting hundreds of self-attested and notarised documents** across more than **40 government departments.**

  भारत में एक फैक्टरी स्थापित करने के लिए 40 से अधिक सरकारी विभागों में सैकड़ों स्वयं-सत्यापित और नोटरीकृत दस्तावेज़ जमा करने की आवश्यकता होती है।

- This **archaic system breeds corruption and inefficiency.** A **digital-first approach** could transform the process.

  यह पुरानी प्रणाली भ्रष्टाचार और अक्षम्यता को बढ़ावा देती है। एक **डिजिटल-प्रथम दृष्टिकोण** इस प्रक्रिया को बदल सकता है।

- **Entrepreneurs could apply for factory permissions using a single business identifier, granting regulators access to verified documents** via a **'digi locker.'**

  उद्यमी एकल व्यावसायिक पहचानकर्ता का उपयोग करके फैक्टरी की अनुमति के लिए आवेदन कर सकते हैं, जिससे नियामकों को 'डिजी लॉकर' के माध्यम से सत्यापित दस्तावेज़ों तक पहुंच मिलेगी।

- This **tamper-proof, authenticated repository could cut approval times from months to days,** similar to India's **Digi Yatra** in **streamlining airport security.**

  यह छेड़छाड़-प्रूफ, प्रमाणित भंडार अनुमोदन समय को महीनों से घटाकर कुछ दिनों में कर सकता है, जैसा कि **भारत के डिजी यात्रा** ने हवाई अड्डा सुरक्षा को सुचारू करने में किया।

- **India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has revolutionised governance, but business compliance remains fragmented.**

  भारत के डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (DPI) ने शासन में क्रांति ला दी है, लेकिन व्यावसायिक अनुपालन अभी भी बिखरा हुआ है।

- **Entrepreneurs must navigate at least 23 identity numbers** issued by various **Union and State authorities**, including **PAN, GSTIN, CIN, professional tax numbers, and factory licenses.**

  उद्यमियों को केंद्र और राज्य प्राधिकरणों द्वारा जारी **कम से कम 23 पहचान नंबरों का प्रबंधन करना पड़ता है, जिनमें **PAN, GSTIN, CIN, प्रोफेशनल टैक्स नंबर और फैक्टरी लाइसेंस शामिल हैं।

- Each identifier **requires periodic renewals and payments, leading to inefficiencies and corruption.**

  प्रत्येक पहचान संख्या को नियमित रूप से नवीनीकरण और भुगतान की आवश्यकता होती है, जिससे अक्षमता और भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ता है।

- **A unified 'One Nation, One Business' Identity system** could **dramatically simplify compliance, reducing bureaucratic friction and corruption.**

  एकीकृत 'वन नेशन, वन बिजनेस' पहचान प्रणाली अनुपालन को **काफी सरल बना सकती है, जिससे नौकरशाही की रुकावटें और भ्रष्टाचार कम होगा।

- **A small budgetary allocation** toward this initiative **could streamline regulatory interactions**, making India more business-friendly.

  इस पहल के लिए एक छोटी बजटीय राशि आवंटित करने से नियामक प्रक्रियाएं **सरल हो सकती हैं, जिससे भारत व्यापार के लिए अधिक अनुकूल बन जाएगा।**

A global perspective
एक वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण

- **The global competition for investment and talent is intensifying.**
  वैश्विक स्तर पर निवेश और प्रतिभा के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा तेज हो रही है।

- **The United States is advancing governance reforms**, including its **Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), to make business operations seamless.**
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका शासन सुधारों को आगे बढ़ा रहा है, जिसमें डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ गवर्नमेंट एफिशिएंसी (DOGE) शामिल है, जिससे व्यावसायिक संचालन को आसान बनाया जा सके।

- If the **world's largest economy (GDP $27 trillion) becomes even more business-friendly, why would investors choose India's $4 trillion economy** with **red tape and corruption?**
  **यदि **दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था ($27 ट्रिलियन GDP) अधिक व्यापार-अनुकूल हो जाती है, तो निवेशक लालफीताशाही और भ्रष्टाचार से ग्रसित भारत की $4 ट्रिलियन अर्थव्यवस्था को क्यों चुनेंगे?

- **As American efficiency attracts global capital, India risks losing out on both investment and entrepreneurial talent.**
  जैसे ही अमेरिकी दक्षता वैश्विक पूंजी को आकर्षित करती है, भारत को निवेश और उद्यमशील प्रतिभा दोनों के नुकसान का खतरा है।

- **The time for complacency is over.** What was **an opportunity yesterday is an urgent necessity now.**
  अब सुस्ती बरतने का समय खत्म हो गया है। जो कल एक अवसर था, वह आज एक जरूरी आवश्यकता बन गया है।

- To sustain its **economic momentum, India must dismantle bureaucratic hurdles, create a predictable compliance environment, and eradicate corruption.**
  अपनी आर्थिक गति बनाए रखने के लिए, भारत को नौकरशाही बाधाओं को समाप्त करना होगा, एक पूर्वानुमेय अनुपालन वातावरण बनाना होगा, और भ्रष्टाचार को खत्म करना होगा।

- **A well-structured compliance framework under 'Jan Vishwas 2.0' is not just about ease of doing business, but about safeguarding India's economic future.**
  'जन विश्वास 2.0' के तहत एक सुव्यवस्थित अनुपालन ढांचा सिर्फ व्यापार करने में आसानी के लिए नहीं, बल्कि भारत के आर्थिक भविष्य की सुरक्षा के लिए भी आवश्यक है।

- **The government must act decisively to attract global companies and empower Indian entrepreneurs to innovate, expand, and create jobs.**
  सरकार को निर्णायक कदम उठाने चाहिए ताकि वैश्विक कंपनियों को आकर्षित किया जा सके और भारतीय उद्यमियों को नवाचार, विस्तार और रोजगार सृजन में सक्षम बनाया जा सके।

- **India stands at a crossroads. The stakes are high.**
  भारत एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ पर खड़ा है। दांव बहुत ऊँचे हैं।

- Whether the **High-Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms embraces a bold compliance overhaul or hesitates, the choice is clear: modernise or risk being left behind.**
  उच्च स्तरीय नियामक सुधार समिति एक साहसिक अनुपालन सुधार को अपनाती है या हिचकिचाती है, यह स्पष्ट है: आधुनिकीकरण करें या पीछे छूटने का जोखिम उठाएं।

Building compassion into the health-care structure

GS Paper II: Health Sector   **Essay**

On February 7, 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a report, "Compassion and primary health care", which recognises compassion as a transformative force in primary health care. The Director-General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has called for an exploration of the role of compassion in global health, with specific attention to its impact on the quality of health-care services and its connection to primary health care.

Based on my personal experiences of interacting with pioneers in the medical field, and available evidence I can say with confidence that the report gives a big push to advocating compassionate health care. In the 74th World Health Assembly in 2021 and several other WHO and United Nations forums, I gave a clarion call to globalise compassion in health care. And, I am finally noticing that the world is waking up to the necessity of compassion.

Helping the patient and carer

Let me explain how compassionate health care is beneficial to both patients and the medical fraternity.

Most of us have had to visit a hospital or a doctor for a personal consultation or for family members at some point in our lives. We remember two kinds of health-care professionals – impolite and indifferent doctors and nurses, and the compassionate staff, who make a remarkable shift in our healing process.

Research conducted by Stanford University's The Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE) has found out that patients treated by compassionate health-care providers recover quickly and the duration of their hospital stays is way less. Another study by the Johns Hopkins Hospital explored how compassionate communication has a significant impact when it comes to the recovery of cancer patients. It was observed that when doctors spend an additional 40 seconds with each patient and express solidarity with them by saying, 'We are in this together', it significantly reduced anxiety in patients and positively influenced their recovery.

Compassion is not just beneficial for patients, but for health-care providers also. When health-care professionals practise compassion,

Kailash Satyarthi

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Compassionate health care must become the driving principle for industry leaders, hospitals and health-care think-tanks

they experience reduced stress, improved job satisfaction, and build stronger relationships with their patients, which is essential for providing high-quality care.

Terms and the differences

Let us not mistake compassion with sympathy, empathy and kindness, terms which are often used interchangeably. Sympathy is a pity-based momentary response, while empathy is when people immerse themselves in others' problems and they get overwhelmed in the process. Health-care workers who operate with empathy can experience anxiety, exhaustion, and sometimes depression when they internalise the anguish of their patients. Along with demanding work hours, the stress can lead to empathy fatigue and further degrade the quality of care to patients.

On the other hand, compassion is about mindful problem-solving. A compassionate health-care provider will have the emotional stability to work together with patients that will be favourable for both parties. They will feel the patients' pain as their own but, at the same time, maintain a detachment that will not let them get overwhelmed. Compassion facilitates adopting a more sustainable approach to health care that will allow professionals to offer excellent medical treatment, be content and peaceful with the recoveries of their patients, and protect their professional and personal lives.

While the WHO report is focused on primary health care, we must also realise the urgent need for compassion in mental health. As per numerous mental health experts, depression can potentially become the "next pandemic" due to its widespread impact and long-term consequences on individuals worldwide.

Having worked with children rescued from slavery and abuse, my understanding of mental health has been deeply influenced through our experience. Let me share a story about a rescued child, Pradeep. Soon after his birth, an exorcist labelled him as the cursed child and gave a 'solution' to offer him as a sacrifice to appease the gods. However, on the day of the sacrifice, the blade that was supposed to slice Pradeep's neck landed on his head instead, gravely injuring him. He was blamed for having survived, and then abandoned. When Pradeep came to Bal Ashram,

the long-term rehabilitation centre at my organisation, Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion, he could barely speak.

All children who come to Bal Ashram experience trauma, so we never coax them to speak or open up about their past. The teachers and caregivers who are trained in compassion in action at Bal Ashram are very sensitive towards the needs of the children, and that is how we see remarkable results. Pradeep's transformation was also miraculous. Soon after he arrived at Bal Ashram, he made friends, would open up, and began to narrate his story.

This is what true compassion is, and my philosophy of compassion has always been rooted in transformative actions. To me, compassion is when we feel the suffering of others as our own and act to solve it.

We need to recognise that health care is not just about treating illnesses but also promoting the overall well-being of individuals. So, how can medical professionals incorporate compassion into their practice?

Putting it into practice

Let us look at a few strategies. To begin with, we need to create awareness on the imperative need of compassionate health care. Compassion should not just be a 'good thing' to do, but the parameter that drives decision making in board rooms. Compassionate health care must become the driving principle for industry leaders, hospitals, thought leaders, and health-care think-tanks.

Second, we need to equip health-care providers on what compassionate care is all about and how they can incorporate it effortlessly. All we need is a little investment in quality training of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff, and experiential learning. The fraternity should also be taught the difference between empathy and compassion.

Last, compassionate health care must encompass equitable, accessible, and quality health care for all, irrespective of their socio-economic stature, gender, or caste. After all, compassion is the foundation upon which we can build a health-care system that is truly people-centric and responsive to the needs of all.

It is time to globalise compassionate health care for all.

- The report recognises compassion as a transformative force in primary health care.

  रिपोर्ट करुणा को प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल में एक परिवर्तनकारी शक्ति के रूप में मान्यता देती है।

- WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has called for exploring the role of compassion in global health.

  WHO के महानिदेशक डॉ. टेड्रोस अधानोम घेब्रेयसस ने वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य में करुणा की भूमिका का अन्वेषण करने का आह्वान किया है।

- The focus is on its impact on the quality of health-care services and its connection to primary health care.

  इसका ध्यान स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता और प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल से इसके संबंध पर केंद्रित है।

Advocating compassionate health care

करुणामय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की वकालत

- The report strongly supports the need for compassionate health care.

  रिपोर्ट करुणामय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की आवश्यकता को मजबूती से समर्थन देती है।

- In the 74th World Health Assembly in 2021 and other WHO and UN forums, efforts were made to globalise compassion in health care.

  2021 में 74वीं विश्व स्वास्थ्य सभा और अन्य WHO तथा संयुक्त राष्ट्र मंचों में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल में करुणा को वैश्विक बनाने के प्रयास किए गए।

- The world is now realising the necessity of compassion in health care.

  अब दुनिया स्वास्थ्य देखभाल में करुणा की अनिवार्यता को महसूस कर रही है।

Helping the patient and carer

रोगी और देखभाल करने वाले की मदद करना

- Compassionate health care benefits both patients and medical professionals.

  करुणामय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल रोगियों और चिकित्सा पेशेवरों दोनों के लिए लाभदायक है।

- People remember two types of health-care professionals: indifferent and compassionate ones.

  लोग दो तरह के स्वास्थ्य देखभाल पेशेवरों को याद रखते हैं: उदासीन और करुणाशील।

- Compassionate health-care staff make a significant difference in the healing process.

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करुणामय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल कर्मचारी उपचार प्रक्रिया में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव लाते हैं।

Scientific research on compassion in health care
स्वास्थ्य देखभाल में करुणा पर वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान

- **Research by Stanford University's CCARE found that patients treated by compassionate health-care providers recover faster.**
  स्टैनफोर्ड विश्वविद्यालय के CCARE द्वारा किए गए शोध में पाया गया कि करुणाशील स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रदाताओं द्वारा इलाज किए गए रोगी तेजी से ठीक होते हैं।

- **A study by Johns Hopkins Hospital showed that compassionate communication improves cancer patients' recovery.**
  जॉन्स हॉपकिन्स अस्पताल के एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि करुणामय संवाद कैंसर रोगियों के ठीक होने की प्रक्रिया में सुधार करता है।

- **Doctors who spend just 40 extra seconds with patients and express solidarity reduce patient anxiety significantly.**
  जो डॉक्टर रोगियों के साथ सिर्फ 40 अतिरिक्त सेकंड बिताते हैं और एकजुटता व्यक्त करते हैं, वे रोगियों की चिंता को काफी हद तक कम कर देते हैं।

Benefits for health-care providers
स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रदाताओं के लिए लाभ

- **Compassionate health-care providers experience reduced stress and improved job satisfaction.**
  करुणाशील स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रदाताओं को कम तनाव और बेहतर नौकरी संतोष का अनुभव होता है।

- **They build stronger relationships with patients, leading to higher-quality care.**
  वे रोगियों के साथ मजबूत संबंध बनाते हैं, जिससे उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली देखभाल संभव होती है।

Terms and the differences
शब्दावली और उनके अंतर

- **Compassion is often confused with sympathy, empathy, and kindness, but they are different concepts.**
  करुणा को अक्सर सहानुभूति, संवेदना और दया के साथ भ्रमित किया जाता है, लेकिन ये सभी अलग-अलग अवधारणाएँ हैं।

- **Sympathy is a pity-based, momentary response.**
  सहानुभूति एक दया-आधारित, क्षणिक प्रतिक्रिया होती है।

- **Empathy is when people immerse themselves in others' problems and may feel overwhelmed.**
  संवेदना तब होती है जब लोग दूसरों की समस्याओं में पूरी तरह से डूब जाते हैं और वे भावनात्मक रूप से प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।

- **Health-care workers who operate with empathy often experience anxiety, exhaustion, and sometimes depression.**
  संवेदनशील स्वास्थ्यकर्मी अक्सर चिंता, थकान और कभी-कभी अवसाद का अनुभव करते हैं।

- **This can lead to "empathy fatigue" and degrade the quality of care for patients.**
  इससे "संवेदना थकान" (empathy fatigue) हो सकती है और रोगियों को मिलने वाली देखभाल की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित हो सकती है।

Compassion as mindful problem-solving

करुणा एक जागरूक समस्या समाधान के रूप में

- **Unlike empathy, compassion is about mindful problem-solving.**
  संवेदना के विपरीत, करुणा सचेतन समस्या समाधान पर आधारित होती है।

- **A compassionate health-care provider feels the patient's pain but maintains emotional stability.**
  एक करुणाशील स्वास्थ्यकर्मी रोगी के दर्द को महसूस करता है लेकिन अपनी भावनात्मक स्थिरता बनाए रखता है।

- **This allows them to provide high-quality treatment while safeguarding their own well-being.**
  यह उन्हें उच्च-गुणवत्ता वाली चिकित्सा सेवा प्रदान करने के साथ-साथ अपनी भलाई की रक्षा करने में सक्षम बनाता है।

- **Compassion leads to a sustainable approach in health care, benefiting both patients and professionals.**
  करुणा स्वास्थ्य देखभाल में एक स्थायी दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करती है, जिससे रोगियों और पेशेवरों दोनों को लाभ मिलता है।

Compassion in mental health

मानसिक स्वास्थ्य में करुणा

- While the WHO report focuses on primary health care, compassion is also crucial in mental health.

  हालांकि WHO की रिपोर्ट प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल पर केंद्रित है, लेकिन मानसिक स्वास्थ्य में भी करुणा महत्वपूर्ण है।

- Experts warn that depression could become the "next pandemic" due to its widespread impact.

  विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि अवसाद अपने व्यापक प्रभाव के कारण "अगली महामारी" बन सकता है।

Real-life example: Pradeep's story

वास्तविक जीवन का उदाहरण: प्रदीप की कहानी

- Pradeep, a rescued child, was labeled a "cursed child" by an exorcist and was nearly sacrificed.

  प्रदीप, एक बचाया गया बच्चा, जिसे एक ओझा ने "अभिशप्त बच्चा" बताया और लगभग बलिदान कर दिया गया था।

- He survived a grave injury but was abandoned by his family.

  वह एक गंभीर चोट से बच गया लेकिन उसके परिवार ने उसे छोड़ दिया।

- At Bal Ashram, a rehabilitation center under the Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion, he received compassionate care.

  बल आश्रम, जो सत्यार्थी मूवमेंट फॉर ग्लोबल करुणा के अंतर्गत एक पुनर्वास केंद्र है, वहां उसे करुणाशील देखभाल मिली।

- Trained caregivers helped him regain confidence, make friends, and share his story.

  प्रशिक्षित देखभालकर्ताओं ने उसे आत्मविश्वास हासिल करने, दोस्त बनाने और अपनी कहानी साझा करने में मदद की।

Putting it into practice

इसे व्यवहार में लाना

- Creating awareness about the need for compassionate health care is the first step.

  करुणामय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की आवश्यकता के बारे में जागरूकता पैदा करना पहला कदम है।

- **Compassion should not just be a moral value but a key factor in decision-making for hospitals and industry leaders.**
  करुणा केवल एक नैतिक मूल्य नहीं होनी चाहिए, बल्कि अस्पतालों और उद्योग नेताओं के लिए निर्णय लेने में एक प्रमुख कारक होनी चाहिए।

- **Health-care providers must be trained in compassionate care and taught the difference between empathy and compassion.**
  स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों को करुणामय देखभाल में प्रशिक्षित किया जाना चाहिए और संवेदना और करुणा के बीच का अंतर सिखाया जाना चाहिए।

- **Compassionate health care must be equitable, accessible, and high-quality for all, regardless of socio-economic status, gender, or caste.**
  करुणामय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सभी के लिए समान, सुलभ और उच्च-गुणवत्ता वाली होनी चाहिए, चाहे उनका सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्तर, लिंग या जाति कुछ भी हो।

- **It is time to globalize compassionate health care for all.**
  अब समय आ गया है कि करुणामय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल को वैश्विक स्तर पर लागू किया जाए।

In 2023, U.S. spent 0.24% of its national income on foreign aid

But perception surveys in the country show American citizens thought it was as high as 31%

DATA POINT

Hannah Ritchie

In the early 1980s, almost half a million people were paralysed by polio every year. Most of them were children. But look at the progress the world has made: in all of 2023, there were the same number of cases as just two days in 1981.

Foreign aid programmes have played a crucial role in the fight against polio. **Chart 1** shows the sources of polio eradication funding over time. While private donors have made the largest contributions in recent years, governments have played a crucial role over the last few decades. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, in particular, donor countries were funding more than 80% of these efforts.

What's true for polio is also true for other diseases and essential resources like food. The PEPFAR programme, launched by the U.S., is estimated to have saved over 25 million lives from HIV. Donations for bednets and antimalarial treatments have helped reduce the number of people catching and dying from malaria. The Global Fund and USAID have reduced deaths from tuberculosis. The list goes on.

These successes have been achieved with a relatively small amount of money. In 2023, the world gave around $240 billion in foreign aid (**Chart 2**). It's a very small percentage of most rich countries' economies. Take the U.S. and it was just 0.24% of its gross national income (GNI). Norway is the only country that spends more than 1% of its GNI on aid (**Chart 3**).

How can the world achieve more of this? One question you might have is whether most of the world's aid comes from governments or private donors, which are dominated by billionaire-funded philanthropies. If it's the former, citizens can have some in-

fluence on the global aid budget.

More than 95% of foreign aid came from national governments in 2023 (**Chart 4**). Just under $11 billion – or 4.5% of the total – came from private grants.

That means two things. First, a drop in support for aid can have huge consequences for the global total. The U.S. gave $62 billion in aid in 2023. If it had cut its aid budget by just 20%, its contributions would have been around $13 billion lower. That would be the same as eliminating all private philanthropic donations worldwide.

The second implication is that if we want to see an increase in global foreign aid, building public support for more generous aid budgets from our governments matters a lot. We can illustrate this point by focusing on the UN's target for developed countries to give 0.7% of their GNI to foreign aid. Only five countries – Norway, Luxembourg, Sweden, Germany, and Denmark – met this target in 2023.

Let's imagine that the public in developed countries pressured their governments to step up and meet this target. If all developed countries achieved this, we'd add an extra $216 billion to the pot, meaning the global official development assistance budget would almost double (**Chart 5**). Again, it's important to highlight that these are still relatively small amounts of money for developed economies.

Interestingly, this is far less than most people think their countries currently give to foreign aid.

Very recent data is hard to find, but in a 2015 survey, American citizens were asked to guess how much U.S. federal spending goes to foreign aid. The correct answer was just under 1%. Only 3% of respondents got the answer right. The average guess was a whopping 31%. What's also interesting is that when asked how much federal spending should be going to foreign aid, the average answer was 10%. That's 10 times more than what is currently spent.

Small drops make an ocean

The charts were sourced from article titled "For many of us, it doesn't cost much to improve someone's life, and we can do much more of it" written by Hannah Ritchie. She is the Deputy Editor and Science Outreach Lead at Our World in Data

Chart 1: The chart shows the financial contributions toward polio eradication over the years
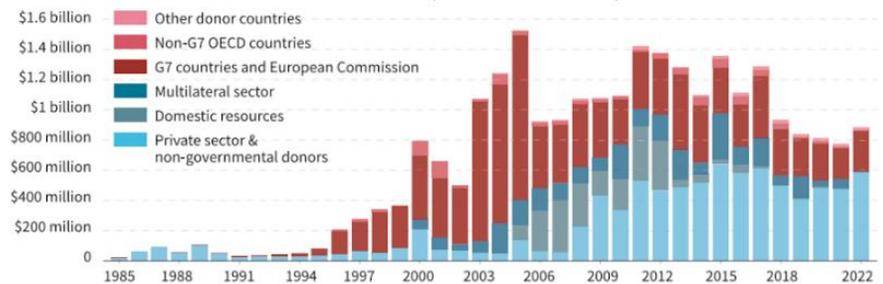
Legend:
- Other donor countries
- Non-G7 OECD countries
- G7 countries and European Commission
- Multilateral sector
- Domestic resources
- Private sector & non-governmental donors

Chart 2: Top 10 largest donors of foreign aid in 2023 (in $ billion)

Country	Value
U.S.	62
Germany	38
Japan	19
U.K.	17
France	15
Canada	9.3
Netherlands	6.6
Norway	6.5
Turkey	6
Italy	5.6
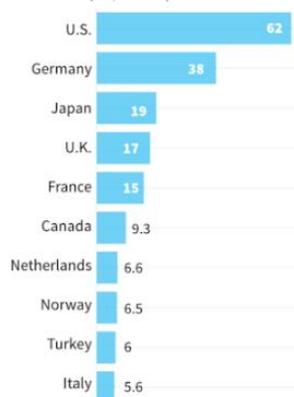
Chart 3: Top 10 largest donors of foreign aid (2023) as a share of GNI (%)

Country	Value
Norway	1.1
Germany	0.82
Netherlands	0.66
Turkey	0.62
U.K.	0.58
France	0.5
Japan	0.44
Canada	0.38
Italy	0.27
U.S.	0.24
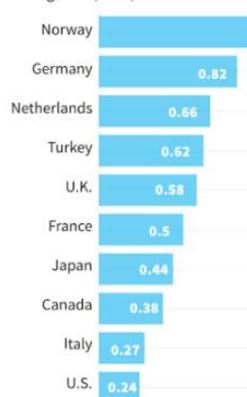
Chart 4: Foreign aid from governments and private donors (in $ billion)

Government: 232
Private: 11
% of foreign aid from private donors: 4.5%
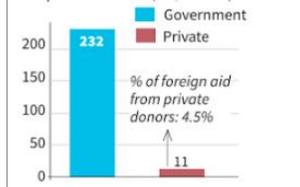
Chart 5: Potential foreign aid if countries meet the UN target (in $ billion)
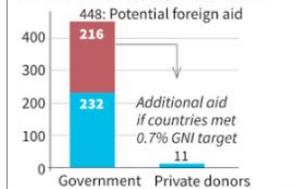
448: Potential foreign aid
216: Additional aid if countries met 0.7% GNI target
Government: 232
Private donors: 11

In 2023, U.S. spent 0.24% of its national income on foreign aid

2023 में, अमेरिका ने अपनी राष्ट्रीय आय का 0.24% विदेशी सहायता पर खर्च किया

Perception surveys in the U.S. show that American citizens believed this figure was as high as 31%.

अमेरिका में धारणा सर्वेक्षणों के अनुसार, अमेरिकी नागरिकों का मानना था कि यह आंकड़ा 31% तक था।

The role of foreign aid in global health

वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य में विदेशी सहायता की भूमिका

- In the **early 1980s, almost half a million people were paralysed by polio every year, mostly children.**

  1980 के दशक की शुरुआत में, हर साल लगभग पांच लाख लोग पोलियो से लकवाग्रस्त हो जाते थे, जिनमें से ज्यादातर बच्चे थे।

- **By 2023, the total number of cases worldwide equaled just two days' worth of cases from 1981.**

  2023 तक, दुनिया भर में कुल मामले 1981 में केवल दो दिनों में दर्ज किए गए मामलों के बराबर थे।

- **Foreign aid programmes have played a crucial role in the fight against polio.**

  विदेशी सहायता कार्यक्रमों ने पोलियो के खिलाफ लड़ाई में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।

- **In the late 1990s and early 2000s, donor countries funded more than 80% of polio eradication efforts.**

  1990 के दशक के अंत और 2000 के दशक की शुरुआत में, दाता देशों ने पोलियो उन्मूलन प्रयासों का 80% से अधिक वित्तपोषण किया।

- The **PEPFAR programme, launched by the U.S., is estimated to have saved over 25 million lives from HIV.**

  अमेरिका द्वारा शुरू किया गया PEPFAR कार्यक्रम HIV से 2.5 करोड़ से अधिक लोगों की जान बचा चुका है।

- **Donations for bed nets and antimalarial treatments have reduced malaria cases and deaths.**

मच्छरदानी और मलेरिया उपचार के लिए दिए गए दान ने मलेरिया के मामलों और मौतों को कम किया है।

- **The Global Fund and USAID have significantly reduced deaths from tuberculosis.**
  ग्लोबल फंड और USAID ने क्षय रोग (टीबी) से होने वाली मौतों को काफी हद तक कम किया है।

How much foreign aid is given?
कितनी विदेशी सहायता दी जाती है?

- **In 2023, the world gave around $240 billion in foreign aid.**
  2023 में, दुनिया ने लगभग $240 बिलियन विदेशी सहायता में प्रदान किए।

- **Foreign aid is a very small percentage of rich countries' economies.**
  विदेशी सहायता अमीर देशों की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं का बहुत छोटा हिस्सा है।

- **The U.S. spent just 0.24% of its Gross National Income (GNI) on foreign aid.**
  अमेरिका ने अपनी कुल राष्ट्रीय आय (GNI) का केवल 0.24% विदेशी सहायता पर खर्च किया।

- **Norway is the only country that spends more than 1% of its GNI on aid.**
  नॉर्वे एकमात्र देश है जो अपनी GNI का 1% से अधिक विदेशी सहायता पर खर्च करता है।

Who provides most of the aid?
सबसे अधिक सहायता कौन प्रदान करता है?

- **More than 95% of foreign aid came from national governments in 2023.**
  2023 में 95% से अधिक विदेशी सहायता राष्ट्रीय सरकारों द्वारा प्रदान की गई।

- **Just under $11 billion, or 4.5% of total foreign aid, came from private grants.**
  कुल विदेशी सहायता में से केवल $11 बिलियन (4.5%) निजी अनुदानों से आया।

The impact of foreign aid cuts
विदेशी सहायता में कटौती का प्रभाव

- **In 2023, the U.S. gave $62 billion in foreign aid.**
  2023 में, अमेरिका ने $62 बिलियन विदेशी सहायता में प्रदान किए।

- **If the U.S. had cut its aid budget by 20%, global aid would have dropped by $13 billion, equivalent to all private philanthropic donations worldwide.**

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अगर अमेरिका ने अपनी सहायता राशि में 20% की कटौती की होती, तो वैश्विक सहायता $13 बिलियन कम हो जाती, जो दुनिया भर के सभी निजी परोपकारी दान के बराबर होती।

How can global aid increase?
वैश्विक सहायता कैसे बढ़ सकती है?

- The UN has a target for developed countries to give 0.7% of their GNI as foreign aid.
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र का लक्ष्य है कि विकसित देश अपनी GNI का 0.7% विदेशी सहायता के रूप में दें।

- In 2023, only five countries met this target: Norway, Luxembourg, Sweden, Germany, and Denmark.
  2023 में, केवल पांच देशों ने इस लक्ष्य को पूरा किया: नॉर्वे, लक्ज़मबर्ग, स्वीडन, जर्मनी, और डेनमार्क।

- If all developed countries met this target, an extra $216 billion could be added to global foreign aid.
  अगर सभी विकसित देश इस लक्ष्य को पूरा करें, तो वैश्विक विदेशी सहायता में अतिरिक्त $216 बिलियन जोड़े जा सकते हैं।

- This would nearly double the global official development assistance budget.
  यह वैश्विक आधिकारिक विकास सहायता बजट को लगभग दोगुना कर देगा।

Public perception vs. reality
सार्वजनिक धारणा बनाम वास्तविकता

- In a 2015 survey, American citizens were asked to guess how much U.S. federal spending goes to foreign aid.
  2015 के एक सर्वेक्षण में, अमेरिकी नागरिकों से पूछा गया कि अमेरिकी संघीय खर्च का कितना हिस्सा विदेशी सहायता में जाता है।

- The correct answer was just under 1%, but only 3% of respondents got it right.
  सही उत्तर 1% से थोड़ा कम था, लेकिन केवल 3% उत्तरदाताओं ने सही उत्तर दिया।

- The average guess was a massive 31%.
  औसत अनुमान 31% था, जो वास्तविक आंकड़े से बहुत अधिक था।

- When asked how much should be spent on foreign aid, the average answer was 10% — ten times more than what is currently spent.
  जब पूछा गया कि विदेशी सहायता पर कितना खर्च किया जाना चाहिए, तो औसत उत्तर 10% था — जो वर्तमान खर्च से दस गुना अधिक था।

Modi calls on Mauritian President, discusses ties

Mauritius announces its highest honour for Indian PM; on a two-day state visit, Modi recollects the historic and cultural links between two countries, thanks Gokhool for invite to National Day fete

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be bestowed with the topmost honour of Mauritius, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam announced on Tuesday.

Mr. Modi is on a two-day state visit to the country. He will also be the chief guest at the National Day celebrations in Mauritius on Wednesday.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Modi is the first Indian to receive the honour. It is the 21st international honour bestowed upon Mr. Modi by a foreign country.

The Prime Minister reached Mauritius early on Tuesday and called on Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool at the state House.

"Had a great meeting with His Excellency Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool, President of Mauritius. He is well acquainted with India and Indian culture. Ex-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifting water from Maha Kumbh to Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool on Tuesday. ANI

pressed gratitude for inviting me to be a part of the National Day celebrations of Mauritius. We discussed how to further boost bilateral ties across diverse sectors," Mr. Modi said in a post on social media platform X.

Special gesture
During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on deepening the special and close bilateral ties between India and Mauritius, the MEA said in a statement.

As a special gesture Mr. Modi handed over Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards to President Gokhool and First Lady Vrinda Gokhool.

He also gifted Sangam water from Maha Kumbh in a brass and copper pot, and makhana to Mr. Gokhool.

The Prime Minister presented a Banarasi silk sari from Varanasi in an intricately inlaid Sadeli box from Gujarat to the First Lady.

After the talks, Presi-

dent Gokhool hosted a state lunch for Mr. Modi.

Mr. Modi also paid homage at the Samadhis of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and Sir Anerood Jugnauth at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden where he was accompanied by Mr. Ramgoolam. He also visited the Ayurveda Garden in the State House, established in collaboration with the Government of India.

Mr. Modi addressed a meeting of the Indian community in Mauritius and recollected the historic and cultural links that exist between the two countries. Mr. Modi said that Mauritius was not just a partner country.

"For us, Mauritius is family!", the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Modi thanked Mauritius for conferring its highest honour on him and said, "It is a recognition and honour of the historic ties between India and Mauritius. It's an honour to those Indians who for generations have served Mauritius," he said.
(With PTI inputs)

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Modi calls on Mauritian President, discusses ties
मोदी ने मॉरीशस के राष्ट्रपति से मुलाकात की, संबंधों पर चर्चा की

Mauritius announces its highest honour for Indian PM.
मॉरीशस ने भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री को अपना सर्वोच्च सम्मान देने की घोषणा की।

- On a two-day state visit, Modi recollects the historic and cultural links between the two countries.
  दो दिवसीय राजकीय यात्रा के दौरान, मोदी ने दोनों देशों के ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को याद किया।

- He thanks President Gokhool for inviting him to the National Day celebrations.
  उन्होंने राष्ट्रीय दिवस समारोह के लिए राष्ट्रपति गोखूल को आमंत्रण देने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

Mauritius confers its highest honour on Modi
मॉरीशस ने मोदी को अपना सर्वोच्च सम्मान दिया

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be bestowed with the "Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean," Mauritius' highest honour.
  प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को मॉरीशस के सर्वोच्च सम्मान "ग्रैंड कमांडर ऑफ द ऑर्डर ऑफ द स्टार एंड की ऑफ द इंडियन ओशन" से सम्मानित किया जाएगा।

- Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam made the announcement on Tuesday.
  मॉरीशस के प्रधानमंत्री नवीनचंद्र रामगुलाम ने मंगलवार को इस घोषणा की।

- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Modi is the first Indian to receive this honour.
  विदेश मंत्रालय के अनुसार, श्री मोदी इस सम्मान को प्राप्त करने वाले पहले भारतीय हैं।

- It is the 21st international honour bestowed upon Mr. Modi by a foreign country.
  यह किसी विदेशी देश द्वारा श्री मोदी को दिया गया 21वां अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मान है।

Modi meets Mauritian President Dharambeer Gokhool
मोदी ने मॉरीशस के राष्ट्रपति धरमबीर गोखूल से मुलाकात की

- Mr. Modi reached Mauritius early on Tuesday and called on President Dharambeer Gokhool at the State House.

श्री मोदी मंगलवार सुबह मॉरीशस पहुंचे और स्टेट हाउस में राष्ट्रपति धरमबीर गोखूल से मुलाकात की।

- "Had a great meeting with His Excellency Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool, President of Mauritius.
  "मॉरीशस के महामहिम राष्ट्रपति श्री धरमबीर गोखूल से शानदार मुलाकात हुई।

- He is well acquainted with India and Indian culture," Modi said in a post on social media platform X.
  वह भारत और भारतीय संस्कृति से भली-भांति परिचित हैं," मोदी ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X पर पोस्ट किया।

- "We discussed how to further boost bilateral ties across diverse sectors."
  "हमने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को और मजबूत करने पर चर्चा की।"

Special gesture by Modi
मोदी का विशेष संकेत

- As a special gesture, Mr. Modi handed over Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards to President Gokhool and First Lady Vrinda Gokhool.
  एक विशेष संकेत के रूप में, श्री मोदी ने राष्ट्रपति गोखूल और प्रथम महिला वृंदा गोखूल को प्रवासी भारतीय नागरिकता (OCI) कार्ड सौंपे।

- He also gifted "Sangam water" from Maha Kumbh in a brass and copper pot, and makhana to Mr. Gokhool.
  उन्होंने राष्ट्रपति गोखूल को पीतल और तांबे के बर्तन में महाकुंभ का "संगम जल" और मखाना उपहार में दिया।

- The Prime Minister presented a Banarasi silk sari from Varanasi in an intricately inlaid Sadeli box from Gujarat to the First Lady.
  प्रधानमंत्री ने प्रथम महिला को गुजरात की नक्काशीदार सदेली बॉक्स में रखी वाराणसी की बनारसी सिल्क साड़ी भेंट की।

State Lunch and Visits
राजकीय दोपहर भोज और भ्रमण

- After the talks, President Gokhool hosted a state lunch for Mr. Modi.
  बातचीत के बाद, राष्ट्रपति गोखूल ने श्री मोदी के सम्मान में राजकीय दोपहर भोज आयोजित किया।

- Mr. Modi paid homage at the Samadhis of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and Sir Anerood Jugnauth.

  श्री मोदी ने सर शिवसागर रामगुलाम और सर अनिरुद्ध जगन्नाथ की समाधियों पर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।

- He was accompanied by Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

  उनके साथ मॉरीशस के प्रधानमंत्री नवीनचंद्र रामगुलाम भी मौजूद थे।

- He visited the Ayurveda Garden in the State House, established in collaboration with the Government of India.

  उन्होंने स्टेट हाउस में स्थित आयुर्वेद गार्डन का दौरा किया, जिसे भारत सरकार के सहयोग से स्थापित किया गया है।

Address to the Indian community in Mauritius
मॉरीशस में भारतीय समुदाय को संबोधन

- Mr. Modi addressed a meeting of the Indian community in Mauritius.

  श्री मोदी ने मॉरीशस में भारतीय समुदाय की एक बैठक को संबोधित किया।

- He recollected the historic and cultural links between India and Mauritius.

  उन्होंने भारत और मॉरीशस के बीच ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को याद किया।

- "Mauritius is not just a partner country; for us, Mauritius is family!", the Prime Minister said.

  "मॉरीशस केवल एक साझेदार देश नहीं है; हमारे लिए मॉरीशस परिवार है!", प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

Modi thanks Mauritius for the honour
मोदी ने मॉरीशस को सम्मान देने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया

- Mr. Modi thanked Mauritius for conferring its highest honour on him.

  श्री मोदी ने मॉरीशस को अपना सर्वोच्च सम्मान देने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

- "It is a recognition and honour of the historic ties between India and Mauritius."

  "यह भारत और मॉरीशस के ऐतिहासिक संबंधों की मान्यता और सम्मान है।"

- "It's an honour to those Indians who, for generations, have served Mauritius," he said.

  "यह उन भारतीयों का भी सम्मान है, जिन्होंने पीढ़ियों से मॉरीशस की सेवा की है," उन्होंने कहा।

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GS Paper II

India tells UN it's monitoring situation in Afghanistan

India told the United Nations (UN) Security Council that it has discussed with the Taliban regime various issues pertaining to bilateral relations and the "special" people-to-people ties has been the "foundation" of Delhi's present-day engagement with the country. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said on Monday at the UN Security meeting on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) that in the beginning of this year, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai. PTI

India tells UN it's monitoring situation in Afghanistan
भारत ने UN से कहा कि वह अफगानिस्तान की स्थिति पर नजर रख रहा है

India's engagement with Afghanistan
भारत की अफगानिस्तान के साथ भागीदारी

• India informed the United Nations (UN) Security Council that it has engaged with the Taliban regime on various bilateral issues.
भारत ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) सुरक्षा परिषद को सूचित किया कि उसने तालिबान शासन के साथ विभिन्न द्विपक्षीय मुद्दों पर चर्चा की है।

• India emphasized that "special" people-to-people ties have been the foundation of its engagement with Afghanistan.
भारत ने जोर दिया कि "विशेष" जनसंपर्क संबंध अफगानिस्तान के साथ उसकी भागीदारी की आधारशिला रहे हैं।

Statement by India's Permanent Representative to the UN
संयुक्त राष्ट्र में भारत के स्थायी प्रतिनिधि का बयान

• India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, made this statement on Monday at a UN Security Council meeting on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

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संयुक्त राष्ट्र में भारत के स्थायी प्रतिनिधि, राजदूत पर्वतननेनी हरीश, ने सोमवार को संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की अफगानिस्तान सहायता मिशन (UNAMA) पर बैठक में यह बयान दिया।

High-level meeting in Dubai
दुबई में उच्च स्तरीय बैठक

Earlier this year, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai. इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में, भारत के विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिस्री ने दुबई में अफगानिस्तान के कार्यवाहक विदेश मंत्री मौलवी आमिर खान मुत्ताकी से मुलाकात की।

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

1. **Delhi most polluted capital in the world: report**
   दुनिया की सबसे प्रदूषित राजधानी दिल्ली: रिपोर्ट
2. **Centre begins talks with Kuki-Zo groups; highways remain blocked in Manipur**
   केंद्र ने कुकी-जो समूहों के साथ बातचीत शुरू की; मणिपुर में हाईवे अब भी बंद
3. **What's in a (disease's) name?**
   रोग के नाम में क्या रखा है?
4. **Bill to streamline services related to foreigners and immigration tabled in LS**
   विदेशियों और आप्रवासन से संबंधित सेवाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करने वाला विधेयक लोकसभा में पेश
5. **New immigration Bill seeks to tighten existing regulations**
   नया आप्रवासन विधेयक मौजूदा नियमों को कड़ा करने का प्रयास करता है

6. **Top intelligence chiefs will meet in India this weekend**

शीर्ष खुफिया प्रमुख इस सप्ताहांत भारत में मिलेंगे

7. **Minister announces ₹500-cr. corpus for Manipur; pledges full financial aid**

मंत्री ने मणिपुर के लिए ₹500 करोड़ की निधि की घोषणा की; पूर्ण वित्तीय सहायता का आश्वासन

8. **Bharti to bring in Starlink's satellite net services to India**

भारती भारत में स्टारलिंक की सैटेलाइट नेट सेवाएँ लाएगा

9. **SEBI member urges industry to help build trust-based relationship**

SEBI सदस्य ने उद्योग से विश्वास-आधारित संबंध बनाने में मदद करने का आग्रह किया

10. **India emerges as top source of foreign direct investment into Dubai**

भारत दुबई में प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) का शीर्ष स्रोत बना

11. **New, greener electrochemical process turns urine into plant fuel**

नई, हरित इलेक्ट्रोकेमिकल प्रक्रिया मूत्र को पौधों के ईंधन में बदलती है

12. **Lie Detectors: Reading Your Vitals**

झूठ पकड़ने की मशीन: आपकी महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी पढ़ना

Delhi most polluted Capital in world: report

GS Paper III: Environment

NEW DELHI

Thirteen of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in India, with Byrnihat in Assam topping the list, according to a new report published on Tuesday.

The World Air Quality Report 2024 by Swiss air quality technology company IQAir said Delhi remains the most polluted capital city globally, while India ranked as the world's fifth most polluted country in 2024.

Four cities in Pakistan and one in China are among the top 20 polluted cities.

The report said India saw a 7% decline in PM2.5 concentrations in 2024, averaging 50.6 micrograms per cubic metre (mgpcm), compared to 54.4 mgpcm in 2023.

The air pollution in Delhi has worsened, with the annual average PM2.5 concentration rising from 102.4 mgpcm in 2023 to 108.3 mgpcm in 2024.

Delhi grapples with high air pollution year-round and the problem worsens in winter when unfavourable meteorological conditions, combined with vehicular emissions, paddy-straw burning, firecrackers and other local pollution sources, make the air quality hazardous.

- India ranked as the world's fifth most polluted country in 2024.
  भारत 2024 में दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे प्रदूषित देश रहा।

- Four cities in Pakistan and one in China are among the top 20 polluted cities.
  शीर्ष 20 प्रदूषित शहरों में पाकिस्तान के चार और चीन का एक शहर शामिल हैं।

Decline in PM2.5 levels in India
भारत में PM2.5 स्तर में गिरावट

- The report said India saw a 7% decline in PM2.5 concentrations in 2024, averaging 50.6 micrograms per cubic metre (mgpcm), compared to 54.4 mgpcm in 2023.
  रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में 2024 में PM2.5 सांद्रता में 7% की गिरावट देखी गई, जो 2023 में 54.4 माइक्रोग्राम प्रति घन मीटर (mgpcm) थी, जबकि 2024 में यह 50.6 mgpcm रही।

Rising pollution levels in Delhi
दिल्ली में बढ़ता प्रदूषण स्तर

- The air pollution in Delhi has worsened, with the annual average PM2.5 concentration rising from 102.4 mgpcm in 2023 to 108.3 mgpcm in 2024.
  दिल्ली में वायु प्रदूषण और खराब हुआ, जहां वार्षिक औसत PM2.5 सांद्रता 2023 में 102.4 mgpcm से बढ़कर 2024 में 108.3 mgpcm हो गई।

- Delhi struggles with high air pollution year-round, which worsens in winter due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.
  दिल्ली पूरे वर्ष उच्च वायु प्रदूषण से जूझती है, जो सर्दियों में प्रतिकूल मौसमीय परिस्थितियों के कारण और बढ़ जाता है।

- Major pollution sources include vehicular emissions, paddy-straw burning, firecrackers, and other local pollutants.
  मुख्य प्रदूषण स्रोतों में वाहन उत्सर्जन, पराली जलाना, पटाखे और अन्य स्थानीय प्रदूषक शामिल हैं।

- These factors make the air quality hazardous, posing serious health risks to residents.
  ये कारक वायु गुणवत्ता को खतरनाक बना देते हैं, जिससे निवासियों के लिए गंभीर स्वास्थ्य जोखिम पैदा होता है।

Centre begins talks with Kuki-Zo groups; highways remain blocked in Manipur

Security convoys stopped in Kangpokpi, which remains shut; Churachandpur opens for economic activity, but women protesters only allow entry of vehicles carrying essential commodities

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
CHURACHANDPUR

Union Home Ministry officials arrived in Churachandpur on Tuesday, as the Kuki-Zo-dominated district was reopened for economic activities three days after the violent clashes of March 8.

The Ministry team is in the hill district to hold a dialogue with the Kuki-Zo Council to find a solution to the impasse.

The movement of commercial vehicles, however, remained suspended for the fourth straight day in Kangpokpi and Churachandpur, the Kuki-Zo-dominated districts which flank the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley in the north and south, respectively.

Kangpokpi, the epicentre of the March 8 clash between the Kuki-Zo people and central security forces over the enforcement of "free movement" for all vehicles, remained shut as government officials negotiated with civil society leaders. The burial of Lal-

Resolute stance: Kuki Zo women check vehicles in Churachandpur on Tuesday as vehicle services remain suspended. VIJAITA SINGH

gouthang Singsit, the protester who was killed during the violence, is yet to be conducted.

Vehicular movement was briefly allowed in Kangpokpi during the day. By afternoon, however, women protesters blocked the road again, even stopping security convoys.

The Committee On Tribal Unity (COTU), which is spearheading the protests in Kangpoki, had demanded that the talks with the Central officials be held in that district.

However, the Ministry team led by A.K Mishra, Ad-

viser, North East, travelled to Churachandpur instead, where the Kuki Zo Council is headquartered. The CO-TU members also participated in the meeting, which continued till late evening on Tuesday. Further details about the discussions are not known yet.

Women protesters in Churachandpur checked vehicles coming from the Meitei-dominated Imphal-Bishnupur side, turning away most vehicles, even those belonging to non-Meitei communities.

"We will only allow vehicles carrying essentials

such as rice, potato, LPG cylinders for our district. Those vehicles with people from Churachandpur will be allowed. We cannot allow any other community to come here," said Mercy Thangsing, 35, a housewife. Around 200 women sat at the district border, checking vehicles that had been cleared by the Army and Central security forces.

'Political solution first'
A banner put up by the women's wing of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) at the checkpoint said: "No Free Movement in Kuki-Zo Areas Without Political Solution. We Want Lasting Peace, Not Momentary Peace Policy Of The Government." Another poster hung up at the same checkpoint carried the blown-up photos of those injured in the March 8 violence.

Schools, businesses, and other activities continued at a normal pace.

केंद्र ने कुकी-जो समूहों के साथ बातचीत शुरू की; मणिपुर में हाईवे अब भी बंद

Union Home Ministry officials arrived in Churachandpur on Tuesday, as the Kuki-Zo-dominated district reopened for economic activities three days after the March 8 clashes.

मंगलवार को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय के अधिकारी चुराचांदपुर पहुंचे, जहां 8 मार्च की झड़पों के तीन दिन बाद कुकी-जो बहुल जिले को आर्थिक गतिविधियों के लिए फिर से खोला गया।

- The Ministry team is in the hill district to hold a dialogue with the Kuki-Zo Council to find a solution to the impasse.

  मंत्रालय की टीम पहाड़ी जिले में कुकी-जो परिषद के साथ बातचीत करने के लिए पहुंची, ताकि गतिरोध का समाधान निकाला जा सके।

Highway Blockades Continue
हाईवे नाकाबंदी जारी

- Commercial vehicle movement remained suspended for the fourth straight day in Kangpokpi and Churachandpur, which flank the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley in the north and south, respectively.

  व्यावसायिक वाहनों की आवाजाही चौथे दिन भी कांगपोकपी और चुराचांदपुर में बंद रही, जो क्रमशः उत्तर और दक्षिण में मैतेई बहुल इंफाल घाटी को घेरते हैं।

- Kangpokpi remained shut after the March 8 clash between Kuki-Zo people and central security forces over the enforcement of "free movement" for all vehicles.

  8 मार्च को कुकी-जो समुदाय और केंद्रीय सुरक्षा बलों के बीच "सभी वाहनों की मुक्त आवाजाही" लागू करने को लेकर हुई झड़प के बाद कांगपोकपी बंद रहा।

- The burial of Lalgouthang Singsit, the protester killed during the violence, is yet to be conducted.

  हिंसा में मारे गए प्रदर्शनकारी लालगौथांग सिंगसिट का अंतिम संस्कार अभी तक नहीं किया गया है।

- Vehicular movement was briefly allowed in Kangpokpi, but by afternoon, women protesters blocked the road again, even stopping security convoys.

  कांगपोकपी में कुछ समय के लिए वाहनों की आवाजाही की अनुमति दी गई थी, लेकिन दोपहर तक महिला प्रदर्शनकारियों ने फिर से सड़क अवरुद्ध कर दी, यहां तक कि सुरक्षा वाहनों को भी रोक दिया।

COTU Demands Talks in Kangpokpi
COTU ने कांगपोकपी में वार्ता की मांग की

- The Committee On Tribal Unity (COTU), leading the protests in Kangpokpi, demanded that the talks with central officials be held in their district.

  कांगपोकपी में विरोध प्रदर्शन का नेतृत्व कर रही "आदिवासी एकता समिति" (COTU) ने मांग की कि केंद्रीय अधिकारियों के साथ वार्ता उनके जिले में हो।

- However, the Ministry team led by A.K. Mishra, Adviser for North East, travelled to Churachandpur instead, where the Kuki-Zo Council is headquartered.
  हालांकि, उत्तर-पूर्व मामलों के सलाहकार ए.के. मिश्रा के नेतृत्व में मंत्रालय की टीम चुराचांदपुर गई, जहां कुकी-जो परिषद का मुख्यालय है।

- COTU members also participated in the meeting, which continued till late evening on Tuesday.
  COTU के सदस्य भी इस बैठक में शामिल हुए, जो मंगलवार देर शाम तक चली।

- Further details about the discussions are not yet known.
  बातचीत से जुड़ी अधिक जानकारी अभी उपलब्ध नहीं है।

Women Protesters at Checkpoints
चेकपॉइंट पर महिला प्रदर्शनकारी

- Women protesters in Churachandpur checked vehicles coming from the Meitei-dominated Imphal-Bishnupur side.
  चुराचांदपुर में महिला प्रदर्शनकारियों ने मैतेई बहुल इंफाल-बिशनुपुर क्षेत्र से आने वाले वाहनों की जांच की।

- They turned away most vehicles, even those belonging to non-Meitei communities.
  उन्होंने अधिकांश वाहनों को वापस लौटा दिया, यहां तक कि गैर-मैतेई समुदायों के वाहनों को भी नहीं जाने दिया।

- "We will only allow vehicles carrying essentials such as rice, potato, LPG cylinders for our district," said Mercy Thangsing, 35, a housewife.
  "हम केवल चावल, आलू, एलपीजी सिलेंडर जैसी आवश्यक वस्तुएं लेकर आने वाले वाहनों को अपने जिले में प्रवेश की अनुमति देंगे," 35 वर्षीय गृहिणी मर्सी थांगसिंग ने कहा।

- Around 200 women sat at the district border, checking vehicles cleared by the Army and central security forces.
  लगभग 200 महिलाएं जिला सीमा पर बैठीं और सेना व केंद्रीय सुरक्षा बलों द्वारा क्लियर किए गए वाहनों की जांच की।

Political Solution First: Protesters' Demand
पहले राजनीतिक समाधान: प्रदर्शनकारियों की मांग

- A banner put up by the women's wing of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) at the checkpoint read: "No Free Movement in Kuki-Zo Areas Without

Political Solution."

स्वदेशी आदिवासी नेता मंच (ITLF) की महिला शाखा द्वारा चेकपॉइंट पर लगाए गए बैनर पर लिखा था: "कुकी-जो क्षेत्रों में बिना राजनीतिक समाधान के मुक्त आवाजाही नहीं होगी।"

- Another poster carried photos of those injured in the March 8 violence.
  एक अन्य पोस्टर में 8 मार्च की हिंसा में घायल हुए लोगों की तस्वीरें थीं।

Schools and Businesses Resume
स्कूल और व्यवसाय सामान्य

- Despite the ongoing protests and blockades, schools, businesses, and other activities continued at a normal pace.
  चल रहे विरोध और नाकाबंदी के बावजूद, स्कूल, व्यवसाय और अन्य गतिविधियां सामान्य रूप से जारी रहीं।

What's in a (disease's) name?

Toponymous diseases may derive their name from towns, rivers, islands, forests, mountains, valleys, countries, continents, and even trenches. Examples of such diseases include the Spanish flu, Delhi boil, Madura foot, and West Nile Virus.

These names often lead to considerable misinformation, stigma, and racial prejudice. They can harm science by politicising it and tarnish entire countries or regions and their populations for no fault of theirs, especially when the origin of these diseases is unclear. For example, the influenza pandemic of 1918-1920 is sometimes called the Spanish flu even though it did not originate in Spain. The story goes that Spain was one of the major European countries to remain neutral during World War I. Unlike the other countries involved in the war as part of the Allies or Central Powers, where censors suppressed news of the flu to avoid affecting morale, the Spanish media freely reported on it in detail. Thus, this pandemic, which affected 500 million people worldwide and resulted in more than 20 million deaths, was named due to misinformation.

Renaming diseases
Pushed by experts, and concerned about the above-mentioned issues, the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2015 mandated that this trend be avoided. It instead directed scientists to move towards providing names based on scientific characteristics rather than geography. This is why the next year, physicians sought to rename the fetal disease caused by the Zika virus to congenital Zika syndrome.

The name Zika virus comes from the Zika forest in Uganda, where scientists first isolated the virus from a rhesus monkey in 1947 while researching yellow fever; Zika is the name of the forest in the Luganda language. The name congenital Zika syndrome was proposed by the

Dr. Kabir Sardana

Director, Professor and head, Department of Dermatology, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Delhi

Naming diseases after places often leads to misinformation, stigma, and racial prejudice

WHO team which confirmed that the virus causes damage beyond microcephaly, the first fetal condition to be linked to it.

More recently, the WHO began using mpox as a synonym for monkey pox. This followed reports of racist and stigmatising language being used against certain communities and regions, both online and offline, because of the name monkey pox.

The latest issue
However, the trend of misleading and inappropriate naming still continues. In January, dermatologists from India and 13 other counties objected to the region-specific nomenclature given to a novel species of fungus – *Trichophyton (T.) indotineae* – that causes widespread and hard-to-treat skin infections and is resistant to most anti-fungal medicines. The term *indotineae* has pejorative connotations. It was Japanese dermatologists who had spotted the fungus in patients from India and Nepal and proposed in 2020 that this fungus should be considered a new species and named *Trichophyton indotineae*. It is important to note that the origin of the fungus is not clearly known even now and that the fungus has been reported from more than 40 countries.

The *Trichophyton indotineae* fungus causes a ubiquitous skin problem, commonly known as ring worm, and is resistant to the first-line oral drug terbinafine. The resistance gene was discovered by the Dermatology Department at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and simultaneously by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.

In an article published in the *Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology* titled "Trichophyton indotineae' is an inaccurate and pejorative term', experts say that the name of the fungus is prejudicial and ignores the recommendations of the WHO and the American Society of Microbiology, among others.

The WHO notes that assigning names to new diseases and, on exception, to existing diseases is its responsibility under the International Classification of Diseases and the WHO Family of International Classifications through a consultative process which includes WHO member states. Considerations for the recommendations include rationale, scientific appropriateness, extent of current usage, pronounceability in different languages, absence of geographical or zoological references, and the ease of retrieval of historical scientific information. The current case of naming the fungus indotinae is a travesty of the WHO mandate and adds no value to either treating the disorder or finding a cause for the resistance.

The WHO also renames diseases or debunks researchers if they have disturbing legacies. The disease Reiter's Syndrome was named after the German physician, Hans Reiter, who was the first to describe the clinical triad of arthritis, urethritis, and conjunctivitis in 1916. However, problems arose after World War II, when the physician's association with Nazi ideology and his involvement in unethical medical experiments was discovered. The syndrome is now known as reactive arthritis.

The need of the hour
The need of the hour is for the WHO and scientists across the world to focus on finding the causes of diseases and pool together resources to find ways of preventing and curtailing them using precision in language and descriptions. If the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 has taught us anything, it is that we are a global community whose actions and choices have consequences for others. We should strive for unity, be sensitive to others, and seek out opportunities where we can help and support one another. Microbes defy borders, but stereotypes only divide people.

What's in a (disease's) name?
रोग के नाम में क्या रखा है?

Toponymous diseases and their origins
स्थान-आधारित बीमारियाँ और उनका स्रोत

- Toponymous diseases are named after towns, rivers, islands, forests, mountains, valleys, countries, continents, and even trenches.
  स्थान-आधारित बीमारियों का नाम शहरों, नदियों, द्वीपों, जंगलों, पहाड़ों, घाटियों, देशों, महाद्वीपों और यहाँ तक कि खाइयों के नाम पर रखा जाता है।

- Examples include the Spanish flu, Delhi boil, Madura foot, and West Nile Virus.
  इसकी कुछ उदाहरणों में स्पेनिश फ्लू, दिल्ली ब्वॉयल, मदुरा फुट और वेस्ट नाइल वायरस शामिल हैं।

Impact of such names
ऐसे नामों का प्रभाव

- These names often lead to misinformation, stigma, and racial prejudice.
  ये नाम अक्सर गलत जानकारी, कलंक और नस्लीय भेदभाव को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

- They politicize science and unfairly tarnish entire regions and populations.
  ये विज्ञान का राजनीतिकरण कर देते हैं और संपूर्ण क्षेत्रों और जनसंख्या की छवि खराब कर सकते हैं।

- For example, the 1918-1920 influenza pandemic is called the "Spanish flu" despite not originating in Spain.
  उदाहरण के लिए, 1918-1920 की इन्फ्लूएंजा महामारी को "स्पेनिश फ्लू" कहा जाता है, जबकि इसका उद्गम स्पेन में नहीं था।

- Spain was neutral during World War I, and unlike other war-involved countries, it freely reported on the flu.
  स्पेन प्रथम विश्व युद्ध के दौरान तटस्थ था और अन्य युद्धग्रस्त देशों के विपरीत, इसने फ्लू पर खुलकर रिपोर्टिंग की।

- This led to the misconception that the disease originated there, though it affected 500 million people and caused over 20 million deaths globally.
  इससे यह गलत धारणा बनी कि यह बीमारी स्पेन में शुरू हुई, जबकि इसने विश्वभर में 50 करोड़ लोगों को प्रभावित किया और 2 करोड़ से अधिक मौतों का कारण बनी।

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Renaming diseases for scientific accuracy
बीमारियों के वैज्ञानिक सटीकता से नामकरण की पहल

- **In 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) mandated avoiding geographical names for diseases.**
  2015 में, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने बीमारियों के लिए भौगोलिक नामों के उपयोग से बचने का निर्देश दिया।

- **Scientists were encouraged to name diseases based on scientific characteristics rather than locations.**
  वैज्ञानिकों को सलाह दी गई कि वे बीमारियों के नाम स्थानों के बजाय वैज्ञानिक विशेषताओं के आधार पर रखें।

- **In 2016, fetal disease caused by the Zika virus was renamed "congenital Zika syndrome."**
  2016 में, ज़ीका वायरस के कारण होने वाली भ्रूण संबंधी बीमारी का नाम बदलकर "जन्मजात ज़ीका सिंड्रोम" रखा गया।

Example of Zika virus
ज़ीका वायरस का उदाहरण

- **The Zika virus is named after the Zika forest in Uganda, where it was first isolated in 1947.**
  ज़ीका वायरस का नाम युगांडा के ज़ीका जंगल के नाम पर रखा गया, जहाँ इसे 1947 में पहली बार अलग किया गया था।

- **It was originally discovered in a rhesus monkey during yellow fever research.**
  इसे मूल रूप से पीलिया बुखार (येलो फीवर) के अध्ययन के दौरान एक रीसस बंदर में खोजा गया था।

- **WHO scientists later confirmed that the virus causes more damage than just microcephaly, leading to the term "congenital Zika syndrome."**
  बाद में WHO वैज्ञानिकों ने पुष्टि की कि यह वायरस माइक्रोसिफ़ेली से अधिक गंभीर क्षति पहुंचाता है, जिससे "जन्मजात ज़ीका सिंड्रोम" नाम रखा गया।

Recent changes: Monkeypox to Mpox
हालिया बदलाव: मंकीपॉक्स का नया नाम एमपॉक्स

- **WHO recently renamed "monkeypox" as "mpox" to avoid racist and stigmatizing associations.**

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WHO ने हाल ही में "मंकीपॉक्स" का नाम बदलकर "एमपॉक्स" कर दिया, ताकि नस्लीय और कलंकित करने वाले संदर्भों से बचा जा सके।

- Reports suggested that the name "monkeypox" was being used offensively against certain communities both online and offline.
  रिपोर्टों में पाया गया कि "मंकीपॉक्स" नाम का उपयोग कुछ समुदायों के खिलाफ अपमानजनक रूप से किया जा रहा था, ऑनलाइन और ऑफलाइन दोनों में।

The latest issue
नवीनतम मुद्दा

- Despite WHO guidelines, misleading and inappropriate disease naming continues.
  WHO के दिशानिर्देशों के बावजूद, बीमारियों के भ्रामक और अनुचित नामकरण की प्रवृति जारी है।

- In January, dermatologists from India and 13 other countries objected to the name "Trichophyton (T.) indotineae" for a new fungal species.
  जनवरी में, भारत और 13 अन्य देशों के त्वचा विशेषज्ञों ने एक नई फंगल प्रजाति "ट्राइकोफाइटन (T.) इंडोटिनाए" के नाम पर आपत्ति जताई।

- The fungus causes widespread, hard-to-treat skin infections and is resistant to most anti-fungal medicines.
  यह फंगस व्यापक और कठिन-से-ठीक होने वाले त्वचा संक्रमण का कारण बनती है और अधिकांश एंटी-फंगल दवाओं के प्रति प्रतिरोधी है।

- Japanese dermatologists first identified the fungus in patients from India and Nepal and named it Trichophyton indotineae in 2020.
  जापानी त्वचा विशेषज्ञों ने 2020 में भारत और नेपाल के रोगियों में इस फंगस की पहचान की और इसे ट्राइकोफाइटन इंडोटिनाए नाम दिया।

- However, the exact origin of the fungus remains unclear, and it has now been reported in over 40 countries.
  हालांकि, इस फंगस की सही उत्पत्ति अब भी स्पष्ट नहीं है, और इसे अब 40 से अधिक देशों में पाया गया है।

Scientific concerns over the naming
नामकरण को लेकर वैज्ञानिक चिंताएँ

- The term "indotineae" has negative connotations and violates WHO recommendations.

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"इंडोटिनाए" शब्द का नकारात्मक अर्थ है और यह WHO की सिफारिशों का उल्लंघन करता है।

- The fungus causes ringworm, which is resistant to the first-line oral drug terbinafine.
  यह फंगस दाद (रिंगवर्म) का कारण बनती है, जो पहली पंक्ति की मौखिक दवा टर्बिनाफिन के प्रति प्रतिरोधी है।

- Indian researchers at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and PGIMER, Chandigarh, discovered the resistance gene.
  डॉ. राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल और PGIMER, चंडीगढ़ के भारतीय शोधकर्ताओं ने प्रतिरोध जीन की खोज की।

- Experts published an article in the Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology, and Leprology arguing that the name is prejudicial.
  विशेषज्ञों ने "इंडियन जर्नल ऑफ डर्मेटोलॉजी, वेनेरियोलॉजी और लेप्रोलॉजी" में एक लेख प्रकाशित किया, जिसमें कहा गया कि यह नाम पूर्वाग्रही है।

WHO's role in disease naming
बीमारियों के नामकरण में WHO की भूमिका

- WHO assigns names to new diseases through the International Classification of Diseases.
  WHO नए रोगों को "अंतरराष्ट्रीय रोग वर्गीकरण" (ICD) के माध्यम से नाम देता है।

- Naming considerations include scientific appropriateness, ease of pronunciation, and avoidance of geographic references.
  नामकरण में वैज्ञानिक उपयुक्तता, उच्चारण में आसानी और भौगोलिक संदर्भों से बचने जैसे कारकों पर विचार किया जाता है।

- WHO has the authority to rename diseases if their names are misleading or problematic.
  WHO के पास भ्रामक या समस्याग्रस्त नामों वाले रोगों के नाम बदलने का अधिकार है।

Historical case: Reiter's Syndrome to Reactive Arthritis
ऐतिहासिक मामला: रीटर सिंड्रोम का नाम बदलकर रिएक्टिव आर्थराइटिस

- Reiter's Syndrome was named after German physician Hans Reiter, who first described the disease in 1916.
  रीटर सिंड्रोम का नाम जर्मन चिकित्सक हैंस रीटर के नाम पर रखा गया था, जिन्होंने 1916 में इस बीमारी का वर्णन किया था।

- After World War II, it was discovered that Reiter was involved in unethical Nazi medical experiments.

  द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद, यह पता चला कि रीटर नाज़ी शासन के दौरान अनैतिक चिकित्सा प्रयोगों में शामिल थे।

- The disease is now called "Reactive Arthritis" to avoid association with his name.

  अब इस बीमारी को "रिएक्टिव आर्थराइटिस" कहा जाता है, ताकि इसका संबंध रीटर के नाम से न जोड़ा जाए।

The need of the hour
समय की आवश्यकता

- WHO and global scientists must focus on identifying disease causes rather than using controversial names.

  WHO और वैश्विक वैज्ञानिकों को विवादास्पद नामों के बजाय बीमारियों के कारणों की पहचान पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।

- Disease names should be precise, neutral, and scientifically accurate to avoid stigma.

  बीमारियों के नाम सटीक, निष्पक्ष और वैज्ञानिक रूप से सटीक होने चाहिए, ताकि किसी समुदाय को कलंकित न किया जाए।

- The COVID-19 outbreak reminded the world that diseases know no borders, and stereotypes divide people.

  COVID-19 महामारी ने दिखाया कि बीमारियाँ सीमाओं को नहीं पहचानतीं, जबकि पूर्वाग्रह लोगों को बाँट देते हैं।

- It is crucial to promote global unity and responsible naming practices in medical science.

  वैश्विक एकता और चिकित्सा विज्ञान में ज़िम्मेदार नामकरण प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देना बेहद ज़रूरी है।

Bill to streamline services related to foreigners and immigration tabled in LS

GS Paper III: Immigration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid resistance from the Opposition, the Union government on Tuesday introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha to streamline services related to immigration and foreigners, including their entry, exit, and stay in the country.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai introduced the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025. Mr. Rai asserted that while tourists were welcome to visit India, it was the government's responsibility to ensure peace and sovereignty of the nation remain intact.

Opposition
Congress MP Manish Tewari said the Bill was violative of multiple provisions of the Constitution and various laws. He said it violated the principle of funda-

Nityanand Rai

mental rights on several counts. Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before law to any person, including a foreigner. He argued that the government might use the provisions of the proposed law to deny entry to those who are not in sync with the ideology of the ruling dispensation of the day.

"Clause 3 (1), through its first proviso, grants omnibus powers to the Union government to restrict the entry of any foreigner into India on the grounds of na-

tional security, sovereignty, integrity, relations with a foreign State, public health or any other reason as maybe specified by the government," Mr. Tewari said. "Second provision of 3(1) fails to provide appeal mechanism against the decision of the immigration officer, which violates the fundamental cannons of natural justice," he said.

"My submission is that either the Bill is withdrawn or sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for a very careful examination," he said.

Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy called the Bill "superfluous" as there were four existing laws dealing with the entry and exit of foreigners.

"As per available information, there is no country in the world that allows for an appeal mechanism on the entry or exit of a foreigner," Mr. Rai said.

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Bill to streamline services related to foreigners and immigration tabled in LS

विदेशियों और आप्रवासन से संबंधित सेवाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करने वाला विधेयक लोकसभा में पेश

Introduction of the Bill
विधेयक की प्रस्तुति

- **The Union government introduced the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.**
  केंद्र सरकार ने मंगलवार को लोकसभा में आप्रवासन और विदेशी विधेयक, 2025 पेश किया।

- **The Bill aims to streamline services related to immigration and foreigners, including their entry, exit, and stay in India.**
  यह विधेयक भारत में विदेशियों के प्रवेश, निकास और ठहराव से संबंधित सेवाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करने के उद्देश्य से लाया गया है।

- **Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, introduced the Bill, stating that while tourists are welcome, the government must ensure national peace and sovereignty.**
  गृह राज्य मंत्री नित्यानंद राय ने विधेयक पेश करते हुए कहा कि पर्यटकों का स्वागत है, लेकिन सरकार को राष्ट्रीय शांति और संप्रभुता सुनिश्चित करनी होगी।

Opposition's objections
विपक्ष की आपत्तियाँ

- **Congress MP Manish Tewari argued that the Bill violates multiple provisions of the Constitution and fundamental rights.**
  कांग्रेस सांसद मनीष तिवारी ने तर्क दिया कि यह विधेयक संविधान और मौलिक अधिकारों के कई प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन करता है।

- **He pointed out that Article 14 guarantees equality before law to all persons, including foreigners.**
  उन्होंने कहा कि अनुच्छेद 14 सभी व्यक्तियों, जिनमें विदेशी भी शामिल हैं, को कानून के समक्ष

समानता की गारंटी देता है।

- He warned that the government might use the Bill's provisions to deny entry to individuals who do not align with the ruling party's ideology.
  उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि सरकार इस विधेयक के प्रावधानों का उपयोग उन व्यक्तियों के प्रवेश से इनकार करने के लिए कर सकती है जो सत्तारूढ़ दल की विचारधारा से मेल नहीं खाते।

Key concerns raised
मुख्य उठाए गए मुद्दे

- Clause 3(1) gives the government broad powers to restrict the entry of any foreigner on grounds such as national security, sovereignty, integrity, foreign relations, public health, or any other reason specified by the government.
  धारा 3(1) सरकार को किसी भी विदेशी के प्रवेश को प्रतिबंधित करने के लिए व्यापक अधिकार देती है, जिसमें राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, संप्रभुता, अखंडता, विदेशी संबंध, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य या सरकार द्वारा निर्दिष्ट अन्य कारण शामिल हैं।

- The second provision of Clause 3(1) does not provide an appeal mechanism against immigration officer decisions, violating natural justice principles.
  धारा 3(1) का दूसरा प्रावधान आप्रवासन अधिकारी के निर्णय के खिलाफ अपील की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं करता, जो प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांतों का उल्लंघन करता है।

- Manish Tewari urged either withdrawing the Bill or sending it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for thorough examination.
  मनीष तिवारी ने या तो विधेयक को वापस लेने या संयुक्त संसदीय समिति को भेजने की मांग की, ताकि इसकी गहन समीक्षा की जा सके।

Trinamool Congress' stance
तृणमूल कांग्रेस का रुख

- TMC MP Saugata Roy called the Bill unnecessary, arguing that four existing laws already govern the entry and exit of foreigners.
  तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद सौगत रॉय ने विधेयक को अनावश्यक बताया, यह तर्क देते हुए कि विदेशियों के प्रवेश और निकास को नियंत्रित करने के लिए पहले से ही चार कानून मौजूद हैं।

Government's defense
सरकार की सफाई

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- Nityanand Rai responded that no country in the world allows an appeal mechanism for the entry or exit of foreigners.

नित्यानंद राय ने जवाब दिया कि दुनिया में कोई भी देश विदेशियों के प्रवेश या निकास के लिए अपील तंत्र प्रदान नहीं करता।

New immigration Bill seeks to tighten existing regulations

GS Paper III: Immigration

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, is aimed at consolidating four existing inter-linked laws, adding more teeth to the existing rules for visiting foreigners, and raising the penalties for violations.

"The objective of the Bill is to consolidate the existing Foreigners Act, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, the Registration of Foreigners Act, and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act," said Navneet Rajan Wasan, a former head of the National Investigation Agency, and a former Director-General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development.

A retired senior intelligence official pointed out Section 16 of the Bill provides that the burden of proof of whether any person is a foreigner or not, lies with that person.

"The provision is akin to those in laws such as the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, wherein the onus of proving that the alleged proceeds of crime are untainted assets; Prevention of Corruption Act, wherein the onus of proving that the assets in question are from legal sources of income; and the Customs Act, wherein the onus of proving that goods are legally acquired/transported is on the persons facing respective charges," he said.

A host, who may also be the owner of a private home, must provide various details to the FRRO

The official said a provision for registration of foreign tourists with the local FRRO already exists and, accordingly, a C-form comprising visa/passport and date-of-disembarkment details need to be furnished to the local FRRO office. However, those staying at places other than hotels or any similar accommodation are currently outside the ambit of C-form.

"The proposed law mandates that the host, who may also be the owner of a private home, must provide all these details to the FRRO, which can probably be done online. This provision will enable better monitoring of the foreigners entering the country," said the official. It defines the obligations of entities such as universities/educational institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, and medical institutions admitting any foreigner.

Adding more teeth to the existing rules presently under the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, the Bill makes it mandatory for the carrier, in which any foreigner has entered the country, to remove the foreigner from India at its own expense if the person is found to have violated any provision of the proposed law.

New immigration Bill seeks to tighten existing regulations
नया आप्रवासन विधेयक मौजूदा नियमों को कड़ा करने का प्रयास करता है

Objective of the Bill
विधेयक का उद्देश्य

- The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, aims to consolidate four existing laws.
मंगलवार को लोकसभा में पेश किया गया आप्रवासन और विदेशी विधेयक, 2025, चार मौजूदा कानूनों को समेकित करने का प्रयास करता है।

- The Bill seeks to strengthen regulations for visiting foreigners and increase penalties for violations.
यह विधेयक विदेशी आगंतुकों के लिए नियमों को सख्त करने और उल्लंघनों के लिए दंड बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव करता है।

- It will merge the following laws: Foreigners Act, Passport (Entry into India) Act, Registration of Foreigners Act, and Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act.
यह निम्नलिखित कानूनों को एकीकृत करेगा: विदेशी अधिनियम, पासपोर्ट (भारत में प्रवेश) अधिनियम, विदेशियों का पंजीकरण अधिनियम, और आप्रवासन (वाहक दायित्व) अधिनियम।

Burden of Proof on Foreigners
विदेशियों पर प्रमाण का भार

- Under Section 16 of the Bill, the burden of proof to establish whether a person is a foreigner lies with that person.
विधेयक की धारा 16 के अनुसार, यह साबित करने की जिम्मेदारी संबंधित व्यक्ति पर होगी कि वह विदेशी है या नहीं।

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- This is similar to laws like the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Prevention of Corruption Act, where the accused must prove their assets are legally acquired.

  यह प्रावधान मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग रोकथाम अधिनियम (PMLA) और भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम के समान है, जहां आरोपी को यह साबित करना होता है कि उनकी संपत्ति कानूनी रूप से अर्जित है।

Registration of Foreigners
विदेशियों का पंजीकरण

- Currently, foreign tourists must register with the local FRRO (Foreigners Regional Registration Office) using a C-form containing visa/passport details.

  वर्तमान में, विदेशी पर्यटकों को स्थानीय FRRO (विदेशी क्षेत्रीय पंजीकरण कार्यालय) में सी-फॉर्म के माध्यम से वीज़ा/पासपोर्ट विवरण दर्ज कराना आवश्यक है।

- However, foreigners staying in private homes or non-hotel accommodations are not covered under this system.

  हालांकि, जो विदेशी निजी घरों या गैर-होटल आवासों में रहते हैं, वे इस प्रणाली के तहत नहीं आते।

- The proposed law mandates that private home hosts must provide guest details to the FRRO, possibly through an online system.

  प्रस्तावित विधेयक के तहत, निजी घरों के मालिकों को भी अपने विदेशी मेहमानों की जानकारी FRRO को देनी होगी, संभवतः ऑनलाइन माध्यम से।

Expanded obligations for institutions
संस्थानों के लिए बढ़ी हुई ज़िम्मेदारियाँ

- The Bill defines the responsibilities of institutions such as universities, hospitals, and nursing homes when admitting foreign nationals.

  विधेयक विदेशी नागरिकों को प्रवेश देने वाले विश्वविद्यालयों, अस्पतालों और नर्सिंग होम जैसी संस्थाओं की जिम्मेदारियों को परिभाषित करता है।

Stronger rules for carriers
वाहकों के लिए सख्त नियम

- The Bill strengthens provisions under the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act.

  विधेयक आप्रवासन (वाहक दायित्व) अधिनियम के तहत प्रावधानों को मजबूत करता है।

- If a foreigner enters India through a carrier and is later found violating the law, the carrier must bear the cost of deporting them.

यदि कोई विदेशी किसी वाहक के माध्यम से भारत में प्रवेश करता है और बाद में कानून का उल्लंघन करता पाया जाता है, तो उस वाहक को निष्कासन की लागत वहन करनी होगी।

Top intelligence chiefs will meet in India this weekend

NSA Ajit Doval will chair the conclave; likely to discuss ways to enhance intelligence sharing to combat terrorism; it will bring together heads and deputies of intelligence from some 20 nations

GS Paper III: Security

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The U.S. Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, Canadian spy chief Daniel Rogers and Britain's MI6 boss Richard Moore will be among top global intelligence czars converging in India this weekend to attend a security conclave, sources familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will chair the India-hosted conclave on March 16, which is expected to deliberate on ways to enhance intelligence sharing to combat terrorism and various transnational crimes.

Intelligence chiefs of Australia, Germany, New Zealand and several other friendly countries of India are expected to join the deliberations to be held in New Delhi.

Ms. Gabbard is visiting India as part of a multi-nation tour of Japan, Thailand and France.

It will be the first high-level visit to India by a top official of the Donald Trump administration.

Besides attending the in-

Global summit: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in Washington DC. FILE PHOTO

telligence chiefs' conclave, Ms. Gabbard is likely to address the Raisina Dialogue and hold a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Doval.

It is learnt that the U.S. Director of National Intelligence will arrive in India on March 15 after concluding her trip to Thailand. Last month, Ms. Gabbard met Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Washington DC.

The conclave of the security and intelligence chiefs is expected to bring together heads and deputy heads of the intelligence and security organisations of nearly 20 nations. In their deliberations, the in-

telligence chiefs are also expected to focus on various global challenges including the implications of the Russia-Ukraine war and the conflict in West Asia. The security and intelligence chiefs are also likely to discuss ways to deal with terror financing as well as crimes in the digital space, sources said.

India-Canada ties
The visit to India by Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) chief Rogers is taking place amid frosty ties between the two countries over the Hardeep Singh Nijjar case. The ties between India and Canada

came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September 2023 of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar on Canadian soil. New Delhi rejected Mr. Trudeau's charges as "absurd". The relations nosedived further in the second half of last year after Ottawa linked several Indian diplomats including High Commissioner Sanjay Verma to the murder of Nijjar.

Last October, Canada expelled Mr. Verma and five other diplomats. In retaliation, New Delhi expelled Canadian Charge d'Affaires Stewart Wheeler and five other diplomats. It is expected that the case may figure during Mr. Doval's conversation with Mr. Rogers.

On the sidelines of the conclave, Mr. Doval is expected to hold one-on-one meetings with his counterparts from several leading countries.

In meetings with her Indian interlocutors, Ms. Gabbard is expected to bring up the need for expanding cooperation between the two countries in the Indo-Pacific.

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Top intelligence chiefs will meet in India this weekend
शीर्ष खुफिया प्रमुख इस सप्ताहांत भारत में मिलेंगे

Security conclave chaired by Ajit Doval
अजीत डोभाल की अध्यक्षता में सुरक्षा सम्मेलन

- India's National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval will chair the security conclave in New Delhi on March 16.
  भारत के राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार (NSA) अजीत डोभाल 16 मार्च को नई दिल्ली में सुरक्षा सम्मेलन की अध्यक्षता करेंगे।

- The meeting will focus on enhancing intelligence sharing to combat terrorism and transnational crimes.
  यह बैठक आतंकवाद और अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराधों से निपटने के लिए खुफिया जानकारी साझा करने को मजबूत करने पर केंद्रित होगी।

- Around 20 countries will participate, including the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Australia, Germany, and New Zealand.
  इसमें अमेरिका, कनाडा, ब्रिटेन, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जर्मनी और न्यूजीलैंड सहित लगभग 20 देश भाग लेंगे।

Key attendees
मुख्य प्रतिभागी

- U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, Canadian spy chief Daniel Rogers, and MI6 head Richard Moore will attend.
  अमेरिका की राष्ट्रीय खुफिया निदेशक तुलसी गैबार्ड, कनाडा के जासूसी प्रमुख डेनियल रॉजर्स और ब्रिटेन की MI6 के प्रमुख रिचर्ड मूर इस सम्मेलन में शामिल होंगे।

- Ms. Gabbard is on a multi-nation tour, including visits to Japan, Thailand, and France before arriving in India on March 15.
  तुलसी गैबार्ड कई देशों के दौरे पर हैं, जिसमें जापान, थाईलैंड और फ्रांस शामिल हैं, और वे 15 मार्च को भारत पहुंचेंगी।

- This will be the first high-level visit to India by a senior official from the Donald Trump administration.
  यह डोनाल्ड ट्रंप प्रशासन के किसी वरिष्ठ अधिकारी की भारत की पहली उच्च स्तरीय यात्रा होगी।

Agenda of the conclave
सम्मेलन का एजेंडा

- The intelligence chiefs will discuss global security challenges, including the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and the West Asia conflict.
  खुफिया प्रमुख रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध और पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष सहित वैश्विक सुरक्षा चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करेंगे।

- Other key topics include tackling terror financing and addressing cybercrimes in the digital space.
  अन्य प्रमुख विषयों में आतंकवाद वित्तपोषण से निपटना और डिजिटल क्षेत्र में साइबर अपराधों का समाधान शामिल है।

India-Canada tensions
भारत-कनाडा संबंधों में तनाव

- Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) chief Daniel Rogers' visit comes amid strained ties between India and Canada.
  कनाडा की सुरक्षा खुफिया सेवा (CSIS) के प्रमुख डेनियल रॉजर्स की यात्रा भारत और कनाडा के बीच तनावपूर्ण संबंधों के बीच हो रही है।

- Relations worsened after Canadian PM Justin Trudeau accused India of involvement in Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing in September 2023.
  सितंबर 2023 में कनाडाई प्रधानमंत्री जस्टिन ट्रूडो ने भारत पर हरदीप सिंह निज्जर की हत्या में संलिप्तता का आरोप लगाया, जिससे संबंध और खराब हो गए।

- New Delhi dismissed the allegations as "absurd" and expelled several Canadian diplomats in retaliation.
  नई दिल्ली ने इन आरोपों को "बेतुका" बताते हुए जवाबी कार्रवाई में कई कनाडाई राजनयिकों को निष्कासित कर दिया।

- Mr. Doval may discuss this issue with Mr. Rogers during their one-on-one meeting.
  अजीत डोभाल इस मुद्दे पर डेनियल रॉजर्स के साथ व्यक्तिगत बैठक में चर्चा कर सकते हैं।

U.S.-India cooperation in Indo-Pacific
भारत-अमेरिका की इंडो-पैसिफिक में सहयोग पर चर्चा

- Ms. Gabbard is expected to highlight the need for expanding U.S.-India cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

तुलसी गैबार्ड भारत-अमेरिका के इंडो-पैसिफिक सहयोग को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दे सकती हैं।

- She will also address the Raisina Dialogue and meet NSA Ajit Doval separately.
  वह रायसीना डायलॉग को भी संबोधित करेंगी और अजीत डोभाल से अलग से मुलाकात करेंगी।

Minister announces ₹500-cr. corpus for Manipur; pledges full financial aid

GS Paper III: Budget

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced a corpus of ₹500 crore to establish a contingency fund in strife-torn Manipur.

"We are providing all possible financial assistance for the faster recovery of the Manipur economy," she said replying to a discussion on the Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2025 and the Manipur Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha. Both Bills were passed by voice vote.

Asserting that the overall law and order situation had improved in the northeastern State, except for some sporadic incidents, Ms. Sitharaman said all financial support would be provided to Manipur for economic development.

"...with the collective ef-

Nirmala Sitharaman

fort of both the Centre and the State government, there has been an improvement in overall law and order situation in the State, to a large extent, except for some sporadic [incidents]," the Finance Minister said, adding that arms and ammunition looted were being recovered.

She said ₹400 crore had been provided for operation of relief camps in Manipur and under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY) 7,000 houses had been approved to provide housing for those who

were displaced.

Manipur is currently under President's Rule. Consequent on the proclamation issued under Article 356 of the Constitution last month, the powers of the legislature of the State are exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament.

The Finance Minister had tabled the Manipur Budget for 2025-26 in Parliament on Monday envisaging an expenditure of ₹35,103.9 crore, up from ₹32,656.81 crore in the current financial year.

According to the documents, the capital outlay has been increased by 19% to ₹7,773 crore over the current financial year ending March 2025.

Earlier participating in the discussion, Opposition parties questioned the Union government's handling of the situation in Manipur.

The MPs found fault with the allocations in the

State Budget as it "did not reflect" the situation on the ground where hundreds were killed and around 60,000 people rendered homeless.

The Manipur Budget was tabled in Parliament on Monday, as the State is under President's Rule.

A Bimol Akoijam, Congress MP for Inner Manipur, said he was "almost" indifferent to whether the Prime Minister visited the State or not and it did not matter anymore. "But the rest of the country should know that there is no visa issue for the Prime Minister to visit Manipur. He may go to Ukraine and talk about peace and his own citizens are being slaughtered and more than 60,000 people are rendered homeless," he said.

The MP said Manipur had not got the attention it deserved on financial terms.

Minister announces ₹500-cr. corpus for Manipur; pledges full financial aid

मंत्री ने मणिपुर के लिए ₹500 करोड़ की निधि की घोषणा की; पूर्ण वित्तीय सहायता का आश्वासन

Financial aid for Manipur
मणिपुर के लिए वित्तीय सहायता

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a ₹500 crore corpus to establish a contingency fund for conflict-hit Manipur.**
  वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने संघर्षग्रस्त मणिपुर के लिए ₹500 करोड़ की आकस्मिक निधि स्थापित करने की घोषणा की।

- **She assured that all possible financial assistance would be provided for the state's economic recovery.**
  उन्होंने राज्य की आर्थिक पुनर्बहाली के लिए हरसंभव वित्तीय सहायता देने का आश्वासन दिया।

- **The announcement was made during the discussion on the Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2025, and the Manipur Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025.**
  यह घोषणा मणिपुर विनियोग विधेयक, 2025 और मणिपुर विनियोग (वोट ऑन अकाउंट) विधेयक, 2025 पर चर्चा के दौरान की गई।

- **Both Bills were passed in the Lok Sabha by voice vote.**
  दोनों विधेयक लोकसभा में ध्वनि मत से पारित किए गए।

Improvement in law and order
कानून और व्यवस्था में सुधार

- **Ms. Sitharaman stated that the law and order situation in Manipur had improved significantly, except for some sporadic incidents.**
  निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि मणिपुर में कानून और व्यवस्था की स्थिति काफी हद तक सुधरी है, हालांकि कुछ छिटपुट घटनाएँ अब भी हो रही हैं।

- **She mentioned that looted arms and ammunition were being recovered.**
  उन्होंने बताया कि लूटे गए हथियार और गोला-बारूद बरामद किए जा रहे हैं।

Relief measures and housing assistance
राहत उपाय और आवास सहायता

- ₹400 crore has been allocated for relief camps in Manipur.
  मणिपुर में राहत शिविरों के संचालन के लिए ₹400 करोड़ का प्रावधान किया गया है।

- Under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY), 7,000 houses have been approved for displaced families.
  प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना (PMAY) के तहत विस्थापित परिवारों के लिए 7,000 मकानों को मंजूरी दी गई है।

Budget and financial allocations
बजट और वित्तीय आवंटन

- Manipur is currently under President's Rule, and its budget is being handled by the central government.
  मणिपुर वर्तमान में राष्ट्रपति शासन के अधीन है, और इसका बजट केंद्र सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रित किया जा रहा है।

- The Manipur Budget 2025-26, tabled in Parliament, has an expenditure of ₹35,103.9 crore, up from ₹32,656.81 crore in the current financial year.
  संसद में पेश मणिपुर बजट 2025-26 में ₹35,103.9 करोड़ के व्यय का प्रावधान किया गया है, जो वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष के ₹32,656.81 करोड़ से अधिक है।

- The capital outlay has been increased by 19% to ₹7,773 crore.
  पूंजीगत व्यय को 19% बढ़ाकर ₹7,773 करोड़ किया गया है।

Opposition's criticism
विपक्ष की आलोचना

- Opposition parties questioned the government's handling of the Manipur crisis.
  विपक्षी दलों ने मणिपुर संकट को संभालने के सरकार के तरीके पर सवाल उठाया।

- MPs argued that the budget allocations did not reflect the ground reality, where hundreds were killed and around 60,000 people were displaced.
  सांसदों ने कहा कि बजट आवंटन जमीनी हकीकत को नहीं दर्शाता, जहाँ सैकड़ों लोग मारे गए और लगभग 60,000 लोग बेघर हो गए।

- **Congress MP A. Bimol Akoijam criticized the Prime Minister for not visiting Manipur despite the crisis.**
  कांग्रेस सांसद ए. बिमोल अकोइजम ने संकट के बावजूद प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा मणिपुर की यात्रा न करने पर आलोचना की।

- **He pointed out that while the PM visited Ukraine for peace talks, he ignored the suffering of his own citizens in Manipur.**
  उन्होंने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री शांति वार्ता के लिए यूक्रेन जा सकते हैं, लेकिन अपने ही नागरिकों की पीड़ा को नजरअंदाज कर रहे हैं।

Bharti to bring in Starlink's satellite net services to India

Both firms will explore offering Starlink equipment at Airtel's retail stores and providing services via Airtel to business customers; they plan to connect communities, schools, and health centres

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel has announced that it had signed a distribution agreement allowing it to sell SpaceX's Starlink services in India, a major breakthrough for the Elon Musk-owned satellite Internet firm.

However, Starlink would have to get the necessary authorisations from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Ministry of Home Affairs before it can commence operations in India. "Airtel and SpaceX

Conditions apply: The agreement would be contingent on Starlink receiving requisite approvals to begin operations in India. REUTERS

will explore offering Starlink equipment in Airtel's retail stores, Starlink services via Airtel to business customers, opportunities to connect communities, schools, and health centres, among many others, in even the most rural parts of India," Bharti said.

"This collaboration enhances our ability to bring world-class high-speed broadband to even the most remote parts of India, ensuring that every individual, business, and community has reliable Internet," said Bharti Airtel's managing director and vice chairman Gopal Vittal. "Starlink will complement and enhance Airtel's suite of products to ensure reliable and affordable broadband for our Indian customers - wherever they live and work," he added.

(With PTI inputs)

Bharti to bring in Starlink's satellite net services to India
भारती भारत में स्टारलिंक की सैटेलाइट नेट सेवाएँ लाएगा

Agreement between Bharti Airtel and Starlink
भारती एयरटेल और स्टारलिंक के बीच समझौता

- Bharti Airtel has signed a distribution agreement to sell SpaceX's Starlink services in India.
  भारती एयरटेल ने भारत में स्पेसएक्स की स्टारलिंक सेवाओं को बेचने के लिए एक वितरण समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।

- This marks a major breakthrough for Elon Musk's satellite Internet company.
  यह एलन मस्क की सैटेलाइट इंटरनेट कंपनी के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है।

Regulatory approvals required
आवश्यक नियामक अनुमोदन

- Starlink must obtain necessary authorizations from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Ministry of Home Affairs before starting operations in India.
  भारत में परिचालन शुरू करने से पहले स्टारलिंक को दूरसंचार विभाग (DoT) और गृह मंत्रालय से आवश्यक अनुमतियाँ प्राप्त करनी होंगी।

Plans for service expansion
सेवा विस्तार की योजना

- Airtel and SpaceX will explore offering Starlink equipment in Airtel's retail stores.
  एयरटेल और स्पेसएक्स एयरटेल के खुदरा स्टोर्स में स्टारलिंक उपकरण प्रदान करने की संभावनाएँ तलाशेंगे।

- Starlink services will be provided via Airtel to business customers.
  एयरटेल के माध्यम से व्यवसायिक ग्राहकों को स्टारलिंक सेवाएँ उपलब्ध कराई जाएँगी।

- Plans include connecting communities, schools, and health centers, especially in rural areas.
  इस योजना में विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में समुदायों, स्कूलों और स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों को जोड़ना शामिल है।

Statements from Bharti Airtel's leadership
भारती एयरटेल के नेतृत्व का बयान

- **Bharti Airtel's Managing Director and Vice Chairman Gopal Vittal stated that this collaboration will ensure high-speed broadband in even the most remote parts of India.**

  भारती एयरटेल के प्रबंध निदेशक और उपाध्यक्ष गोपाल विट्ठल ने कहा कि यह सहयोग भारत के सबसे दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों में भी उच्च गति ब्रॉडबैंड सुनिश्चित करेगा।

- **He emphasized that Starlink will complement Airtel's product suite, ensuring reliable and affordable broadband access.**

  उन्होंने कहा कि स्टारलिंक, एयरटेल के उत्पादों का पूरक होगा और विश्वसनीय व किफायती ब्रॉडबैंड सेवाएँ सुनिश्चित करेगा।

SEBI member urges industry to help build trust-based relationship

GS Paper III: Capital Market

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) whole-time member Ananth Narayan has called upon the industry to nurture a trust-based relationship and to be "truthful to the core".

Citing the action taken by the SEBI on circumvention of financial sector regulations using Alternative Investment Fund (AIFs), he urged those on the ground to inform the regulator of such malpractices.

"We saw egregious cases of AIFs being structured to circumvent NPA recognition, to circumvent regulations, and what perturbed us even further was that we did not learn about this from industry," he said, delivering the keynote address at a CII event here on Tuesday.

His comments come a week after SEBI chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey said he will speak to the industry about redundant norms and ways to simplify them.

Call for ethical practices
नैतिक प्रथाओं की अपील

- **SEBI whole-time member Ananth Narayan emphasized the need for the industry to build a trust-based relationship and be "truthful to the core."**

  SEBI के पूर्णकालिक सदस्य अनंत नारायण ने उद्योग से विश्वास-आधारित संबंध बनाने और पूरी तरह से सत्यनिष्ठ रहने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

- **He urged professionals in the financial sector to report malpractices to the regulator.**

  उन्होंने वित्तीय क्षेत्र के पेशेवरों से किसी भी तरह की अनियमितताओं की जानकारी नियामक को देने का आग्रह किया।

Concerns over misuse of AIFs

AIFs के दुरुपयोग पर चिंता

- He cited instances where Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) were structured to bypass regulations and avoid Non-Performing Asset (NPA) recognition.

  उन्होंने उन मामलों का हवाला दिया जहां वैकल्पिक निवेश निधियों (AIFs) को नियमों को दरकिनार करने और गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्तियों (NPA) की पहचान से बचने के लिए संरचित किया गया था।

- He expressed concern that SEBI did not learn about these violations from the industry itself.

  उन्होंने चिंता जताई कि SEBI को ये उल्लंघन उद्योग से सीधे नहीं पता चले।

Keynote address at CII event

CII कार्यक्रम में मुख्य भाषण

- Narayan made these remarks while delivering the keynote address at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event on Tuesday.

  अनंत नारायण ने मंगलवार को भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ (CII) के एक कार्यक्रम में मुख्य भाषण देते हुए ये बातें कहीं।

SEBI's commitment to simplifying norms

SEBI द्वारा नियमों को सरल बनाने की प्रतिबद्धता

- His comments come a week after SEBI chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey stated that he would work on removing redundant norms and simplifying regulations.

  उनकी टिप्पणी एक सप्ताह बाद आई जब SEBI प्रमुख तुहिन कांत पांडेय ने कहा कि वे अनावश्यक नियमों को हटाने और विनियमों को सरल बनाने पर काम करेंगे।
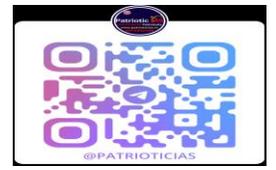
India emerges as top source of foreign direct investment into Dubai

GS Paper III: Investment

MUMBAI

The relentless flight of Indian entrepreneurs, consultants, and businesses to Dubai over the last decade amid a favourable tax regime and business friendly environment is now showing its impact on the ground.

India has emerged as the key source country for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Dubai as the desert city has retained its top position as Global FDI Destination in 2024.

According to the Financial Times Ltd.'s 'fDi Markets' data, Dubai has been ranked the world's No.1 destination for Greenfield FDI projects for the fourth successive year.

For the year 2024, India has become the top source for FDI into Dubai, with its contribution accounting for 21.5%, followed by the U.S. (13.7%), France (11%), and the U.K. (10%), according to Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism's Dubai FDI Monitor.

Indian businesses driving FDI growth

भारतीय व्यवसाय FDI वृद्धि को बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं

- Over the last decade, Indian entrepreneurs, consultants, and businesses have moved to Dubai due to its favorable tax regime and business-friendly environment.

पिछले एक दशक में, अनुकूल कर प्रणाली और व्यवसाय-अनुकूल माहौल के कारण भारतीय उद्यमी, सलाहकार और व्यवसाय दुबई की ओर तेजी से बढ़े हैं।

- This shift has significantly impacted Dubai's economy, positioning India as the leading source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

इस बदलाव ने दुबई की अर्थव्यवस्था पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव डाला है, जिससे भारत FDI का प्रमुख स्रोत बन गया है।

Dubai retains its No.1 position in global FDI rankings
दुबई ने वैश्विक FDI रैंकिंग में अपना नंबर 1 स्थान बरकरार रखा

- **Dubai has maintained its top position as the No.1 Global FDI Destination in 2024.**
  दुबई ने 2024 में वैश्विक FDI गंतव्य के रूप में अपना शीर्ष स्थान बनाए रखा है।

- **According to the Financial Times Ltd.'s 'fDi Markets' data, Dubai has ranked as the world's No.1 destination for Greenfield FDI projects for the fourth consecutive year.**
  फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स लिमिटेड के 'fDi मार्केट्स' डेटा के अनुसार, दुबई लगातार चौथे वर्ष ग्रीनफील्ड FDI परियोजनाओं के लिए विश्व में नंबर 1 गंतव्य रहा है।

India leads FDI contributions to Dubai
दुबई में भारत शीर्ष FDI योगदानकर्ता बना

- **In 2024, India accounted for 21.5% of total FDI into Dubai, making it the top contributor.**
  2024 में, भारत ने दुबई में कुल FDI का 21.5% योगदान दिया, जिससे वह शीर्ष योगदानकर्ता बन गया।

- **Other major contributors include the U.S. (13.7%), France (11%), and the U.K. (10%), according to the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism's Dubai FDI Monitor.**
  दुबई आर्थिक और पर्यटन विभाग के 'दुबई FDI मॉनिटर' के अनुसार, अन्य प्रमुख योगदानकर्ताओं में अमेरिका (13.7%), फ्रांस (11%) और यू.के. (10%) शामिल हैं।

New, greener electrochemical process turns urine into plant fuel

The process, described in *Nature Catalysis*, proposes to convert urea, a nitrogen-rich compound in urine, into a crystalline peroxide derivative called percabamide. Thus, it strikes two targets at once: enabling the treatment of urine in urban wastewater and transforming it into a useful resource

GS Paper III: S&T

Sanjukta Mondal

In the 17th century, a German alchemist named Hennig Brand was on a quest to find the "philosopher's stone," a mysterious object that could turn any ordinary metal into gold. When he realised the golden colour of urine, he believed it contained tiny particles of the precious metal.

Brand then collected urine from himself, his family, and beer drinkers at his local pub and began distilling it in the hope of finding gold at the end. There was no gold, alas, but the silver lining was that Brand discovered the element phosphorus.

In fact, some call urine "liquid gold" because it is loaded with elements that plants desire. The waste product is packed with phosphorus, potassium, and nitrogen in the form of urea, the "Big Three" nutrients that fuel plant growth and form the backbone of commercial fertilizers.

Two birds, one stone

A new electrochemical technique published in the journal *Nature Catalysis* now proposes to separate urea from urine in its solid form via a greener, less energy-consuming process. This method converts urea, a nitrogen-rich compound in urine, into a crystalline peroxide derivative called percarbamide.

Thus, it strikes two targets at once: enabling the treatment of urine in urban wastewater and transforming it into a useful resource.

Humans obtain nitrogen from food, convert it into urea, and excrete it through urine. Since urea is rich in nitrogen, it has the potential to be a natural fertiliszer. In theory, returning the nutrients to the soil could complete the nitrogen cycle, but scientists currently lack efficient methods to extract urea directly from urine, leaving a crucial gap in this cycle, Xinjian Shi, a researcher at Henan University, China, and the first author of the new study, said.

"Our team's research fills this gap."

Pee-cycling to close the loop

An adult produces around 450-680 litres of urine, researcher Björn Vinnerås estimated in a 2002 study. The substance is 95% water, yet the annual output also contains around 4 kg of nitrogen and 0.3 kg of phosphorus, enough to grow wheat for one loaf of bread every day for a whole year.

If it's so valuable, why flush it down the toilet? The answer is that urine is a complex system, and many of its components, especially salts, interfere

with processes that can extract urea alone from wastewater, Shi said. The team's study claims to have jumped this barrier.

Urea is made up of nitrogen, oxygen, and hydrogen and is prone to forming hydrogen bonds with other molecules, including urea itself. When these bonds form, the compound's physical and chemical properties tend to change. This tendency turned out to be a game-changer in the separation process.

For example, when urea forms hydrogen bonds with hydrogen peroxide, it forms percarbamide, a white, crystalline solid that can be precipitated out from urine with high purity.

Percabadmide is known for its ability to steadily release active oxygen, making it a valuable candidate for processes that need to supply oxygen for other chemical reactions. Another key trait of this substance is its ability to accelerate the recovery of urea from urine.

To take advantage of this property, the researchers developed an in-situ electrochemical technique that uses graphitic carbon-based catalysts to convert urea in urine into percarbamide. Achieving almost 100% purity, the team used this process to effectively extract percarbamide from both human and animal urine.

While the result was promising, the true focus of the researchers was something else.

A eureka moment

At first, the researchers focused on one problem: keeping hydrogen peroxide stable in liquid form at higher concentrations. They began exploring

Percabadmide is known for its ability to steadily release active oxygen, making it a valuable candidate for processes that need to supply oxygen for other chemical reactions. Another key trait of this substance is its ability to accelerate the recovery of urea from urine

whether it could be solidified directly within a solution with a compatible material. Urea seemed like a promising option – but commercially made urea is quite expensive.

"Then, we suddenly thought, if we could use it within the urine system, it would not only achieve the original goal but also address the issues of urine treatment and nitrogen cycling. Wouldn't that be a win-win?" Shi asked.

With this insight, the researchers designed an activated graphitic carbon catalyst. Graphite is a soft crystal made of carbon atoms. Activated graphitic carbon is a porous form of graphite subsequently modified to further increase its surface area, making it more reactive.

In this case, it was engineered to enhance two chemical reactions, or pathways, that produce solid percarbamide.

In pathway I, urea reacts directly with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst that facilitates interactions between the two molecules. In pathway II, urea binds to a hydroperoxyl (-*OOH) intermediate, a highly reactive and short-lived molecule. Then it gains

hydrogen ions (H·) and triggers a reaction to form percarbamide in the presence of a catalyst that enhances hydrogen bonding.

The activated graphitic carbon catalyst was suitable for both pathways.

Waste is golden?

After several rounds of trial and error, the researchers found they could maximise percarbamide production by holding the concentration of urea between 15% and 38%. They also found that maintaining temperatures just above freezing at a slightly acidic pH of around 4 works best for the process.

According to the researchers, the pure percarbamide extracted from this new process combines the best of both worlds: the nitrogen-rich benefits of urea and the oxidative power of hydrogen peroxide, unlocking new possibilities for sustainable applications.

"When the solid product is collected and used as fertilizer, nitrogen is slowly released, while also promoting root respiration and facilitating crop growth," Shi said. "This process fully addresses the missing link in the nitrogen cycle that exists in human society."

The team has also expressed excitement about bringing together resource recovery and recycling with wastewater treatment in the future. They believe this innovative approach can change how we think about and use waste.

(Sanjukta Mondal is a chemist-turned-science-writer with experience in writing popular science articles and scripts for STEM YouTube channels. sanjuktamondal.sm@gmail.com)

A farmer sprinkles urea on a crop of finger millet on the outskirts of Bengaluru. AFP

THE GIST

▶ Urine is known as 'liquid gold. It is packed with phosphorus, potassium, and nitrogen in the form of urea, the 'Big Three' nutrients that fuel plant growth and form the backbone of commercial fertilizers

▶ An adult produces 450-680 litres of urine. which is 95% water, yet the annual output also contains around 4 kg of nitrogen and 0.3 kg of phosphorus, enough to grow wheat for one loaf of bread every day for a whole year

▶ Researchers found they could maximise percarbamide production by holding the concentration of urea between 15% and 38%. 'When the solid product is used as fertilizer, nitrogen is released slowly, it also promotes root respiration and crop growth'

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New, greener electrochemical process turns urine into plant fuel

नई, हरित इलेक्ट्रोकेमिकल प्रक्रिया मूत्र को पौधों के ईंधन में बदलती है
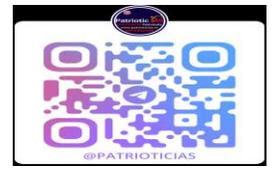
Historical significance of urine in science

विज्ञान में मूत्र का ऐतिहासिक महत्व

- **In the 17th century, German alchemist Hennig Brand mistakenly believed urine contained gold, leading to his discovery of phosphorus.**
  17वीं शताब्दी में, जर्मन रसायनशास्त्री हेनिंग ब्रांड ने गलती से माना कि मूत्र में सोना होता है, जिससे उन्होंने फास्फोरस की खोज की।

- **Urine is called "liquid gold" as it is rich in phosphorus, potassium, and nitrogen, key elements for plant growth.**
  मूत्र को "तरल सोना" कहा जाता है क्योंकि इसमें फास्फोरस, पोटैशियम और नाइट्रोजन प्रचुर मात्रा में होते हैं, जो पौधों की वृद्धि के लिए आवश्यक हैं।

New electrochemical process for urea extraction

यूरिया निष्कर्षण के लिए नई इलेक्ट्रोकेमिकल प्रक्रिया

- **A study published in *Nature Catalysis* proposes an energy-efficient method to extract urea from urine.**
  नेचर कैटालिसिस में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन ऊर्जा-कुशल तरीके से मूत्र से यूरिया निकालने की प्रक्रिया प्रस्तावित करता है।

- **The process converts urea into percarbamide, a crystalline peroxide derivative with multiple uses.**
  यह प्रक्रिया यूरिया को पेरकार्बामाइड में बदल देती है, जो एक क्रिस्टलीय पेरोक्साइड यौगिक है और कई उपयोगों के लिए उपयुक्त है।

- **This technique helps treat urine in wastewater and transform it into a valuable resource.**
  यह तकनीक अपशिष्ट जल में मूत्र के उपचार और इसे मूल्यवान संसाधन में बदलने में मदद करती है।

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Potential benefits of urine recycling

मूत्र पुनर्चक्रण के संभावित लाभ

- An adult produces 450-680 litres of urine annually, containing about 4 kg of nitrogen and 0.3 kg of phosphorus.

  एक व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष 450-680 लीटर मूत्र उत्सर्जित करता है, जिसमें लगभग 4 किलोग्राम नाइट्रोजन और 0.3 किलोग्राम फास्फोरस होता है।

- This amount of nutrients is sufficient to grow wheat for one loaf of bread per day for a whole year.

  यह पोषक तत्व एक साल तक प्रतिदिन एक रोटी के लिए आवश्यक गेहूं उगाने के लिए पर्याप्त हैं।

The breakthrough in urea separation

यूरिया पृथक्करण में सफलता

- Urine contains salts that interfere with urea extraction, making it difficult to separate pure urea.

  मूत्र में लवण होते हैं जो यूरिया निष्कर्षण में बाधा डालते हैं, जिससे शुद्ध यूरिया को अलग करना कठिन हो जाता है।

- The new method binds urea with hydrogen peroxide to form percarbamide, which precipitates as a solid.

  नई विधि में यूरिया को हाइड्रोजन पेरोक्साइड से जोड़कर पेरकार्बामाइड बनाया जाता है, जो ठोस रूप में अवक्षेपित होता है।

- This compound steadily releases active oxygen and can accelerate urea recovery from urine.

  यह यौगिक धीरे-धीरे सक्रिय ऑक्सीजन छोड़ता है और मूत्र से यूरिया पुनर्प्राप्ति की प्रक्रिया को तेज कर सकता है।

Implementation of the process

प्रक्रिया का कार्यान्वयन

- The researchers used graphitic carbon-based catalysts to convert urea into percarbamide electrochemically.

  शोधकर्ताओं ने ग्रेफाइटिक कार्बन-आधारित उत्प्रेरकों का उपयोग करके यूरिया को इलेक्ट्रोकेमिकल रूप से पेरकार्बामाइड में बदल दिया।

- This method achieved nearly 100% purity in extracting percarbamide from human and animal urine.
  इस विधि ने मानव और पशु मूत्र से लगभग 100% शुद्धता के साथ पेरकार्बामाइड निष्कर्षण प्राप्त किया।

- The research is promising, but the main focus is broader sustainability goals.
  शोध आशाजनक है, लेकिन मुख्य लक्ष्य व्यापक स्थिरता प्राप्त करना है।
  A eureka moment in urine treatment
 मूत्र उपचार में एक खोजी क्षण

Breakthrough in stabilizing hydrogen peroxide
हाइड्रोजन पेरोक्साइड को स्थिर करने में सफलता

- Researchers initially aimed to stabilize hydrogen peroxide in liquid form at high concentrations.
  शोधकर्ताओं का प्रारंभिक लक्ष्य हाइड्रोजन पेरोक्साइड को उच्च सांद्रता में तरल रूप में स्थिर करना था।

- They explored solidifying it within a solution using a compatible material, with urea as a promising option.
  उन्होंने इसे एक समाधान में ठोस करने की प्रक्रिया का अध्ययन किया, जिसमें यूरिया एक उपयुक्त विकल्प साबित हुआ।

- Commercially made urea was expensive, leading them to consider using urine directly.
  वाणिज्यिक रूप से निर्मित यूरिया महंगा था, जिससे उन्होंने सीधे मूत्र का उपयोग करने पर विचार किया।

Designing a specialized catalyst
एक विशेष उत्प्रेरक का डिज़ाइन

- Researchers developed an activated graphitic carbon catalyst to enhance chemical reactions.
  शोधकर्ताओं ने एक सक्रिय ग्रेफाइटिक कार्बन उत्प्रेरक विकसित किया ताकि रासायनिक प्रतिक्रियाओं को बेहतर बनाया जा सके।

- Activated graphitic carbon has a porous structure, increasing surface area for improved reactivity.
  सक्रिय ग्रेफाइटिक कार्बन में एक छिद्रयुक्त संरचना होती है, जो सतह क्षेत्र को बढ़ाकर इसकी प्रतिक्रिया क्षमता को बेहतर बनाती है।
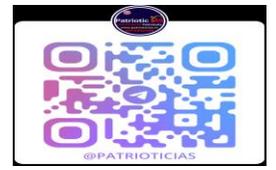
Dual pathways for percarbamide formation
पेरकार्बामाइड निर्माण के लिए दो मार्ग

- **Pathway I: Urea reacts directly with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst.**
  मार्ग I: उत्प्रेरक की उपस्थिति में यूरिया सीधे हाइड्रोजन पेरोक्साइड के साथ प्रतिक्रिया करता है।

- **Pathway II: Urea binds to a hydroperoxyl (-OOH) intermediate, leading to percarbamide formation.**
  मार्ग II: यूरिया एक हाईड्रोपेरॉक्सिल (-OOH) इंटरमीडिएट से जुड़ता है, जिससे पेरकार्बामाइड बनता है।

Optimizing the production process
उत्पादन प्रक्रिया का अनुकूलन

- **Ideal urea concentration: Between 15% and 38% for maximum percarbamide yield.**
  आदर्श यूरिया सांद्रता: अधिकतम पेरकार्बामाइड उत्पादन के लिए 15% से 38% के बीच।

- **Best conditions: Slightly acidic pH (~4) and temperatures just above freezing.**
  सर्वोत्तम परिस्थितियाँ: थोड़ा अम्लीय pH (~4) और शून्य से थोड़ी अधिक तापमान।

Sustainable applications of percarbamide
पेरकार्बामाइड के सतत उपयोग

- **Combines the nitrogen-rich benefits of urea with the oxidative power of hydrogen peroxide.**
  यूरिया के नाइट्रोजन समृद्ध लाभों को हाइड्रोजन पेरोक्साइड की ऑक्सीडेटिव शक्ति के साथ जोड़ता है।

- **Slow nitrogen release promotes root respiration and crop growth.**
  धीमी नाइट्रोजन रिलीज़ जड़ों की श्वसन प्रक्रिया और फसल वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देती है।

- **Addresses a crucial missing link in the nitrogen cycle.**
  नाइट्रोजन चक्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण कमी को पूरा करता है।

Future potential of waste recycling
अपशिष्ट पुनर्चक्रण की भविष्य की संभावनाएँ

- Researchers aim to integrate resource recovery with wastewater treatment.
  शोधकर्ता संसाधन पुनर्प्राप्ति को अपशिष्ट जल उपचार के साथ जोड़ने का लक्ष्य रखते हैं।

- This innovation could transform how we perceive and utilize waste.
  यह नवाचार इस धारणा को बदल सकता है कि हम अपशिष्ट को कैसे देखते और उपयोग करते हैं।

Lie detectors: reading your vitals

GS Paper III: S&T

Q: How does a lie detector work?

A: A polygraph, also called a lie-detector test, is generally used during interrogation by police. The instrument works by recording physiological functions such as blood pressure, heartbeat, respiration, and perspiration.

A pneumograph tube is fastened around the person's chest, and a blood-pressure-pulse cuff is strapped around the arm. The psychogalvanic skin reflex, an electro-dermal response, and the flow of current between different parts of the body are also measured. Sensitive electrodes are used to pick up the impulses, which are recorded on a moving graph paper. The parameters are recorded when a suspect answers questions put to them by an operator. The data is then used as the basis for deciding whether the person is lying. When a person lies, the graph deviates from the 'normal' shape in one or more of the body functions. Such changes were believed to occur due to the emotional response to telling a lie.

There is consensus among scientists today that polygraphs

A person undertakes an early version of the polygraph test. US FBI

are ineffective, unreliable, and easily overcome. The modern polygraph was first constructed in 1921 by John Larson, a medical student at the University of California, along with a police officer. His instrument was capable of continuously recording blood pressure, pulse, and respiration. While the device has been in use since 1924, it has not been accepted as proof of truth-telling in courtrooms.

- The Hindu Bureau

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
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Lie Detectors: Reading Your Vitals

झूठ पकड़ने की मशीन: आपकी महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी पढ़ना

How does a lie detector work?

झूठ पकड़ने की मशीन कैसे काम करती है?

- A polygraph (lie detector) is commonly used in police interrogations.
  पॉलीग्राफ (झूठ पकड़ने की मशीन) आमतौर पर पुलिस पूछताछ में उपयोग की जाती है।

- It records physiological functions such as blood pressure, heartbeat, respiration, and perspiration.
  यह रक्तचाप, हृदय गति, श्वसन और पसीने जैसी शारीरिक क्रियाओं को रिकॉर्ड करता है।

- A pneumograph tube is fastened around the chest, and a blood pressure cuff is strapped around the arm.

एक न्यूमोग्राफ ट्यूब छाती के चारों ओर लगाई जाती है, और बांह पर रक्तचाप मापने वाली पट्टी बांधी जाती है।
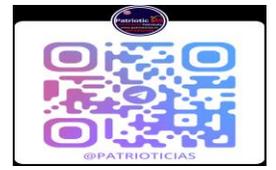
- It also measures the psychogalvanic skin reflex (electro-dermal response) and electrical current flow in the body.

  यह साइकोगैल्वैनिक स्किन रिफ्लेक्स (इलेक्ट्रो-डर्मल प्रतिक्रिया) और शरीर में विद्युत प्रवाह को भी मापता है।

- Sensitive electrodes pick up impulses, which are recorded on moving graph paper.

  संवेदनशील इलेक्ट्रोड विद्युत संकेतों को पकड़ते हैं, जिन्हें चलने वाले ग्राफ पेपर पर रिकॉर्ड किया जाता है।

- A suspect's physiological responses are recorded while answering questions.

  संदिग्ध के सवालों के जवाब देते समय उसकी शारीरिक प्रतिक्रियाओं को रिकॉर्ड किया जाता है।

- Deviations in the graph indicate a possible lie, as emotional responses affect body functions.

  यदि ग्राफ में विचलन होता है, तो यह झूठ बोलने का संकेत हो सकता है, क्योंकि भावनात्मक प्रतिक्रियाएं शारीरिक क्रियाओं को प्रभावित करती हैं।

Are lie detectors reliable?
## क्या झूठ पकड़ने की मशीन विश्वसनीय है?

- Scientists widely consider polygraphs to be ineffective, unreliable, and easy to manipulate.

  वैज्ञानिक आमतौर पर पॉलीग्राफ को अप्रभावी, अविश्वसनीय और आसानी से हेरफेर योग्य मानते हैं।

- The modern polygraph was invented in 1921 by John Larson, a medical student at the University of California.

  आधुनिक पॉलीग्राफ 1921 में कैलिफोर्निया विश्वविद्यालय के मेडिकल छात्र जॉन लार्सन द्वारा विकसित किया गया था।

- Larson's device recorded blood pressure, pulse, and respiration.

  लार्सन के उपकरण ने रक्तचाप, नाड़ी गति और श्वसन को रिकॉर्ड किया।

- Since 1924, lie detectors have been used, but courts do not accept them as proof of truthfulness.

  1924 से झूठ पकड़ने की मशीनों का उपयोग किया जा रहा है, लेकिन अदालतें इन्हें सच्चाई का प्रमाण नहीं मानती हैं।
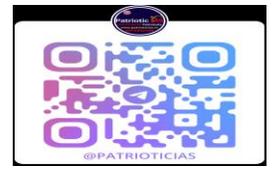
TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

Several Killed, Many Taken Hostage as Armed Militants Attack Train in Pakistan

पाकिस्तान में सशस्त्र आतंकियों ने ट्रेन पर हमला किया, कई लोग मारे गए, कई बंधक बनाए गए

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Several killed, many taken hostage as armed militants attack train in Pak.

PCS

Reuters
QUETTA

Separatist militants said they had taken hostages during an attack on a train carrying hundreds of people in southwestern Pakistan on Tuesday and threatened to kill them if their demands were not met.

Officials from the provincial government and railways did not immediately confirm whether hostages had been taken.

Trapped in tunnel
The train, which had been carrying about 400 passengers, was trapped inside a tunnel after the attack, in which it came under fire and the driver was wounded, police and railway officials said.

Security forces said an explosion had been heard around the tunnel and that they were exchanging fire with the militants in a mountainous area.

In a statement, the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), a militant separatist group, said it had taken hostages from the train, including security forces. It threatened to execute the hostages if the security forces did not retreat.

The Jaffar Express had been on its way from Quet-

The Baloch Liberation Army seeks independence for Balochistan

ta in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province to Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when it was fired on, railway officials said.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the attack and said the government would not make any concessions to "beasts who fire on innocent passengers".

Emergency measures
The Balochistan government has imposed emergency measures to deal with the situation.

A decades-old insurgency in Balochistan by separatist militant groups has led to frequent attacks against the government, Army and Chinese interests in the region, pressing demands for a share in mineral-rich resources.

The BLA seeks independence for Balochistan. It is the biggest of several ethnic insurgent groups that have battled the South Asian nation's government for decades, saying it unfairly exploits Balochistan's rich gas and mineral resources.

Several Killed, Many Taken Hostage as Armed Militants Attack Train in Pakistan

पाकिस्तान में सशस्त्र आतंकियों ने ट्रेन पर हमला किया, कई लोग मारे गए, कई बंधक बनाए गए

Militants Take Hostages
आतंकियों ने यात्रियों को बंधक बनाया

- **Separatist militants attacked a train carrying hundreds of passengers in southwestern Pakistan.**
गुरुवार को पाकिस्तान के दक्षिण-पश्चिमी हिस्से में अलगाववादी आतंकियों ने सैकड़ों यात्रियों को ले जा रही ट्रेन पर हमला किया।
- **The militants claimed to have taken hostages and threatened to kill them if their demands were not met.**
आतंकियों ने दावा किया कि उन्होंने यात्रियों को बंधक बना लिया है और अगर उनकी मांगें नहीं मानी गईं तो वे उन्हें मार देंगे।
- **Officials did not immediately confirm whether hostages had been taken.**
अधिकारियों ने तुरंत पुष्टि नहीं की कि यात्रियों को बंधक बनाया गया है या नहीं।

Train Trapped in Tunnel
ट्रेन सुरंग में फंसी

- **The train had around 400 passengers and got trapped inside a tunnel after the attack.**
ट्रेन में लगभग 400 यात्री थे और हमले के बाद वह एक सुरंग में फंस गई।
- **The attackers fired at the train, injuring the driver.**
हमलावरों ने ट्रेन पर गोलीबारी की, जिससे चालक घायल हो गया।

- Security forces reported an explosion near the tunnel and were exchanging fire with the militants.

  सुरक्षा बलों ने सुरंग के पास विस्फोट की सूचना दी और आतंकियों के साथ गोलीबारी कर रहे थे।

BLA Claims Responsibility
बीएलए ने हमले की जिम्मेदारी ली

- The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack and said they had taken hostages, including security personnel.

  बलूच लिबरेशन आर्मी (बीएलए) ने हमले की जिम्मेदारी ली और कहा कि उन्होंने सुरक्षा बलों सहित यात्रियों को बंधक बना लिया है।

- They threatened to execute hostages if security forces did not retreat.

  उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि अगर सुरक्षा बल पीछे नहीं हटे तो वे बंधकों को मार देंगे।

Government Response and Emergency Measures
सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया और आपातकालीन कदम

- Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the attack and stated that the government would not negotiate with terrorists.

  पाकिस्तान के गृह मंत्री मोहसिन नकवी ने हमले की निंदा की और कहा कि सरकार आतंकियों से समझौता नहीं करेगी।

- The Balochistan government has imposed emergency measures to manage the situation.

  बलूचिस्तान सरकार ने स्थिति को संभालने के लिए आपातकालीन कदम उठाए हैं।

Balochistan Insurgency
बलूचिस्तान में विद्रोह

- Balochistan has been facing a decades-long insurgency, with separatist groups targeting the government, military, and Chinese investments.

  बलूचिस्तान में दशकों से विद्रोह जारी है, जहां अलगाववादी समूह सरकार, सेना और चीनी निवेशों को निशाना बना रहे हैं।

- The BLA demands independence for Balochistan, arguing that the government unfairly exploits the region's rich mineral resources.

  बीएलए बलूचिस्तान की स्वतंत्रता की मांग करता है और सरकार पर क्षेत्र के खनिज संसाधनों का अनुचित शोषण करने का आरोप लगाता है।